

**Proclamation 7330 of July 14, 2000****Captive Nations Week, 2000**

*By the President of the United States of America  
A Proclamation*

When President Eisenhower signed the first Captive Nations Week Proclamation in 1959, the fate of freedom around the world was still far from certain. While the United States and our Allies had defeated Adolf Hitler and the Axis Powers in World War II, a partitioned Berlin stood as a bleak symbol of a divided Europe, and millions throughout Asia, Africa, and South America continued to suffer under communist and authoritarian regimes.

Today, as we embark on a new century, democracy is on the rise across the globe. More than half the world's people live under governments of their own choosing. The Iron Curtain has been lifted, allowing the light of liberty into the nations of Central and Eastern Europe. Democratic rule has swept through the countries of Latin America, replacing abusive military regimes with elected civilian governments. And in Africa and Asia, many nations have finally gained independence.

This rising tide of freedom is no accident of history; it was achieved through the courage, determination, and sacrifice of millions of men and women here in America and in captive nations around the world. Whether speaking out in the halls of the United Nations for those silenced by oppressive regimes, standing guard through frigid nights on the DMZ in Korea, or sharing the fruits of liberty through the Peace Corps, generations of Americans have made sure that our country is an ally and source of hope for all people yearning for freedom and dignity. Around the globe, freedom-loving people have risked and often sacrificed their lives to end oppression, whether uniting against tyranny through the Solidarity movement in Poland or defying intimidation and violence to vote in free elections in El Salvador and Nicaragua.

The tide keeps turning toward democracy, human rights, and free market economies. Yet there remain tyrants who use brutality, ethnic cleansing, guns, and prisons to silence voices of reason and tolerance within their countries. As a Nation born of the ideals of freedom, justice, and human dignity, America has a solemn obligation to continue speaking out on behalf of these still-captive nations and their people and lend them our support. We draw strength for this task from the knowledge that our cause is right and inspiration from the people of former captive nations who are flourishing today.

The Congress, by Joint Resolution approved July 17, 1959 (73 Stat. 212), has authorized and requested the President to issue a proclamation designating the third week in July of each year as "Captive Nations Week."

NOW, THEREFORE, I, WILLIAM J. CLINTON, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim July 16 through July 22, 2000, as Captive Nations Week. I call upon the people of the United States to observe this week with appropriate ceremonies and activities and to rededicate ourselves to the principles of freedom, human rights, and self-determination for all the peoples of the world.

**Proc. 7331**

**Title 3—The President**

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this fourteenth day of July, in the year of our Lord two thousand, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-fifth.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

**Proclamation 7331 of July 21, 2000**

**Parents' Day, 2000**

*By the President of the United States of America  
A Proclamation*

Parents play a crucial role in shaping our lives and the life of our Nation. They nurture us as infants when we are unable to help ourselves, protect us as toddlers when we wander into trouble, encourage us as adolescents when we dream about the future, and guide us as adults as we face the challenges and opportunities of our own families and careers. It is through their care that we learn the invaluable lessons of love, family, and community; and it is through their selflessness that we come to understand the joy of making a difference in the life of another.

Throughout our Administration, Vice President Gore and I have strived to provide parents with the tools they need to meet their responsibilities. The Family and Medical Leave Act, which I signed in 1993, has allowed more than 20 million Americans to take up to 12 weeks of unpaid leave to care for a newborn or an ailing relative without fear of losing their job. We have also worked to make child care safer, better, and more affordable for millions of families, and we have expanded preschool and after-school programs to give parents more flexibility in balancing the demands of job and family. And we have worked hard for parents to make the dream of a college education for their sons and daughters a reality—with new HOPE scholarships, more work-study opportunities, higher Pell grants, and more affordable student loans.

Parenting is a lifetime commitment and a lifetime challenge—it involves balancing the demands of family, friends, career, and community. Yet parenting is also one of life's greatest gifts. To hold one's sleeping baby, watch one's children take their first tottering steps and hear them say their first words, boast with pride about their first home run or first music recital, and witness firsthand their journey into adulthood—these are some of the most precious rewards of parenthood.

Only when we pass from childhood to adulthood can we appreciate the value of our parents and the extent of their sacrifices. For these, we owe our parents—whether biological or adoptive, stepparents or foster parents—a profound debt of gratitude. On Parents' Day and throughout the year, let us pay tribute to America's parents, whose unconditional love and constant devotion have helped create a bright future for the next generation.

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 and consistent with Public Law 103–362, do hereby proclaim Sunday, July 23, 2000, as Parents' Day. I call upon