

The original documents are located in Box 35, folder “March of Dimes Birth Defects Prevention Month” of the William J. Barody Files at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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March of Dimes Birth Defects Prevention Month, 1975

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

The nation's most precious resource is our children. Each year, however, about 150,000 babies born alive in this country have some kind of birth defect. In the first year of life, birth defects are a leading cause of death.

Today, more than 1,500 genetic defects have been cataloged, and new defects are being described in increasing numbers. Some of these are pre-existing defects from parent to child, some are caused by factors in the environment such as radiation exposure, drugs, chemicals and infections, while the cause of others is still unknown.

Discovery that a baby has a birth defect is devastating to parents. In some families, however, the probability that a specific birth defect will occur can be predicted with some accuracy.

Some defects can be diagnosed before, at, or shortly after birth. Almost as many are discovered during the first year of life. A few do not become evident until years later. Some defects can be corrected during the earliest months of life, but others unfortunately result in life-long handicaps and are irreversible. Some defects are severe and some are so mild that they can be overcome with specialized medical management.

Birth defects occur in families in every social, economic, racial, and educational level. The problems presented by these defects today are different than they were 10 years ago. Damage caused to an unborn infant by the German measles virus can virtually be eliminated with the use of the German measles vaccine. Further reductions in other birth defects can be made using knowledge already available. Good prenatal care from the earliest weeks of pregnancy, or, better yet, even before pregnancy, can help protect the pregnant woman and her unborn child from potential factors known to cause these tragic defects. In addition, new information about genetics and the effects of drugs taken by a pregnant woman upon the developing child is being used to prevent these disorders.

Prevention is far better than a cure. It is very fitting, therefore, that the efforts be recognized of medical researchers and practitioners throughout the country, other health professionals, and voluntary organizations working so hard toward achieving this goal of prevention.

By joint resolution, the Congress authorized and requested that the President annually designate the month of January as March of Dimes Birth Defects Prevention Month. Only through a joint effort by government and the public it serves can we continue to improve the health of our most precious resource.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GERALD R. FORD, President of the United States of America, do hereby designate January 1975 as March of Dimes Birth Defects Prevention Month.

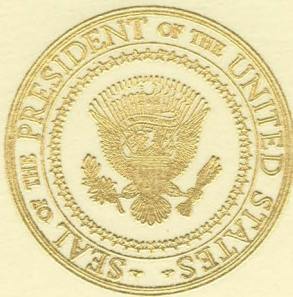
I invite the Governors of the States and appropriate local government officials to support March of Dimes Birth Defects Prevention Month activities and I call upon the nation's mass communications media to join in encouraging all Americans to heed the message of March of Dimes Birth Defects Prevention Month—prevention of birth defects before they occur.

I urge everyone: government officials at all levels—national, state, and local—voluntary organizations, and private groups everywhere, to give special attention to these efforts for the continuing prevention of birth defects and to helping those who are afflicted.

I urge that citizens of this country fight against birth defects and particularly emphasize to all mothers the importance of maintaining good health by seeking medical care during the childbearing years.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this thirtieth day of December, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and seventy-four, and of the Independence of the United States of America the one hundred and ninety-ninth.

Gerald R. Ford



March of Dimes Birth Defects Prevention Month, 1975

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Gerald R. Ford

1/2/75

Marguerite:

January 1975

Katie

Don
872
8668

MEMORANDUM

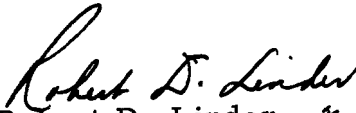
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

January 2, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: Marguerite McAuliffe

The President has signed a Proclamation entitled:

"March of Dimes Birth Defects Prevention Month, 1975"


Robert D. Linder *jr.*



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

1/7/75

Spoke w/ Mr. Gilmore
of the National Foundation - March
of Dimes # 914/428-7100

Oct 2000

White Plains, NY 10602

1/17/75

Spoke w/ Ed Stoney of local
office. He will send over
list of 35 today.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

January 21, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: ROLAND ELLIOTT
FROM: MARGUERITE MCAULIFFE

Margaret

Please arrange to have the attached letter robotyped to the individuals on the enclosed list for the March of Dimes Month Proclamation.

Thanks very much.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

January 21, 1975

Dear

President Ford recently signed a Proclamation designating the month of January as March of Dimes Birth Defects Prevention Month, 1975. In his Proclamation the President states, "Some defects can be corrected during the earliest months of life, but others unfortunately result in life-long handicaps and are irreversible . . . Prevention is far better than a cure. It is very fitting, therefore, that the efforts be recognized of medical researchers and practitioners throughout the country, other health professionals, and voluntary organizations working so hard toward achieving this goal of prevention."

The President asked that I send you the enclosed duplicate of his March of Dimes Proclamation as a small remembrance of this occasion. It comes to you with his best wishes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Bill Baroody".

