Commemorative Observances: A Chronological List

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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 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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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 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 (U.S.C.), 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

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**
February each year
36 U.S.C. 101
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 U.S.C. 138
Proc. 7652, 68 FR 10649
16-22 *National Poison Prevention Week*
Third week of March each year
36 U.S.C. 130
Proc. 7653, 68 FR 13217
25 Greek Independence Day
Proc. 7654, 68 FR 13805

April

*Cancer Control Month*
April each year
36 U.S.C. 103
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
27-5/3 National Charter School Week
Proc. 7666, 68 FR 23021
## May

**Asian/Pacific-American Heritage Month** May each year  
36 U.S.C. 102  
Proc. 7668, 68 FR 23821

Older Americans Month  
Proc. 7669, 68 FR 23823

1 \* Law Day
May 1 each year  
36 U.S.C. 113  
Proc. 7670, 68 FR 23825

1 \* Loyalty Day
May 1 each year  
36 U.S.C. 115  
Proc. 7671, 68 FR 23827

1 \* National Day of Prayer
First Thursday of May each year  
36 U.S.C. 119  
Proc. 7672, 68 FR 23829

1-11 Jewish Heritage Week  
Proc. 7673, 68 FR 24333

11 \* Mother’s Day
Second Sunday in May each year  
36 U.S.C. 117  
Proc. 7674, 68 FR 25277

11-17 Police Week
Week in which Peace Officer Memorial Day falls each year  
36 U.S.C. 137  
Proc. 7675, 68 FR 26195

11-17 National Transportation Week
Week in which National Defense Transportation Day falls each year  
36 U.S.C. 133  
Proc. 7676, 68 FR 26197

15 \* Peace Officer Memorial Day
May 15 each year  
36 U.S.C. 136  
Proc. 7675, 68 FR 26195

16 \* National Defense Transportation Day
Third Friday in May each year  
36 U.S.C. 133  
Proc. 7676, 68 FR 26197

17-23 National Safe Boating Week
Seven-day period prior to the Memorial Day weekend each year  
36 U.S.C. 131  
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 \* National Maritime Day
May 22 each year  
36 U.S.C. 128  
Proc. 7689, 68 FR 28687

25 National Missing Children’s Day  
Proc. 7682, 68 FR 31937

26 \* National Moment of Remembrance Memorial Day each year  
36 U.S.C. 116  
Proc. 7681, 68 FR 31935

26 \* Prayer for Peace Memorial Day
Memorial Day each year  
36 U.S.C. 116  
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 National Flag Week  Proc. 7684, 68 FR 34775
Week in which June 14 occurs each year
14 Flag Day  Proc. 7684, 68 FR 34775
June 14 each year
15 Father’s Day  Proc. 7686, 68 FR 36447
Third Sunday in June each year

July

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

August

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

September

National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month  Proc. 7698, 68 FR 52825
National Hispanic Heritage Month  Proc. 7706, 68 FR 55253
September 15 through October 15 each year
National Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month  Proc. 7699, 68 FR 52827
National Prostate Cancer Awareness Month  Proc. 7700, 68 FR 52829
11 Patriot Day  Proc. 7702, 68 FR 53013
September 11 each year
14-20 National Historically Black Colleges and Universities Week  Proc. 7703, 68 FR 54321
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Source</th>
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<tr>
<td>14-20</td>
<td>Small Business Week</td>
<td>Proc. 7704, 68 FR 54323</td>
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<td>17</td>
<td>Citizenship Day</td>
<td>36 U.S.C. 106</td>
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<td>September 17 each year</td>
<td>Proc. 7705, 68 FR 54977</td>
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<td>17-23</td>
<td>Constitution Week</td>
<td>36 U.S.C. 108</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Week beginning September 17 and ending</td>
<td>Proc. 7705, 68 FR 54977</td>
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<td></td>
<td>September 23 each year</td>
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<td>19</td>
<td>National POW/MIA Recognition Day</td>
<td>Proc. 7707, 68 FR 55259</td>
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<td>21-27</td>
<td>National Farm Safety and Health Week</td>
<td>Proc. 7708, 68 FR 56511</td>
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<td>22</td>
<td>Family Day</td>
<td>Proc. 7697, 68 FR 52313</td>
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<td>28</td>
<td>Gold Star Mother’s Day</td>
<td>36 U.S.C. 111</td>
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<td>Last Sunday in September each year</td>
<td>Proc. 7709, 68 FR 56513</td>
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<td>28-10/4</td>
<td>Minority Enterprise Development Week</td>
<td>Proc. 7710, 68 FR 56521</td>
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</table>

