

Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-fourth.

William J. Clinton

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., April 19, 2000]

NOTE: This proclamation will be published in the *Federal Register* on April 20.

Proclamation 7293—National Park Week, 2000

April 14, 2000

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

We are fortunate to live in an era when the explosive growth of technology has put at our fingertips an extraordinary array of information. But even during this technological revolution, one of America's richest and most fascinating educational resources is also among its oldest: our national park system. Our national parks are living libraries and laboratories, where all Americans can experience the beauty and variety of nature and learn about our Nation's history and culture.

Preserving the rare and unusual as well as the spectacular and beautiful, our national parks provide botanists, wildlife biologists, chemists, and other scientists the opportunity to conduct research into the fragile ecosystems that affect the health of people, plants, and animals around the world. Geologists and paleontologists find in our national parks the story of our continent, from the Grand Canyon's geologic formations to the ancient bones resting at Dinosaur National Monument.

The national park system also captures America's more recent history. In the National Historic Sites and along the National Historic Trails maintained by the men and women of the National Park Service, we learn about the lives and achievements of American heroes like Lewis and Clark, Sojourner Truth, Abraham Lincoln, Frederick Douglass, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, the Wright Brothers, and Thomas Edison. From Fort Necessity in Pennsylvania, where a young George Washington saw action in the

French and Indian War, to the quiet acres of Gettysburg, where one of the Civil War's bloodiest battles was fought, to the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Alabama, where the modern civil rights movement reached its emotional peak 35 years ago, Americans can see and touch their history.

Today, we have 379 national parks, and each site offers a unique opportunity to experience the wonder of nature, to stand in the footprints of history, to learn about our culture and our society, to study the natural world, and to look toward the future. As we observe National Park Week, I join all Americans in thanking the men and women of the National Park Service for their dedication in caring for these special places. We are indebted to them for preserving and protecting our natural and cultural heritage, not only for our enjoyment and education today, but also for the benefit of generations to come.

Now, Therefore, I, William J. Clinton, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim April 17 through April 23, 2000, as National Park Week.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this fourteenth day of April, in the year of our Lord two thousand, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-fourth.

William J. Clinton

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**Digest of Other
White House Announcements**

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

April 8

In the morning, the President traveled to New Orleans, LA, and in the afternoon, he traveled to Alexandria, LA.

In the evening, the President returned to Washington, DC.

April 9

In the morning, the President and Hillary Clinton traveled to Fayetteville, AR, where they visited the University of Arkansas. In the evening, they returned to Washington, DC.

April 10

The President declared a major disaster in Maryland and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by a severe winter storm on January 25–30.

The President declared a major disaster in the District of Columbia and ordered Federal aid to supplement District recovery efforts in the area struck by a severe winter storm on January 25–31.

April 11

In the morning, the President traveled to Annapolis, MD, and in the afternoon, he returned to Washington, DC.

The President announced his intention to nominate Phil Boyer to be a member of the Federal Aviation Management Advisory Council.

April 12

In the morning, the President traveled to Denver, CO, and in the evening, he traveled to Chappaqua, NY.

April 13

In the morning, the President returned to Washington, DC.

The President announced his intention to nominate James Donald Walsh to be Ambassador to Argentina.

April 14

In the morning, the President traveled to Atlanta, GA.

In the evening, the President attended a dinner for Representative John Lewis at the Atlanta Airport Hilton and Towers. Later, he traveled to Palo Alto, CA.

The President announced his intention to nominate Mildred S. Dresselhaus to be Di-

rector of Energy Research for the Department of Energy.

The White House announced that the President will address commencements at Eastern Michigan University in Ypsilanti, MI, on April 30; the U.S. Coast Guard Academy in New London, CT, on May 17; and Carleton College in Northfield, MN, on June 10.

**Nominations
Submitted to the Senate**

NOTE: No nominations were submitted to the Senate during the period covered by this issue.

**Checklist
of White House Press Releases**

The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as items nor covered by entries in the Digest of Other White House Announcements.

Released April 8

Statement by the Press Secretary: President Will Meet Prime Minister Barak and Chairman Arafat

Released April 10

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Joe Lockhart

Released April 11

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Joe Lockhart

Announcement of nomination for U.S. District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania

Released April 12

Transcript of a press briefing by Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy Bruce Reed on the President's participation in MSNBC's townhall meeting on guns