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Commemorative Observances: A Chronological List

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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 2003 and 2004, 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 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 2003 and 2004, 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 2003 list as an indication of the observances that might well be designated again in 2004.

2003

Decade

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

	<i>American Heart Month</i>	36 USC 169b
	February each year	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	<i>Save Your Vision Week</i>	36 USC 169a
	First week of March each year	Proc. 7652, 68 FR 10649
16-22	<i>National Poison Prevention Week</i>	36 USC 165
	Third week of March each year	Proc. 7653, 68 FR 13217
25	Greek Independence Day	Proc. 7654, 68 FR 13805

April

	<i>Cancer Control Month</i>	36 USC 150
	April each year	Proc. 7655, 68 FR 14887
	National Child Abuse Prevention Month	Proc. 1656, 68 FR 15651
	National Donate Life Month	Proc. 7658, 68 FR 16403
	National Fair Housing Month	Proc. 7664, 68 FR 19135
6-12	National Crime Victims' Rights Week	Proc. 7569, 68 FR 17253
9	National Former Prisoner of War Recognition Day	Proc. 7660, 68 FR 17873
10	National D.A.R.E. Day (Drug Abuse Resistance Education)	Proc. 7661, 68 FR 17875
13	Education and Sharing Day, U.S.A.	Proc. 7662, 68 FR 18081
13-19	Pan American Week	Proc. 7663, 68 FR 18831
14	Pan American Day	Proc. 7663, 68 FR 18831

21-27	National Park Week	Proc. 7665, 68 FR 19929
27-3	National Charter School Week	Proc. 7666, 68 FR 23021

May

	<i>Asian/Pacific-American Heritage Month</i> May each year	36 USC 169k Proc. 7668, 68 FR 23821
	Older Americans Month	Proc. 7669, 68 FR 23823
1	<i>Law Day</i> May 1 each year	36 USC 164 Proc. 7670, 68 FR 23825
1	<i>Loyalty Day</i> May 1 each year	36 USC 152 Proc. 7671, 68 FR 23827
1	<i>National Day of Prayer</i> First Thursday of May each year	36 USC 169h Proc. 7672, 68 FR 23829
1-11	Jewish Heritage Week	Proc. 7673, 68 FR 24333
11	<i>Mother's Day</i> Second Sunday in May each year	36 USC 142 Proc. 7674, 68 FR 25277
11-17	<i>Police Week</i> Week in which Peace Officer Memorial Day falls each year	36 USC 167 Proc. 7675, 68 FR 26195
11-17	<i>National Transportation Week</i> Week in which National Defense Transportation Day falls each year	36 USC 166 Proc. 7676, 68 FR 26197
15	<i>Peace Officer Memorial Day</i> May 15 each year	36 USC 167 Proc. 7675, 68 FR 26195
16	<i>National Defense Transportation Day</i> Third Friday in May each year	36 USC 160 Proc. 7676, 68 FR 26197
17	<i>Armed Forces Day</i> Third Saturday in May each Year	
17-23	<i>National Safe Boating Week</i> Seven-day period prior to the Memorial Day weekend each year	36 USC 161 Proc. 7677, 68 FR 26199
18-24	National Hurricane Awareness Week	Proc. 7678, 68 FR 27427
18-24	World Trade Week	Proc. 7679, 68 FR 27889
22	<i>National Maritime Day</i> May 22 each year	36 USC 145 Proc. 7689, 68 FR 28687
25	National Missing Children's Day	Proc. 7682, 68 FR 31937
26	<i>Prayer for Peace Memorial Day</i> Memorial Day each year	36 USC 169g Proc. 7681, 68 FR 31935

June

	Black Music Month	Proc. 7687, 68 FR 38167
1	National Child's Day	Proc. 7683, 68 FR 33339
	National Homeownership Month	Proc. 7685, 68 FR 36445
8-14	<i>National Flag Week</i> Week in which June 14 occurs each year	36 USC 157a Proc. 7684, 68 FR 34775
14	<i>Flag Day</i> June 14 each year	36 USC 157 Proc. 7684, 68 FR 34775
15	<i>Father's Day</i> Third Sunday in June each year	36 USC 142a Proc. 7686, 68 FR 36447

July

1	30 th Anniversary of the All-Volunteer Force	Proc. 7690, 68 FR 40115
20-26	<i>Captive Nations Week</i> Third week in July each year	P.L. 86-90 Proc. 7691, 68 FR 43455
27	<i>National Korean War Veterans Armistice Day</i> July 27 each year until 2003	36 USC 169m Proc. 7692, 68 FR 44449
27	<i>Parents' Day</i> Fourth Sunday of July each year	36 USC 142c Proc. 7693, 68 FR 44849

August

26	Women's Equality Day	Proc. 7695, 68 FR 51673
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September

	National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month	Proc. 7698, 68 FR 52825
	<i>National Hispanic Heritage Month</i> September 15 through October 15 each year	36 USC 159f Proc. 7706, 68 FR 55253
	National Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month	Proc. 7699, 68 FR 52827
	National Prostate Cancer Awareness Month	Proc. 7700, 68 FR 52829
11	<i>Patriot Day</i> September 11 each year	36 USC 144 Proc. 7702, 68 FR 53013
14-20	National Historically Black Colleges and Universities Week	Proc. 7703, 68 FR 54321

14-20	Small Business Week	Proc. 7704, 68 FR 54323
17	<i>Citizenship Day</i> September 17 each year	36 USC 153 Proc. 7705, 68 FR 54977
17-23	<i>Constitution Week</i> Week beginning September 17 and ending September 23 each year	36 USC 159 Proc. 7705, 68 FR 54977
19	National POW/MIA Recognition Day	Proc. 7707, 68 FR 55259
21-27	National Farm Safety and Health Week	Proc. 7708, 68 FR 56511
22	Family Day	Proc. 7697, 68 FR 52313
28	<i>Gold Star Mother's Day</i> Last Sunday in September each year	36 USC 148 Proc. 7709, 68 FR 56513
28- 10/4	Minority Enterprise Development Week	Proc. 7710, 68 FR 56521

