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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 2002 and 2003, 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 2002 and 2003, 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 2002 list as an indication of the observances that might well be designated again in 2003.

2002

Decade

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

January

	National Mentoring Month	Proc. 7519, 67 FR 3577
16	Religious Freedom Day	Proc. 7517, 67 FR 2787
20	National Sanctity of Human Life Day	Proc. 7520, 67 FR 3579

February

	<i>American Heart Month</i> February each year	36 USC 169b Proc. 7521, 67 FR 5431
	National African American History Month	Proc. 7522, 67 FR 5433
3-9	National Consumer Protection Week	Proc. 7523, 67 FR 5919

March

	American Red Cross Month	Proc. 7525, 67 FR 10311
	Irish-American Heritage Month	Proc. 7526, 67 FR 10313
	Women's History Month	Proc. 7530, 67 FR 10825
	National Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month	Proc. 7527, 67 FR 10315
3-9	<i>Save Your Vision Week</i>	36 USC 169a Proc. 7528, 67 FR 10317
16	West Point Bicentennial Day	Proc. 7531, 67 FR 11381
17-23	<i>National Poison Prevention Week</i> Third week of March each year	36 USC 165 Proc. 7532, 67 FR 12441
24	Education and Sharing Day	Proc. 7534, 67 FR 13703
25	Greek Independence Day	Proc. 7537, 67 FR 15093

April

	<i>Cancer Control Month</i> April each year	36 USC 150 Proc. 7536, 67 FR 17599
	National Child Abuse Prevention Month	Proc. 7537, 67 FR 17601
9	National Former Prisoner of War	Proc. 7358, 67 FR 17905
11	National D.A.R.E. Day (Drug Abuse Resistance Education)	Proc. 7539, 67 FR 18083
14	Pan American Day	Proc. 7540, 67 FR 19097
14-21	Jewish Heritage Week	Proc. 7541, 67 FR 19099
14-20	Pan-American Week	Proc. 7540, 67 FR 19097
21-27	National Crime Victims' Rights Week	Proc. 7543, 67 FR 19635
21-27	National Organ and Tissue Donor Awareness Week	Proc. 7544, 67 FR 20005
21-27	National Volunteer Week	Proc. 7545, 67 FR 20007

22-28	National Park Week	Proc. 7546, 67 FR 20605
28-5/4	National Charter Schools Week	Proc. 7552, 67 FR 30533

May

	<i>Asian/Pacific-American Heritage Month</i> May each year	36 USC 169k Proc. 7550, 67 FR 30311
	Older Americans Month	Proc. 7551, 67 FR 30313
1	<i>Law Day</i> May 1 each year	36 USC 164 Proc. 7548, 67 FR 30307
1	<i>Loyalty Day</i> May 1 each year	36 USC 152 Proc. 7549, 67 FR 30309
2	<i>National Day of Prayer</i> First Thursday of May each year	36 USC 169h Proc. 7547, 67 FR 21559
5-12	National Tourism Week	Proc. 7556, 67 FR 31107
5-12	Small Business Week	Proc. 7555, 67 FR 31105
12	<i>Mother's Day</i> Second Sunday in May each year	36 USC 142 Proc. 7557, 67 FR 34583
12-18	<i>National Transportation Week</i> Week in which National Defense Transportation Day falls each year	36 USC 166 Proc. 7559, 67 FR 34587
12-18	<i>Police Week</i> Week in which Peace Officer Memorial Day falls each year	36 USC 167 Proc. 7558, 67 FR 34585
15	<i>Peace Officer Memorial Day</i> May 15 each year	36 USC 167 Proc. 7558, 67 FR 34585
17	<i>National Defense Transportation Day</i> Third Friday in May each year	36 USC 160 Proc. 7559, 67 FR 34587
18	<i>Armed Forces Day</i> Third Saturday in May each year	Proc. 7562, 67 FR 35707
18-24	<i>National Safe Boating Week</i> Seven-day period prior to the Memorial Day weekend each year	36 USC 161 Proc. 7563, 67 FR 35891
19-25	National Hurricane Awareness Week	Proc. 7560, 67 FR 34815
19-25	World Trade Week	Proc. 7564, 67 FR 35893
22	<i>National Maritime Day</i> May 22 each year	36 USC 145 Proc. 7565, 67 FR 36495
25	National Missing Children's Day	Proc. 7566, 67 FR 36497

27 *Prayer for Peace Memorial Day* 36 USC 169g
 Memorial Day each year Proc. 7567, 67 FR 36499

June

Black Music Month Proc. 7568, 67 FR 38583
 National Homeownership Month Proc. 7570, 67 FR 39241
 2-8 National Fishing and Boating Week 67 FR 38585
 9 National Child's Day Proc. 7571, 67 FR 39595
 9-15 Great Outdoors Week Proc. 7572, 67 FR 40137
 14 *Flag Day* 36 USC 157
 June 14 each year Proc. 7573, 67 FR 40139
 9-15 *National Flag Week* 36 USC 157a
 Week in which June 14 occurs each year Proc. 7573, 67 FR 40139
 16 *Father's Day* 36 USC 142a
 Third Sunday in June each year Proc. 7574, 67 FR 42177

July

14-20 *Captive Nations Week* P.L. 86-90
 Third Week in July each year Proc. 7577, 67 FR 47677
 26 Anniversary of the Americans with
 Disabilities Act Proc. 7579, 67 FR 49555
 27 *National Korean War Veterans Armistice Day* 36 USC 169m
 July 27 each year until 2003 Proc. 7578, 67 FR 49551
 28 *Parents' Day* 36 USC 169m
 Fourth Sunday of July each year Proc. 7580, 67 FR 49577

