

citizens of German ancestry comprise the largest ethnic group in the United States.

German-Americans today look with pride to a free and unified Germany as the living symbol of the best in their heritage. Americans look with satisfaction at the enduring friendship between the Federal Republic of Germany and the United States of America. This friendship is rooted in a long line of immigrants and was replanted in the ashes of the Second World War and nurtured through the storms of national division and Cold War confrontation. Warmed by the benefits of peaceful commerce and strengthened by the myriad personal relationships between the German and American peoples, the friendship has flourished.

The United States and the Federal Republic of Germany face formidable challenges in the post-Cold War era, challenges that we approach with greater confidence because we stand together, united in common democratic values.

The Congress, by Senate Joint Resolution 121, has designated October 6, 1993, as "German-American Day" and has authorized and requested the President to issue a proclamation in observance of that day.

Now, Therefore, I, William J. Clinton, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim October 6, 1993, as German-American Day. I urge all Americans to learn more about the contributions of German immigrants to the United States in all fields of human endeavor and to observe this day with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this fifth day of October, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-three, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and eighteenth.

William J. Clinton

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NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on October 7.

Statement on the Arts and Humanities Awards Recipients

October 5, 1993

These extraordinary individuals have made a gift to American cultural life that is beyond measure. Through these awards we celebrate their impressive achievements and extend our deepest thanks for efforts that nourish our creative and intellectual spirit.

NOTE: The President's statement was included in a White House statement announcing the National Medal of Arts and the Charles Frankel Prize awards ceremony scheduled for October 7. The President's remarks at the ceremony are also published in this issue.

Statement by the Press Secretary on the President's Telephone Conversation With President Boris Yeltsin of Russia

October 5, 1993

The President called President Yeltsin today from Air Force One to discuss the situation in Moscow. The two leaders spoke for 20 minutes. The President's purpose in calling was to express the continued, strong support of the United States for President Yeltsin and the Russian Government in the wake of the political crisis in Russia.

President Yeltsin thanked the President for his support during the crisis and described the events of the last few days. He reported that order had been restored to Moscow. In response to a question from the President, he also reaffirmed his intention to hold free and fair elections on December 12 and to proceed resolutely on political and economic reform in general.

The two leaders pledged to work together to continue to build close relations between the United States and Russia. The President noted in this respect his intention to implement rapidly the \$2.5 billion in economic assistance funds approved by the Congress last week for Russia and the other new states. The President added that the visits to Russia this autumn of several American Cabinet of-