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Save Your Vision Week, 1975

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

One of every twenty people in the United States suffers some degree of visual disability. Yet, many eye injuries and disorders could be prevented if Americans took greater care to preserve their vision. Simple measures, such as wearing protective goggles when engaged in hazardous activity, will help avoid eye injuries and save sight. Many disorders that impair vision or cause blindness can be arrested before the eyes become seriously damaged, if they are detected and treated early in their development. Even blindness can sometimes be cured. For example, 95 percent of the 5,000 Americans blinded or visually disabled by cataract, for whom surgery is recommended, could have their vision restored.

Researchers in the visual science are continually striving to reduce the toll of visual disability. Advances made in vision research, many of which have been supported by the Federal Government through the National Eye Institute, and by several philanthropic organizations, can benefit many Americans if only we avail ourselves of them. The simplest way is by making eye examinations a routine part of health care through the professional guidance of ophthalmologists, optometrists, and opticians. All of us should know where to go in our communities for assistance in visual problems. We must be aware of preventive measures that can be taken at home, school, work, and play to protect our vision. We must learn the warning signals of serious eye problems so we know when to seek professional attention.

To encourage all of us to protect our vision and to care properly for our eyes, Congress, by joint resolution, approved December 30, 1963 (77 Stat. 629; 36 U.S.C. 169a), has requested the President to proclaim the first week in March of each year as Save Your Vision Week.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GERALD R. FORD, President of the United States of America, do hereby designate the week of March 2 through March 8, 1975, as Save Your Vision Week. I urge all Americans to join in this observance by taking steps to assure eye safety and by making themselves aware of the vision care facilities available in their communities. I invite the appropriate officials of State and local governments to issue similar Proclamations.

I also invite the communications media, the health care professions, and all other agencies and individuals concerned with the improvement and preservation of vision, to join in public activities supporting programs to improve and protect the vision of Americans.

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

Gerald R. Ford



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By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Try to imagine a world without sunsets, without the smiles of friends, without the comfort of books, or without any of the simple sights we take for granted but which make our lives so much richer. Such a world will become a reality for the fifty thousand Americans who will become blind this year alone. Over a million other Americans will also suffer some form of visual impairment. Yet all too often it is only when these problems occur that we realize how important vision is to almost every aspect of our daily existence.

Americans have access to the most advanced facilities for the care of vision available in the world. This has been made possible through sustained research by dedicated professionals, supported in large measure by private organizations as well as the Federal Government, through the National Eye Institute. Nevertheless, whether out of vanity or unfamiliarity with the elementary principles of proper vision care, millions of Americans continue to neglect their eyesight.

To remind all Americans of the importance of good vision to themselves and the Nation, and to encourage them to learn and practice the fundamentals of eye safety—including the need for regular professional examination—the Congress, by joint resolution (36 U.S.C. 196a), has requested the President to issue annually a proclamation designating the first week in March as Save Your Vision Week.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GERALD R. FORD, President of the United States of America, do hereby designate the week beginning March 7, 1976, as Save Your Vision Week. I urge all Americans to mark this occasion by learning and practicing the safety measures appropriate for good eyesight. I call upon optometrists, ophthalmologists, and opticians, the communications media, and educators to join in public activities and programs to improve and protect the vision of Americans of all ages.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-fifth day of February in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred seventy-six, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundredth.

Gerald R. Ford



Save Your Vision Week, 1976

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

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Gerald R. Ford

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON



February 24, 1975

*Spoke with Dave Lewis
of American Optometric
Association. He will put together
a list.*

833-9890

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

February 5, 1975



MEMORANDUM FOR: MARGUERITE McAULIFFE

The President has signed a Proclamation entitled:

"Save Your Vision Week, 1975"

(week of March 2 thru March 8, 1975)

Robert D. Linder
Robert D. Linder *2.*

October 25, 1974



Dear Dr. Shannon:

Thank you for your letter of October 9 concerning Save Your Vision Week, March 2-8, 1975. You indicated you would like the President to issue the proclamation a month in advance of the period set aside for this special observance.

We certainly appreciate your interest in wanting as much lead time as possible to give your organization the opportunity to arrange for the proclamation's dissemination to your State offices, governors, mayors, and the public. We will do our best to issue the proclamation as early as possible.

I am sure you can understand, however, that there are many other proclamations issued throughout this period, and we are not always able to meet the advance deadlines requested by various organizations. In the coming months, we hope to be able to advance the entire timetable for all proclamations, so that interested groups can take advantage in the ways you suggested.

In the meantime, may I suggest that your organization alert your State offices and other interested parties a month in advance that the proclamation will be forthcoming, so that plans for related activities can be initiated.

With appreciation for your writing and with best wishes,

Sincerely,

Paul A. Theis
Executive Editor

B. J. Shannon, C.D.
President
American Optometric Association
114 West State Street
Mauston, Wisconsin 53948

*copy of Proc.
sent
2/21/75*

PAT:JEB:RLE:blh/ cc: Robert Linder; Marguerite McAuliffe FYI