Commemorative Observances:  
A Chronological List

Updated February 12, 2003

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Information Research Division
Summary

Historically, national commemorative observances were often recommended by Congress through the legislative process. This practice was for the most part 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. A recent noteworthy departure from current congressional policy is P.L. 107-89, which designates September 11 as Patriot Day and calls upon the President to issue an annual proclamation calling on the American people to commemorate Patriot Day. This report is a chronological list of these proclamations for 2002 and 2003, indicating the proclamation number and its Federal Register citation. This report will be updated periodically during the year.
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Commemorative Observances: A Chronological List

Historically, national commemorative observances were often recommended by Congress through the legislative process. This practice was for the most part 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. A recent noteworthy departure from current congressional policy is P.L. 107-89, which designates September 11 as Patriot Day and calls upon the President to issue an annual proclamation calling upon the American people to commemorate Patriot Day. 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 2002 and 2003, 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 2002 list as an indication of the observances that might well be designated again in 2003.

2002

Decade

National Bone and Joint Decade, 2002-2011 Proc. 7533, 67 FR 13703

January

National Mentoring Month Proc. 7519, 67 FR 3577
16 Religious Freedom Day Proc. 7517, 67 FR 2787
20 National Sanctity of Human Life Day Proc. 7520, 67 FR 3579
February

**American Heart Month**
February each year
36 USC 169b
Proc. 7521, 67 FR 5431

National African American History Month
Proc. 7522, 67 FR 5433

3-9 National Consumer Protection Week
Proc. 7523, 67 FR 5919

March

American Red Cross Month
Proc. 7525, 67 FR 10311

Irish-American Heritage Month
Proc. 7526, 67 FR 10313

Women’s History Month
Proc. 7530, 67 FR 10825

National Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month
Proc. 7527, 67 FR 10315

3-9 **Save Your Vision Week**
36 USC 169a
Proc. 7528, 67 FR 10317

16 West Point Bicentennial Day
Proc. 7531, 67 FR 11381

17-23 **National Poison Prevention Week**
Third week of March each year
36 USC 165
Proc. 7532, 67 FR 12441

