

Proclamation 4679 of September 6, 1979

National Grandparents Day

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

As we seek to strengthen the enduring values of the family, it is appropriate that we honor our grandparents.

Grandparents are our continuing tie to the near-past, to the events and beliefs and experiences that so strongly affect our lives and the world around us. Whether they are our own or surrogate grandparents who fill some of the gaps in our mobile society, our senior generation also provides our society a link to our national heritage and traditions.

We all know grandparents whose values transcend passing fads and pressures, and who possess the wisdom of distilled pain and joy. Because they are usually free to love and guide and befriend the young without having to take daily responsibility for them, they can often reach out past pride and fear of failure and close the space between generations.

The Congress, by joint resolution (H.J. Res. 244), has authorized and requested the President to designate the first Sunday of September following Labor Day of each year as National Grandparents Day.

Ante, p. 410.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JIMMY CARTER, President of the United States of America, do hereby designate Sunday, September 9, 1979 and the first Sunday following Labor Day in each succeeding year as "National Grandparents Day."

I urge officials of Government at the national, State, and local levels, and of voluntary organizations to plan appropriate activities that recognize the importance and the worth of the 17 million grandparents in our nation. I urge all Americans to take the time to honor their own grandparents or those in their community.

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

JIMMY CARTER

Proclamation 4680 of September 10, 1979

National Lupus Week, 1979

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Lupus erythematosus is an increasingly serious connective tissue disease, affecting 500 thousand Americans, mostly young women. There are an estimated 50,000 new victims each year stricken by this disease.

In the systemic form, lupus attacks the entire body and its diverse organ systems, destroying connective tissue in the kidney, heart, and other vital organs. A major feature of the disease is redness of the skin, particularly the appearance of a butterfly-like rash that is often sensitive to light. Additional manifestations of lupus include fever, arthritis, pleurisy, pneumonia, blood abnormalities, heart disease, and central nervous system dysfunction. As its name suggests, this "lupine" disease ravishes the total body in a relentless clinical course and frequently costs its victims their lives in early adulthood.

Although the cause of lupus is not known, the prognosis for patients has vastly improved in recent years. In 1955 the survival rate for lupus victims was 50 percent four years after diagnosis. Now, more than 80 percent of lupus patients are treated successfully during the ten years after their disease has been identified. This increased survival is due to a number of factors including greater awareness of the disease, better diagnostic methods, and development of more effective drug therapies.

The outlook is far from bleak, but greater awareness of the disease and new approaches for improved treatment and diagnosis are needed in order to eliminate lupus as a cause of human suffering and to improve the quality of life in our society for its victims.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JIMMY CARTER, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim the week of September 16 through September 22, 1979 as National Lupus 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 professions to provide the necessary assistance and resources to discover the cause and cure of lupus erythematosus and to alleviate the suffering of all persons struck by this disorder.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this tenth day of September, 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 4681 of September 10, 1979

International Energy Conservation Month, October 1979

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

The United States is the largest user of energy in the world and since 1978 has become increasingly dependent on imported oil to meet its domestic needs.

While considerable progress has been made in reducing the rate of growth in demand for energy, much more remains to be done if the United States is to meet its responsibility to reduce its demand for petroleum on the world market.