Commemorative Observances: A Chronological List

Updated April 28, 2003

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Commemorative Observances:  
A Chronological List

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:  
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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. 7538, 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
May

Asian/Pacific-American Heritage Month
May each year

Older Americans Month

1 Law Day
May 1 each year

1 Loyalty Day
May 1 each year

2 National Day of Prayer
First Thursday of May each year

5-12 National Tourism Week

5-12 Small Business Week

12 Mother’s Day
Second Sunday in May each year

12-18 National Transportation Week
Week in which National Defense Transportation Day falls each year

12-18 Police Week
Week in which Peace Officer Memorial Day falls each year

15 Peace Officer Memorial Day
May 15 each year

17 National Defense Transportation Day
Third Friday in May each year

18 Armed Forces Day
Third Saturday in May each year

18-24 National Safe Boating Week
Seven-day period prior to the Memorial Day weekend each year

19-25 National Hurricane Awareness Week

19-25 World Trade Week

22 National Maritime Day
May 22 each year

25 National Missing Children’s Day

Proc. 7550, 67 FR 30311
Proc. 7556, 67 FR 31107
Proc. 7559, 67 FR 34587
Proc. 7558, 67 FR 34585
Proc. 7555, 67 FR 31105
Proc. 7557, 67 FR 34583
Proc. 7558, 67 FR 34585
Proc. 7559, 67 FR 34587
Proc. 7562, 67 FR 35707
Proc. 7563, 67 FR 35891
Proc. 7560, 67 FR 34815
Proc. 7564, 67 FR 35893
Proc. 7565, 67 FR 36495
Proc. 7566, 67 FR 36497
27 Prayer for Peace Memorial Day
Memorial Day each year

June

Black Music Month
National Homeownership Month
2-8 National Fishing and Boating Week
9 National Child’s Day
9-15 Great Outdoors Week
14 Flag Day
June 14 each year
9-15 National Flag Week
Week in which June 14 occurs each year
16 Father’s Day
Third Sunday in June each year

July

14-20 Captive Nations Week
Third Week in July each year
26 Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act
27 National Korean War Veterans Armistice Day
July 27 each year until 2003
28 Parents’ Day
Fourth Sunday of July each year

August

16 National Airborne Day
18-24 National Health Center Week
26 Women’s Equality Day

September

National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month
National Hispanic Heritage Month
September 15 through October 15 each year
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
Proc. 7590, 67 FR 57125

15-21 National Farm Safety and Health Week
Proc. 7592, 67 FR 58957

15-21 National Historically Black Colleges and Universities Week
Proc. 7593, 67 FR 58959

17 Citizenship Day
September 17 each year
Proc. 7598, 67 FR 62159

17-23 Constitution Week
Week of September 17-23 each year
Proc. 7595, 67 FR 60099

20 National POW/MIA Recognition Day
Proc. 7599, 67 FR 62165

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

October

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

National Disability Employment Awareness Month
October each year
Proc. 7593, 67 FR 62169

National Domestic Violence Awareness Month
Proc. 7600, 67 FR 62167

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
Proc. 7605, 67 FR 63527

9 Leif Erikson Day
October 9 each year
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
Proc. 7609, 67 FR 64029

15 White Cane Safety Day
October 15 each year
Proc. 7610, 67 FR 64031
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Event Description</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Proc. Number</th>
<th>Page Reference</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Year of Clean Water</td>
<td>Proc. 7611</td>
<td>67 FR 64787</td>
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<td>Year beginning October 18, 2002, in commemoration of the anniversary of the Clean Water Act</td>
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<td>20-26</td>
<td>National Character Counts Week</td>
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<td>67 FR 65281</td>
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<td>20-26</td>
<td>National Forest Products Week</td>
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<td>36 USC 163</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Week beginning on the third Sunday in October each year</td>
<td>Proc. 7613</td>
<td>67 FR 65283</td>
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<td>24</td>
<td>United Nations Day</td>
<td>Proc. 7614</td>
<td>67 FR 65869</td>
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</table>

**November**

- National Adoption Month
  - Proc. 7629, 67 FR 67771
- National American Indian Heritage Month
  - Proc. 7620, 67 FR 67773
- National Alzheimer’s Disease Awareness Month
  - Proc. 7617, 67 FR 67293
- National Diabetes Month
  - Proc. 7618, 67 FR 67295
- National Family Caregivers Month
  - Proc. 7615, 67 FR 67087
- National Hospice Month
  - Proc. 7621, 67 FR 67775
- World AIDS Day
  - Proc. 7631, 67 FR 72089
- West Wing Centennial Day
  - Proc. 7622, 67 FR 69017
- World Freedom Day
  - Proc. 7625, 67 FR 69117
- National Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Week
  - Proc. 7624, 67 FR 68921
- America Recycles Day
  - Proc. 7627, 67 FR 69657
- National Farm-City Week
  - Proc. 7629, 67 FR 70833
- National Family Week
  - Proc. 7360, 67 FR 71067

**December**

- National Drunk and Drugged Driving Prevention Month
  - Proc. 7632, 67 FR 72551
- World AIDS Day
  - Proc. 7361, 67 FR 72089
- National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day
  - Proc. 7633, 67 FR 76103
- Human Rights Day
  - Proc. 7634, 67 FR 76669
- Human Rights Week
  - Proc. 7634, 67 FR 76669

