

The message today to the Bloods, the Crips, to every criminal gang preying on the innocent is clear: We mean to put you out of business, to break the backs of your organization, to stop you from terrorizing our neighborhoods and our children, to put you away for a very long time. We have just begun the job, and we do not intend to stop until we have finished.

Let me say again, this legislation I offer today has been developed with help from law enforcement. It is like the crime bill of 1994, straightforward, commonsense, there are no hidden meanings, there are no poison pills. It relies on partnerships with communities and citizens. And I hope Congress will join us in a bipartisan commitment to save our neighborhoods, our families, and our children from the threat of gangs and gang violence.

This again is something we should be able to do, even this year, in a genuine spirit of bipartisanship, because we know it will work, and we know it will make a profound difference.

Thank you all very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:56 a.m. in the East Room at the White House.

**Executive Order 13002—
Termination of Combat Zone
Designation in Vietnam and Waters
Adjacent Thereto**

May 13, 1996

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including section 112(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (26 U.S.C. 112(c)(3)), June 30, 1996, as of midnight thereof, is hereby designated as the date of termination of combatant activities in the zone comprised of the area described in Executive Order No. 11216 of April 24, 1965.

William J. Clinton

The White House,
May 13, 1996.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., May 15, 1996]

NOTE: This Executive order was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on May 14, and it was published in the *Federal Register* on May 16.

**Proclamation 6894—Older
Americans Month, 1996**

May 13, 1996

*By the President of the United States
of America*

A Proclamation

America's high standard of living, advanced health care system, and commitment to better nutrition and physical fitness have allowed millions of our citizens the luxury of long and fulfilling lives. Because current estimates indicate that one in six Americans will be 65 or older by the year 2020, our Nation faces new challenges as we seek to address the needs of this growing population of seniors.

Fortunately, many of our older Americans—who have already led the way in setting a sound course for our country's future—are helping us to meet these new challenges as well. Having lived through times of depression and war, peace and prosperity, they have shaped our progress with their achievements. The safety net they created—including Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, and the provisions of the Older Americans Act—helps us to honor our debt to senior citizens and ensures that Americans who have worked hard throughout their lives can look forward to a secure retirement.

Each year, we set aside the month of May as a special time to pay tribute to older Americans and to affirm our obligation to sustain and improve their quality of life. The theme of this year's observance, "Aging: A Lifetime Opportunity," underscores the gifts that older people offer to our country every day. Thanks to senior citizens, our communities are stronger, our Nation is more diverse, and we are better prepared to meet the challenges of the next century.

As we celebrate the contributions of all those in their golden years, let us recognize that long life is a gift we must cherish and a responsibility for which we must prepare. With an eye toward the future and with the example of today's seniors firmly before us,