Commemorative Observances: 
A Chronological List

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Information Research Division
Commemorative Observances:  
A Chronological List

Summary

Historically, national commemorative observances were recommended by Congress through the legislative process. This practice was discontinued by the House of Representatives in January 1995, although the Senate continues to issue sense of the Senate resolutions recommending the establishment of commemoratives. It has now become standard practice for special observances to be designated by a proclamation issued by the President. This report is a chronological list of these proclamations for 2001 and 2002, indicating the proclamation number and its Federal Register citation. This report will be updated periodically during the year.
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Historically, national commemorative observances were recommended by Congress through the legislative process. This practice was discontinued by the House of Representatives in January 1995, although the Senate continues to issue sense of the Senate resolutions recommending the establishment of commemoratives.

The President has always had the authority to declare by proclamation any commemorative event or national observance. It has now become standard practice for special observances to be designated by a proclamation issued by the President. Generally these observances are limited to a one-time celebration only, on a particular day, week, or month of a particular year.

The following is a chronological list of these proclamations for 2001 and 2002, indicating the proclamation number and its Federal Register (FR) citation.

Except for the perpetual commemoratives indicated in italics below, with their citations to the U.S. Code (USC), these proclamations (Proc.) must be reissued each year. Most are issued only shortly before the observance of the event. For this reason, we are unable to provide a complete advance calendar indicating these days. We are providing the 2001 list as an indication of the observances that might well be designated again in 2002.
## 2001

### January

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Proc.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Religious Freedom Day</td>
<td>7391, 66 FR 7205</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>National Day of Prayer and Thanksgiving</td>
<td>7403, 66 FR 7861</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### February

*American Heart Month*

February each year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Proc.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4-10</td>
<td>National Burn Awareness Week</td>
<td>7407, 66 FR 9761</td>
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<tr>
<td>5-10</td>
<td>National Consumer Protection Week</td>
<td>7405, 66 FR 9639</td>
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### March

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Proc.</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Fortieth Anniversary of the Peace Corps</td>
<td>7410, 66 FR 13639</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4-10</td>
<td>Save Your Vision Week</td>
<td>7413, 66 FR 14067</td>
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<tr>
<td>11-17</td>
<td>National Girl Scout Week</td>
<td>7416, 66 FR 15783</td>
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<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Greek Independence Day</td>
<td>7414, 66 FR 14069</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18-24</td>
<td>National Poison Prevention Week</td>
<td>7412, 66 FR 13643</td>
</tr>
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</table>

### April

*Cancer Control Month*

April each year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Proc.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Education and Sharing Day</td>
<td>7417, 66 FR 16591</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>National Former Prisoner of War</td>
<td>7421, 66 FR 18182</td>
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<tr>
<td>8-14</td>
<td>Pan American Week</td>
<td>7420, 66 FR 18035</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
13 Thomas Jefferson Day Proc. 7426, 66 FR 19845
14 Pan American Day Proc. 7420, 66 FR 18035
15-21 National Organ and Tissue Donor Awareness Week Proc. 7422, 66 FR 18395
22-28 National Crime Victims’ Rights Week Proc. 7424, 66 FR 19077
22-28 National Volunteer Week Proc. 7427, 66 FR 20081
22-29 Jewish Heritage Week Proc. 7423, 66 FR 18867
23-29 National Park Week Proc. 7428, 66 FR 20183

May

Asian/Pacific-American Heritage Month 36 USC 169k
May each year Proc. 7434, 66 FR 23831
Older Americans Month Proc. 7432, 66 FR 23533

1 Law Day 36 USC 164
May 1 each year Proc. 7431, 66 FR 22423

1 Loyalty Day 36 USC 152
May 1 each year Proc. 7429, 66 FR 21629

3 National Day of Prayer 36 USC 169h
First Thursday of May each year Proc. 7430, 66 FR 22103

6-12 Small Business Week Proc. 7433, 66 FR 23535

13 Mother’s Day 36 USC 142
Second Sunday in May each year Proc. 7437, 66 FR 24046

13-19 Police Week 36 USC 167
Week in which Peace Officer Memorial Day falls each year Proc. 7435, 66 FR 24043

13-19 National Biotechnology Week Proc. 7438, 66 FR 28045

13-19 National Transportation Week 36 USC 166
Week in which National Defense Transportation Day falls each year Proc. 7439, 66 FR 28047

