Commemorative Observances:
A Chronological List

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Glenda Richardson
Information Research Specialist
Information Research Division
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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.
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* 36 USC 150
April each year
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
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

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
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
<th>Reference</th>
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<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>Prayer for Peace Memorial Day</td>
<td>36 USC 169g, Proc. 7567, 67 FR 36499</td>
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<td>June</td>
<td>Black Music Month</td>
<td>Proc. 7568, 67 FR 38583</td>
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<td>National Homeownership Month</td>
<td>Proc. 7570, 67 FR 39241</td>
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<td>2-8</td>
<td>National Fishing and Boating Week</td>
<td>67 FR 38585</td>
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<td>National Child’s Day</td>
<td>Proc. 7571, 67 FR 39595</td>
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<td>9-15</td>
<td>Great Outdoors Week</td>
<td>Proc. 7572, 67 FR 40137</td>
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<td>Flag Day</td>
<td>36 USC 157, Proc. 7573, 67 FR 40139</td>
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<td>9-15</td>
<td>National Flag Week</td>
<td>36 USC 157a, Proc. 7573, 67 FR 40139</td>
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<td>16</td>
<td>Father’s Day</td>
<td>36 USC 142a, Proc. 7574, 67 FR 42177</td>
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<td>July</td>
<td>Captive Nations Week</td>
<td>P.L. 86-90, Proc. 7577, 67 FR 47677</td>
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<td>Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act</td>
<td>Proc. 7579, 67 FR 49555</td>
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<td>National Korean War Veterans Armistice Day</td>
<td>36 USC 169m, Proc. 7578, 67 FR 49551</td>
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<td>28</td>
<td>Parents’ Day</td>
<td>36 USC 169m, Proc. 7580, 67 FR 49577</td>
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<td>August</td>
<td>National Airborne Day</td>
<td>Proc. 7582, 67 FR 53723</td>
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<td>18-24</td>
<td>National Health Center Week</td>
<td>Proc. 7583, 67 FR 53873</td>
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<td>26</td>
<td>Women’s Equality Day</td>
<td>Proc. 7584, 67 FR 55317</td>
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<tr>
<td>September</td>
<td>National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month</td>
<td>Proc. 7589, 67 FR 57123</td>
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</table>
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

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
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
18  Year of Clean Water  
    Year beginning October 18, 2002, in commemoration of the anniversary of the Clean Water Act  
    Proc. 7611, 67 FR 64787

20-26  National Character Counts Week  
    Proc. 7612, 67 FR 65281

20-26  National Forest Products Week  
    Week beginning on the third Sunday in October each year  
    Proc. 7613, 67 FR 65283

24  United Nations Day  
    Proc. 7614, 67 FR 65869

**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

1  World AIDS Day  
    Proc. 7631, 67 FR 72089

6  West Wing Centennial Day  
    Proc. 7622, 67 FR 69017

9  World Freedom Day  
    Proc. 7625, 67 FR 69117

10-16  National Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Week  
    Proc. 7624, 67 FR 68921

15  America Recycles Day  
    Proc. 7627, 67 FR 69657

22-28  National Farm-City Week  
    Proc. 7629, 67 FR 70833

24-30  National Family Week  
    Proc. 7360, 67 FR 71067

**December**

National Drunk and Drugged Driving Prevention Month  
    Proc. 7632, 67 FR 72551

1  World AIDS Day  
    Proc. 7361, 67 FR 72089

7  National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day  
    December 7 each year  
    Proc. 7633, 67 FR 76103

10  Human Rights Day  
    Proc. 7634, 67 FR 76669

10-16  Human Rights Week  
    Proc. 7634, 67 FR 76669
15 Bill of Rights Day  
Proc. 7634, 67 FR 76669

17 Wright Brothers Day  
December 17 each year  
36 USC 169  
Proc. 7635, 67 FR 77905

2003

January

National Mentoring Month  
Proc. 7636, 68 FR 995

13 Centennial of Korean Immigration to the United States  
Proc. 7368, 68 FR 2173

16 National Religious Freedom Day  
Proc. 7640, 68 FR 2869

19 National Sanctity of Human Life Day  
Proc. 7639, 68 FR 2409

February

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

National African American History Month  
Proc. 7645, 68 FR 6057

2-8 National Consumer Protection Week  
Proc. 7643, 68 FR 4887

March

American Red Cross Month  
Proc. 7648, 68 FR 10641

Irish-American Heritage Month  
Proc. 7649, 68 FR 10643

National Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month  
Proc. 7650, 68 FR 10645

Women’s History Month  
Proc. 7651, 68 FR 10647

2-8 Save Your Vision Week  
First week of March each year  
36 USC 169a  
Proc. 7652, 68 FR 10649

16-22 National Poison Prevention Week  
Third week of March each year  
36 USC 165  
Proc. 7653, 68 FR 13217