William J. Baroody, Jr.
Assistant to the President

Enclosure

Mr. I.W. Abel
International President
United Steelworkers of America
5 Gateway Center
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15222

Mrs. William Boyd
Post Office Box #8
Tulsa, Oklahoma 74101

Mr. David G. Cobb
P.O. Box 1348
Tampa, Florida 33601

Mr. James M. Connolly, President
John Donnelly & Sons
28 State Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02109

Mr. John J. Connolly, President
Roll-A-Grill Corporation of
America
12 First Street
North Pelham, New York 10803

Mr. Owen Cooper, President
Mississippi Chemical Corp.
Yazoo City, Mississippi 39194

Mr. George S. Dillon
Chairman of the Board
Airco, Incorporated
85 Chestnut Ridge Road
Montvale, New Jersey 17645

Dr. John Henry Felix
Ala Moana Bldg.
Suite 2012
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814

Dr. Luther H. Foster, President
Tuskegee Institute
Tuskegee Institute, Alabama 36088

Mr. Melvin A. Glasser, Director
Social Security Department
International Union-U.A.W.
8000 East Jefferson Ave.
Detroit, Michigan 48214

Dr. Leonard Graivier
Locke Medical Bldg.
Suite 867
6011 Harry Hines Blvd.
Dallas, Texas 75235

Mr. Harry E. Green
Senior Vice President
Container Corporation of
America
One First National Plaza
Chicago, Illinois 60670

Mr. Peter B. Greenough
211 Central Park West
New York, New York 10024

Mr. Ronald Gross
Vice President
Academy for Educational
Development, Inc.
680 Fifth Avenue
New York, New York 10019

Mr. Richard J. Hallinan
Secretary and General
Counsel
Combustion Engineering, Inc.
900 Long Ridge Road
Stamford, Connecticut 06902

Dr. Cecil C. Humphreys
Chancellor
The State University of
Tennessee
One Park Plaza
Nashville, Tennessee 37203

Mr. Richard H. Jacobson
4115 N. Teutonia Avenue
Milwaukee, Wisc. 53209

Sheriff Joseph F. Job
Bergen County Administration Bldg.
Court Street
Hackensack, New Jersey 07061

Dr. David Mathews
University of Alabama
Tuscaloosa, Alabama 35401

Hon. Frank J. Montemuro, Jr.
Court of Common Pleas
Judge's Chambers
517 City Hall
Philadelphia, Pa. 19107

The Honorable Joseph M. Montoya
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Mr. Joseph F. Nee, President
The National Foundation - *MARCH OF DIMES*
1275 Mamaroneck Avenue
White Plains, New York 10605

Mr. Arnold Palmer
Post Office Box 52
Youngstown, Pennsylvania 15696

Mr. Charles L. Pattison
President
Toledo, Peoria & Western R.R.
2000 E. Washington Street
East Peoria, Illinois 61611

Mr. Donald A. Perkins
WIN Director
Health & Social Services Dept.
State of New Mexico
1019 Tigras, N.W.
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87102

Mr. Ralph W. Pries, President
Ogden Foods, Inc.
3660 South Lawrence Street
Philadelphia, Pa. 19418

Mr. James Roosevelt
James Roosevelt & Co.
1880 Century Park East
Suite 808
Los Angeles, California 90067

Mrs. Thomas D. Russell
President
Russell Mills
Alexander City, Alabama 35010

Mr. Clyde E. Shorey, Jr.
Assistant to the President
The National Foundation - *MARCH OF DIMES*
1707 H Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006

Miss Beverly Sills
211 Central Park West
New York, New York 10024

Mr. Steve Stephens
Stephens International, Ltd.
Tower Building, Suite 1650
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201

The Honorable James W. Symington
The House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Mrs. Patsy R. Taylor
Dingletown Road
Greenwich, Connecticut 06830

Mr. G.H. Walker, Jr.
Honorary Director
White, Weld & Company, Inc.
300 Park Avenue
New York, New York 10022

Miss Jane Wyatt
651 Siena Way
Los Angeles, California 90024



**THE NATIONAL
FOUNDATION**

MARCH OF DIMES

1707 H STREET, N.W., WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006 ■ 202 338-1611

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT, FOUNDER
HARRY E. GREEN, CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD
JOSEPH F. NEE, PRESIDENT

CLYDE E. SHOREY, JR.
ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT

January 17, 1975

Ms. Marguerite McCullough
Office Of Public Liaison
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Ms. McCullough:

Attached is a list of the people to whom we request the White House send a ceremonial copy of the Presidential Proclamation establishing January 1975 as "March of Dimes Birth Defects Prevention Month."

We very much appreciate this expression of interest on the part of the White House in the programs of the March of Dimes and the fact that you will forward the copies of the Proclamation.

Sincerely,

Clyde E. Shorey, Jr.

Clyde E. Shorey, Jr.

CES/dgt

Enclosure

January 21, 1975

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MARCH OF DIMES 1707 H STREET, N.W., WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006 ■ 202 338-1611

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Dallas, Texas 75235

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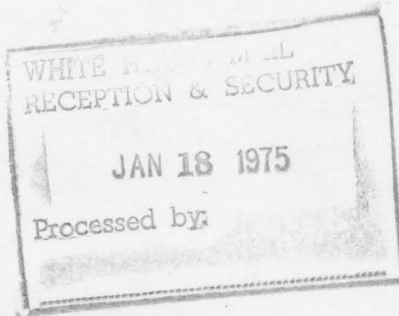


THE NATIONAL FOUNDATION

1707 H STREET, N.W., WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006



1089792



Ms. Marguerite McCullough
Office of Public Liaison
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

September 25, 1975

Dear Mr. Shorey:

Thank you for your recent letter inquiring about the issuance of a March of Dimes Birth Defects Prevention Proclamation for January 1976.

Unfortunately, it will not be possible to issue such a Proclamation again this year. The policy which we must follow with respect to Proclamations prescribes that they may not be initiated here and may only be issued in response to a joint Congressional resolution. As you know, the resolution for 1975 provided for a nonrecurring Proclamation.

