

The ratification of the ERA may be the single most important step in assuring American women their full equality. Gaining ratification in the remaining states will not be easy—but it will mean our country can tap the full resources and abilities of all its citizens.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JIMMY CARTER, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim August 26, 1979, as Women's Equality Day and do hereby urge all Americans to work to guarantee full equality for women before the 1982 deadline.

I hope that, as a part of future celebrations for Women's Equality Day, we can celebrate the passage of the 19th Amendment and the passage of the Equal Rights Amendment.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twentieth day of August, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred seventy-nine, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and fourth.

JIMMY CARTER

Proclamation 4675 of August 20, 1979

Fifteenth Anniversary of the Signing of the Economic Opportunity Act

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

On August 20, 1964, our Nation embarked upon its most altruistic enterprise since the Marshall Plan. President Lyndon B. Johnson signed into law an Act "to mobilize the human and financial resources of the Nation to combat poverty in the United States."

The ideal envisioned in the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964 was a Nation in which "every individual has the opportunity to contribute to the full extent of his capabilities and to participate in the workings of our society."

42 USC 2701
note.

The proud litany of bold innovations which this legislation introduced into the Nation's vocabulary included Community Action, Head Start, Job Corps, Legal Services, VISTA, New Careers, Foster Grandparents, Upward Bound, Follow Through, Emergency Food and Medical Services, and Senior Opportunities and Services.

The experimental concepts tested in these many programs have long since left the laboratory. Along the way, we have made some important discoveries—about poverty, about ourselves and about our country. We have learned from these programs that poverty is not an isolated problem that can be overcome without changes in the larger economy. We have learned that the poor of America are by no means alone in their deep-seated desire for institutional change; in their desire for government responsiveness at all levels; in their desire for opportunities for genuine participation as members of our society. We have discovered along the way that poor and non-poor alike long for a sense of community, a share in decision-making, a feeling that the individual can be heard—in the councils of government, in corporate meetings, and in the marketplace.

All Americans should have learned in these 15 tumultuous years that changing circumstances may place any one of us in the path of common enemies: obsolete skills in an age of technological revolution; the danger of disability through injury or disease in a hazardous environment; mutual vulnerability to shrinking energy, housing, and food resources. All of us have learned that our country cannot afford to allow differences—in income, in social status, in geography, in age, in intellect or health, in color, accent, or religion—to divide and polarize us.

This generation has learned also that poverty is not a question of income alone—we can be energy-poor, even though wealthy as a Nation; we can be spiritually impoverished, even when we are materially satiated.

Let us take this occasion, then, to rededicate ourselves and our country to the ideals of the Economic Opportunity Act with a renewed commitment to our Nation's goal of securing the opportunity for every individual to "attain the skills, knowledge, and motivations . . . to become fully self-sufficient."

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JIMMY CARTER, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim and designate the next 12 months as a year of rekindled effort to open to everyone in our land "the opportunity to live in decency and dignity."

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twentieth day of August, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred seventy-nine, and of the Independence of the United States of America, the two hundred and fourth.

JIMMY CARTER

Proclamation 4676 of August 29, 1979

Columbus Day, 1979

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Four hundred and eighty-seven years have passed since an Italian navigator in the service of Spain left the Old World to find the New. Christopher Columbus was determined to test an audacious theory: to reach the East, sail west. On the morning of October 12, 1492, with ninety men in three small ships, he sailed into immortality.

The voyage of this intrepid explorer marked the convergence of American and world history. His discovery opened a new age—an age that gave the world a new center.

We are the inheritors of Columbus' legacy. As a nation which has always striven for the same qualities as the Great Navigator, we must continue the search for new horizons.

It is fitting that, on the observance of this October 12, we once again recall to mind Columbus' extraordinary voyage and, in the spirit of that undertaking, rededicate ourselves to that which is best and most courageous in us.

In tribute to Columbus' achievement, the Congress of the United States of America, by joint resolution approved April 30, 1934 (48 Stat. 657), as modi-