**October**

- National Breast Cancer Awareness Month: Proc. 7711, 68 FR 58251
- National Disability Employment Awareness Month: 36 U.S.C. 121
- Family Day: Proc. 7697, 68 FR 52313
- National Domestic Violence Awareness Month: Proc. 7717, 68 FR 59079
- Fire Prevention Week: Proc. 7713, 68 FR 58255
- Child Health Day: 36 U.S.C. 105
- German-American Day: Proc. 7715, 68 FR 58259
- Leif Erikson Day: 36 U.S.C. 114
- October 9 each year: Proc. 7718, 68 FR 59305
- General Pulaski Memorial Day: Proc. 7721, 68 FR 59517
- Marriage Protection Week: Proc. 7714, 68 FR 58257
- National School Lunch Week: 36 U.S.C. 132
- Week beginning on the second Sunday in October each year: Proc. 7719, 68 FR 59513
- White Cane Safety Day: 36 U.S.C. 142
- October 15 each year: Proc. 7722, 68 FR 59853
- Protection From Pornography Week: Proc. 7725, 68 FR 61603
- National Character Counts Week: Proc. 7724, 68 FR 60615
19-25 National Forest Products Week
Week beginning on the third Sunday of October each year

24 United Nations Day

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

National Drunk and Drugged Driving Prevention Month
Proc. 7743, 68 FR 69293

1 World AIDS Day
Proc. 7740, 68 FR 67787

7 National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day
December 7 each year
36 U.S.C. 129
Proc. 7742, 68 FR 68999

10 Human Rights Day
Proc. 7744, 68 FR 69939

10-16 Human Rights Week
Proc. 7744, 68 FR 69939

15 Bill of Rights Day
Proc. 7744, 68 FR 69939

17 Wright Brothers Day
December 17 each year
36 U.S.C. 143
Proc. 7745, 68 FR 74463

2004
### January

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Proc. No.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Religious Freedom Day</td>
<td>7753, 69 FR 2993</td>
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<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>National Sanctity of Human Life Day</td>
<td>7752, 69 FR 2821</td>
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### February

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Proc. No.</th>
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<tr>
<td>36</td>
<td>American Heart Month</td>
<td>36 U.S.C. 101</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>February each year</td>
<td>7754, 69 FR 5457</td>
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<tr>
<td>1-7</td>
<td>National African American History Month</td>
<td>7756, 69 FR 5903</td>
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### March

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Proc. No.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1-6</td>
<td>Save Your Vision Week</td>
<td>36 U.S.C. 138</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>First week of March each year</td>
<td>7762, 69 FR 11487</td>
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<tr>
<td>14-20</td>
<td>National Poison Prevention Week</td>
<td>36 U.S.C. 130</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Third week of March each year</td>
<td>7763, 69 FR 13707</td>
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<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Greek Independence Day</td>
<td>7764, 69 FR 16543</td>
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### April

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Proc. No.</th>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Education and Sharing Day, U.S.A.</td>
<td>7767, 69 FR 18469</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>National D.A.R.E. Day (Drug Abuse Resistance Education)</td>
<td>7768, 69 FR 19077</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>National Former Prisoner of War Recognition Day</td>
<td>7770, 69 FR 19751</td>
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<tr>
<td>11-17</td>
<td>Pan American Day</td>
<td>7771, 69 FR 20537</td>
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<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Pan American Week</td>
<td>7771, 69 FR 20537</td>
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<td>Date(s)</td>
<td>Event Description</td>
<td>Proc. Number and FR Page</td>
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<tr>
<td>18-24</td>
<td>National Crime Victims’ Rights Week</td>
<td>Proc. 7774, 69 FR 21687</td>
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<td>18-24</td>
<td>National Volunteer Week</td>
<td>Proc. 7773, 69 FR 21685</td>
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<tr>
<td>18-25</td>
<td>National Park Week</td>
<td>Proc. 7772, 69 FR 21683</td>
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<tr>
<td>25-5/1</td>
<td>Jewish Heritage Week</td>
<td>Proc. 7775, 69 FR 23085</td>
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</table>

