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.
## Contents

2003  ............................................................ 1  
Decade  ............................................................ 1  
January  ...................................................... 1  
February  ..................................................... 2  
March  ....................................................... 2  
April  .............................................................. 2  
May  .............................................................. 2  
June  .............................................................. 4  
July  .............................................................. 4  
August  .......................................................... 4  
September  .................................................... 4  
October  ......................................................... 5  
November  .................................................... 6  
December  ..................................................... 6  

2004  ............................................................ 7  
January  ...................................................... 7  
February  ..................................................... 7  
March  ......................................................... 7  
April  .............................................................. 7  
May  .............................................................. 8  
June  .............................................................. 9  
July  .............................................................. 9  
August  .......................................................... 9  
September  ................................................... 9  
October  ......................................................... 10  
November  ................................................... 10  
December  ................................................... 10
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* (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

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  
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  
Proc. 7652, 68 FR 10649

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

25 Greek Independence Day  Proc. 7654, 68 FR 13805

April

Cancer Control Month  
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


13-19 Pan American Week  Proc. 7663, 68 FR 18831

14 Pan American Day  Proc. 7663, 68 FR 18831
May

Asian/Pacific-American Heritage Month
May each year
36 USC 102
Proc. 7668, 68 FR 23821

Older Americans Month
Proc. 7669, 68 FR 23823

1 Law Day
May 1 each year
36 USC 113
Proc. 7670, 68 FR 23825

1 Loyalty Day
May 1 each year
36 USC 115
Proc. 7671, 68 FR 23827

1 National Day of Prayer
First Thursday of May each year
36 USC 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 USC 117
Proc. 7674, 68 FR 25277

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

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

15 Peace Officer Memorial Day
May 15 each year
36 USC 136
Proc. 7675, 68 FR 26195

16 National Defense Transportation Day
Third Friday in May each year
36 USC 133
Proc. 7676, 68 FR 26197

17-23 National Safe Boating Week
Seven-day period prior to the Memorial Day weekend each year
36 USC 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 USC 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 USC 116
Proc. 7681, 68 FR 31935

26 Prayer for Peace Memorial Day
Memorial Day each year
36 USC 116
Proc. 7681, 68 FR 31935
June

Black Music Month
1 National Child’s Day
   National Homeownership Month
8-14 National Flag Week
   Week in which June 14 occurs each year
14 Flag Day
   June 14 each year
15 Father’s Day
   Third Sunday in June each year

July

1 30th Anniversary of the All-Volunteer Force
20-26 Captive Nations Week
   Third week in July each year
27 National Korean War Veterans Armistice Day
   July 27 each year until 2003
27 Parents’ Day
   Fourth Sunday of July each year

August

26 Women’s Equality Day

September

National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month
National Hispanic Heritage Month
   September 15 through October 15 each year
National Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month
National Prostate Cancer Awareness Month
11 Patriot Day
   September 11 each year
14-20 National Historically Black Colleges and Universities Week
14-20 Small Business Week
    Proc. 7704, 68 FR 54323

17 Citizenship Day
    September 17 each year
    36 USC 106
    Proc. 7705, 68 FR 54977

17-23 Constitution Week
    Week beginning September 17 and ending September 23 each year
    36 USC 108
    Proc. 7705, 68 FR 54977

17-23 Constitution Week
    Week beginning September 17 and ending September 23 each year
    36 USC 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 Gold Star Mother’s Day
    Last Sunday in September each year
    36 USC 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

    National Disability Employment Awareness Month
    October each year
    36 USC 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 Child Health Day
    First Monday in October each year
    36 USC 105
    Proc. 7716, 68 FR 58573

6 German-American Day
    Proc. 7715, 68 FR 58259

9 Leif Erikson Day
    October 9 each year
    36 USC 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 National School Lunch Week
    Week beginning on the second Sunday in October each year
    36 USC 132
    Proc. 7719, 68 FR 59513

15 White Cane Safety Day
    October 15 each year
    36 USC 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  *National Forest Products Week*  
Week beginning on the third Sunday of October each year  
36 USC 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 *National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day*  
December 7 each year  
36 USC 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 USC 143  
Proc. 7745, 68 FR 74463
2004

January

National Mentoring Month
16 Religious Freedom Day
18 National Sanctity of Human Life Day

February

American Heart Month
February each year
National African American History Month
1-7 National Consumer Protection Week

March

American Red Cross Month
Irish-American Heritage Month
Women’s History Month
1-6 Save Your Vision Week
First week of March each year
14-20 National Poison Prevention Week
Third week of March each year
25 Greek Independence Day