One additional point which may be of interest to you is that the President each year designates a day in October as Child Health Day, pursuant to Public Law (36 U.S.C. 155). This year's Proclamation makes reference to birth defects and the continuing efforts to develop effective immunization techniques. I thought you would like to have the enclosed copy of the Proclamation.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,

William J. Baroody, Jr.
Assistant to the President

Mr. Clyde E. Shorey, Jr.
Assistant to the President
The National Foundation
March of Dimes
1707 H Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006





EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

GENERAL COUNSEL

September 4, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR WILLIAM J. BAROODY, JR.

FROM: RONALD A. KIENLEN *R. Kienlen*

SUBJECT: March of Dimes Birth Defects Prevention Month

In response to your memorandum of August 26, 1975, the designation of January 1975, as March of Dimes Birth Defects Prevention Month was in response to S.J. Res. 224, which was amended by the Senate Judiciary Committee "to limit the bill to a nonrecurring proclamation applying to January 1975 only." (S. Rept. No. 93-1294.)

We researched back over thirty years and 1975 was the only time such a proclamation has been issued.

Our files indicate that a joint resolution for March of Dimes has not been introduced in this Congress. Resolutions relating to similar health and welfare concerns have been introduced for the following events: National Cancer Day (H.J. Res. 172, 306, 423, 494 and 504), National Autistic Children's Week (H.J. Res. 452, 453 and 472), Blood Donor Week (H.J. Res. 570), National Hospital Week (H.J. Res. 401), National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week (S.J. Res. 39), and National Child Abuse Awareness Week (S. Res. 43). In view of the policy of the House Committee on the Post Office and Civil Service, it is unlikely that any of these will be passed.

I'm sure you're aware of the policy, most recently expressed in the Director's letter of July 29, 1975, to Congresswoman Schroeder, replying to her letter to the President of June 30, 1975. In applying that policy the following special, similar requests have

"WJB has seen"

been disapproved this year: National Cancer Day, School-Age Parents Month, National Action for Foster Children Week, High Blood Pressure Month, American Lupus Week, and Immunization Action Month.

Proclamations designating the first Monday in October as Child Health Day are annually issued pursuant to Public Law (36 U.S.C. 155). It is intended that the proclamation for this year will consider defects of birth and possible immunizations. While Child Health Day is not directly related to the campaign for the March of Dimes, both are related to child health and would be duplicative.

In the absence of a joint congressional resolution authorizing, for 1976, a proclamation designating a month for the March of Dimes (it was expressly limited to 1975 last year), we would not approve such a proclamation for January 1976.

If you need any further information please call (5600).

August 26, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: RON KIENLEN

FROM: BILL BAROODY, JR.

SUBJECT: March of Dimes Birth Defects
Prevention Month

The attached is a copy of a Presidential Proclamation designating this past January as March of Dimes Birth Defects Prevention Month in response to a Congressional resolution.

I would appreciate your advising me as to whether a similar Proclamation can be issued for January 1976. Furthermore, if it is done, I would like to know whether it can be released early in December as a prelude to the 1976 March of Dimes campaign.

Thanks very much.

WJB:MM:m

THE NATIONAL
FOUNDATION
MARCH OF DIMES

1707 H STREET, N.W., WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006 202 338-1611

CLYDE E. SHOREY, JR.
ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT

August 8, 1975

Mr. William J. Baroody, Jr.
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

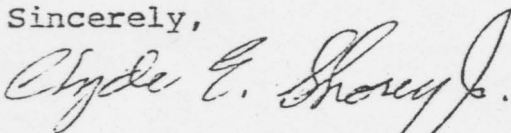
Dear Mr. Baroody:

On January 3, 1975 the President issued a proclamation pursuant to a Joint Resolution of Congress designating January 1975 as March of Dimes Birth Defects Prevention Month. A copy of the proclamation is enclosed. As you know, the House of Representatives is no longer considering Joint Resolutions establishing commemorative days or longer periods for causes such as March of Dimes Birth Defects Prevention Month.

Our former Campaign Chairman in the State of Virginia, Dick Obenshain, has suggested my writing directly to you to request the issuance by the President of a proclamation designating January 1976 as March of Dimes Birth Defects Prevention Month just as the President did this past year. We would hope that such a proclamation could be issued some time early in December as a prelude to the organization's campaign for the prevention of birth defects which takes place throughout January.

I would appreciate your contacting me concerning the issuance of such a proclamation. We are obviously willing to assist in any way possible.

Sincerely,



Clyde E. Shorey, Jr.

CES/dgt

Enclosure

cc: Richard Obenshain

presidential documents

Title 3—The President

PROCLAMATION 4339

March of Dimes Birth Defects Prevention Month, 1975

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

The nation's most precious resource is our children. Each year, however, about 150,000 babies born alive in this country have some kind of birth defect. In the first year of life, birth defects are a leading cause of death.

Today, more than 1,500 genetic defects have been cataloged, and new defects are being described in increasing numbers. Some of these are pre-existing defects from parent to child, some are caused by factors in the environment such as radiation exposure, drugs, chemicals and infections, while the cause of others is still unknown.

Discovery that a baby has a birth defect is devastating to parents. In some families, however, the probability that a specific birth defect will occur can be predicted with some accuracy.

Some defects can be diagnosed before, at, or shortly after birth. Almost as many are discovered during the first year of life. A few do not become evident until years later. Some defects can be corrected during the earliest months of life, but others unfortunately result in life-long handicaps and are irreversible. Some defects are severe and some are so mild that they can be overcome with specialized medical management.

