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## American Heart Month, 1975

*By the President of the United States of America*

### A Proclamation

An estimated 28.5 million Americans suffer from some form of heart and blood vessel disease. These diseases cause more than one million deaths each year. Approximately twenty-five percent of these deaths occur among persons under age 65.

Although heart and blood vessel diseases still account for slightly more than half of all deaths each year in the United States, death rates from these disorders declined over the five-year period 1968-1973 (the most recent year for which reliable statistics are available).

This decline did not just happen. It has been achieved through the application of improved methods of prevention, diagnosis, and treatment that has grown out of an intensive and sustained research effort.

Over the years, two agencies have been the prime movers in the Nation's assault on the cardiovascular diseases. One is the National Heart and Lung Institute, an agency of the Federal Government; the other is the American Heart Association, a voluntary health organization that draws its operating funds from private contributions. For more than 25 years, the two organizations have worked hand-in-hand toward common goals: to search for and apply new or improved methods of prevention, diagnosis, and treatment for cardiovascular disorders; to support the training of research and clinical personnel in the cardiovascular field; to provide community service to victims of cardiovascular diseases; and to carry out programs of information and education on cardiovascular topics for health professionals and for the general public.

To encourage continuation of this combined assault on the cardiovascular diseases, the Congress has requested the President to issue annually a proclamation designating February as American Heart Month.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GERALD R. FORD, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim the month of February 1975, as American Heart Month. And I invite the Governors of the States, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and the officials of other areas subject to the jurisdiction of the United States, to heed the nationwide problem of heart and blood vessel diseases. Our support of programs to prevent premature death from cardiovascular diseases is essential to combat this leading menace to the Nation's health.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this third 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*



## American Heart Month, 1976

*By the President of the United States of America*

### A Proclamation

Diseases of the heart and blood vessels remain our Nation's most urgent health problem. These disorders afflict an estimated 28.5 million Americans and cause more than a million deaths each year, about a quarter of which occur among persons under age 65.

In the forefront of the continuing struggle against heart and blood vessel diseases are the National Heart and Lung Institute, a federal agency, and the American Heart Association, a privately-supported voluntary health organization. Their efforts and contributions in the areas of research, training of professionals, including the development of continuing education programs, and community service activities demonstrate what can be achieved when the private and public sectors unite for a common purpose.

We have learned much about the factors that increase susceptibility to arteriosclerosis and its complications, and how to modify or eliminate some of them. We have learned much about the effectiveness of intensive coronary care units and the use of drugs in controlling high blood pressure. We have improved and developed appropriate surgical procedures and life-support techniques. We have learned more about the cardiovascular system and its diseases in the past 25 years than during all previous years of medical history. During this same quarter-century, the overall mortality rate from these diseases has declined by about 25 percent.

In recognition of the seriousness of this menace to the Nation's health and well-being, and to encourage the consolidation and extension of our advances against cardiovascular disease, the Congress has requested the President to issue annually a proclamation designating February as American Heart Month.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GERALD R. FORD, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim the month of February 1976, as American Heart Month. I invite the Governors of the States, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the officials of other areas subject to the jurisdiction of the United States, and the American people, to join with me in reaffirming our commitment to the resolution of the nationwide problem of cardiovascular disease.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-second day of January, 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*



## American Heart Month, 1977

*By the President of the United States of America*

### A Proclamation

For over three decades, diseases of the heart and blood vessels have constituted one of our Nation's most serious health problems. Cardiovascular diseases affect more than 29 million Americans, especially among the elderly, and are the direct cause of more than half of all deaths occurring each year in the United States. While their economic toll in terms of lost wages, productivity, and cost of medical care can be estimated at nearly \$44 billion annually, the toll in terms of human suffering can never be measured.

America's continuing determination to meet any challenge to the well-being of its people is illustrated by the dedication that has characterized its efforts to control these disorders. Sustained research and clinical advances since 1950 have contributed substantially to declining mortality rates for stroke, rheumatic fever, coronary and congenital heart disease, and hypertension. Our investment in research, public and professional education, and community service activities has been rewarded. In that same time, the mortality rate in the United States from all heart and blood vessel diseases has declined by 30 percent. In 1975, deaths in this country from major cardiovascular diseases dropped below one million for the first time since 1967.

This multi-faceted assault on heart and blood vessel diseases has been led by the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, a federal agency, and by the American Heart Association, a private health organization funded through contributions from citizens across the country. Their successful efforts illustrate what can be achieved when public and private institutions—and the American people as well—join forces against a common threat.

In recognition of the necessity for constant vigilance against the ravages of cardiovascular disease, and to encourage still greater efforts to combat its threat to the Nation's health, the Congress, by joint resolution approved December 30, 1963 (77 Stat. 843; 36 U.S.C. 169b) has requested the President to issue annually a proclamation designating February as American Heart Month.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GERALD R. FORD, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim the month of February, 1977, as American Heart Month. I invite the Governors of the States, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the officials of other areas subject to the jurisdiction of the United States, and the American people, to join with me in reaffirming our commitment to resolving the nationwide problem of cardiovascular disease.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this nineteenth day of January, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred seventy-seven, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and first.

*Gerald R. Ford*