August

16 National Airborne Day Proc. 7582, 67 FR 53723
 18-24 National Health Center Week Proc. 7583, 67 FR 53873
 26 Women's Equality Day Proc. 7584, 67 FR 55317

September

National Alcohol and Drug Addiction
 Recovery Month Proc. 7589, 67 FR 57123

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	<i>National Hispanic Heritage Month</i>	36 USC 159f
	September 15 through October 15 each year	Proc. 7591, 67 FR 58955
	National Ovarian Cancer Month	Proc. 7587, 67 FR 56745
6-8	National Days of Prayer and Remembrance	Proc. 7588, 67 FR 56893
11	<i>Patriot Day</i>	36 USC 144
	September 11 each year	Proc. 7590, 67 FR 57125
15-21	National Farm Safety and Health Week	Proc. 7592, 67 FR 58957
15-21	National Historically Black Colleges and Universities Week	Proc. 7593, 67 FR 58959
17	<i>Citizenship Day</i>	36 USC 153
	September 17 each year	
17-23	<i>Constitution Week</i>	36 USC 159
	Week of September 17-23 each year	
20	National POW/MIA Recognition Day	Proc. 7595, 67 FR 60099
29	<i>Gold Star Mother's Day</i>	36 USC 148
	Last Sunday in September each year	Proc. 7598, 67 FR 62159

October

	National Breast Cancer Awareness Month	Proc. 7599, 67 FR 62165
	<i>National Disability Employment Awareness Month</i>	36 USC 155
	October each year	Proc. 7600, 67 FR 62167
	National Domestic Violence Awareness Month	Proc. 7601, 67 FR 62169
6	German-American Day	Proc. 7604, 67 FR 62867
6-12	Fire Prevention Week	Proc. 7602, 67 FR 63863
7	<i>Child Health Day</i>	36 USC 143
	First Monday in October each year	67 FR 62865
9	<i>Leif Erikson Day</i>	36 USC 169c
	October 9 each year	Proc. 7605, 67 FR 63527
11	General Pulaski Memorial Day	Proc. 7607, 67 FR 64025
13-19	National Cystic Fibrosis Awareness Week	Proc. 7608, 67 FR 64027
13-19	<i>National School Lunch Week</i>	36 USC 168
	Week beginning on the second Sunday in October	Proc. 7609, 67 FR 64029
15	<i>White Cane Safety Day</i>	36 USC 155
	October 15 each year	Proc. 7610, 67 FR 64031

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18	Year of Clean Water Year beginning October 18, 2002, in commemoration of the anniversary of the Clean Water Act	Proc. 7611, 67 FR 64787
20-26	National Character Counts Week	Proc. 7612, 67 FR 65281
20-26	<i>National Forest Products Week</i> Week beginning on the third Sunday in October each year	36 USC 163 Proc. 7613, 67 FR 65283
24	United Nations Day	Proc. 7614, 67 FR 65869

November

	National Adoption Month	Proc. 7629, 67 FR 67771
	National American Indian Heritage Month	Proc. 7620, 67 FR 67773
	National Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Month	Proc. 7617, 67 FR 67293
	National Diabetes Month	Proc. 7618, 67 FR 67295
	National Family Caregivers Month	Proc. 7615, 67 FR 67087
	National Hospice Month	Proc. 7621, 67 FR 67775
1	World AIDS Day	Proc. 7631, 67 FR 72089
6	West Wing Centennial Day	Proc. 7622, 67 FR 69017
9	World Freedom Day	Proc. 7625, 67 FR 69117
10-16	National Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Week	Proc. 7624, 67 FR 68921
15	America Recycles Day	Proc. 7627, 67 FR 69657
22-28	National Farm-City Week	Proc. 7629, 67 FR 70833
24-30	National Family Week	Proc. 7360, 67 FR 71067

December

	National Drunk and Drugged Driving Prevention Month	Proc. 7632, 67 FR 72551
1	World AIDS Day	Proc. 7361, 67 FR 72089
7	<i>National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day</i> December 7 each year	36 USC 169 Proc. 7633, 67 FR 76103
10	Human Rights Day	Proc. 7634, 67 FR 76669
10-16	Human Rights Week	Proc. 7634, 67 FR 76669

15	Bill of Rights Day	Proc. 7634, 67 FR 76669
17	<i>Wright Brothers Day</i> December 17 each year	36 USC 169 Proc. 7635, 67 FR 77905

2003

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

April

	<i>Cancer Control Month</i> April each year	36 USC 150 Proc. 7655, 68 FR 14887
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	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

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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**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 144
17	<i>Citizenship Day</i> September 17 each year	36 USC 153
17-23	<i>Constitution Week</i> Week beginning September 17 and ending September 23 each year	36 USC 159
28	<i>Gold Star Mother's Day</i> Last Sunday in September each year	36 USC 148

October

	<i>National Disability Employment Awareness Month</i> October each year	36 USC 155
6	<i>Child Health Day</i> First Monday in October each year	36 USC 143
9	<i>Leif Erikson Day</i> October 9 each year	36 USC 169c
12-18	<i>National School Lunch Week</i> Week beginning on the second Sunday in October each year	36 USC 168
15	<i>White Cane Safety Day</i> October 15 each year	36 USC 155
19-25	<i>National Forest Products Week</i> Week beginning on the third Sunday of October each year	36 USC 163

November**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