Birth defects occur in families in every social, economic, racial, and educational level. The problems presented by these defects today are different than they were 10 years ago. Damage caused to an unborn infant by the German measles virus can virtually be eliminated with the use of the German measles vaccine. Further reductions in other birth defects can be made using knowledge already available. Good prenatal care from the earliest weeks of pregnancy, or, better yet, even before pregnancy, can help protect the pregnant woman and her unborn child from potential factors known to cause these tragic defects. In addition, new information about genetics and the effects of drugs taken by a pregnant woman upon the developing child is being used to prevent these disorders.

Prevention is far better than a cure. It is very fitting, therefore, that the efforts be recognized of medical researchers and practitioners throughout the country, other health professionals, and voluntary organizations working so hard toward achieving this goal of prevention.

By joint resolution, the Congress authorized and requested that the President annually designate the month of January as March of Dimes Birth Defects Prevention Month. Only through a joint effort by government and the public it serves can we continue to improve the health of our most precious resource.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GERALD R. FORD, President of the United States of America, do hereby designate January 1975 as March of Dimes Birth Defects Prevention Month.

I invite the Governors of the States and appropriate local government officials to support March of Dimes Birth Defects Prevention Month activities and I call upon the nation's mass communications media to join in encouraging all Americans to heed the message of March of Dimes Birth Defects Prevention Month—prevention of birth defects before they occur.

I urge everyone: government officials at all levels—national, state, and local—voluntary organizations, and private groups everywhere, to give special attention to these efforts for the continuing prevention of birth defects and to helping those who are afflicted.

I urge that citizens of this country fight against birth defects and particularly emphasize to all mothers the importance of maintaining good health by seeking medical care during the childbearing years.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this thirtieth day of December, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and seventy-four, and of the Independence of the United States of America the one hundred and ninety-ninth.

Gerald R. Ford

[FR Doc.75-374 Filed 1-2-75;12:23 pm]

November 13, 1975

Dear Mr. Shorey:

This is in pursuit of our recent conversations regarding the issuance of a Presidential Proclamation for March of Dimes Month in 1976.

As we discussed, Proclamations are customarily issued only in response to a joint Congressional resolution, and none has been passed with respect to the 1976 March of Dimes observance. A general exception to this policy is made for events which have been traditionally commemorated. General Pulaski's Memorial Day, for example, has been issued annually since 1929. An ad hoc exception may be made on a one-time basis for unusually significant events. Thus a Proclamation for U.S. - Japan Friendship Days was issued on the occasion of the first visit by the Japanese Emperor and Empress to the United States.

I agree with you, however, that March of Dimes Month is an event worthy of Presidential recognition. In lieu of a Proclamation, I believe a statement by the President would be a fitting way in which to highlight its observance, and I have requested that this be done. If it is approved and released, the statement will be included in the Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents. I have enclosed for your information a copy of a recent such statement in commemoration of World Environment Day, as it appeared in this publication.

I hope this additional information is of assistance to you. Please know that you have my



...a very successful campaign in
...centennial year.

with kindest regards,

Sincerely,

William J. Baroody, Jr.
Assistant to the President

Mr. Clyde E. Shorey
Assistant to the President
The National Foundation
March of Dimes
1707 H Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006



WJBMMm

October 29, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: RONALD KIENLEN
FROM: MARGUERITE MCAULIFFE
SUBJECT: March of Dimes Proclamation

As we discussed yesterday, I am forwarding the correspondence and other material related to Mr. Clyde Shorey's request that a March of Dimes Proclamation be issued for 1976.

Our letter of September 25th to Mr. Shorey, based on the information contained in your memorandum to Mr. Baroody, explains the fact that this Proclamation cannot be issued again next year. Mr. Shorey recently advised Mr. Baroody of his understanding that 16 of the last 45 Presidential Proclamations have been issued without Congressional action. He cited Norwegian-American Day, Pulaski Day, World Law Day and U.S. -Japan Friendship Days as examples of Proclamations which have been signed by the President in the absence of a Congressional resolution.

Mr. Shorey further noted that either House of Congress may now pass a resolution calling for a Proclamation, and that joint resolutions are no longer required.

If you could clarify the above points, it would help us in responding to Mr. Shorey, and we would greatly appreciate it.



October 29, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: RONALD KIENLEN

FROM: MARGUERITE MCAULIFFE

SUBJECT: March of Dimes Proclamation

As we discussed yesterday, I am forwarding the correspondence and other material related to Mr. Clyde Shorey's request that a March of Dimes Proclamation be issued for 1976.

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Mr. Shorey further noted that either House of Congress may now pass a resolution calling for a Proclamation, and that joint resolutions are no longer required.

If you could clarify the above points, it would help us in responding to Mr. Shorey, and we would greatly appreciate it.



November 11, 1975

Dear Mr. Shorey:

This is in furtherance of our recent conversations regarding the issuance of a Presidential Proclamation for March of Dimes Month in 1976.

As we discussed, Proclamations are customarily issued only in response to a joint Congressional resolution, and none has been passed with respect to the 1976 March of Dimes observance. A general exception to this policy is made for events which have been traditionally commemorated. General Pulaski's Memorial Day, for example, has been issued annually since 1929. An ad hoc exception may be made on a one-time basis for unusually significant events. Thus a Proclamation for U.S. - Japan Friendship Days was issued on the occasion of the first visit by the Japanese Emperor and Empress to the United States.

I agree with you, however, that March of Dimes Month is an event worthy of Presidential recognition. In lieu of a Proclamation, I believe a statement by the President would be a fitting way in which to highlight its observance, and I have arranged to have this done. Upon its release, the statement will be included in the Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents. I have enclosed for your information



a copy of a recent such statement in commemoration of World Environment Day, as it appeared in this publication.

