

To heighten awareness of that crucial goal and to recognize the critical role that historically black colleges and universities have played in the lives of African Americans throughout the land, the Congress, by Senate Joint Resolution 21, has designated the week beginning September 18, 1994, as "National Historically Black Colleges and Universities Week" and has authorized and requested the President to issue a proclamation in observance of this commemoration.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, WILLIAM J. CLINTON, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim the week of September 18 through September 24, 1994, as National Historically Black Colleges and Universities Week. I call upon the people of the United States, including government officials, educators, and volunteers, to observe this week with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twentieth day of September, 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

Proclamation 6723 of September 22, 1994

Italian-American Heritage and Culture Month, 1994

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Between 1880 and 1914, nearly four million people left the familiar comfort and sweep of Italy to make a new life for themselves and their families in the unknown land of America. Young and old, rich and poor, Italian immigrants saw in the shores of the United States a symbol of hope and opportunity. Many came with little money and few possessions. Many carried only a love of freedom, a belief in hard work, and an abiding faith in the importance of family.

Bound together by a shared heritage and by a common experience as newcomers in a new culture, the Italian-American community drew its strength from within. During work days that often began before dawn and ended well after dusk, Italian Americans relied on the knowledge and determination that continue to drive our economy today. Working side by side when times were tight, family members depended on one another to survive and, ultimately, to prosper. And their success was apparent in the bright faces of the countless sons and daughters who followed their example and went on to raise families of their own. Today, third and fourth generations of Italian Americans maintain that tradition of community, looking back on the courage of their ancestors with heartfelt gratitude and unparalleled pride.

Italian Americans have indeed worked hard to build upon their rich heritage over the last century, and the fruits of their labors are evident in every aspect of our national life. From politics to business to academia, their diverse talents and skills have sustained our society and enriched our daily lives. This month, we pause to recognize their many extraordinary accomplishments. More than that, we reflect on the

unique cultural heritage that, a hundred years ago, helped to turn the dream of a distant land into the reality of an American home.

The Congress, by House Joint Resolution 175 (Public Law No. 103-309), has designated October 1994, as "Italian-American Heritage and Culture Month" and has authorized and requested the President to issue a proclamation in observance of this month.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, WILLIAM J. CLINTON, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim the month of October 1994 as Italian-American Heritage and Culture Month. I call upon the people of the United States to observe this occasion with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities.

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-four, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and nineteenth.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

Proclamation 6724 of September 23, 1994

Gold Star Mother's Day, 1994

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

Americans owe a lasting debt of gratitude to those who pledged their lives to secure for us the blessings of liberty. We, therefore, set aside certain days during the year to honor their distinguished service—Veterans Day, for all who have served in our Armed Forces, and Memorial Day, for those who lost their lives in that service. But perhaps the greatest sacrifice of all in protecting our way of life was made by another group—women whose sons and daughters lost their lives in service to our country. Those are the Gold Star Mothers of America, and they have earned a special place in our hearts.

Those women once experienced the anxiety of watching their sons or daughters go off to war, not knowing whether they would return. It is a drama that has been played out throughout our Nation's history. Sadly, in each generation, there are mothers who have been called on to accept the terrible truth that their son or daughter will not return. There can be no doubt that these brave women—our courageous Gold Star Mothers—are due our utmost respect.

This year, the 50th anniversary of the D-Day invasion at Normandy, we remember especially those whose sons and daughters served so valiantly during World War II. Half a century later, we recall the courage, spirit, and determination of those who went ashore to fight against tyranny. We celebrate D-Day because there, on the windswept beaches of Normandy, the first beach-head for freedom was won in the most epic of all American conflicts.

Inscribed in the chapel in the American cemetery in Normandy are the proud words: