

I call upon officials of every level of government, upon educators, medical professionals, communicators, upon business communities, our civic groups, the churches and their clergy, and upon all who bear the trust of community leadership to rededicate themselves during this designated week to the prevention of drug abuse in America.

I ask for a coordinated community response in the conduct of drug prevention programs. Where that coordinated response exists, let us reaffirm it, and where it is absent, let us build it.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this eighteenth day of October, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred seventy-five, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundredth.

GERALD R. FORD

Proclamation 4402

October 25, 1975

Country Music Month, October 1975

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Country music—that uniquely American art form—holds a special place in our society. Its stories of struggle, of patience, of patriotism, of love won and lost—all set to music as distinctive and eloquently simple as any in the world—give pleasure and inspiration to millions of Americans.

Because country music plays such a significant role in American life, because its stars and its fans alike represent the very heart of America, it is particularly fitting that we as a Nation pay tribute to this very special kind of music. In doing so, we honor the hundreds of talented people who make that music, and the millions more who enjoy it.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GERALD R. FORD, President of the United States of America, designate October 1975 as Country Music Month, and encourage all Americans to commemorate this designation with suitable observances.

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

five, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundredth.

GERALD R. FORD

Proclamation 4403

October 25, 1975

National Parkinson Week, 1975

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Of all the illnesses threatening our older citizens, Parkinson's disease is one of the most devastating. One in forty Americans past middle age may be afflicted. The human as well as monetary costs are virtually incalculable.

Ten years ago, when the first proclamation of National Parkinson Week was issued and signed into law, a diagnosis of Parkinson's disease was usually accompanied by advice to the family that little could be done. Today, there is much that can be done, and prospects are steadily improving. Advances in drug treatment have put many disabled workers back on the job and have enabled many retirees to live their normal lives. For some, the change has been a real miracle.

However, the battle is not over. Drugs can control the symptoms of Parkinson's disease, but they do not cure or arrest it. Since the cause is still unknown, prevention is not possible. Scientists are working constantly to find the cause. We must support them so the spectacular research momentum of the past ten years can be sustained.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GERALD R. FORD, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim the week of October 26, 1975, as National Parkinson Week. I urge physicians, scientists and government and private agencies concerned with Parkinson's disease to sponsor activities designed to inform every American of the need to continue the struggle and the need of their support.

I invite the Governors of the States and appropriate local government officials to support National Parkinson Week activities, and I urge the Nation's mass communications media to join in encouraging all Americans to heed the message.