

We owe a great debt to the members of our armed services, who have defended this flag through two centuries now. The United States Army, coincidentally, also celebrates its birthday today. As we honor the Army's 218 years of history, let us also remember the brave Americans who today are defending the United Nations relief operations in Somalia. Their efforts are a reminder to all of us that we are blessed with enormous freedoms in America.

Think of the pledge we have just made, words we have known since childhood, words that come easily to us, so we often recite them without even stopping to think about their true memory. A "republic" is a government of, by, and for the people. "One Nation": From our myriad diversity, from all of our differences, we still have a deeper measure of unity. "Under God": the reminder that self-government is a sacred trust. "Indivisible": Through a tragic civil war we learned the wisdom of President Lincoln's lesson that "a house divided against itself cannot stand." It is not enough for our house to stand, however. We must remember that a house stands strongest when it stands together. "With liberty and justice for all" is a promise that we must strive to make real, not just in our words but in what we do.

These ideas have brought new Americans to our shores from the beginning of our existence. They make our flag a symbol of hope to people all around the world. To those of you here who are recently naturalized citizens, I say, welcome. A few of you even work here, and we're proud to have you. I'm proud to have you on our staff and more proud to be your fellow citizen and to know that all of you feel as deeply about this country as I do.

Since President Truman's time it has been customary for the President to sign a proclamation designating June 14th as Flag Day in the United States. I want to do that now, and then make a presentation.

*[At this point, the President signed the proclamation.]*

Since we teach citizenship at an early age, I want to ask Christopher Williams to come up here and to accept on behalf of his school, Ketcham Elementary, this flag which flew

above the United States Capitol this morning. Christopher, I want you to take this flag, along with your schoolmates, back to your school and honor it. It symbolizes both your rights and your responsibilities as an American. You should be very proud of this.

I'd also like any newly naturalized Americans to stand up. Do we have any new citizens here? Let's give them a hand. Look at them. *[Applause]* Thank you.

Last night when we had the press party here at the White House, perhaps the most moving encounter I had was a couple came through the line; both of them were born in South America. But they had their little child with them who had just been born in the United States, and the child's T-shirt said "Future President" on it. *[Laughter]* There you are. Look, there he is right there. Give him a hand, the father of the child. *[Applause]*

This is a special day. The children remind us of it, and so do our new citizens. Thank you all for coming.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:36 a.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House.

### **Proclamation 6572—Flag Day and National Flag Week, 1993**

*June 14, 1993*

*By the President of the United States of America*

#### **A Proclamation**

In 1777, the Continental Congress adopted the Stars and Stripes as the official flag of the young United States of America. Describing the new flag, the Congress wrote, "White signifies Purity and Innocence; Red, Hardiness and Valor; Blue signifies Vigilance, Perseverance and Justice," with the stars forming "a new constellation."

The words of the Continental Congress ring truer to us today than ever before. Wherever the Stars and Stripes are flown, they represent the highest ideals of America: justice, purity, and strength. The flag has flown over smoky battlefields, peaceful demonstrations, and wherever else Americans

strive to express their precious freedoms in the face of adversity. Today, in accordance with congressional joint resolutions (63 Stat. 492 and 80 Stat. 194), we set aside June 14 as Flag Day and the week beginning June 13 as National Flag Week to honor the colors and stars that have flown proudly over the United States for 216 years.

Just as we pay our respects to our flag, so must we honor our Nation's Founders, the brave people who inscribed their names on the Declaration of Independence and breathed life into its text. The ideals embodied by the Declaration have served as a guide for our Nation and an inspiration for people around the world. This document delineated the very idea of America, that individual rights are derived not from the generosity of the government, but from the hand of the Almighty. The Founders forever abandoned their allegiance to the old European notions of caste and dedicated themselves to the belief that all people are created equal.

The brilliant men who gathered in Philadelphia in 1776 to declare our Nation's independence risked their honor, their fortunes, and their very lives to create a better future for their children and grandchildren. We, the inheritors of freedom's legacy, owe our liberties to the fact that our Founders saw the need for dramatic change and acted upon it.

Today, vast changes are sweeping the globe. Nations that have known only tyranny for centuries are now dedicating themselves to the ideals of freedom and democracy. And wherever freedom is proclaimed, echoes of the American Declaration of Independence can be heard. Thomas Jefferson's words are being spoken in dozens of nations in hundreds of languages.

We are justly proud of the influence that our beliefs have had on the world. But the mission of America is far from complete. While the world is filled with opportunity, it is rife with uncertainty. We must dedicate ourselves to carrying on the dreams of the Founders and adding our own chapter to the unfinished American story. By embracing the changes that are altering the landscape of the world today, we help ensure a brighter, more democratic, and more peaceful world. As we celebrate our independence, I encourage all Americans to rededicate themselves to the

conviction that our precious freedoms require constant vigilance and reaffirmation.

**Now, Therefore, I, William J. Clinton,** President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim June 14, 1993, as Flag Day and the week beginning June 13, 1993, as National Flag Week. I direct the appropriate officials of the government to display the flag of the United States on all government buildings during that week. I encourage all Americans to observe Flag Day and Flag Week by flying the Stars and Stripes from their homes and other suitable places. I also urge the American people to celebrate those days from Flag Day through Independence Day, as set aside by the Congress (89 Stat. 211), as a time to honor America, by having public gatherings and activities at which they can honor and pledge their allegiance to our country.

**In Witness Whereof,** I have hereunto set my hand this fourteenth day of June, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-three, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and seventeenth.

**William J. Clinton**

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 2:02 p.m., June 14, 1993]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on June 16.

### **Remarks on the Nomination of Ruth Bader Ginsburg To Be a Supreme Court Associate Justice**

*June 14, 1993*

**The President.** Please be seated. I wish you all a good afternoon, and I thank the Members of the Congress and other interested Americans who are here.

In just a few days when the Supreme Court concludes its term, Justice Byron White will begin a new chapter in his long and productive life. He has served the Court as he has lived, with distinction, intelligence, and honor. And he retires from public service with the deep gratitude of all the American people.