

Proclamation 7342—Ovarian Cancer Awareness Week, 2000

September 15, 2000

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Ovarian cancer is one of the deadliest cancers affecting American women today. This year alone, 14,000 women will die from ovarian cancer, and more than 23,000 will be diagnosed with the disease. While ovarian cancer is very treatable when detected early, currently 75 percent of new cases are not diagnosed until the disease is in its late stages of development, when treatment is less effective. With early detection, women have a survival rate of over 90 percent; diagnosis in its later stages, however, dramatically reduces the chances of survival to just 25 percent.

Unfortunately, there is still no reliable and quick screening test for ovarian cancer like the Pap smear for cervical cancer or the mammogram for breast cancer. In addition, its symptoms—such as abdominal discomfort or bloating, cramps, unaccountable weight gain or loss, abnormal bleeding—can often be mistaken for signs of less serious conditions. Consequently, raising awareness of risk factors for ovarian cancer is a crucial weapon in our effort to save lives. While every woman has the potential to develop ovarian cancer, the risk is higher for those who have never given birth; who are over the age of 50; or who have a family history of ovarian, breast, or colon cancer.

Research into the causes and treatment of ovarian cancer still offers us the best hope for progress in defeating this disease that has taken such a deadly toll on American families. The National Cancer Institute (NCI) is currently sponsoring a large-scale cancer screening trial to explore, among other issues, the usefulness of testing women's blood for abnormally high levels of CA-125, a substance known as a tumor marker, which is often discovered in higher than normal amounts in the blood of women with ovarian cancer. Researchers are also evaluating the effectiveness of ultrasound testing as a tool for early detection. To learn more about the genetic causes of ovarian cancer, the NCI's

Cancer Genetics Network has established registries to track cancers within families to identify possible inherited risks.

As with every disease, knowledge is crucial to overcoming ovarian cancer. Ovarian Cancer Awareness Week offers us an invaluable opportunity to educate Americans about the symptoms and risk factors of the disease, to alert health care providers about the need for vigilance in recognizing those symptoms and risks early, and to promote increased funding for research into more effective methods of diagnosis and treatment. The more we know about ovarian cancer, the more women and their families can live out their lives free from the shadow of this devastating disease.

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 September 17 through September 23, 2000, as Ovarian Cancer Awareness Week. I encourage the American people to observe this week with appropriate ceremonies and activities that raise awareness of the need for early diagnosis and treatment of this deadly disease.

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

William J. Clinton

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NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on September 19. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

**Executive Order 13167—
Amendment to Executive Order
13147, Increasing the Membership
of the White House Commission on
Complementary and Alternative
Medicine Policy**

September 15, 2000

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the

United States of America, including the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended (5 U.S.C. App.), and in order to increase the membership of the White House Commission on Complementary and Alternative Medicine Policy from not more than 15 members to up to 20 members, it is hereby ordered that the second sentence of section 1 of Executive Order 13147 of May 7, 2000, is amended by deleting “not more than 15” and inserting “up to 20” in lieu thereof.

William J. Clinton

The White House,
September 15, 2000.

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Remarks at a Reception for Hillary Clinton

September 15, 2000

Thank you very much. First, let me thank Weldon and Connie for getting us all together, and thank all of you for coming and for contributing to Hillary’s campaign. I want to thank the large number of members of the Congressional Black Caucus who were here earlier, who came by to express their support. I’m looking forward to being with them and, I suppose, a lot of you tomorrow night at the dinner.

I won’t keep you long, but I want to make two or three points. First of all, you ought to know how you came to be here tonight. Weldon came up to me one day, and he said, “So Hillary is really going to run.” I said, “Yes.” He said, “Well, you know, I’m from New York,” and I said, “Have I got a deal for you”—[laughter]—“and here it is.” [Laughter]

Anyway, I am very grateful to him and to Connie and to all of you for helping Hillary, and I’ll be quite brief in bringing her on. I’m very grateful that I had the chance to serve, and I’m very grateful that the country is in better shape. And I’m glad that we were able to do some things that people hadn’t

done before, to reach out to people within our country, and also beyond our borders, that had too long been overlooked.

She had a lot to do with that. She went to Africa before I did. She went to India and Pakistan and Bangladesh before I did. She has been to more countries, trying to help empower poor people and support democracy and support women’s rights and support getting girls in schools where they don’t go to school, than any First Lady in the history of this country by a long, long way.

She helped to establish this Vital Voices network of women around the world that have worked for peace in Northern Ireland. I just got a—I was just in Nigeria, and when I mentioned it, all the members stood up and started applauding in this audience. The guys in the audience didn’t know what I was talking about, but the girls in the audience knew about Hillary and their deal. It was great.

So I’m grateful for what she did there. What I want to say is that I think in a lot of ways this election is as important, in some ways maybe more important, than the election of 1992, which brought Al Gore and me to the White House, Tipper and Hillary and our crowd. Because then the country was in bad shape, and the people took a chance on me. But I don’t know that it was much of a chance, since the country was in bad shape. [Laughter] Everybody knew that we had to do something different.

Now, we’re laughing, but you know I’m telling the truth, right? How many people do you think went in that room and said, in that voting booth, “I don’t know about this guy. He’s a Governor of this little State. I’m not sure where it is. I mean, you know, they say all these bad things about him, but oh, what the heck”?

Now, the country is in good shape. And I think sometimes it’s harder to make a good decision in good times than it is in bad times, because you have to actually decide. What do you want? Where do you want your country to go? What do you want it to be? And the reason I feel so strongly about this election, it’s the first time in 26 years I haven’t been on the ballot. [Laughter]

My party has got a new leader. My family has got a new candidate. [Laughter] My official title is Cheerleader in Chief. [Laughter]