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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 (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

	<i>National Mentoring Month</i>	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> 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	<i>Save Your Vision Week</i> First week of March each year	36 U.S.C. 138 Proc. 7652, 68 FR 10649
16-22	<i>National Poison Prevention Week</i> 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

	<i>Cancer Control Month</i> 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

	<i>Asian/Pacific-American Heritage Month</i> May each year	36 U.S.C. 102 Proc. 7668, 68 FR 23821
	Older Americans Month	Proc. 7669, 68 FR 23823
1	<i>Law Day</i> May 1 each year	36 U.S.C. 113 Proc. 7670, 68 FR 23825
1	<i>Loyalty Day</i> May 1 each year	36 U.S.C. 115 Proc. 7671, 68 FR 23827
1	<i>National Day of Prayer</i> 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	<i>Mother's Day</i> Second Sunday in May each year	36 U.S.C. 117 Proc. 7674, 68 FR 25277
11-17	<i>Police Week</i> Week in which Peace Officer Memorial Day falls each year	36 U.S.C. 137 Proc. 7675, 68 FR 26195
11-17	<i>National Transportation Week</i> Week in which National Defense Transportation Day falls each year	36 U.S.C. 133 Proc. 7676, 68 FR 26197
15	<i>Peace Officer Memorial Day</i> May 15 each year	36 U.S.C. 136 Proc. 7675, 68 FR 26195
16	<i>National Defense Transportation Day</i> Third Friday in May each year	36 U.S.C. 133 Proc. 7676, 68 FR 26197
17-23	<i>National Safe Boating Week</i> 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	<i>National Maritime Day</i> 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	<i>Prayer for Peace Memorial Day</i> 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	<i>National Flag Week</i> Week in which June 14 occurs each year	36 U.S.C. 122 Proc. 7684, 68 FR 34775
14	<i>Flag Day</i> June 14 each year	36 U.S.C. 110 Proc. 7684, 68 FR 34775
15	<i>Father's Day</i> Third Sunday in June each year	36 U.S.C. 109 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 U.S.C. 127 Proc. 7692, 68 FR 44449
27	<i>Parents' Day</i> Fourth Sunday of July each year	36 U.S.C. 135 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 U.S.C. 126 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 U.S.C. 144 Proc. 7702, 68 FR 53013
14-20	National Historically Black Colleges and Universities Week	Proc. 7703, 68 FR 54321

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14-20	Small Business Week	Proc. 7704, 68 FR 54323
17	<i>Citizenship Day</i> September 17 each year	36 U.S.C. 106 Proc. 7705, 68 FR 54977
17-23	<i>Constitution Week</i> Week beginning September 17 and ending September 23 each year	36 U.S.C. 108 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 U.S.C. 111 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 U.S.C. 121 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 U.S.C. 105 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 U.S.C. 114 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 U.S.C. 132 Proc. 7719, 68 FR 59513
15	<i>White Cane Safety Day</i> October 15 each year	36 U.S.C. 142 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 U.S.C. 123 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

	National Drunk and Drugged Driving Prevention Month	Proc. 7743, 68 FR 69293
1	World AIDS Day	Proc. 7740, 68 FR 67787
7	<i>National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day</i> 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	<i>Wright Brothers Day</i> December 17 each year	36 U.S.C. 143 Proc. 7745, 68 FR 74463

January

	National Mentoring Month	Proc. 7749, 69 FR 2283
16	Religious Freedom Day	Proc. 7753, 69 FR 2993
18	National Sanctity of Human Life Day	Proc. 7752, 69 FR 2821

February

	<i>American Heart Month</i> February each year	36 U.S.C. 101 Proc. 7754, 69 FR 5457
	National African American History Month	Proc. 7756, 69 FR 5903
1-7	National Consumer Protection Week	Proc. 7755 69 FR 5677