14-20 National Salvation Army Week Proc. 7436, 66 FR 24045

15 Peace Officer Memorial Day 36 USC 167
May 15 each year Proc. 7435, 66 FR 24043

18 National Defense Transportation Day 36 USC 160
Third Friday in May each year Proc. 7439, 66 FR 28047
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
<th>Statute</th>
<th>Proc.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>19-25</td>
<td>National Safe Boating Week</td>
<td>36 USC 161</td>
<td>7440, 66 FR 28049</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Seven-day period prior to the Memorial Day weekend each year</td>
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<tr>
<td>20-26</td>
<td>National Hurricane Awareness Week</td>
<td></td>
<td>7443, 66 FR 28825</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20-26</td>
<td>World Trade Week</td>
<td></td>
<td>7441, 66 FR 28353</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>National Maritime Day</td>
<td>36 USC 145</td>
<td>7442, 66 FR 28639</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>May 22 each year</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>Prayer for Peace Memorial Day</td>
<td>36 USC 169g</td>
<td>7444, 66 FR 29445</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Memorial Day each year</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**June**

- Black Music Month  
  Proc. 7453, 66 FR 35361
- National Child’s Day  
  Proc. 7446, 66 FR 30287
- Great Outdoors Week  
  Proc. 7450, 66 FR 32205
- National Flag Week  
  Proc. 7447, 66 FR 31367
  Week in which June 14 occurs each year  
  36 USC 157a
- Flag Day  
  Proc. 7447, 66 FR 31367
  June 14 each year  
  36 USC 157
- Father’s Day  
  Proc. 7541, 66 FR 32891
  Third Sunday in June each year  
  36 USC 142a

**July**

- Captive Nations Week  
  Proc. 7455, 66 FR 37103
  Third week in July each year  
  P.L. 86-90
- Parents’ Day  
  Proc. 7456, 66 FR 38889
  Fourth Sunday of July each year  
  36 USC 142c
- National Korean War Veterans Armistice Day  
  Proc. 7457, 66 FR 39401
  July 27 each year until 2003  
  36 USC 169m

**August**

- Women’s Equality Day  
  Proc. 7458, 66 FR 45563
### September

#### National Hispanic Heritage Month
September 15 through October 15 each year
36 USC 159f
Proc. 7471, 66 FR 50097

#### National Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month
Proc. 7459, 66 FR 46507

#### National Birmingham Pledge Week
Proc. 7460, 66 FR 47569

#### National Day of Prayer and Remembrance for the Victims of the Terrorist Attacks of September 11, 2001
Proc. 7462, 66 FR 47947

#### National Farm and Safety and Health Week
Proc. 7465, 66 FR 48317

#### Citizenship Day
September 17 each year
36 USC 153
Proc. 7466, 66 FR 48319

#### Constitution Week
Week beginning September 17 and ending September 23 each year
36 USC 159
Proc. 7466, 66 FR 48319

#### National POW/MIA Recognition Day
Proc. 7469, 66 FR 48949

#### Minority Enterprise Development Week
Proc. 7467, 66 FR 48321

#### Family Day
Proc. 7470, 66 FR 49505

#### National Historically Black Colleges and Universities Week
Proc. 7472, 66 FR 50099

#### National Public Lands Day
Proc. 7473, 66 FR 50287

#### Gold Star Mother’s Day
Last Sunday in September each year
36 USC 148
Proc. 7474, 66 FR 50289

### October

#### National Breast Cancer Awareness Month
Proc. 7477, 66 FR 51295

#### National Disability Employment Awareness Month
October each year
36 USC 155
Proc. 7478, 66 FR 51297

#### National Domestic Violence Awareness Month
Proc. 7475, 66 FR 50525

#### Child Health Day
First Monday in October each year
36 USC 143
Proc. 7476, 66 FR 50527

#### German-American Day
Proc. 7481, 66 FR 51810

#### Fire Prevention Week
Proc. 7480, 66 FR 51808
9  Leif Erikson Day  36 USC 169c
October 9 each year  Proc. 7483, 66 FR 52015

11 General Pulaski Memorial Day  Proc. 7484, 66 FR 52303

14-20 National School Lunch Week  36 USC 168
Week beginning on the second Sunday in  Proc. 7485, 66 FR 52845
October each year

15 White Cane Safety Day  36 USC 155
October 15 each year  Proc. 7486, 66 FR 52847

21-27 National Forest Products Week  36 USC 163
Week beginning on the third Sunday of  Proc. 7487, 66 FR 53843
October each year

November

Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease Month  Proc. 7495, 66 FR 57631

National Adoption Month  Proc. 7493, 66 FR 56425

National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Prevention Month  Proc. 7496, 66 FR 57633

National Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Month  Proc. 7497, 66 FR 57635

