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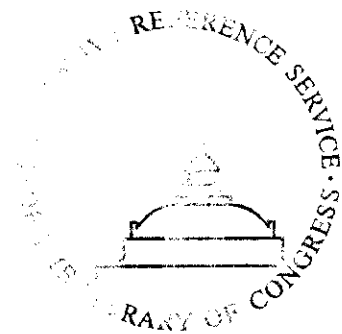
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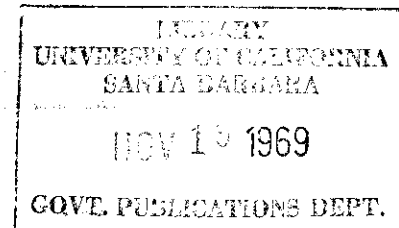
WASHINGTON, D. C.



THE "MONDAY HOLIDAY LAW" AND  
SPECIAL NATIONAL OBSERVANCES

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THE "MONDAY HOLIDAY LAW" AND SPECIAL NATIONAL OBSERVANCES

The following chart lists the Federal legal public holidays observed at present and those authorized by Congressional action to be effective January 1, 1971.

<u>Holiday</u>	<u>Present Observance</u>	<u>As of January 1971</u>
New Year's Day	January 1	January 1
Washington's Birthday	February 22	Third Monday in February
Memorial Day	May 30	Last Monday in May
Independence Day	July 4	July 4
Labor Day	First Monday in September	First Monday in September
Veterans Day	November 11	Fourth Monday in October
Thanksgiving Day	Fourth Thursday in November	Fourth Thursday in November
Christmas Day	December 25	December 25
Inauguration Day	January 20 of each fourth year after 1965	
Columbus Day	None	Second Monday in October

Public Law 90-363 adds Columbus Day, the second Monday in October, to the present Federal legal holidays and creates four new three-day weekends in addition to the long-standing Labor Day weekend.

The Federal "Monday Holiday Law" affects only Federal employees and residents of the District of Columbia. States are not required to observe the same holidays as the Federal Government but they generally do, and it is expected that by January 1, 1971, when the

new law takes effect, most states will have followed the Federal Government's lead and passed similar legislation.

The text of the "Monday Holiday Law" [PL 90-363] is set out below:



Public Law 90-363  
90th Congress, H. R. 15951  
June 28, 1968

### An Act

To provide for uniform annual observances of certain legal public holidays on Mondays, and for other purposes.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That (a) section 6103(a) of title 5, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

**“§ 6103. Holidays**

“(a) The following are legal public holidays:

- “New Year’s Day, January 1.
- “Washington’s Birthday, the third Monday in February.
- “Memorial Day, the last Monday in May.
- “Independence Day, July 4.
- “Labor Day, the first Monday in September.
- “Columbus Day, the second Monday in October.
- “Veterans Day, the fourth Monday in October.
- “Thanksgiving Day, the fourth Thursday in November.
- “Christmas Day, December 25.”

(b) Any reference in a law of the United States (in effect on the effective date of the amendment made by subsection (a) of this section) to the observance of a legal public holiday on a day other than the day prescribed for the observance of such holiday by section 6103(a) of title 5, United States Code, as amended by subsection (a), shall on and after such effective date be considered a reference to the day for the observance of such holiday prescribed in such amended section 6103(a).

Sec. 2. The amendment made by subsection (a) of the first section of this Act shall take effect on January 1, 1971.

Approved June 28, 1968.

Certain holidays.  
Monday observance.  
80 Stat. 515.

82 STAT. 250  
82 STAT. 251

Effective date.

**LEGISLATIVE HISTORY:**

HOUSE REPORT No. 1280 (Comm. on the Judiciary).  
SENATE REPORT No. 1293 (Comm. on the Judiciary).  
CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, Vol. 114 (1968):  
May 7, 9: Considered and passed House.  
June 24: Considered and passed Senate.

Special National Observances

Official special observances are proclaimed by the President of the United States, either on his own initiative using the inherent powers of his office, or at the request of Congress. The Presidential Proclamations giving the date and significance of the event are published first in the daily Federal Register, just prior to the event to be celebrated. Later they are published in the Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents, the Statutes at Large, and in the compiled Public Papers of the Presidents of the United States.

Each year a number of proposed special observances are introduced by the Members of Congress. These proposals, usually in the form of a Joint Resolution, are sent to the respective Judiciary Committees for further consideration and possible action. Only those very few proposals considered to be of high national significance are finally approved.

In the past Congress would often request the President to proclaim a special observance on an annual basis. For example, CAPTIVE NATIONS WEEK is observed during the third week in July every year and is so proclaimed by the President every year. It has now become almost standard practice, however, for special observances approved by the Congress to be limited to a one-time celebration only, on a particular day, week, or month of that particular year.

Listed below by month are those occasions proclaimed by the President as Special Observance occasions for 1969.

January  
13

Stephen Foster Memorial Day      The proclamation issued in 1952 covers all succeeding years.