March

	American Red Cross Month	Proc. 7759, 69 FR 10593
	Irish-American Heritage Month	Proc. 7760, 69 FR 11483
	Women's History Month	Proc. 7761, 69 FR 11485
1-6	<i>Save Your Vision Week</i> First week of March each year	36 U.S.C. 138 Proc. 7762, 69 FR 11487
14-20	<i>National Poison Prevention Week</i> Third week of March each year	36 U.S.C. 130 Proc. 7763, 69 FR 13707
25	Greek Independence Day	Proc. 7764, 69 FR 16543

April

	<i>Cancer Control Month</i> April each year	36 U.S.C. 103 Proc. 7765, 69 FR 18465
	National Child Abuse Prevention Month	Proc. 7766, 69 FR 18467
	National Donate Life Month	Proc. 7769, 69 FR 19309
2	Education and Sharing Day, U.S.A.	Proc. 7767, 69 FR 18469
8	National D.A.R.E. Day (Drug Abuse Resistance Education)	Proc. 7768, 69 FR 19077
9	National Former Prisoner of War Recognition Day	Proc. 7770, 69 FR 19751
11-17	Pan American Day	Proc. 7771, 69 FR 20537
14	Pan American Week	Proc. 7771, 69 FR 20537

18-24	National Crime Victims' Rights Week	Proc. 7774, 69 FR 21687
18-24	National Volunteer Week	Proc. 7773, 69 FR 21685
18-25	National Park Week	Proc. 7772, 69 FR 21683
25-5/1	Jewish Heritage Week	Proc. 7775, 69 FR 23085

May

	<i>Asian/Pacific-American Heritage Month</i>	36 U.S.C. 102
	May each year	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	<i>Law Day</i>	36 U.S.C. 113
	May 1 each year	Proc. 7778, 69 FR 25287
1	<i>Loyalty Day</i>	36 U.S.C. 115
	May 1 each year	Proc. 7779, 69 FR 25289
2-8	National Charter Schools Week	Proc. 7777, 69 FR 25285
6	<i>National Day of Prayer</i>	36 U.S.C. 119
	First Thursday of May each year	Proc. 7780, 69 FR 25291
9	<i>Mother's Day</i>	36 U.S.C. 117
	Second Sunday in May each year	Proc. 7783, 69 FR 26471
9-15	<i>Police Week</i>	36 U.S.C. 137
	Week in which Peace Officer Memorial Day falls each year	Proc. 7784, 69 FR 26473
15	<i>Peace Officers Memorial Day</i>	36 U.S.C. 136
	May 15 each year	Proc. 7784, 69 FR 26473
16-22	<i>National Defense Transportation Week</i>	36 U.S.C. 133
	Week in which National Defense Transportation Day falls each year	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	<i>National Defense Transportation Day</i>	36 U.S.C. 120
	Third Friday in May each year	Proc. 7785, 69 FR 29031
22	<i>National Maritime Day</i>	36 U.S.C. 128
	May 22 each year	Proc. 7789, 69 FR 29845
24-30	<i>National Safe Boating Week</i>	36 U.S.C. 131
	Seven-day period prior to the Memorial Day weekend each year	Proc. 7790, 69 FR 29847

31	<i>National Moment of Remembrance</i> Memorial Day each year	36 U.S.C. 116 9981, 69 FR 30813
31	<i>Prayer for Peace Memorial Day</i> Memorial Day each year	36 U.S.C. 116 Proc. 7791, 69 FR 30813

June

	Black Music Month	Proc. 7798, 69 FR 35503
	Great Outdoors Month	Proc. 7795, 69 FR 32427
6	National Child's Day	Proc. 7793, 69 FR 32241
6	D-Day National Remembrance Day	Proc. 7792, 69 FR 32239
13-19	<i>National Flag Week</i> Week in which June 14 occurs each year	36 U.S.C. 122 Proc. 7796, 69 FR 33831
14	<i>Flag Day</i> June 14 each year	36 U.S.C. 110 Proc. 7796, 69 FR 33831
20	<i>Father's Day</i> Third Sunday in June each year	36 U.S.C. 109 Proc. 7797, 69 FR 35227
27	National HIV Testing Day	Proc. 7799, 69 FR 39311

