

*Remarks for the
Fatherhood Rally
June 2, 2001*

(These are brief talking points to precede your reading of the proclamation designating June 2001 as “Responsible Fatherhood Month.” You are scheduled to be introduced by Judge James Graves.)

Thank you, Judge Graves.

We’ve gathered here today to talk about one of the most important roles any man can take on – being a father.

Nothing else in life compares to the joy, the stress, the happiness, the worry, or the responsibility of being a father.

As a father myself, I am well aware of the job requirements. I know it's not always easy.

But, we have a duty to our children – to our sons and daughters. We have a duty to raise them well, to foster in them a sense of right and wrong; a sense of caring for their fellow man; and a dedication to teaching their own children well.

The poet George Bernard Shaw once said, “Perhaps the greatest social service that can be rendered by anybody to the country and to mankind is to bring up a family.”

There's the key phrase – “bring up a family.” It's not the world's easiest job, but it's one of the most important.

And so, today we are here to celebrate fathers and fatherhood. As part of this celebration, it is my great pleasure to read the following proclamation...

(read proclamation)