

PROCLAMATION 4126

National Arbor Day

April 24, 1972*By the President of the United States of America*

A Proclamation

April of this year marks the 100th anniversary of Arbor Day, an observance that holds as much significance for the future as it does for the past.

On a monument erected in Nebraska City to commemorate the founding father of this celebration, J. Sterling Morton, there is this inscription: "Other Holidays Repose Upon The Past; Arbor Day Proposes For The Future." So it does, for the planting of trees is an action that yields a long-range benefit on generations to come. Arbor Day uniquely symbolizes the truth that the earth belongs to every generation, not just to ours.

Einstein is believed to have said that a person should put back into this world at least as much as he takes out of it. The best available evidence suggests that an individual American, in his lifetime, uses the wood produced by some 200 mature trees. It is probably too much to expect that each American plant that many trees, but it is not too much to ask that each American assume a large, personal responsibility for renewing and preserving our environmental heritage.

On this centennial National Arbor Day, it is altogether fitting that we regenerate within ourselves a fresh awareness of the fundamental role that trees play in man's daily existence. To underline the importance of this natural resource to our well-being, the Congress has requested, by Joint Resolution, that the President designate the last Friday of April, 1972 as National Arbor Day.

Ante, p. 123.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RICHARD NIXON, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim April 28, 1972 as National Arbor Day. I call upon the Governors of the States, appropriate officials, organizations and individuals who are particularly dedicated to the preservation and replenishment of our trees, and all Americans to conduct observances and programs designed to inform the public of the necessity and value of this elemental natural resource.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-fourth day of April, in the year of our Lord, nineteen hundred

seventy-two and of the Independence of the United States of America the one hundred ninety-sixth.



PROCLAMATION 4127

Father's Day

By the President of the United States of America

May 1, 1972

A Proclamation

To have a father—to be a father—is to come very near the heart of life itself.

In fatherhood we know the elemental magic and joy of humanity. In fatherhood we even sense the divine, as the Scriptural writers did who told of all good gifts coming “down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning”—symbolism so challenging to each man who would give his own son or daughter a life of light without shadow.

Our identity in name and nature, our roots in home and family, our very standard of manhood—all this and more is the heritage our fathers share with us. It is a rich patrimony, one for which adequate thanks can hardly be offered in a lifetime, let alone a single day. Still it has long been our national custom to observe each year one special Sunday in honor of America's fathers; and from this year forward, by a joint resolution of the Congress approved April 24, 1972, that custom carries the weight of law.

Ante, p. 124.
36 USC 142a.

This is fitting and good. Let each American make this Father's Day an occasion for renewal of the love and gratitude we bear to our fathers, increasing and enduring through all the years.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RICHARD NIXON, President of the United States of America, do hereby request that June 18, 1972, be observed as Father's Day. I direct Government officials to display the flag of the United States on all Government buildings, and I urge all citizens to display the flag at their homes and other suitable places on that day.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this first day of May in the year of our Lord, nineteen hundred seventy-two, and

