NATIONAL Family WEEK

The American Legion has long recognized the family as the foundation of American society. A guiding principle of The American Legion's Children & Youth Programs continues to be maintaining the integrity of the family. To demonstrate our resolute belief of the importance of strong families, The American Legion's National Commission of Children & Youth, by mandate, advocates the passage of federal legislation that would establish the Thanksgiving holiday week as National Family Week. All members of The American Legion Family are encouraged to initiate and engage in local activities during National Family Week that promotes, encourages, and celebrates the center of a healthy community: the family.

As the world's largest veterans organization, The American Legion embodies strong middle-class American values and forms a grassroots force - dedicated to love of country, and committed to veterans, their families, their communities, and the young people of this nation.

For additional information and family resources:

Administration for Children and Families
www.acf.hhs.gov

Alliance for Children and Families
(414) 359-1040
www.alliance1.org

Focus on the Family
1-800-232-6459
www.family.org

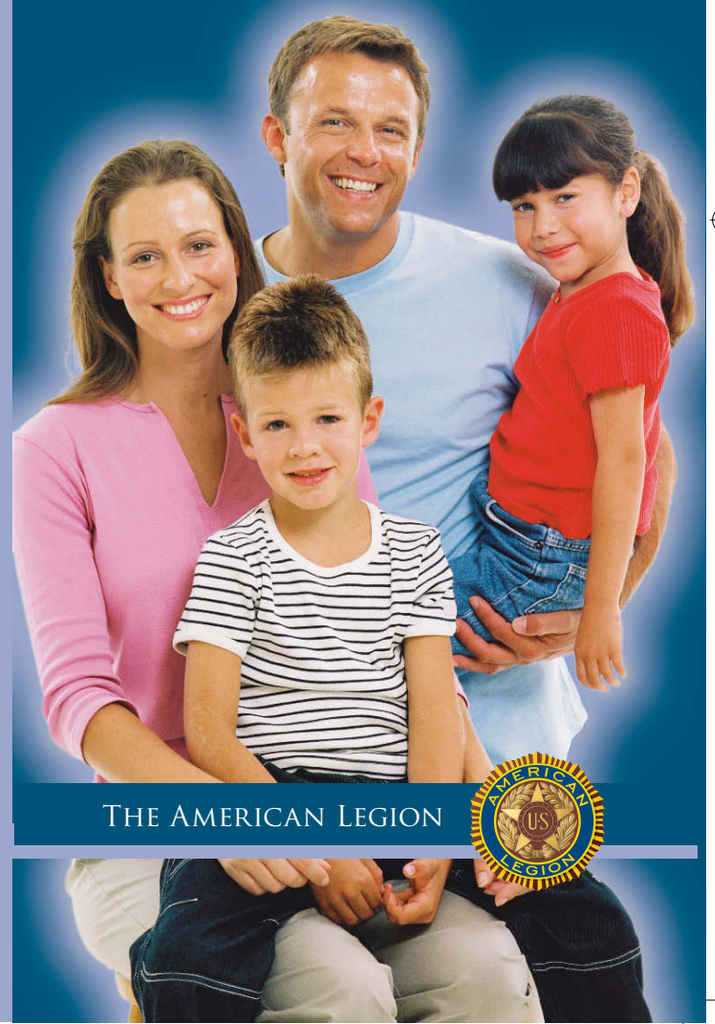
National Family Week
1-800-221-268
www.nationalfamilyweek.org

THE AMERICAN LEGION
National Commission on Children and Youth
P.O. Box 1055
Indianapolis, IN 46206

www.legion.org

Stock # 24-009 (revised 12/04) Artwork # 106ACY1204

NATIONAL Family WEEK



THE AMERICAN LEGION

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NATIONAL Family WEEK

The traditional American family is under increasing pressure by societal demands that threaten the sacred integrity of the family. These threats, with intensity never before realized, come in many forms.

- Divorced and separated families are commonplace and continue to grow in number.
- More families find it necessary for both parents to work outside the home.
- Families can find themselves isolated from other family members due to the high mobility of our society.
- Military families are more likely to experience separations due to increased deployments and activations.
- The image of the traditional family and marriage continues to be challenged by the judicial system and the media.

Call it a clan, call it a network, call it a tribe, call it a family. Whatever you call it, whoever you are, you need one.
– Jane Howard

GET INVOLVED and make a difference

In an effort to promote National Family Week, Posts, Units, and Squadrons are encouraged to initiate and participate in activities that promote family strength and integrity. The possibilities are endless.

ORGANIZE community-wide efforts

In partnership with local government and other groups, present a family festival using resources from local organizations for family activities and entertainment.

Get involved in established local National Family Week activities.

PLAN a family-strengthening event

Build connections between families, community groups, and local leaders by encouraging open dialogue to address issues of importance to the community during a family summit or community meeting.

Hold a military family appreciation event to encourage and offer support for military families.

ADVOCATE for a family-strengthening initiative

Work with officials at all levels of government to advance a position beneficial to children and families.

Urge local and state governments to proclaim National Family Week.

COORDINATE volunteer projects

Work with other groups to improve local conditions through family projects.

Invite families to volunteer on community projects.

Host a variety of activities for families.

Sample Proclamation

Whereas, the family is the foundation upon which our society is structured, and the family is one of our society's most important units; and

Whereas, life in our communities begins within our families' homes; and

Whereas, families are constantly searching for more effective ways to combat the elements which seek to change the family unit; and

Whereas, within the family unit, each individual's character, happiness, and future success are largely determined by the environment within the home; and

Whereas, since family life is the strength of our society and Thanksgiving week is a time when families gather together to share their love and abundance, it is fitting the we recognize families at this time:

Now, therefore, I, Gary Locke, Governor of the State of Washington, do hereby proclaim November 21-27, 2004 as Family Week in Washington State, and I urge all citizens to join me in this special observance.

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