

influences forming the character of our young people is the example a father sets for his sons and daughters. The very identity through which we know ourselves is rooted in surnames proudly inherited from our fathers and their fathers before them.

All of these things are part of what fatherhood means, yet the whole is also more than the sum of its parts. At its heart is the timeless impulse, commonplace yet wonderfully noble, that moves man to partnership with woman and both to the raising of children, children for whom they strive to build a home and a world a little better than what they themselves have known before.

It is the American father's glory that he works to make each day of the year his family's; it is our proper tribute to him, that we should join to make this one day his.

On this Father's Day we again have the opportunity to pay a justly deserved tribute to the counselors, providers, arbiters, and leaders who are our fathers.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RICHARD NIXON, President of the United States of America, in accordance with a joint resolution of the Congress approved April 24, 1972, do hereby request that June 17, 1973, be observed as Father's Day.

86 Stat. 124.  
36 USC 142a.

I invite the governments of the States and communities to observe Father's Day with appropriate ceremonies, and I urge all our people to offer public and private expressions on that day of the abiding love and gratitude which they bear for the fathers of America.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this fifteenth day of June, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred seventy-three, and of the Independence of the United States of America, the one hundred ninety-seventh.



PROCLAMATION 4225

## National Autistic Children's Week 1973

June 15, 1973

*By the President of the United States of America*

### A Proclamation

One of the most cruel and difficult to understand of all childhood mental disorders is the baffling condition known as childhood autism.

The autistic child does not develop normal speech, make full contact with the world about him, or learn in the usual way from those who seek to reach him in his seclusion of silence or gibberish.

It is estimated that about four children in every 10,000 are autistic. Without special education and care, nearly all are faced with a life of confinement at home or in an institution for the mentally ill. The human costs are equally disturbing; not only do autistic children lead wasted lives but the lives of their parents are scarred by feelings of frustration as they and others seek to understand the bizarre behavior of the children and try to find help in the community.

Autistic children first received medical recognition as a special group in 1943. Now, thirty years later, the underlying causes of early childhood autism are still unknown, and there is no specific treatment. Furthermore, almost all autistic children continue to be excluded from existing school systems.

The outlook is not without hope, however. Many experts continue to express cautious optimism that somewhere there is a solution to this frustrating mystery—a chemical key, a treatment approach, or a pivotal research discovery that will unlock the autistic child from his forced isolation. To provide greater public recognition of the plight of these children the Congress has, by a Joint Resolution which I approved today, called upon me to proclaim the last week of June, 1973, as National Autistic Children's Week.

*Ante, p. 74.*

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RICHARD NIXON, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim the week of June 24 through June 30, 1973, as National Autistic Children's Week. I invite the Governors of the States, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and officials of other areas subject to the jurisdiction of the United States to issue similar proclamations.

I urge the people of the United States and educational, philanthropic, scientific, medical, and health care organizations and professionals to provide the educational and other care services needed by autistic children and to support aggressive research efforts to discover the causes and cure of childhood autism and thus alleviate the suffering of persons struck by this tragic disorder.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this fifteenth day of June, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred seventy-three and of the Independence of the United States of America, the one hundred ninety-seventh.