July

18-24	<i>Captive Nations Week</i> Third Week in July each year	P.L. 86-90 Proc. 7802, 69 FR 43727
25	<i>Parents' Day</i> Fourth Sunday of July each year	36 U.S.C. 135 Proc. 7803, 69 FR 46049
26	Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act	Proc. 7804, 69 FR 46051

August

16	National Airborne Day	Proc. 7805, 69 FR 51353
26	Women's Equality Day	Proc. 7806, 69 FR 52987

September

	<i>National Hispanic Heritage Month</i> September 15 through October 15 each year	36 U.S.C. 126 Proc. 7816, 69 FR 56661
	National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month	Proc. 7809, 69 FR 55711

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	National Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month	Proc. 7810, 69 FR 55713
	National Prostate Cancer Awareness Month	Proc. 7813, 69 FR 56147
5-11	Minority Enterprise Development Week	Proc. 7807, 69 FR 54737
10-12	National Days of Prayer and Remembrance	Proc. 7811, 69 FR 55715
11	<i>Patriot Day</i> September 11 each year	36 U.S.C. 144 Proc. 7812, 69 FR 55717
14	National POW/MIA Recognition Day	Proc. 7814, 69 FR 56151
17	<i>Citizenship Day</i> September 17 each year	36 U.S.C. 106 Proc. 7817, 69 FR 56663
12-18	National Historically Black Colleges and Universities Week	Proc. 7814, 69 FR 56149
17-23	<i>Constitution Week</i> Week of September 17-23 each year	36 U.S.C. 108 Proc. 7817, 69 FR 56663
19-25	National Farm Safety and Health Week	Proc. 7818, 69 FR 56925
26	<i>Gold Star Mother's Day</i> Last Sunday in September each year	36 U.S.C. 111 Proc. 7821, 58247
27	Family Day	Proc. 7820, 69 FR 58033

October

	<i>National Disability Employment Awareness Month</i> October each year	36 U.S.C. 121 Proc. 7835, 69 FR 62387
	National Breast Cancer Awareness Month	Proc. 7823, 69 FR 59759
2	National Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Week	Proc. 7819, 69 FR 57161
4	<i>Child Health Day</i> First Monday in October each year	36 U.S.C. 105 Proc. 7825, 69 FR 60277
6	German-American Day	Proc. 7827, 69 FR 60789
9	<i>Leif Erikson Day</i> October 9 each year	36 U.S.C. 114 Proc. 7828, 69 FR 60793
11	General Pulaski Memorial Day	Proc. 7830, 69 FR 61137
10-16	<i>National School Lunch Week</i> Week beginning on the second Sunday in October	36 U.S.C. 132 Proc. 7831, 69 FR 61141
15	National Mammography Day	Proc. 7832, 69 FR 61727

15	<i>White Cane Safety Day</i> October 15 each year	36 U.S.C. 142 Proc. 7833, 69 FR 61729
17-23	National Character Counts Week	Proc. 7834, 69 FR 61989
17-23	<i>National Forest Products Week</i> Week beginning on the third Sunday in October each year	36 U.S.C. 123 Proc. 7836, 69 FR 62389
24	United Nations Day	Proc. 7837, 69 FR 62799

November

	National Adoption Month	Proc. 7838, 69 FR 6504
	National Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Month	Proc. 7839, 69 FR 65043
	National American Indian Heritage Month	Proc. 7840, 69 FR 65045
	National Family Caregivers Month	Proc. 7842, 69 FR 65049
	National Diabetes Month	Proc. 7841, 69 FR 65047
	National Hospice Month	Proc. 7843, 69 FR 65051
9	World Freedom Day	Proc. 7845, 69 FR 65515
11	Veterans Day	Proc. 7844, 69 FR 64411
23-29	National Family Week	Proc. 7739, 68 FR 66319

December

7	<i>National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day</i> December 7 each year	36 U.S.C. 129
17	<i>Wright Brothers Day</i> December 17 each year	36 U.S.C. 143