I hope this additional information is of assistance to you. Please know that you have my best wishes for a very successful campaign in our Bicentennial year.

With kindest regards,

Sincerely,

William J. Baroody, Jr.
Assistant to the President

Mr. Clyde E. Shorey, Jr.
Assistant to the President
The National Foundation
March of Dimes
1707 H Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006

November 11, 1975

Dear Mr. Shorey:

This is in furtherance of our recent conversations regarding the issuance of a Presidential Proclamation for March of Dimes Month in 1976.

As we discussed, Proclamations are customarily issued only in response to a joint Congressional resolution, and none has been passed with respect to the 1976 March of Dimes observance. A general exception to this policy is made for events which have been traditionally commemorated. General Pulaski's Memorial Day, for example, has been issued annually since 1929. An ad hoc exception may be made on a one-time basis for unusually significant events. Thus a Proclamation for U.S. - Japan Friendship Days was issued on the occasion of the first visit by the Japanese Emperor and Empress to the United States.

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With kindest regards,

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Assistant to the President

Mr. Clyde E. Shorey, Jr.
Assistant to the President
The National Foundation
March of Dimes
1707 H Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006

November 6, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: ELISKA HASEK
FROM: MARGUERITE MCAULIFFE
SUBJECT: March of Dimes Month

As you may know, there are no plans to issue a Presidential Proclamation for March of Dimes Month in 1976, as was done this year.

Mr. Baroody wondered whether a Presidential statement could be done in lieu of a Proclamation for this event. March of Dimes Month falls in January which I realize is somewhat in the future, but I wanted to give you plenty of lead time.

Please let me know if this is possible. Thank you.



November 6, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: ELISKA HASEK
FROM: MARGUERITE MCAULIFFE
SUBJECT: March of Dimes Month

As you may know, there are no plans to issue a Presidential Proclamation for March of Dimes Month in 1976, as was done this year.

Mr. Baroody wondered whether a Presidential statement could be done in lieu of a Proclamation for this event. March of Dimes Month falls in January which I realize is somewhat in the future, but I wanted to give you plenty of lead time.

Please let me know if this is possible. Thank you.





EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

GENERAL COUNSEL

October 31, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: Marguerite McAuliffe
FROM: Ronald A. Kienlen *R. Kienlen*
Subject: March of Dimes Proclamation

The policy expressed in the Director's letter of July 29, 1975, to Congresswoman Schroeder, contains three basic ingredients: (1) Presidential commemorative proclamations are customarily issued only in response to a joint congressional resolution; (2) a general exception to this policy is made for events which have been traditionally designated (e.g., General Pulaski's Memorial Day has been issued since 1929, and Red Cross Month has been issued since 1943); and (3) an ad hoc exception may be made on a one-time basis for unusually significant events (e.g., Norwegian-American Day commemorated the 150th anniversary of the arrival of the "Restaurationen" in the New York Harbor, U.S.-Japan Friendship Days marked the very first visit by the Japanese Emperor and Empress to the United States).

As to World Law Day, beginning in 1965 the President has designated World Law Day in conjunction with the holding of World Law Day Conferences. The event is based on a ten-year tradition and in addition has special significance this year - Women's International Year - since the theme of World Law Day was legal equality between men and women.

The basic problem with commemorative proclamations is simply that the number has increased so greatly that the special Presidential significance attached thereto is being tarnished. The annual average number of commemorative proclamations during the period '71 through '74 had increased 20% over the prior 5-year period and 130% over the period '54 through '58.



There are just too many worthy events! We have to say no. Events such as Immunization Action Month and High Blood Pressure Month have also been turned down. There are many other events in the health area which simply cannot be accommodated (see my memo of September 4, 1975).

It is difficult to acknowledge that there are some unique exceptions. For instance, Jaycee Week was issued in 1975 without a joint congressional resolution and without a traditional basis. It is not expected that it will be issued in 1976. One may be forced to note that the few exceptions establish the rule.

On the other hand, many proclamations which have been issued in the past were not issued this year; e.g., National Inventors' Day, National Coin Week, American Forestry Week, World Environment Day, and National Highway Week.

Any significant change in the basic policy would make it impossible to say "no" to anyone without creating a wealth of dissatisfaction and perhaps resentment.

It is necessary to recognize that every exception, including the designation six days ago of October as Country Music Month, will not always fit the logic being formed to explain the process.

If an event is otherwise exceptionally worthy of Presidential recognition, the issuance of a Presidential statement is an excellent form of recognition. This approach has been followed in numerous situations. Since there will be a March of Dimes Campaign without the proclamation, and assuming the March of Dimes is appropriate for Presidential recognition, it would be consistent with existing policy to issue a Presidential statement calling attention to the annual March of Dimes campaign conducted during January 1976, and urging the American people to support that campaign. It is superfluous for the President to designate the month as March of Dimes Month, even though the National Foundation is free to do so.

An example may be helpful. World Environment Day was not proclaimed this year; however, the President did issue a statement (in view of the international support for that day), which served the dual purpose of publicity and Presidential recognition (copy attached).

Since a proclamation will not be approved for March of Dimes Month, perhaps then Mr. Shorey would like to submit some suggestions which could be put into a Presidential statement recognizing the March of Dimes. If Mr. Shorey would prefer that to nothing, such a Presidential statement could be given serious consideration.

Sponsors of these special events are generally interested in some form of Presidential recognition which can be used in their publicity efforts. A Presidential statement satisfies both of those objectives.