February  
1-28

American Heart Month      Always issued each year for February since 1964.

1      National Freedom Day      The proclamation issued in 1949 covers all succeeding years.

March  
1-31

Red Cross Month      Always issued for March of each year.

2-8      Save Your Vision Week      Always issued for third week of March.

16-22      National Poison Prevention Week      Always issued for third week of March.

April  
1-30

Cancer Control Month      Always issued for April since 1938.

13      Thomas Jefferson's Birthday      The proclamation issued in 1938 covers all succeeding years.

14      Pan American Day      Always issued for this day each year.

13-19      Pan American Week      Always issued for the week including April 14, except in 1965.

May  
1-30

\*Senior Citizens Month      Always issued for the month of May since 1963.

1-30      Steelmark Month      Always the month of May. Proclamation No. 3778 of 1967 covers all succeeding years.

Armed Forces Day      Always the third Saturday in May. Proclamation No. 3655 of May 7, 1965 covers all succeeding years.

1      Law Day      Always issued each year for May 1st.

1      Loyalty Day      Has been issued each year for May 1st since 1959 and was issued once prior to that in 1955.



July

6/29-  
7/5

National Safe Boating Week

Always issued each year since 1958 for the week including July 4th.

13-19

Captive Nations Week

Always issued each year since 1959 for the third week in July.

21

\*National Day of Participation

In honor of Apollo 11 moon landing.

20-26

National Farm Safety Week

Has been issued each year since 1944 for one of the last two weeks in July.

August

19

National Aviation Day

Always August 19th of each year. Proclamation issued in 1939 covers all succeeding years.

8/26-  
9/1

\*National Archery Week

September

8

\*World Law Day

17

Citizenship Day

Always issued for September 17th.

17-23

Constitution Week

Always issued for the period September 17-23 of each year since 1956 (Public Law 84-915).

21-27

\*National Highway Week

Has been issued each year since 1961 for a week in September.

Gold Star Mother's Day

Always last Sunday of September of each year. Proclamation No. 2424 of 1940 covers all succeeding years.

14-20

National Hispanic Heritage Week

Issued since 1968 for the week including September 15 and 16. (Public Law 90-498).

October

National Day of Prayer

Since 1957 a day during October has been designated. This day may be for any day of the year except Sundays.

October

7

Child Health Day

There has been a Child Health Day since 1928. In 1959 the Congress requested that the 1st Monday of October be thereafter proclaimed each year as the day.

9

Leif Erikson Day

Always October 9th since 1964.

11

General Pulaski's Memorial Day

Always issued for October 11th.

12

Columbus Day

Always issued for October 12th.

15

White Cane Safety Day

Always issued for October 15th.

24

United Nations Day

Always issued for October 24th since 1948.

5-11

National Employ the Physically Handicapped Week

Always issued for the first week of October since 1945.

12-18

National School Lunch Week

Always issued for the week beginning with the second Sunday of October since 1963. (Public Law 87-780).

5-11

Fire Prevention Week

A week early in October is usually chosen.

19-25

National Forest Products Week

Always issued for the week beginning with the third Sunday of October since 1960. (Public Law 86-743).

31

United Children's Fund (UNICEF) Day

Proclamation No. 3817 of 10/27/67 covers all succeeding years.

November

11

Veterans Day

Always issued for November 11th.

\*American Education Week

After an absence of a number of years this proclamation has been issued each year since 1955 for a period always within the first two weeks of November.

21-27

\*National Farm-City Week

Issued each year since 1955.

Thanksgiving Day

Always issued for the fourth Thursday.



December  
2

	Pan American Health Day	The proclamation issued in 1940 covers all succeeding years.
10	Human Rights Day	Proclamation No. 2866 of 12/6/49 designated 12/10/49 and December 10 of each succeeding year as this day.
10-17	*Human Rights Week	Issued since 1958 requesting the observance of the period December 10-17.
15	*Bill of Rights Day	Was proclaimed in 1962, 1963, 1964, 1965 and 1966. Omitted in 1967 and 1968.
17	Pan American Aviation Day	The Proclamation issued in 1940 covers all succeeding years.
17	Wright Brothers Day	Always issued for December 17th since 1963. (Public Law 88-209).

\*There can be no assurance that these proclamations will be issued again in future years.

The President issued a proclamation on April 17, 1969 in which he called upon all our citizens to join with the League of Women Voters of the United States in the observance of its fiftieth anniversary in 1970, and a proclamation on September 12, 1969 proclaiming a national Stay-in-School campaign.

Special observances can also be sponsored and designated by various international, state or local organizations and interest groups. The American Library Association for example, sponsors and designates NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK. For a useful reference source for all (presidential and other ) of the special events we suggest the following:

Chases' Calendar of Annual Events  
Apple Tree Press, Publishers  
Box 1012, Flint, Michigan 48501

This annual publication is available for \$3.00 (1969 edition price).