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character.'' His unparalleled commitment to justice and nonviolence challenged us to look deeply within ourselves to find the roots of racism.

Throughout his all too brief life, Martin Luther King, Jr., often confronted powerful and even violent opposition, sacrificing his liberty, his personal safety, and, ultimately, his life for the cause of freedom. Though an assassin's bullet silenced him forever at the young age of 39, Dr. King's words and deeds continue to live on within each of us. We, the inheritors of the fundamental rights he helped to secure, are forever grateful for his legacy.

Today, we live in a nation that is stronger because of Dr. King's work. Unfortunately, there is still much division in this great land. Even though the signs that once segregated our communities have been removed, we are still far from achieving the world for which Dr. King struggled, toiled, and bled. He did not live and die to create a world in which people kill each other with reckless abandon. He did not live and die to see families destroyed, to see communities abandoned, and to see hope disappear. If we are to be faithful to Dr. King's vision, we must each seize responsibility for realizing the goals he worked so tirelessly to fulfill. Dr. King's valiant struggle for true equality will be won, not by the fleeting passion of eloquent words, but by the quiet persistence of individual acts of decency, justice, and human kindness. We must carry the power of his wisdom with us, not only by celebrating his birthday, but also by inscribing its meaning upon our hearts, teaching our children the value and significance of every human being.

Now, Therefore, I, William J. Clinton, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim Monday, January 17, 1994, as the Martin Luther King, Jr., Federal Holiday. I call upon the people of the United States to observe the occasion with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities.

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

William J. Clinton

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 11:26 a.m., January 14, 1994]

NOTE: This proclamation will be published in the *Federal Register* on January 18.

Proclamation 6646—Religious Freedom Day, 1994

January 14, 1994

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

This past year, the Religious Freedom Restoration Act of 1993 was enacted, reaffirming our solemn commitment to protect the first guarantee of our Bill of Rights. In the great tradition of our Nation's founders, this legislation embraces the abiding principle that our laws and institutions must neither impede nor hinder, but rather preserve and promote, religious liberty. As it is inscribed on the Liberty Bell in Philadelphia, the words of Leviticus ring out, ''Proclaim liberty throughout the land unto all the inhabitants thereof.'' Our government did not create this liberty, but it cannot be too vigilant in securing its blessings.

It is no accident of authorship that the right to free exercise of religion is the first freedom granted by our Bill of Rights. The framers of the Constitution well recognized the awesome power of religious liberty, not only to unite the citizenry in common cause, but also to empower us to question age-old beliefs and lift this Nation toward enlightenment. Today, as we face a crisis of conscience in our families and communities, as children murder children in our schools, as neighbor turns away from neighbor on frightening city streets—today, more than ever, we see the fundamental wisdom of our country's forefathers. For at the heart of this most precious right is a challenge to use the spiritual freedom we have been afforded to examine the values, the soul, and the true essence of human nature.

Religious freedom helps to give America's people a character independent of their government, fostering the formation of individual codes of ethics, without which a democracy cannot survive. For more than two centuries, this freedom has enabled us to live together in a peace unprecedented in the history of nations. To be both the world's strongest democracy and its most truly multiethnic society is a victory of human spirit we must not take for granted. For as many issues as there are that divide us in this society, there remain values that all of us share. We believe in respecting the bond between parents and children. We believe in honoring the worth of honest labor. We believe in treating each other generously and with kindness. We are striving to accept our differences and to find strength in the dreams we all hold dear.

On this day, let us hear the sound of the Liberty Bell as a clarion call to action. Let us face with renewed determination the problems that beset our communities. Let us replace the instability and intolerance with security and justice. Regardless of our faith, let us be each other's guides along the open path toward peace.

The Congress, by Senate Joint Resolution 154, has designated January 16, 1994, as ''Religious Freedom Day'' and has requested the President to issue a proclamation in observance of this day.

Now, Therefore, I, William J. Clinton, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim the day of January 16, 1994, as Religious Freedom Day. I call upon the people of the United States to observe this day with appropriate ceremonies and activities, and I urge them to reaffirm their devotion to the principles of religious freedom.

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

William J. Clinton

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 1:58 p.m., January 18, 1994]

NOTE: This proclamation will be published in the *Federal Register* on January 20.

Proclamation 6647—National Good Teen Day, 1994

January 14, 1994

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

There are now more than 24 million young people between the ages of 13 and 19 in the United States, each of them unique, each with promise, each struggling with the complicated transition to adulthood. These young people hold the keys to a promising future, and we must help them use every available resource to meet the challenges that lie ahead. Few generations have been confronted with so much responsibility, yet perhaps none has been presented with such exciting opportunities.

In spite of barriers and stumbling blocks, most teens play by the rules as they begin the work of building meaningful lives for themselves and finding their places in the community. Most embrace and promote fairness and compassion, often championing such precepts when others forsake them as unattainable ideals. They work together to diminish prejudice and violence; they find joy in family and friends and satisfaction in triumph and accomplishment.

Many teens are heroes who refuse to give up in adversity, to yield to temptation, or to give in to the negative influences around them. They serve as positive role models to younger children, as leaders to their peers, and as inspiration to older generations. They are our future, our hope, and a very real joy to those of us who know them well.

We are justifiably proud of American teens. They deserve our recognition and appreciation, and it is fitting that we honor them. Our country depends on their energy and dedication. Their knowledge, creativity, and dreams can change America for the better.

The Congress, by House Joint Resolution 75, has designated January 16, 1994, as ''National Good Teen Day'' and has authorized and requested the President to issue a proclamation in observance of this day.

Now, Therefore, I, William J. Clinton, President of the United States of America,