October

	National Breast Cancer Awareness Month	Proc. 7711, 68 FR 58251
	<i>National Disability Employment Awareness Month</i> October each year	36 USC 155 Proc. 7712, 68 FR 58253
	National Domestic Violence Awareness Month	Proc. 7717, 68 FR 59079
5-11	Fire Prevention Week	Proc. 7713, 68 FR 58255
6	<i>Child Health Day</i> First Monday in October each year	36 USC 143 Proc. 7716, 68 FR 58573
6	German-American Day	Proc. 7715, 68 FR 58259
9	<i>Leif Erikson Day</i> October 9 each year	36 USC 169c Proc. 7718, 68 FR 59305
11	General Pulaski Memorial Day	Proc. 7721, 68 FR 59517
12-18	Marriage Protection Week	Proc. 7714, 68 FR 58257
12-18	<i>National School Lunch Week</i> Week beginning on the second Sunday in October each year	36 USC 168 Proc. 7719, 68 FR 59513
15	<i>White Cane Safety Day</i> October 15 each year	36 USC 155 Proc. 7722, 68 FR 59853
16- 11/1	Protection From Pornography Week	Proc. 7725, 68 FR 61603
19-25	National Character Counts Week	Proc. 7724, 68 FR 60615

19-25	<i>National Forest Products Week</i> Week beginning on the third Sunday of October each year	36 USC 163 Proc. 7723, 68 FR 60613
24	United Nations Day	Proc. 7726, 68 FR 61605

November

	National Adoption Month	Proc. 7731, 68 FR 64483
	National Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Month	Proc. 7728, 68 FR 62503
	National American Indian Heritage Month	Proc. 7735, 68 FR 65153
	National Family Caregivers Month	Proc. 7730, 68 FR 62507
	National Diabetes Month	Proc. 7729, 68 FR 62505
	National Hospice Month	Proc. 7727, 68 FR 62351
9	World Freedom Day	Proc. 7732, 68 FR 64485
15	America Recycles Day	Proc. 7734, 68 FR 64977
16-22	National Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Week	Proc. 7736, 68 FR 65155
21-27	National Farm-City Week	Proc. 7737, 68 FR 65627
23-29	National Family Week	Proc. 7739, 68 FR 66319

December

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

2004**January****February**

<i>American Heart Month</i>	36 USC 169b
February each year	

March

<i>1-6</i>	<i>Save Your Vision Week</i>	36 USC 169a
	First week of March each year	

<i>14-20</i>	<i>National Poison Prevention Week</i>	36 USC 165
	Third week of March each year	

April

<i>Cancer Control Month</i>	36 USC 150
April each year	

May

<i>Asian/Pacific-American Heritage Month</i>	36 USC 169k
May each year	

<i>1</i>	<i>Law Day</i>	36 USC 164
	May 1 each year	

<i>1</i>	<i>Loyalty Day</i>	36 USC 152
	May 1 each year	

<i>6</i>	<i>National Day of Prayer</i>	36 USC 169h
	First Thursday of May each year	

<i>9</i>	<i>Mother's Day</i>	36 USC 142
	Second Sunday in May each year	Proc. 7557, 67 FR 34583

<i>9-15</i>	<i>National Transportation Week</i>	36 USC 166
	Week in which National Defense Transportation Day falls each year	

<i>9-15</i>	<i>Police Week</i>	36 USC 167
	Week in which Peace Officer Memorial Day falls each year	

<i>15</i>	<i>Armed Forces Day</i>
	Third Saturday in May each year

21	<i>National Defense Transportation Day</i> Third Friday in May each year	36 USC 160
22	<i>National Maritime Day</i> May 22 each year	36 USC 145 Proc. 7565, 67 FR 36495
24-30	<i>National Safe Boating Week</i> Seven-day period prior to the Memorial Day weekend each year	36 USC 161
31	<i>Prayer for Peace Memorial Day</i> Memorial Day each year	36 USC 169g

June

14	<i>Flag Day</i> June 14 each year	36 USC 157
13-19	<i>National Flag Week</i> Week in which June 14 occurs each year	36 USC 157a
20	<i>Father's Day</i> Third Sunday in June each year	36 USC 142a

July

17-23	<i>Captive Nations Week</i> Third Week in July each year	P.L. 86-90
25	<i>Parents' Day</i> Fourth Sunday of July each year	36 USC 169m

August

September

	<i>National Hispanic Heritage Month</i> September 15 through October 15 each year	36 USC 159f
11	<i>Patriot Day</i> September 11 each year	36 USC 144Proc. 7590, 67
17	<i>Citizenship Day</i> September 17 each year	36 USC 153
17-23	<i>Constitution Week</i> Week of September 17-23 each year	36 USC 159
26	<i>Gold Star Mother's Day</i> Last Sunday in September each year	36 USC 148

October

	<i>National Disability Employment Awareness Month</i>	36 USC 155
	October each year	
4	<i>Child Health Day</i>	36 USC 143
	First Monday in October each year	
9	<i>Leif Erikson Day</i>	36 USC 169c
	October 9 each year	
10-16	<i>National School Lunch Week</i>	36 USC 168
	Week beginning on the second Sunday in October	
15	<i>White Cane Safety Day</i>	36 USC 155
	October 15 each year	
17-23	<i>National Forest Products Week</i>	36 USC 163
	Week beginning on the third Sunday in October each year	

November

December

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