**May**

*Asian/Pacific-American Heritage Month*
May each year
36 U.S.C. 102
Proc. 7781, 69 FR 26467

*Older Americans Month*
Proc. 7776, 69 FR 25283

*National Physical Fitness and Sports Month*
Proc. 7782, 69 FR 26469

1
*Law Day*
May 1 each year
36 U.S.C. 113
Proc. 7778, 69 FR 25287

1
*Loyalty Day*
May 1 each year
36 U.S.C. 115
Proc. 7779, 69 FR 25289

2-8
*National Charter Schools Week*
Proc. 7777, 69 FR 25285

6
*National Day of Prayer*
First Thursday of May each year
36 U.S.C. 119
Proc. 7780, 69 FR 25291

9
*Mother’s Day*
Second Sunday in May each year
36 U.S.C. 117
Proc. 7783, 69 FR 26471

9-15
*Police Week*
Week in which Peace Officer Memorial Day falls each year
36 U.S.C. 137
Proc. 7784, 69 FR 26473

15
*Peace Officers Memorial Day*
May 15 each year
36 U.S.C. 136
Proc. 7784, 69 FR 26473

16-22
*National Defense Transportation Week*
Week in which National Defense Transportation Day falls each year
36 U.S.C. 133
Proc. 7785, 69 FR 29031

16-22
*Small Business Week*
Proc. 7787, 69 FR 29035

16-22
*National Hurricane Preparedness Week*
Proc. 7786, 69 FR 29033

21
*National Defense Transportation Day*
Third Friday in May each year
36 U.S.C. 120
Proc. 7785, 69 FR 29031

22
*National Maritime Day*
May 22 each year
36 U.S.C. 128
Proc. 7789, 69 FR 29845

24-30
*National Safe Boating Week*
Seven-day period prior to the Memorial Day weekend each year
36 U.S.C. 131
Proc. 7790, 69 FR 29847
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<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>National Moment of Remembrance</td>
<td>Memorial Day each year</td>
<td>36 U.S.C. 116</td>
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<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>Prayer for Peace Memorial Day</td>
<td>Memorial Day each year</td>
<td>36 U.S.C. 116</td>
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<td>June</td>
<td>Black Music Month</td>
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<td>Proc. 7798, 69 FR 35503</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Great Outdoors Month</td>
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<td>Proc. 7795, 69 FR 32427</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>National Child’s Day</td>
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<td>Proc. 7793, 69 FR 32241</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>D-Day National Remembrance Day</td>
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<td>Proc. 7792, 69 FR 32239</td>
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<td>13-19</td>
<td>National Flag Week</td>
<td>Week in which June 14 occurs each year</td>
<td>36 U.S.C. 122</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>Flag Day</td>
<td>June 14 each year</td>
<td>36 U.S.C. 110</td>
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<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Father’s Day</td>
<td>Third Sunday in June each year</td>
<td>36 U.S.C. 109</td>
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<tr>
<td>July</td>
<td>Captive Nations Week</td>
<td>Third Week in July each year</td>
<td>P.L. 86-90</td>
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<td>Parents’ Day</td>
<td>Fourth Sunday of July each year</td>
<td>36 U.S.C. 135</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act</td>
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<td>Proc. 7804, 69 FR 46051</td>
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<td>August</td>
<td>National Airborne Day</td>
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<td>Proc. 7805, 69 FR 51353</td>
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<td>26</td>
<td>Women’s Equality Day</td>
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<td>Proc. 7806, 69 FR 52987</td>
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<td>September</td>
<td>National Hispanic Heritage Month</td>
<td>September 15 through October 15 each year</td>
<td>36 U.S.C. 126</td>
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<td></td>
<td>National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month</td>
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<td>Proc. 7809, 69 FR 55711</td>
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<td>Event</td>
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<tr>
<td>National Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month</td>
<td>Proc. 7810, 69 FR 55713</td>
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<td>National Prostate Cancer Awareness Month</td>
<td>Proc. 7813, 69 FR 56147</td>
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<td>5-11 Minority Enterprise Development Week</td>
<td>Proc. 7807, 69 FR 54737</td>
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<td>10-12 National Days of Prayer and Rememberance</td>
<td>Proc. 7811, 69 FR 55715</td>
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<td>11 <strong>Patriot Day</strong></td>
<td>September 11 each year</td>
<td>36 U.S.C. 144, Proc. 7812, 69 FR 55717</td>
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<td>14 National POW/MIA Recognition Day</td>
<td>Proc. 7814, 69 FR 56151</td>
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<td>17 <strong>Citizenship Day</strong></td>
<td>September 17 each year</td>
<td>36 U.S.C. 106, Proc. 7817, 69 FR 56663</td>
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<td>12-18 National Historically Black Colleges and</td>
<td>Proc. 7814, 69 FR 56149</td>
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<td>Universities Week</td>
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<td>17-23 <strong>Constitution Week</strong></td>
<td>Week of September 17-23 each year</td>
<td>36 U.S.C. 108, Proc. 7817, 69 FR 56663</td>
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<td>19-25 National Farm Safety and Health Week</td>
<td>Proc. 7818, 69 FR 56925</td>
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<td>26 <strong>Gold Star Mother’s Day</strong></td>
<td>Last Sunday in September each year</td>
<td>36 U.S.C. 111, Proc. 7821, 58247</td>
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<tr>
<td>27 Family Day</td>
<td>Proc. 7820, 69 FR 58033</td>
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**October**