24 Education and Sharing Day
Proc. 7534, 67 FR 13703

25 Greek Independence Day
Proc. 7537, 67 FR 15093

April

**Cancer Control Month**
April each year
36 USC 150
Proc. 7536, 67 FR 17599

National Child Abuse Prevention Month
Proc. 7537, 67 FR 17601

9 National Former Prisoner of War
Proc. 7358, 67 FR 17905

11 National D.A.R.E. Day
(Drug Abuse Resistance Education)
Proc. 7539, 67 FR 18083

14 Pan American Day
Proc. 7540, 67 FR 19097

14-21 Jewish Heritage Week
Proc. 7541, 67 FR 19099

14-20 Pan-American Week
Proc. 7540, 67 FR 19097

21-27 **National Crime Victims’ Rights Week**
Proc. 7543, 67 FR 19635

21-27 National Organ and Tissue Donor Awareness Week
Proc. 7544, 67 FR 20005

21-27 National Volunteer Week
Proc. 7545, 67 FR 20007
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Procedural Citation</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>22-28</td>
<td>National Park Week</td>
<td>Proc. 7546, 67 FR 20605</td>
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**May**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Procedural Citation</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td><strong>Law Day</strong>&lt;br&gt;May 1 each year</td>
<td>36 USC 164&lt;br&gt;Proc. 7548, 67 FR 30307</td>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td><strong>Loyalty Day</strong>&lt;br&gt;May 1 each year</td>
<td>36 USC 152&lt;br&gt;Proc. 7549, 67 FR 30309</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td><strong>National Day of Prayer</strong>&lt;br&gt;First Thursday of May each year</td>
<td>36 USC 169h&lt;br&gt;Proc. 7547, 67 FR 21559</td>
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<td>5-12</td>
<td>National Tourism Week&lt;br&gt;Proc. 7556, 67 FR 31107</td>
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<td>5-12</td>
<td>Small Business Week&lt;br&gt;Proc. 7555, 67 FR 31105</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td><strong>Mother’s Day</strong>&lt;br&gt;Second Sunday in May each year</td>
<td>36 USC 142&lt;br&gt;Proc. 7557, 67 FR 34583</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12-18</td>
<td><strong>National Transportation Week</strong>&lt;br&gt;Week in which National Defense Transportation Day falls each year</td>
<td>36 USC 166&lt;br&gt;Proc. 7559, 67 FR 34587</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12-18</td>
<td><strong>Police Week</strong>&lt;br&gt;Week in which Peace Officer Memorial Day falls each year</td>
<td>36 USC 167&lt;br&gt;Proc. 7558, 67 FR 34585</td>
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<td>15</td>
<td><strong>Peace Officer Memorial Day</strong>&lt;br&gt;May 15 each year</td>
<td>36 USC 167&lt;br&gt;Proc. 7558, 67 FR 34585</td>
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<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td><strong>National Defense Transportation Day</strong>&lt;br&gt;Third Friday in May each year</td>
<td>36 USC 160&lt;br&gt;Proc. 7559, 67 FR 34587</td>
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<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td><strong>Armed Forces Day</strong>&lt;br&gt;Third Saturday in May each year</td>
<td>36 USC 161&lt;br&gt;Proc. 7562, 67 FR 35707</td>
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<tr>
<td>18-24</td>
<td><strong>National Safe Boating Week</strong>&lt;br&gt;Seven-day period prior to the Memorial Day weekend each year</td>
<td>36 USC 161&lt;br&gt;Proc. 7563, 67 FR 35891</td>
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<td>19-25</td>
<td>National Hurricane Awareness Week&lt;br&gt;Proc. 7560, 67 FR 34815</td>
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<tr>
<td>19-25</td>
<td>World Trade Week&lt;br&gt;Proc. 7564, 67 FR 35893</td>
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<td>22</td>
<td><strong>National Maritime Day</strong>&lt;br&gt;May 22 each year</td>
<td>36 USC 145&lt;br&gt;Proc. 7565, 67 FR 36495</td>
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<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>National Missing Children’s Day&lt;br&gt;Proc. 7566, 67 FR 36497</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
27  *Prayer for Peace Memorial Day*  
Memorial Day each year  
36 USC 169g  
Proc. 7567, 67 FR 36499

**June**

- Black Music Month  
  Proc. 7568, 67 FR 38583
- National Homeownership Month  
  Proc. 7570, 67 FR 39241
- National Fishing and Boating Week  
  67 FR 38585
- National Child’s Day  
  Proc. 7571, 67 FR 39595
- Great Outdoors Week  
  Proc. 7572, 67 FR 40137
- *Flag Day*  
  June 14 each year  
  36 USC 157  
  Proc. 7573, 67 FR 40139
- National Flag Week  
  Week in which June 14 occurs each year  
  36 USC 157a  
  Proc. 7573, 67 FR 40139
- *Father’s Day*  
  Third Sunday in June each year  
  36 USC 142a  
  Proc. 7574, 67 FR 42177

**July**

- Captive Nations Week  
  Third Week in July each year  
  P.L. 86-90  
  Proc. 7577, 67 FR 47677
- Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act  
  Proc. 7579, 67 FR 49555
- National Korean War Veterans Armistice Day  
  July 27 each year until 2003  
  36 USC 169m  
  Proc. 7578, 67 FR 49551
- *Parents’ Day*  
  Fourth Sunday of July each year  
  36 USC 169m  
  Proc. 7580, 67 FR 49577

**August**

- National Airborne Day  
  Proc. 7582, 67 FR 53723
- National Health Center Week  
  Proc. 7583, 67 FR 53873
- Women’s Equality Day  
  Proc. 7584, 67 FR 55317

**September**

- National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month  
  Proc. 7589, 67 FR 57123
National Hispanic Heritage Month
September 15 through October 15 each year
36 USC 159f
Proc. 7591, 67 FR 58955

National Ovarian Cancer Month
Proc. 7587, 67 FR 56745

6-8 National Days of Prayer and Remembrance
Proc. 7588, 67 FR 56893

11 Patriot Day
September 11 each year
36 USC 144
Proc. 7590, 67 FR 57125

National Farm Safety and Health Week
Proc. 7592, 67 FR 58957

National Historically Black Colleges and Universities Week
Proc. 7593, 67 FR 58959

17 Citizenship Day
September 17 each year
36 USC 153

17-23 Constitution Week
Week of September 17-23 each year
36 USC 159

20 National POW/MIA Recognition Day
Proc. 7595, 67 FR 60099

29 Gold Star Mother’s Day
Last Sunday in September each year
36 USC 148
Proc. 7598, 67 FR 62159

October

National Breast Cancer Awareness Month
Proc. 7599, 67 FR 62165

National Disability Employment Awareness Month
October each year
36 USC 155
Proc. 7600, 67 FR 62167