Attachment



Conclusion

My Administration is seeking major reforms in many Federal regulatory agencies to eliminate unnecessary restrictions and promote more efficient and competitive industries.

This legislation is the product of 10 years of intensive work by several administrations, the Congress, the Securities and Exchange Commission, and the many elements of the securities industry.

The product is a good one, and it represents the first of what I hope will be a long series of much-needed regulatory reforms.

NOTE: As enacted, the bill (S. 249) is Public Law 94-29, approved June 4, 1975.

Federal-Aid Highway Funds Bill

Statement by the President on Signing H.R. 3786 Into Law. June 5, 1975

I have signed into law H.R. 3786, a bill that will permit greater flexibility to the States in the use of Federal-aid highway funds and enable them to temporarily defer their matching share for certain projects.

The major benefit of this legislation is that it will permit States to temporarily reallocate Federal funds among the various categories of Federal-aid highway programs, except for the Interstate System. This change will permit the States to move forward with certain job-creating highway projects which they could otherwise not undertake at this time. This is also consistent with my view that the number of categories in the Federal highway program should be reduced.

Unfortunately, this legislation permits the States to defer until December 31, 1976, the payment of their matching requirement on projects for which Federal funds have been approved between February 12 and September 30, 1975.

Although I strongly oppose in principle deferring matching requirements by State and local governments, this one-time exception is made to enable the States to take advantage of the special jobs-producing highway funds which I released in February and of the additional funds made available by the Congress in April. Importantly, H.R. 3786 contains a tough provision which requires States to either pay up their deferred matching share by the end of 1976 or lose future Federal highway grants. For these reasons, I have signed this legislation to insure that all States will be able to take advantage of their fair share of these special highway funds and to proceed with projects which will stimulate employment in the construction industry.

NOTE: As enacted, the bill (H.R. 3786) is Public Law 94-30, approved June 4, 1975.

Equal Employment Opportunity Commission

Announcement of Intention To Nominate William J. Kendrick To Be a Member of the Commission. June 5, 1975

The President today announced his intention to nominate William J. Kendrick, of Potomac, Md., to be a member of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission for a term expiring July 1, 1979. He will succeed Luther Holcomb, whose term has expired.

Since 1973, Mr. Kendrick has been with the National Association of Manufacturers, serving as senior vice president for the policy/program division, and currently is a consultant for the association. He was vice president of the environmental quality department from 1969 to 1972 for the association, after having served as policy committee manager for the industrial relations department during 1968.

From 1966 to 1967, Mr. Kendrick was Director of Congressional Relations for the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. He was appointed Executive Assistant to the Associate Counsel to the President in 1964, serving until 1965. After serving in the Office of the Solicitor at the Department of Labor during 1960 to 1961, he became Assistant to the Director of the President's Committee on Equal Employment Opportunity from 1962 to 1963.

Mr. Kendrick was born on December 23, 1932, in Boston, Mass., and received his B.S. degree from Boston College in 1956. He graduated from the New England School of Law with an LL.B. degree in 1959.

Mr. Kendrick is married to the former Mary Jamison, and they have three children.



World Environment Day

Statement by the President on the Third Anniversary of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment. June 5, 1975

On this day, the third anniversary of the opening of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, it is appropriate that we join our neighbors throughout the world to reflect upon efforts being made to improve the quality of our global environment.

Today, there is growing recognition of mankind's interdependence, of our relationship with nature's other handiworks, and of the danger to our planet which environmental degradation poses.

An active concern for the environment is the first essential step toward restoration and preservation of environmental quality. We in the United States, and the citizens of many other countries, have taken that first giant step, but we have far to go.

Through local, national, and international efforts, we have already begun to redeem the works of destruction which man has visited upon the Earth for generations.

We recognize that these efforts can succeed on a global scale only if every nation becomes involved. Since participating in the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment at Stockholm in 1972, the United States has joined in international efforts to implement the recommendations formulated by that Conference and adopted by the United Nations.

The United States has strongly supported the United Nations Environment Program. We have participated in the development of international conventions to protect the planet, its settlements, and its species. We have entered into bilateral environmental agreements with other countries.

As the United States approaches the beginning of its third century, our desire to maintain and enhance the quality of life in this country and throughout the world remains undiminished. This Nation is committed to striving for an environment that not only sustains life, but also enriches the lives of people everywhere—harmonizing the works of man and nature. This commitment has recently been reinforced by my proclamation, pursuant to a joint resolution of the Congress, designating March 21, 1975, as Earth Day, and asking that special attention be given to educational efforts directed toward protecting and enhancing our life-giving environment.

In support of the action of the United Nations General Assembly, I am happy on this day, World Environment Day, to express the dedication and deep concern of Americans for the goal of achieving a better world environment.

Commodity Futures Trading Commission

Announcement of Intention To Nominate Robert L. Martin To Be a Commissioner. June 6, 1975

The President announced today his intention to nominate Robert L. Martin, of Arlington Heights, Ill., to be a Commissioner of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission for a term of one year. This is a new position created by Public Law 93-463 of October 23, 1974.

Since 1973, Mr. Martin has been vice president of the Cook Grain Co., Inc. He was vice president of Walston & Co., of Chicago, Ill., from 1972 to 1973. During 1971, he was with the Harris Upham & Co., of New York and Chicago. He joined the Goodbody & Co. of New York in 1968 as director of commodities and later became a partner in 1969, serving until 1970. From 1952 until 1968, he was vice president of J & O Grain Co., of Chicago.

