

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this fourteenth day of October, 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 nineteenth.

William J. Clinton

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 1:37 p.m., October 19, 1994]

NOTE: This proclamation was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on October 15, and it was published in the *Federal Register* on October 21.

Proclamation 6742—Country Music Month, 1994

October 14, 1994

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Country music is a distinctly American treasure, drawing on the deepest cultural roots of our Nation's people. It reflects a storytelling impulse born of mountain balladry and cowboy songs. It combines an exciting instrumental texture of string bands and jazz orchestras, a heartfelt vocal style of religious and blues singing, and a contagious rhythm that inspires dancing in listeners of all ages.

The emotions of the myriad peaks and valleys of life find a vibrant voice in country music. Relating experiences all of us share, these songs boast a long and proud tradition in our national heritage. For the better part of our history, country music's many talented singers and songwriters from across the land have touched the hearts and minds of our citizens—rural and urban, rich and poor, young and old. Today, this wonderful art form is enjoyed and celebrated around the world as a uniquely American gift.

This month, we pause to commend and to appreciate the efforts of singers, songwriters, musicians, and all those in this thriving industry who work to maintain the vitality of the country music legacy.

The Congress, by Public Law 103-107, has designated October 1994 as "Country Music Month" and has authorized and requested

the President to issue a proclamation in observance of this month. I urge all Americans to join me in recognizing the rich contributions that country music has made to our cultural heritage.

Now, Therefore, I, William J. Clinton, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim October 1994 as Country Music Month.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this fourteenth day of October, 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 nineteenth.

William J. Clinton

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Proclamation 6743—National Character Counts Week, 1994

October 14, 1994

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Our concern about character and ethics is one of the great strengths of our Nation. In 1994, America celebrates the continuing creation of and support for programs that, by definition, are character-building—from our proud military units and law enforcement groups to our new National Service program, AmeriCorps. As we seek to instill important values in a new generation of Americans, we must redouble our efforts to improve student learning, responsibility, and sense of belonging. We must revitalize the American ideal of community if our schools are to achieve their full potential. Adults, children, teachers—all of us must set an example. All of us can make a new beginning.

Schools need to emphasize the fundamentals: building character and creating a stronger sense of self-worth. The process of building moral values begins with the family, and

we must all aid parents by demonstrating to our young people that hard work, honesty, and responsibility are essential in all of our endeavors. Passage of the "Goals 2000: Educate America Act" will, in the years ahead, give parents, teachers, and concerned citizens in every local school district the opportunity to come together to define what they want their schools to achieve for their children, not just through high academic standards, but also through setting high standards of compassion, understanding, and community involvement. New civic standards addressing the entire community, in addition to voluntary national standards, will serve as catalysts in this process, helping to better educate students to be more responsible citizens in the years to come.

To recognize the importance of character and to focus national attention on character building, the Congress, by Public Law 103-301, has designated October 16 through October 22, 1994, as "National Character Counts Week" and has authorized and requested the President to issue a proclamation in observance of this commemoration.

Now, Therefore, I, William J. Clinton, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim October 16 through October 22, 1994 as National Character Counts Week. I call upon the people of the United States, government officials, educators, and volunteers, to observe this week with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this fourteenth day of October, 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 nineteenth.

William J. Clinton

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Proclamation 6744—National Forest Products Week, 1994

October 14, 1994

*By the President of the United States
of America*

A Proclamation

America's National Forests grace more than 191 million acres of our land. Thirty-four million of those acres are part of our wilderness preservation system, which works to safeguard this invaluable resource for future use and enjoyment. The American National Forests are among our country's greatest gifts—gifts we share with all of Earth's creatures today and with generations of new life to come.

One of our Nation's foremost priorities must be to ensure that forest ecosystems are maintained and protected. With proper care, these precious lands can remain healthy, diverse, and resilient. We are moving toward a new era in the stewardship of public lands. Today, we recognize the importance of taking a comprehensive approach—one that balances the needs of our people and of the environment. Grounded in sound science and compliance with existing law, sustainable forest management presents our best hope for saving the more than 250 threatened or endangered species of fish, animals, and plants that have made this land their home. At the same time, such management efforts offer our best chance for building a lasting and productive economic base for the people who have made this land their life and livelihood.

America's National Forests provide for our Nation in countless ways—from the houses we live in to the newspapers we read to our spiritual and physical well-being—the splendor and glory of nature's gift to America enriches our daily lives immeasurably. National Forest visitors enjoy more than 4,300 miles of wild and scenic rivers for fishing, swimming, or just taking in the view. Wood and paper products from forests are our country's leading renewable natural resource, accounting for about 4.2 percent of our Gross Domestic Product and 8.5 percent of all manufacturing in the United States, and support-