- 36 USC 169
15 Bill of Rights Day  
17 Wright Brothers Day  
17 December 17 each year  
36 USC 169  
Proc. 7635, 67 FR 77905

2003

January

National Mentoring Month  
13 Centennial of Korean Immigration to the United States  
16 National Religious Freedom Day  
19 National Sanctity of Human Life Day

February

American Heart Month  
February each year  
36 USC 169b  
Proc. 7644, 68 FR 6055

National African American History Month  
2-8 National Consumer Protection Week

March

American Red Cross Month  
Irish-American Heritage Month  
National Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month  
Women’s History Month  
2-8 Save Your Vision Week  
First week of March each year  
36 USC 169a  
Proc. 7652, 68 FR 10649

National Poison Prevention Week  
Third week of March each year  
36 USC 165  
Proc. 7653, 68 FR 13217

April

Cancer Control Month  
April each year  
36 USC 150  
Proc. 7655, 68 FR 14887
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<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>National Child Abuse Prevention Month</td>
<td>Proc. 1656, 68 FR 15651</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>National Fair Housing Month</td>
<td>Proc. 7664, 68 FR 19135</td>
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<td>6-12</td>
<td>National Crime Victims’ Rights Week</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>National Former Prisoner of War Recognition Day</td>
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<td>13-19</td>
<td>Pan American Week</td>
<td>Proc. 7663, 68 FR 18831</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>Pan American Day</td>
<td>Proc. 7663, 68 FR 18831</td>
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<td>21-27</td>
<td>National Park Week</td>
<td>Proc. 7665, 68 FR 19929</td>
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**May**

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<th>Date</th>
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<th>Procedural Citation</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Asian/Pacific-American Heritage Month</td>
<td>36 USC 169k</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>May each year</td>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td><strong>Law Day</strong></td>
<td>36 USC 164</td>
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<td>May 1 each year</td>
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<td><strong>Loyalty Day</strong></td>
<td>36 USC 152</td>
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<td></td>
<td>May 1 each year</td>
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<td>1</td>
<td><strong>National Day of Prayer</strong></td>
<td>36 USC 169h</td>
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<td>First Thursday of May each year</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td><strong>Mother’s Day</strong></td>
<td>36 USC 142</td>
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<td>Second Sunday in May each year</td>
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<td>11-17</td>
<td><strong>Police Week</strong></td>
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<td>Week in which Peace Officer Memorial Day falls each year</td>
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<td>11-17</td>
<td><strong>National Transportation Week</strong></td>
<td>36 USC 166</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Week in which National Defense Transportation Day falls each year</td>
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<td>15</td>
<td><strong>Peace Officer Memorial Day</strong></td>
<td>36 USC 167</td>
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<td>May 15 each year</td>
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<td>17</td>
<td><strong>Armed Forces Day</strong></td>
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<td>Third Saturday in May each Year</td>
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<td>16</td>
<td><strong>National Defense Transportation Day</strong></td>
<td>36 USC 160</td>
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<td>Third Friday in May each year</td>
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<tr>
<td>Date</td>
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<td>Statute</td>
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<tr>
<td>17-23</td>
<td>National Safe Boating Week</td>
<td>36 USC 161</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Seven-day period prior to the Memorial Day</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>weekend each year</td>
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<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>National Maritime Day</td>
<td>36 USC 145</td>
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<td>May 22 each year</td>
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<td>26</td>
<td>Prayer for Peace Memorial Day</td>
<td>36 USC 169g</td>
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<td>Memorial Day each year</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>Flag Day</td>
<td>36 USC 157</td>
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<td>June 14 each year</td>
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<td>15</td>
<td>Father’s Day</td>
<td>36 USC 142a</td>
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<td>Third Sunday in June each year</td>
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**July**

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<tr>
<td>13-19</td>
<td>Captive Nations Week</td>
<td>P.L. 86-90</td>
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<td>Third week in July each year</td>
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<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>National Korean War Veterans Armistice Day</td>
<td>36 USC 169m</td>
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<td>July 27 each year until 2003</td>
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<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>Parents’ Day</td>
<td>36 USC 142c</td>
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<td>Fourth Sunday of July each year</td>
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**August**

**September**

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>National Hispanic Heritage Month</td>
<td>36 USC 159f</td>
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<tr>
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<td>September 15 through October 15 each year</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>Patriot Day</td>
<td>36 USC 144</td>
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<td>September 11 each year</td>
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<td>17</td>
<td>Citizenship Day</td>
<td>36 USC 153</td>
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<td>September 17 each year</td>
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<tr>
<td>17-23</td>
<td>Constitution Week</td>
<td>36 USC 159</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Week beginning September 17 and ending</td>
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<td>September 23 each year</td>
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<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>Gold Star Mother’s Day</td>
<td>36 USC 148</td>
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<td>Last Sunday in September each year</td>
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October

National Disability Employment Awareness Month  
October each year  
36 USC 155

6 Child Health Day  
First Monday in October each year  
36 USC 143

9 Leif Erikson Day  
October 9 each year  
36 USC 169c

12-18 National School Lunch Week  
Week beginning on the second Sunday in October each year  
36 USC 168

15 White Cane Safety Day  
October 15 each year  
36 USC 155

19-25 National Forest Products Week  
Week beginning on the third Sunday of October each year  
36 USC 163

November

December

7 National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day  
December 7 each year  
36 USC 169

17 Wright Brothers Day  
December 17 each year  
36 USC 169