National Domestic Violence Awareness Month
Proc. 7601, 67 FR 62169

6 German-American Day
Proc. 7604, 67 FR 62867

6-12 Fire Prevention Week
Proc. 7602, 67 FR 63863

7 Child Health Day
First Monday in October each year
36 USC 143
67 FR 62865

9 Leif Erikson Day
October 9 each year
36 USC 169c
Proc. 7605, 67 FR 63527

11 General Pulaski Memorial Day
Proc. 7607, 67 FR 64025

13-19 National Cystic Fibrosis Awareness Week
Proc. 7608, 67 FR 64027

13-19 National School Lunch Week
Week beginning on the second Sunday in October
36 USC 168
Proc. 7609, 67 FR 64029

15 White Cane Safety Day
October 15 each year
36 USC 155
Proc. 7610, 67 FR 64031
Year of Clean Water
Year beginning October 18, 2002, in commemoration of the anniversary of the Clean Water Act

National Character Counts Week

National Forest Products Week
Week beginning on the third Sunday in October each year

United Nations Day

November

National Adoption Month
National American Indian Heritage Month
National Alzheimer’s Disease Awareness Month
National Diabetes Month
National Family Caregivers Month
National Hospice Month
World AIDS Day
West Wing Centennial Day
World Freedom Day
National Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Week
America Recycles Day
National Farm-City Week
National Family Week

December

National Drunk and Drugged Driving Prevention Month
World AIDS Day
National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day
December 7 each year
Human Rights Day
Human Rights Week
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<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Bill of Rights Day</td>
<td>Proc. 7634, 67 FR 76669</td>
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<td>17</td>
<td>Wright Brothers Day</td>
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<td></td>
<td>December 17 each year</td>
<td>36 USC 169</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Proc. 7635, 67 FR 77905</td>
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### 2003

#### January

- National Mentoring Month
- Centennial of Korean Immigration to the United States
- National Religious Freedom Day
- National Sanctity of Human Life Day
- Law Day

#### February

- **American Heart Month**
  - February each year
  - Proc. 7644, 68 FR 6055
- National African American History Month
- National Consumer Protection Week

#### March

- **Save Your Vision Week**
  - First week of March each year
  - 36 USC 169a
- **National Poison Prevention Week**
  - Third week of March each year
  - 36 USC 165

#### April

- **Cancer Control Month**
  - April each year
  - 36 USC 150

#### May

- **Asian/Pacific-American Heritage Month**
  - May each year
  - 36 USC 169k
- **Law Day**
  - May 1 each year
  - 36 USC 164
1 Loyalty Day
May 1 each year
36 USC 152

1 National Day of Prayer
First Thursday of May each year
36 USC 169h

11 Mother’s Day
Second Sunday in May each year
36 USC 142

11-17 Police Week
Week in which Peace Officer Memorial Day
falls each year
36 USC 167

11-17 National Transportation Week
Week in which National Defense
Transportation Day falls each year
36 USC 166

15 Peace Officer Memorial Day
May 15 each year
36 USC 167

17 Armed Forces Day
Third Saturday in May each year

16 National Defense Transportation Day
Third Friday in May each year
36 USC 160

17-23 National Safe Boating Week
Seven-day period prior to the Memorial Day
weekend each year
36 USC 161

22 National Maritime Day
May 22 each year
36 USC 145

26 Prayer for Peace Memorial Day
Memorial Day each year
36 USC 169g

June

6-14 National Flag Week
Week in which June 14 occurs each year
36 USC 157a

14 Flag Day
June 14 each year
36 USC 157

15 Father’s Day
Third Sunday in June each year
36 USC 142a

July

13-19 Captive Nations Week
Third week in July each year
P.L. 86-90

27 National Korean War Veterans Armistice
Day
July 27 each year until 2003
36 USC 169m
27  Parents’ Day
Fourth Sunday of July each year

August

September

National Hispanic Heritage Month
September 15 through October 15 each year

11  Patriot Day
September 11 each year

17  Citizenship Day
September 17 each year

17-23  Constitution Week
Week beginning September 17 and ending September 23 each year

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

October

National Disability Employment Awareness Month
October each year

6  Child Health Day
First Monday in October each year

9  Leif Erikson Day
October 9 each year

12-18  National School Lunch Week
Week beginning on the second Sunday in October each year

15  White Cane Safety Day
October 15 each year

19-25  National Forest Products Week
Week beginning on the third Sunday of October each year

November
### December

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