

America said, no matter who you are, here's a chance at an education. No matter who you are, here's a chance at a job. No matter who you are, you can run for office. No matter who you are, you can go anywhere and stand up for what you believe in. This is a very great country, and every one of you should be happy and proud that you happen to be alive at this period of profound change. If we do our job, the best is yet to come.

Thank you, and God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 8:32 p.m. at the Century Plaza Hotel. In his remarks, he referred to actor Tom Hanks, and Ashley Ballard, who sang the national anthem.

### **Proclamation 6826—Gold Star Mother's Day, 1995**

*September 21, 1995*

*By the President of the United States of America*

#### **A Proclamation**

Countless Americans have traveled to Washington, D.C., to visit the new Korean War Veterans Memorial and to pay their respects at the many other monuments honoring the members of our Armed Forces. These sites are places for reflection, pride, and patriotism, not only for the men and women who served and those who lost loved ones, but also for every citizen who values the sacrifices to which these monuments bear witness.

As we look upon America's public memorials, we also remember the unseen tributes that dwell in homes and hearts across the country—the personal mementos and memories treasured by mothers who have lost a child in military service. Our Gold Star Mothers reflect the legacy of their sons' and daughters' bravery and ensure that their children will never be forgotten—that their courage will inspire new generations.

Watching a beloved child go off to war is one of the hardest things a parent can endure. America's Gold Star Mothers proudly stood this test and suffered the terrible anxiety of waiting for word of their loved ones. Each of these heroic women was also called upon to bear the greatest hardship of all—

the cruel truth that her son or daughter would never return.

These mothers gave their most cherished gift so that our Nation could live in liberty and so that people around the globe could be freed from tyranny and oppression. And Gold Star Mothers continue a proud tradition of service, helping veterans with disabilities through voluntary service in VA medical facilities. Bringing comfort to those who suffered for our country, Gold Star Mothers exemplify the gratitude and honor each citizen owes to America's veterans.

This year, the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II, evokes many powerful emotions—pride in victory, sorrow in loss, and hope for a future of world peace. At times such as these, we join with Gold Star Mothers in remembering their children's dedication to duty and their ultimate sacrifice. We pray that these mothers can find solace in knowing that their sons and daughters helped to keep the beacon of peace and freedom burning, lighting the way to a better world.

In recognition of the outstanding courage of our Gold Star Mothers, the Congress, by Senate Joint Resolution 115 of June 23, 1936 (49 Stat. 1895), has designated the last Sunday in September as "Gold Star Mother's 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, do hereby proclaim September 24, 1995, as Gold Star Mother's Day. I call upon the American people to observe this day with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities that honor our Gold Star Mothers.

**In Witness Whereof**, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-first day of September, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-five, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twentieth.

**William J. Clinton**

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 10:41 a.m., September 22, 1995]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on September 25.

**Message to the Congress  
Transmitting Transportation  
Department Reports**

*September 21, 1995*

*To the Congress of the United States:*

I transmit herewith the 1994 calendar year reports as prepared by the Department of Transportation on activities under the Highway Safety Act, the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act of 1966, and the Motor Vehicle Information and Cost Savings Act of 1972, as amended.

**William J. Clinton**

The White House,  
September 21, 1995.

**Proclamation 6827—National  
Historically Black Colleges and  
Universities Week, 1995**

*September 21, 1995*

*By the President of the United States  
of America*

**A Proclamation**

Just after the turn of the century, George Washington Carver, teacher, scientist, and intellectual leader at Tuskegee Institute, wrote, "Education is the key to unlock the golden door of freedom." His words ring true for all Americans, but especially so for the students of our Nation's historically black colleges and universities. These institutions are a beacon of hope, a path to advancement, and a source of pride for African Americans and for everyone who values higher learning.

Founded on a commitment to equal opportunity and academic excellence, historically black colleges and universities have enabled countless members of our society to receive a quality education and to pursue their goals and careers. In every sector of our diverse and vibrant country—business, law, academia, medicine, science, the arts, and the military—graduates of these schools have made outstanding contributions to our Nation's progress.

These distinguished institutions have long provided a bridge to the American Dream for their alumni—many of whom are the first

in their families to graduate from college. And while nearly all of America's 103 historically black colleges and universities are located in the South, our entire Nation has benefited from their legacy. Indeed, 27 percent of all baccalaureate degrees awarded to African Americans are granted by these schools, which represent only 3 percent of America's institutions of higher education.

It is their commitment to academic rigor and their dedication to empowering the minority community that have enabled historically black colleges and universities to build a proud tradition of excellence in this country. As centers of independent thought, black colleges hold out a promise to the young leaders of tomorrow—a promise that our Nation will continue to grow in wisdom, that the future will hold increased opportunity, and that education will open new doors to hope and prosperity.

**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 the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim September 24 through September 30, 1995, as National Historically Black Colleges and Universities Week. I call upon the people of the United States, including government officials, educators, and administrators, to observe this week with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities honoring America's black colleges and their graduates, and I encourage all Americans to rededicate themselves to the principles of justice and equality set forth in our Constitution.

**In Witness Whereof**, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-first day of September, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-five, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twentieth.

**William J. Clinton**

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 1:54 p.m., September 22, 1995]

NOTE: This proclamation was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on September 22, and it will be published in the *Federal Register* on September 26.