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Congressional Hispanic Caucus during the 106th Congress.

Proclamation 7147—National Farm-City Week, 1998

November 17, 1998

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Thanks in large part to our Nation's farmers, the quality of life the American people enjoy today is the envy of the world. Farmers and ranchers provide us with a safe, abundant, and affordable supply of food and fiber. American agriculture remains one of our country's most important and productive industries, generating more than 22 million jobs and contributing a trillion dollars to the American economy each year. Today's farmers and ranchers also serve as guardians of our precious environment. Using modern technology and environmentally responsible methods, they have improved our Nation's water supply, worked to reduce soil erosion, and restored thousands of acres of wetlands.

This remarkable record of achievement would not be possible, however, without the essential farm-city partnerships that contribute so much to the productivity of America's farms and ranches. From seed and fertilizer merchants to agricultural processors, from research scientists in the laboratory to extension agents in the field, from shippers and manufacturers to inspectors and grocers, urban and rural Americans work together to share the bounty of this land with their fellow citizens and with people around the world.

For more than 40 years, Americans have set aside this special week to recognize and reflect upon the importance of these partnerships in sustaining our Nation's strength and prosperity. As we celebrate Thanksgiving with family and friends, let us remember to count among our many blessings America's agricultural abundance and the collaboration between rural and urban communities that has contributed so much to the quality of our lives.

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 November 20 through November 26, 1998, as National Farm-City Week. I call upon all Americans, in rural and urban communities alike, to join in recognizing the accomplishments of our farmers and all the hardworking individuals who cooperate to produce a wealth of affordable, quality agricultural goods that strengthen and enrich our country.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this seventeenth day of November, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-eight, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-third.

William J. Clinton

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 11:45 a.m., November 18, 1998]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on November 19.

Proclamation 7148—Thanksgiving Day, 1998

November 17, 1998

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Thanksgiving Day is one of America's most beloved and widely celebrated holidays. Whether descendants of the original colonists or new citizens, Americans join with family and friends to give thanks to a provident God for the blessings of freedom, peace, and plenty.

We are a Nation of people who have come from many countries, cultures, and creeds. The colonial Thanksgiving at Plymouth in 1621, when the Pilgrims of the Old World mingled in fellowship and celebration with the American Indians of the New World, foreshadowed the challenge and opportunity that such diversity has always offered us: to live together in peace with respect and appreciation for our differences and to draw on one another's strengths in the work of building a great and unified Nation.

And so at Thanksgiving we must also remember to be thankful for the many contributions each generation of Americans has made to preserve our blessings. We are thankful for the brave patriots who have fought and died to defend our freedom and uphold our belief in human dignity. We are thankful for the men and women who have worked this land throughout the decades, from the stony farms of New England to the broad wheat fields of the Great Plains to the fertile vineyards of California, sharing our country's bounty with their fellow Americans and people around the world. We are thankful for the leaders and visionaries who have challenged us through the years to fulfill America's promise for all our people, to make real in our society our fundamental ideals of freedom, equality, and justice. We are thankful for the countless quiet heroes and heroines who work hard each day, raise their families with love and care, and still find time and energy to make their communities better places in which to live. Each of us has reason to be proud of our part in building America, and each of us has reason to be grateful to our fellow Americans for the success of these efforts.

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 Thursday, November 26, 1998, as a National Day of Thanksgiving. I encourage all the people of the United States to assemble in their homes, places of worship, or community centers to share the spirit of goodwill and prayer; to express heartfelt thanks to God for the many blessings He has bestowed upon us; and to reach out in true gratitude and friendship to our brothers and sisters across this land who, together, comprise our great American family.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this seventeenth day of November, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-eight, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-third.

William J. Clinton

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Remarks on Departure for Tokyo, Japan

November 18, 1998

Good morning. I wanted to say a few words before I depart about the goals for our trip to Japan and Korea. From the time our administration took office in 1993, we have believed it vital to the future of the United States to look not only to the west but, as a Pacific power, to the east as well and to forge a strong Asia-Pacific community for the 21st century. Central to that effort are the APEC leaders forum, which has just concluded, and the strengthening of our bonds with Japan and Korea, two of our strongest allies for promoting democracy, securing peace, building prosperity.

Our domestic economy remains very strong. Our strategy of fiscal discipline, investments in education and technology, and opening markets abroad has produced unprecedented gains for America's families. But our long-term prosperity requires a healthy global economy. American exports create jobs, and those jobs pay, on average, about 15 percent above normal other jobs in our economy.

If people overseas lose their jobs, therefore, they can't afford American products and our workers and farmers pay the price. We see that in the slight decline in our exports so far this year due to the global financial crisis in general and the problems in Asia in particular.

Clearly, in order to sustain progress at home, therefore, we have to exercise leadership abroad. That is why we're pursuing a comprehensive plan to contain the global financial crisis, spur growth, and strengthen international financial systems for the 21st century.

We have met our obligation to the IMF, pressed the World Bank to more than double its investments to people who have suffered the most. We have helped to organize a new aid package to keep the contagion from