Mr. Martin was born on October 30, 1914, in Vancouver, British Columbia, of American parents. He attended schools in Minneapolis, Minn., and graduated from West High School in 1932. He became assistant secretary of the Standard Milling Co., of Chicago and Minneapolis in 1934 and was with them until 1952.

Mr. Martin is married to the former Virginia Lange, and they have two children.

Energy Research and Development Administration

Announcement of Intention To Nominate Richard W. Roberts To Be an Assistant Administrator. June 6, 1975

The President today announced his intention to nominate Richard W. Roberts of Bethesda, Md., as an Assistant Administrator of Energy Research and Development. This is a new position created by Public Law 93-438 of October 11, 1974. In this capacity, he will be responsible for nuclear energy.

Since February 1973, Mr. Roberts has been Director of the National Bureau of Standards. He joined the General Electric Co. in October 1965, as manager of the structural reactions branch and in January 1968, became manager of the physical chemistry laboratory. From September 1968, until February 1973, he was manager of the materials science and engineering for General Electric. From August 1960, until October 1965, he was with the Polymer Interface Studies as a physical chemist in chemistry research and from September 1964, until February 1965, he was acting manager.

Mr. Roberts was born on January 12, 1935, in Buffalo, N.Y., and received his B.S. degree from the University of Rochester in 1956. He received his Ph. D. degree from Brown University in 1960. He also did additional post doctorate work at the National Bureau of Standards from 1959 to 1960.

Mr. Roberts is married to the former Carol Jean Elmer, and they have two children.

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

October 29, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: RONALD KIENLEN

FROM: MARGUERITE MCAULIFFE *MM*

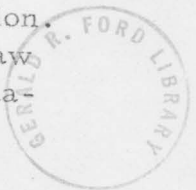
SUBJECT: March of Dimes Proclamation

As we discussed yesterday, I am forwarding the correspondence and other material related to Mr. Clyde Shorey's request that a March of Dimes Proclamation be issued for 1976.

Our letter of September 25th to Mr. Shorey, based on the information contained in your memorandum to Mr. Baroody, explains the fact that this Proclamation cannot be issued again next year. Mr. Shorey recently advised Mr. Baroody of his understanding that 16 of the last 45 Presidential Proclamations have been issued without Congressional action. He cited Norwegian-American Day, Pulaski Day, World Law Day and U.S.-Japan Friendship Days as examples of Proclamations which have been signed by the President in the absence of a Congressional resolution.

Mr. Shorey further noted that either House of Congress may now pass a resolution calling for a Proclamation, and that joint resolutions are no longer required.

If you could clarify the above points, it would help us in responding to Mr. Shorey, and we would greatly appreciate it.



September 25, 1975

Dear Mr. Shorey:

Thank you for your recent letter inquiring about the issuance of a March of Dimes Birth Defects Prevention Proclamation for January 1976.

Unfortunately, it will not be possible to issue such a Proclamation again this year. The policy which we must follow with respect to Proclamations prescribes that they may not be initiated here and may only be issued in response to a joint Congressional resolution. As you know, the resolution for 1975 provided for a nonrecurring Proclamation.

One additional point which may be of interest to you is that the President each year designates a day in October as Child Health Day, pursuant to Public Law (36 U.S.C. 155). This year's Proclamation makes reference to birth defects and the continuing efforts to develop effective immunization techniques. I thought you would like to have the enclosed copy of the Proclamation.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,

William J. Baroody, Jr.
Assistant to the President

Mr. Clyde E. Shorey, Jr.
Assistant to the President
The National Foundation
March of Dimes
1707 H Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006



September 25, 1975

Dear Mr. Shorey:

Thank you for your recent letter inquiring about the issuance of a March of Dimes Birth Defects Prevention Proclamation for January 1976.

Unfortunately, it will not be possible to issue such a Proclamation again this year. The policy which we must follow with respect to Proclamations prescribes that they may not be initiated here and may only be issued in response to a joint Congressional resolution. As you know, the resolution for 1975 provided for a nonrecurring Proclamation.

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Mr. Clyde E. Shorey, Jr.
Assistant to the President
The National Foundation
March of Dimes
1707 H Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006

WJB:JCV:MM:m





EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

GENERAL COUNSEL

September 4, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR WILLIAM J. BAROODY, JR.

FROM: RONALD A. KIENLEN *R. Kienlen*
SUBJECT: March of Dimes Birth Defects Prevention Month

In response to your memorandum of August 26, 1975, the designation of January 1975, as March of Dimes Birth Defects Prevention Month was in response to S.J. Res. 224, which was amended by the Senate Judiciary Committee "to limit the bill to a nonrecurring proclamation applying to January 1975 only." (S. Rept. No. 93-1294.)

We researched back over thirty years and 1975 was the only time such a proclamation has been issued.

Our files indicate that a joint resolution for March of Dimes has not been introduced in this Congress. Resolutions relating to similar health and welfare concerns have been introduced for the following events: National Cancer Day (H.J. Res. 172, 306, 423, 494 and 504), National Autistic Children's Week (H.J. Res. 452, 453 and 472), Blood Donor Week (H.J. Res. 570), National Hospital Week (H.J. Res. 401), National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week (S.J. Res. 39), and National Child Abuse Awareness Week (S. Res. 43). In view of the policy of the House Committee on the Post Office and Civil Service, it is unlikely that any of these will be passed.

