



A Bicentennial Message

*By the President of the
United States of America*

We now mark the beginning of our Third Century as an INDEPENDENT NATION as well as the 200th Anniversary of the AMERICAN REVOLUTION. For two centuries *our Nation has grown, changed and flourished*. A diverse people, drawn from all corners of the EARTH, have joined together to *fulfill the Promise of Democracy*.

AMERICA'S BICENTENNIAL is rich in History and in the *promise and potential* of the years that lie Ahead. It is about the events of our PAST, our ACHIEVEMENTS, our TRADITIONS, our DIVERSITY, our FREEDOMS, our form of GOVERNMENT and our continuing COMMITMENT to a better LIFE for all AMERICANS. The BICENTENNIAL offers each of us the OPPORTUNITY to join with our fellow CITIZENS in *honoring the Past and preparing for the Future* in COMMUNITIES across the Nation. Thus, in *joining* together as RACES, NATIONALITIES, and INDIVIDUALS, we also retain and strengthen our TRADITIONS, BACKGROUND AND *personal FREEDOM*.

As we lay the cornerstone of America's Third Century, I am most happy to commend the Bicentennial Community of
GULFPORT for playing a special
part in this *great National Celebration*.

Gerard R. Ford