

system has evolved over many years, changing and adapting to advances in research and technology and to a growing national commitment to good health for all.

Though a great deal remains to be done if that commitment is to be honored—especially among poor families—we have seen almost revolutionary progress in providing better health to most Americans during the past few years:

- The death rate among babies in their first year of life reached a new low of 22 deaths for every 1,000 live births last year—down 15 percent from 1960.
- Boys and girls grow up today largely free from the threat of polio, measles, and other potentially crippling diseases of childhood.
- One of every three cancer patients is saved today.
- Twenty million older Americans are protected by Medicare; 8 million have already received hospital benefits from this program.

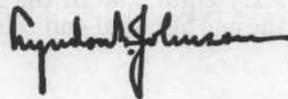
In the evolution of our health services system, there has remained one constant—the family physician. Today, as a century ago, he bears a unique responsibility. He continues to be the source of treatment and comfort when illness and accidents occur. He is also the crucial link today between the family and the highly specialized services of modern health science.

To further focus national attention upon the accomplishments of our health care system and the central role played by the family physician in the maintenance of superior medical care for all Americans, the Congress by House Joint Resolution 1404 has requested the President to issue a proclamation designating the week of November 17 through 23, 1968, as National Family Health Week.

Ante, p. 848.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, LYNDON B. JOHNSON, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim the week beginning November 17, 1968, as National Family Health Week. I call upon the people of the United States, the medical and health professions, and other interested organizations and groups to observe that week with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this third day of October, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and sixty-eight, and of the Independence of the United States of America the one hundred and ninety-third.



Proclamation 3876

CHILD HEALTH DAY, 1968

By the President of the United States of America

October 7, 1968

A Proclamation

For most children in America, the future promises full, productive, healthy lives.

Over the years, American medicine, science, and social services have combined to create a society with fewer fatal and crippling diseases, a long life expectancy, better nutrition, and more fruitful opportunities for work and leisure.

Infant mortality has reached its lowest rate since we began to keep reliable records: It is 12 percent below its level five years ago.

Through vaccination programs, we have cut by one-half the number of children who suffer from polio, diphtheria, tetanus, and whooping cough. We are on the verge of eliminating measles totally.

Yet, far too many American children are born with only a dim prospect of sharing in America's promise—because they are born into poverty. And today, 12 million Americans under 18 years old live in poverty.

We still rank only 15th among advanced nations in our effort to reduce infant deaths.

These are compelling reasons for paying special attention to unfinished business in child health.

We cannot allow one American child to be denied the benefits of our knowledge and common effort.

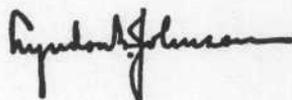
All of our children must have the opportunity to develop their abilities and talents to their fullest. This is their birthright, and we must protect it.

To demonstrate national concern for the well-being of our children, the Congress has directed the President to proclaim annually the first Monday in October as Child Health Day.

This day is also an appropriate time to salute the work which the United Nations, through its specialized agencies, and the United Nations Children's Fund are doing to build better health for children around the world.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, LYNDON B. JOHNSON, President of the United States of America, do hereby designate Monday, October 7, 1968, as Child Health Day. I invite all persons, all agencies and organizations concerned for the welfare of the world's children to unite on that day in actions that will bring strength and recognition to efforts which foster better child health.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this seventh day of October, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and sixty-eight, and of the Independence of the United States of America the one hundred and ninety-third.



Proclamation 3877

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER, 1968

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

The twentieth century is rightly regarded as the era of science and technology. Scientific achievements and technological advances

45 Stat. 617;
73 Stat. 627.
36 USC 143.

October 10, 1968