25 Greek Independence Day  
Proc. 7654, 68 FR 13805

April

Cancer Control Month  
April each year  
36 USC 150  
Proc. 7655, 68 FR 14887
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<td>6-12</td>
<td>National Crime Victims’ Rights Week</td>
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<td>National Former Prisoner of War Recognition Day</td>
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<td>Proc. 7660, 68 FR 17873</td>
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<td>13-19</td>
<td>Pan American Week</td>
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<td>Proc. 7663, 68 FR 18831</td>
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<td>Pan American Day</td>
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<td>Proc. 7663, 68 FR 18831</td>
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<td>21-27</td>
<td>National Park Week</td>
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<td>Proc. 7665, 68 FR 19929</td>
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<td>27-3</td>
<td>National Charter School Week</td>
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<td>Proc. 7666, 68 FR 23021</td>
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<td>May</td>
<td>Asian/Pacific-American Heritage Month</td>
<td>36 USC 169k</td>
<td>Proc. 7668, 68 FR 23821</td>
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<td>May each year</td>
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<td>Older Americans Month</td>
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<td>Proc. 7669, 68 FR 23823</td>
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<td>Law Day</td>
<td>36 USC 164</td>
<td>Proc. 7670, 68 FR 23825</td>
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<td>May 1 each year</td>
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<td>Loyalty Day</td>
<td>36 USC 152</td>
<td>Proc. 7671, 68 FR 23827</td>
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<td>May 1 each year</td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>National Day of Prayer</td>
<td>36 USC 169h</td>
<td>Proc. 7672, 68 FR 23829</td>
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<td>First Thursday of May each year</td>
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<td>1-11</td>
<td>Jewish Heritage Week</td>
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<td>Proc. 7673, 68 FR 24333</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>Mother’s Day</td>
<td>36 USC 142</td>
<td>Proc. 7674, 68 FR 25277</td>
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<td>Second Sunday in May each year</td>
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<td>11-17</td>
<td>Police Week</td>
<td>36 USC 167</td>
<td>Proc. 7675, 68 FR 26195</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>National Transportation Week</td>
<td>36 USC 166</td>
<td>Proc. 7676, 68 FR 26197</td>
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<td>Week in which National Defense Transportation Day falls each year</td>
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<td>15</td>
<td>Peace Officer Memorial Day</td>
<td>36 USC 167</td>
<td>Proc. 7675, 68 FR 26195</td>
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<td>16</td>
<td>National Defense Transportation Day</td>
<td>Third Friday in May each year</td>
<td>36 USC 160, Proc. 7676, 68 FR 26197</td>
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<td>17</td>
<td>Armed Forces Day</td>
<td>Third Saturday in May each Year</td>
<td>Proc. 7677, 68 FR 26199</td>
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<td>17-23</td>
<td>National Safe Boating Week</td>
<td>Seven-day period prior to the Memorial Day weekend each year</td>
<td>36 USC 161, Proc. 7677, 68 FR 26199</td>
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<td>18-24</td>
<td>National Hurricane Awareness Week</td>
<td>Proc. 7678, 68 FR 27427</td>
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<td>18-24</td>
<td>World Trade Week</td>
<td>Proc. 7679, 68 FR 27889</td>
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<td>22</td>
<td>National Maritime Day</td>
<td>May 22 each year</td>
<td>36 USC 145, Proc. 7689, 68 FR 28687</td>
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<td>26</td>
<td>Prayer for Peace Memorial Day</td>
<td>Memorial Day each year</td>
<td>36 USC 169g, Proc. 7681, 68 FR 31935</td>
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**June**

<table>
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<th>Date(s)</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Black Music Month</td>
<td>Proc. 7687, 68 FR 38167</td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>National Child’s Day</td>
<td>Proc. 7683, 68 FR 33339</td>
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<td>National Homeownership Month</td>
<td>Proc. 7685, 68 FR 36445</td>
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<td>8-14</td>
<td>National Flag Week</td>
<td>Proc. 7684, 68 FR 34775</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>Flag Day</td>
<td>36 USC 157, Proc. 7684, 68 FR 34775</td>
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<td>15</td>
<td>Father’s Day</td>
<td>36 USC 142a, Proc. 7686, 68 FR 36447</td>
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**July**

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<td>30th Anniversary of the All-Volunteer Force</td>
<td>Proc. 7690, 68 FR 40115</td>
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<td>20-26</td>
<td>Captive Nations Week</td>
<td>P.L. 86-90, Proc. 7691, 68 FR 43455</td>
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<td>27</td>
<td>National Korean War Veterans Armistice Day</td>
<td>36 USC 169m, Proc. 7692, 68 FR 44449</td>
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<td>27</td>
<td>Parents’ Day</td>
<td>36 USC 142c, Proc. 7693, 68 FR 44849</td>
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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

7 *National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day*
December 7 each year

17 *Wright Brothers Day*
December 17 each year