

a time in this country when hardworking families lost their homes, their savings, their businesses, lost everything simply because their children got sick or because they had to change jobs. Our grandchildren will find such things unthinkable tomorrow if we have the courage to change today.

This is our chance. This is our journey. And when our work is done, we will know that we have answered the call of history and met the challenge of our time.

Thank you very much, and God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:10 p.m. in the House Chamber at the Capitol.

Proclamation 6596—National Rehabilitation Week, 1993 and 1994
September 22, 1993

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Millions of Americans with disabilities are able to achieve independence and lead active, productive lives with the assistance of rehabilitation therapy. Estimates indicate that half of the Nation's population will at some point in their lives need assistance in overcoming some form of physical, mental, emotional, or social disability. "National Rehabilitation Week" seeks to recognize not only the individuals who have learned to cope with their disabilities but also the dedicated health care professionals who have provided assistance through research, education, and therapy.

In tribute to these individuals and their many contributions to our society, the Congress, by Senate Joint Resolution 50, has designated the periods beginning September 19 and ending September 25, 1993, and beginning September 18 and ending September 24, 1994, as National Rehabilitation Week, and has authorized and requested the President to issue a proclamation in observance of these weeks.

Now, Therefore, I, William J. Clinton, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim the periods beginning

September 19, 1993, and ending September 25, 1993, and beginning September 18, 1994, and ending September 24, 1994, as National Rehabilitation Week. I call upon all Americans to observe these weeks with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities as an expression of their support.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-second day of September, 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 eighteenth.

William J. Clinton

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 4:04 p.m., September 23, 1993]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on September 27.

Proclamation 6597—Energy Awareness Month, 1993
September 22, 1993

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Politically, economically, and environmentally, our world is changing, and so are our energy choices. Our Nation has been blessed with a wide variety of energy resources. America's diverse climate, geography, and natural resources give us a flexibility unmatched in the world. It is our duty to use our energy resources wisely by increasing energy efficiency, commercializing renewable resources, and developing innovative, clean technologies.

The energy choices we make affect every aspect of our lives. The theme of Energy Awareness Month, 1993, New Energy Choices for a Changing World, highlights the importance of these decisions. In our homes, energy efficient appliances and "green" computers, such as those that qualify under the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Energy Star Program, save us money and help to preserve the environment. On our Nation's highways, powering our vehicles

with alternative fuels will help us conserve energy, develop new resources, and reduce our dependence on foreign oil. In our industries, advanced lighting, such as the systems promoted by the EPA Green Lights Program, makes our businesses more efficient, more environmentally sound, and more competitive in world markets. In the coming century, the challenge will be very great to protect our precious environment and produce sustainable economic growth. Our Nation's energy use is a critical and significant part of this challenge. We must work to find more efficient ways to use current resources, and search for new ones.

To encourage each American to join in this effort to improve our Nation's energy future, I urge participation in activities that further our understanding and appreciation of how we can meet energy challenges and contribute to energy solutions in our changing world.

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 October 1993 as Energy Awareness Month.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-second day of September, 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 eighteenth.

William J. Clinton

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 4:05 p.m., September 23, 1993]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on September 27.

Statement on the Cost-Share Adjustment for Midwest Flood Recovery

September 22, 1993

I have been in the Midwest four times since early summer when the floods first began to exact their steep toll on the lives and livelihoods of thousands of hardworking Americans. I've seen firsthand the magnitude

of the damage, the submerged towns, and the drowned fields, shops, and farms—some temporarily out of business, some permanently destroyed.

I promised that when the Midwest asked the Federal Government for help, the Federal Government would answer swiftly and strongly. And I'm very proud of the speed and efficiency with which our Government, led by FEMA, has met this challenge.

But the job is far from done. The extraordinary duration and force of the floods caused an unprecedented degree of damage to the economies in the Midwest, damage that will take dozens of months and billions of dollars to repair. And as I pledged, the Federal Government will not leave the people of the Midwest to handle this alone.

That's why earlier I announced that in States where the cost of flood damage was at least \$64 a person, the Federal Government would adjust the requirement that States assume 25 percent of the cost of FEMA-provided relief. Instead, the National Government would pay fully 90 percent of those costs.

However, as the damage toll continues to mount, it's becoming increasingly clear to me that we must not view flood relief as local assistance only. The scope of this disaster is so great that it has the potential to have a dampening effect on our entire national economy, and we must respond accordingly.

Therefore, today I have established a second standard that will be used to address those disasters with wider economic impact. In multiple State disasters with significant impact on the national economy, the alternative threshold has been established at .1 percent of the gross domestic product. That means I have approved the reimbursement of eligible public FEMA assistance disaster costs for the nine Midwest States affected by this summer's catastrophic flooding at a 90 percent Federal/10 percent non-Federal cost-share basis.

As the families of the Midwest struggle to restore order to their lives and rebuild their communities, I want them to know that this administration plans to be with them every step of the way. And I'm determined that our commitment remains as clear in our actions as it is in our words and our prayers.