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<thead>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>National Breast Cancer Awareness Month</td>
<td>Proc. 7823, 69 FR 59759</td>
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<td>2 National Employer Support of the Guard and</td>
<td>Proc. 7819, 69 FR 57161</td>
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<td>Reserve Week</td>
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<td>4 <strong>Child Health Day</strong></td>
<td>First Monday in October each year</td>
<td>36 U.S.C. 105, Proc. 7825, 69 FR 60277</td>
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<td>6 German-American Day</td>
<td>Proc. 7827, 69 FR 60789</td>
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<tr>
<td>9 <strong>Leif Erikson Day</strong></td>
<td>October 9 each year</td>
<td>36 U.S.C. 114, Proc. 7828, 69 FR 60793</td>
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<td>11 General Pulaski Memorial Day</td>
<td>Proc. 7830, 69 FR 61137</td>
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<tr>
<td>15 National Mammography Day</td>
<td>Proc. 7832, 69 FR 61727</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>October 15 each year</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>17-23</td>
<td>National Character Counts Week</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Week beginning on the third Sunday in</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>October each year</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**November**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Proceding No.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>National Adoption Month</td>
<td></td>
<td>Proc. 7838, 69 FR 6504</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>National Alzheimer’s Disease Awareness</td>
<td></td>
<td>Proc. 7839, 69 FR 65043</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Month</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>National American Indian Heritage Month</td>
<td></td>
<td>Proc. 7840, 69 FR 65045</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>National Family Caregivers Month</td>
<td></td>
<td>Proc. 7842, 69 FR 65049</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>National Diabetes Month</td>
<td></td>
<td>Proc. 7841, 69 FR 65047</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>National Hospice Month</td>
<td></td>
<td>Proc. 7843, 69 FR 65051</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>World Freedom Day</td>
<td></td>
<td>Proc. 7845, 69 FR 65515</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Veterans Day</td>
<td></td>
<td>Proc. 7844, 69 FR 64411</td>
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<td>23-29</td>
<td>National Family Week</td>
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<td>Proc. 7739, 68 FR 66319</td>
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**December**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day</td>
<td>36 U.S.C. 129</td>
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<td></td>
<td>December 7 each year</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Wright Brothers Day</td>
<td>36 U.S.C. 143</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>December 17 each year</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
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