National American Indian Heritage Month  Proc. 7500, 66 FR 57641

National Diabetes Month  Proc. 7507, 66 FR 62907

National Family Caregivers Month  Proc. 7498, 66 FR 57637

National Hospice Month  Proc. 7508, 66 FR 62909

9 World Freedom Day  Proc. 7499, 66 FR 57639

11 National Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Week  Proc. 7494, 66 FR 57267

National Prostate Cancer Awareness Month  Proc. 7492, 66 FR 56031

15 America Recycles Day  Proc. 7503, 66 FR 58049

18-24 National Family Week  Proc. 7506, 66 FR 59529

22 National Farm-City Week  Proc. 7501, 66 FR 57643
December

National Drunk and Drugged Driving Prevention Month

1 World Aids Day

7 National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day
   December 7 each year

9-15 Human Rights Week

10 Human Rights Day

15 Bill of Rights Day

17 Wright Brothers Day
   December 17 each year

2002

Decade

National Bone and Joint Decade, 2002-2011

January

National Mentoring Month

16 Religious Freedom Day

20 National Sanctity of Human Life Day

February

American Heart Month
   February each year

National African American History Month

3-9 National Consumer Protection Week

March

American Red Cross Month

Irish-American Heritage Month

Women’s History Month
National Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month

3-9  Save Your Vision Week

16  West Point Bicentennial Day

17-23 National Poison Prevention Week
Third week of March each year

24  Education and Sharing Day

25  Greek Independence Day

April

Cancer Control Month
April each year

National Child Abuse Prevention Month

9  National Former Prisoner of War

11  National D.A.R.E. Day
(\textit{Drug Abuse Resistance Education})

14  Pan American Day

14-21 Jewish Heritage Week

14-20 Pan-American Week

21-27 National Crime Victims’ Rights Week

21-27 National Organ and Tissue Donor Awareness Week

21-27 National Volunteer Week

22-28 National Park Week

28-5/4 National Charter Schools Week

May

Asian/Pacific-American Heritage Month
May each year

Older Americans Month

1  Law Day
May 1 each year

36 USC 169a
Proc. 7528, 67 FR 10317

36 USC 165
Proc. 7532, 67 FR 12441

36 USC 150
Proc. 7536, 67 FR 17599

36 USC 164
Proc. 7548, 67 FR 30307

36 USC 169k
Proc. 7550, 67 FR 30311

36 USC 169
Proc. 7550, 67 FR 30311

36 USC 164
Proc. 7548, 67 FR 30307

36 USC 165
Proc. 7532, 67 FR 12441

36 USC 165
Proc. 7532, 67 FR 12441
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<tr>
<td>Loyalty Day</td>
<td>May 1 each year</td>
<td>Proc. 7549, 67 FR 30309</td>
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<tr>
<td>National Day of Prayer</td>
<td>First Thursday of May each year</td>
<td>36 USC 169h</td>
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<tr>
<td>National Tourism Week</td>
<td>Proc. 7556, 67 FR 31107</td>
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<tr>
<td>Small Business Week</td>
<td>Proc. 7555, 67 FR 31105</td>
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<td>Mother’s Day</td>
<td>Second Sunday in May each year</td>
<td>Proc. 7557, 67 FR 34583</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mother's Day</td>
<td>Second Sunday in May each year</td>
<td>Proc. 7557, 67 FR 34583</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Transportation Week</td>
<td>Week in which National Defense Transportation Day falls each year</td>
<td>36 USC 166</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Police Week</td>
<td>Week in which Peace Officer Memorial Day falls each year</td>
<td>Proc. 7558, 67 FR 34585</td>
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<tr>
<td>Peace Officer Memorial Day</td>
<td>May 15 each year</td>
<td>Proc. 7558, 67 FR 34585</td>
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<td>National Defense Transportation Day</td>
<td>Third Friday in May each year</td>
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<td>National Maritime Day</td>
<td>May 22 each year</td>
<td>36 USC 145</td>
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<td>Memorial Day each year</td>
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<td>June</td>
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<td>June 14 each year</td>
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<td>National Flag Week</td>
<td>Week in which June 14 occurs each year</td>
<td>36 USC 157a</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Third Sunday in June each year</td>
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July

14-20 Captive Nations Week
Third Week in July each year

28 Parents’ Day
Fourth Sunday of July each year

27 National Korean War Veterans Armistice Day
July 27 each year until 2003

August

September

National Hispanic Heritage Month
September 15 through October 15 each year

17 Citizenship Day
September 17 each year

17-23 Constitution Week
Week of September 17-23 each year

29 Gold Star Mother’s Day
Last Sunday in September each year

October

National Disability Employment Awareness Month
October each year

7 Child Health Day
First Monday in October each year

9 Leif Erikson Day
October 9 each year

13-19 National School Lunch Week
Week beginning on the second Sunday in October

15 White Cane Safety Day
October 15 each year

20-26 National Forest Products Week
Week beginning on the third Sunday in October each year
### November

### December

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<th>Event Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day</td>
<td>36 USC 169</td>
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<tr>
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<td>December 7 each year</td>
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<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Wright Brothers Day</td>
<td>36 USC 169</td>
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<tr>
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<td>December 17 each year</td>
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