April

Cancer Control Month
April each year
National Child Abuse Prevention Month
National Donate Life Month
2 Education and Sharing Day, U.S.A.
8 National D.A.R.E. Day
(Drug Abuse Resistance Education)
9 National Former Prisoner of War Recognition Day
11-17 Pan American Day
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Proc.</th>
<th>FR</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Pan American Week</td>
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<td>18-24</td>
<td>National Crime Victims’ Rights Week</td>
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<td>National Volunteer Week</td>
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<td>18-25</td>
<td>National Park Week</td>
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<td>25-5/1</td>
<td>Jewish Heritage Week</td>
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<td>Law Day</td>
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<td>Loyalty Day</td>
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<td>9</td>
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<tr>
<td>9-15</td>
<td>Police Week</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Peace Officers Memorial Day</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>16-22</td>
<td>National Transportation Week</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>16-22</td>
<td>Small Business Week</td>
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<td>16-22</td>
<td>National Hurricane Preparedness Week</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>National Defense Transportation Day</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>National Maritime Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>24-30</td>
<td>National Safe Boating Week</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

May

- **Asian/Pacific-American Heritage Month**
  - May each year
  - 36 USC 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

- **Law Day**
  - May 1 each year
  - 36 USC 113
  - Proc. 7778, 69 FR 25287

- **Loyalty Day**
  - May 1 each year
  - 36 USC 115
  - Proc. 7779, 69 FR 25289

- **National Day of Prayer**
  - First Thursday of May each year
  - 36 USC 119
  - Proc. 7780, 69 FR 25291

- **Mother’s Day**
  - Second Sunday in May each year
  - 36 USC 117
  - Proc. 7783, 69 FR 26471

- **Police Week**
  - Week in which Peace Officer Memorial Day falls each year
  - 36 USC 137
  - Proc. 7784, 69 FR 26473

- **Peace Officers Memorial Day**
  - May 15 each year
  - 36 USC 136
  - Proc. 7784, 69 FR 26473

- **National Transportation Week**
  - Week in which National Defense Transportation Day falls each year
  - 36 USC 133
  - Proc. 7785, 69 FR 29031

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

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

- **National Defense Transportation Day**
  - Third Friday in May each year
  - 36 USC 120
  - Proc. 7785, 69 FR 29031

- **National Maritime Day**
  - May 22 each year
  - 36 USC 128
  - Proc. 7789, 69 FR 29845

- **National Safe Boating Week**
  - Seven-day period prior to the Memorial Day weekend each year
  - 36 USC 131
  - Proc. 7790, 69 FR 29847
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Citation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td><strong>National Moment of Remembrance</strong></td>
<td>36 USC 116</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Memorial Day each year</td>
<td>9981, 69 FR 30813</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td><strong>Prayer for Peace Memorial Day</strong></td>
<td>36 USC 116</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Memorial Day each year</td>
<td>Proc. 7791, 69 FR 30813</td>
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<td><strong>June</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Great Outdoors Month</td>
<td>Proc. 7795, 69 FR 32427</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td><strong>National Child’s Day</strong></td>
<td>Proc. 7793, 69 FR 32241</td>
</tr>
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<td>6</td>
<td><strong>D-Day National Remembrance Day</strong></td>
<td>Proc. 7792, 69 FR 32239</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td><strong>Flag Day</strong></td>
<td>36 USC 110</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>June 14 each year</td>
<td>Proc. 7796, 69 FR 33831</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13-19</td>
<td><strong>National Flag Week</strong></td>
<td>36 USC 122</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Week in which June 14 occurs each year</td>
<td>Proc. 7796, 69 FR 33831</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td><strong>Father’s Day</strong></td>
<td>36 USC 109</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Third Sunday in June each year</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>July</strong></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>17-23</td>
<td><strong>Captive Nations Week</strong></td>
<td>P.L. 86-90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Third Week in July each year</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td><strong>Parents’ Day</strong></td>
<td>36 USC 135</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Fourth Sunday of July each year</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>August</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>September</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>National Hispanic Heritage Month</strong></td>
<td>36 USC 126</td>
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<tr>
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<td>September 15 through October 15 each year</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td><strong>Patriot Day</strong></td>
<td>36 USC 144</td>
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<td>September 11 each year</td>
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<td>17</td>
<td><strong>Citizenship Day</strong></td>
<td>36 USC 106</td>
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<td>September 17 each year</td>
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<td>17-23</td>
<td><strong>Constitution Week</strong></td>
<td>36 USC 108</td>
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<td>Week of September 17-23 each year</td>
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<td>26</td>
<td><strong>Gold Star Mother’s Day</strong></td>
<td>36 USC 111</td>
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<td>Last Sunday in September each year</td>
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October

National Disability Employment Awareness Month October each year 36 USC 121

4 Child Health Day 36 USC 105
First Monday in October each year

9 Leif Erikson Day 36 USC 114
October 9 each year

10-16 National School Lunch Week 36 USC 132
Week beginning on the second Sunday in October

15 White Cane Safety Day 36 USC 142
October 15 each year

17-23 National Forest Products Week 36 USC 123
Week beginning on the third Sunday in October each year

November

December

7 National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day 36 USC 129
December 7 each year

17 Wright Brothers Day 36 USC 143
December 17 each year