I'm sure you're aware of the policy, most recently expressed in the Director's letter of July 29, 1975, to Congresswoman Schroeder, replying to her letter to the President of June 30, 1975. In applying that policy the following special, similar requests have

"WJB has seen"

been disapproved this year: National Cancer Day, School-Age Parents Month, National Action for Foster Children Week, High Blood Pressure Month, American Lupus Week, and Immunization Action Month.

Proclamations designating the first Monday in October as Child Health Day are annually issued pursuant to Public Law (36 U.S.C. 155). It is intended that the proclamation for this year will consider defects of birth and possible immunizations. While Child Health Day is not directly related to the campaign for the March of Dimes, both are related to child health and would be duplicative.

In the absence of a joint congressional resolution authorizing, for 1976, a proclamation designating a month for the March of Dimes (it was expressly limited to 1975 last year), we would not approve such a proclamation for January 1976.

If you need any further information please call (5600).

August 26, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: RON KIENLEN

FROM: BILL BAROODY, JR.

SUBJECT: March of Dimes Birth Defects
Prevention Month

The attached is a copy of a Presidential Proclamation designating this past January as March of Dimes Birth Defects Prevention Month in response to a Congressional resolution.

I would appreciate your advising me as to whether a similar Proclamation can be issued for January 1976. Furthermore, if it is done, I would like to know whether it can be released early in December as a prelude to the 1976 March of Dimes campaign.

Thanks very much.



WJB:MM:m

THE NATIONAL
FOUNDATION

MARCH OF DIMES 1707 H STREET, N.W., WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006 202 338-1611

CLYDE E. SHOREY, JR.
ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT

August 8, 1975

Mr. William J. Baroody, Jr.
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

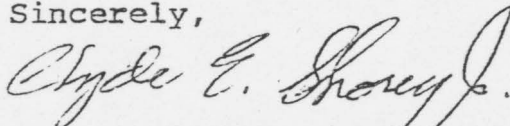
Dear Mr. Baroody:

On January 3, 1975 the President issued a proclamation pursuant to a Joint Resolution of Congress designating January 1975 as March of Dimes Birth Defects Prevention Month. A copy of the proclamation is enclosed. As you know, the House of Representatives is no longer considering Joint Resolutions establishing commemorative days or longer periods for causes such as March of Dimes Birth Defects Prevention Month.

Our former Campaign Chairman in the State of Virginia, Dick Obenshain, has suggested my writing directly to you to request the issuance by the President of a proclamation designating January 1976 as March of Dimes Birth Defects Prevention Month just as the President did this past year. We would hope that such a proclamation could be issued some time early in December as a prelude to the organization's campaign for the prevention of birth defects which takes place throughout January.

I would appreciate your contacting me concerning the issuance of such a proclamation. We are obviously willing to assist in any way possible.

Sincerely,



Clyde E. Shorey, Jr.

CES/dgt

Enclosure

cc: Richard Obenshain



presidential documents

Title 3—The President

PROCLAMATION 4339

March of Dimes Birth Defects Prevention Month, 1975

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

The nation's most precious resource is our children. Each year, however, about 150,000 babies born alive in this country have some kind of birth defect. In the first year of life, birth defects are a leading cause of death.

Today, more than 1,500 genetic defects have been cataloged, and new defects are being described in increasing numbers. Some of these are pre-existing defects from parent to child, some are caused by factors in the environment such as radiation exposure, drugs, chemicals and infections, while the cause of others is still unknown.

Discovery that a baby has a birth defect is devastating to parents. In some families, however, the probability that a specific birth defect will occur can be predicted with some accuracy.

Some defects can be diagnosed before, at, or shortly after birth. Almost as many are discovered during the first year of life. A few do not become evident until years later. Some defects can be corrected during the earliest months of life, but others unfortunately result in life-long handicaps and are irreversible. Some defects are severe and some are so mild that they can be overcome with specialized medical management.

Birth defects occur in families in every social, economic, racial, and educational level. The problems presented by these defects today are different than they were 10 years ago. Damage caused to an unborn infant by the German measles virus can virtually be eliminated with the use of the German measles vaccine. Further reductions in other birth defects can be made using knowledge already available. Good prenatal care from the earliest weeks of pregnancy, or, better yet, even before pregnancy, can help protect the pregnant woman and her unborn child from potential factors known to cause these tragic defects. In addition, new information about genetics and the effects of drugs taken by a pregnant woman upon the developing child is being used to prevent these disorders.

Prevention is far better than a cure. It is very fitting, therefore, that the efforts be recognized of medical researchers and practitioners throughout the country, other health professionals, and voluntary organizations working so hard toward achieving this goal of prevention.



By joint resolution, the Congress authorized and requested that the President annually designate the month of January as March of Dimes Birth Defects Prevention Month. Only through a joint effort by government and the public it serves can we continue to improve the health of our most precious resource.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GERALD R. FORD, President of the United States of America, do hereby designate January 1975 as March of Dimes Birth Defects Prevention Month.

I invite the Governors of the States and appropriate local government officials to support March of Dimes Birth Defects Prevention Month activities and I call upon the nation's mass communications media to join in encouraging all Americans to heed the message of March of Dimes Birth Defects Prevention Month—prevention of birth defects before they occur.

I urge everyone: government officials at all levels—national, state, and local—voluntary organizations, and private groups everywhere, to give special attention to these efforts for the continuing prevention of birth defects and to helping those who are afflicted.

I urge that citizens of this country fight against birth defects and particularly emphasize to all mothers the importance of maintaining good health by seeking medical care during the childbearing years.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this thirtieth day of December, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and seventy-four, and of the Independence of the United States of America the one hundred and ninety-ninth.

Gerald R. Ford

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