

In Witness Whereof, I have here unto set my hand this seventh 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 6735—Leif Erikson Day, 1994

October 7, 1994

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Nearly a millennium has passed since Leif Erikson set out on his voyage to explore North America, a land then thought to be no more than an uncharted wilderness across the waters. Filled with the same spirit of discovery that characterized the travels of his father, Eric the Red, who sailed from Norway to Iceland to Greenland, the journey of Leif Erikson remains one of history's greatest legends. To commemorate the life of this bold adventurer and to recognize the generations of Nordic Americans who have followed in his footsteps, we celebrate Leif Erikson Day, 1994.

Leaving behind the ice-covered mountains of Greenland, Erikson helped to set the stage for centuries of trans-Atlantic exchange between his father's native Norway and the people of the New World. Today, the United States and the Nordic countries of Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Sweden, and Norway, enjoy cordial friendships and are productive partners in fostering democracy and expanding trade. Carrying forward the ideals of their ancestors—ideals of liberty, human dignity, and self-determination—these nations stand with the United States in representing the freedom to which individuals around the world aspire.

The sons and daughters of Scandinavia who immigrated to this country in past centuries brought with them that abiding passion for justice and equality, and their determination to build a better life for themselves and their children has enriched our Nation immeasurably. For the tremendous contributions they have made to our society, and for the many wonderful traditions that their descendants continue to uphold, Americans across the country join in recognizing this special day every year.

In honor of Leif Erikson—son of Iceland, grandson of Norway—and of the vibrant Nordic American culture that continues to grace our Nation, the Congress, by joint resolution approved on September 2, 1964 (Public Law 88-566), has authorized and requested the President to designate October 9 of each year as "Leif Erikson Day."

Now, Therefore, I, William J. Clinton, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim October 9, 1994, as Leif Erikson Day. I encourage all Americans to observe this occasion by learning more about our rich Nordic-American heritage.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this seventh 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 6736—Fire Prevention Week, 1994

October 7, 1994

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

The United States has made tremendous advances through the years in reducing the terrible toll that fire takes on our citizens.

In 1925, when President Calvin Coolidge proclaimed the first National Fire Prevention Week, he noted that nearly 15,000 lives were lost each year to fire in our country. Fortunately, the numbers we report today are considerably lower. Despite this important trend, the vast majority of fire fatalities—almost 80 percent—still occur in our homes, in the places where we should feel safest.

A key line of defense against home fires is the protection provided by smoke detectors. But smoke detectors must be operating properly to furnish the early warning necessary to allow safe escape from a fire. Even though 90 percent of our Nation's homes have at least one smoke detector installed, about one-third of all homes in which fires occurred had smoke detectors that were not functioning correctly, usually because of faulty or missing batteries. To emphasize the importance of keeping our smoke detectors in good working order, the United States Fire Administration and the National Fire Protection Association are working with our Nation's fire service and other emergency management professionals to communicate effectively this year's Fire Prevention Week theme, "Test Your Detector for Life."

Early warning of fire and smoke is critical because the majority of deaths as a result of home fires occur at night when people are most vulnerable. Smoke usually does not awaken us—instead it induces a deeper sleep. We need smoke detectors to alert us to the danger. During Fire Prevention Week, 1994, and throughout the entire year, it is important to remember four key points about home smoke detectors. First, make sure you have enough detectors. One detector should be installed outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home. As an added measure of protection, consider installing a smoke detector inside each bedroom. Second, test smoke detectors every month. Third, replace the batteries at least once a year. Fourth, replace your smoke detectors with new units if they are more than 10 years old. These four simple points could save lives and avoid serious injuries should a fire occur.

As we all think about the lifesaving message of Fire Prevention Week, let us also consider the dedication of the brave men and women of our Nation's fire service who risk their lives regularly to protect us. Last year, 78 firefighters died in the line of duty, with an estimated 101,500 injuries. These courageous individuals will be honored on Sunday, October 16, 1994, during the Thirteenth Annual National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Service at the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, Maryland.

Also deserving recognition are those who work within public and private organizations to reduce the toll exacted by fire. Further, we must recognize the efforts of public officials, educators, business leaders, and community and volunteer organizations that are working together to create a safer America.

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 the week beginning October 9, 1994, as Fire Prevention Week. I call upon the people of the United States to plan and participate in fire prevention activities, both this week and throughout the year. I also ask all Americans to pay tribute to those firefighters who have lost their lives in the line of duty and to those men and women who continue in the noble tradition of service to their communities.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this seventh 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 6737—Columbus Day, 1994

October 7, 1994

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

At a time when experienced sailors navigated only within sight of shore whenever possible, Christopher Columbus conceived of a route no other had and sailed boldly into the open seas. Columbus' example reminds us that we must be willing, even eager, to leave the comfortable but often limiting shores of yesterday and journey toward the difficult and unmet challenges of tomorrow.

Exploring the frontiers of the new world, Columbus set the stage for the encounter between Europeans and Native Americans, an encounter whose impact continues to be felt today. It is particularly important to recognize anew the sacrifices and hardships suffered by both sides as a result of this meeting and to salute the rich cultural heritage each group has bestowed upon its descendants. Through time and tears, exchanges between these two cultures have led to greater understanding and rich opportunities for harmony and healing.

This year, as we celebrate the founding of a new world that is finally learning the infinite value of diversity, we continue to take an important lesson from Columbus' travels. In his great spirit of adventure and discovery, I encourage all Americans today to let the quartering winds of change propel us into the 21st century. Facing the future with courage and openness, as Columbus did in his day, we must strive to meet the challenges of the future with logic and foresight and with the certainty of moving ever forward.

In tribute to the many achievements of Christopher Columbus, the Congress of the United States, by joint resolution of April 30, 1934 (48 Stat. 657), and an Act of June 28, 1968 (82 Stat. 250), has requested the President to proclaim the second Monday in October of each year as "Columbus Day."

Now, Therefore, I, William J. Clinton, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim October 10, 1994, as Columbus Day. I call upon the people of the

United States to observe this day with appropriate ceremonies and activities. I also direct that the flag of the United States be displayed on all public buildings on the appointed day in honor of Christopher Columbus.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this seventh 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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The President's Radio Address With President Nelson Mandela of South Africa

October 8, 1994

President Clinton. Good morning. This week I'm honored to be joined by President Nelson Mandela of South Africa, a man who has been a hero for people in every corner of the world. For a long time, the name "Nelson Mandela" has stood for the quest for freedom. His spirit never bent before the injustice of his 27 years of imprisonment. Apartheid could not silence him. And when he was freed, Americans all across this country who had fought for justice in South Africa rejoiced.

After his long struggle, Nelson Mandela found in himself the strength to reach out to others, to build up instead of tear down. He led his country forward, always choosing reconciliation over division. This is the miracle of the new South Africa. Time and again, President Mandela showed real wisdom and rose above bitterness. President Mandela and the South African people, both black and white, have inspired others around the world.

In our own hemisphere today, the people of Haiti are emerging out of fear into freedom. Now Haitians have the chance to do what South Africans have done, to bring together a country where there have been deep