

Cultural Recognition Descriptions

JULY

United States Independence Day also referred to as the Fourth of July, is a federal holiday commemorating the adoption of the Declaration of Independence 241 years ago in 1776 by the Continental Congress. It declared that the thirteen American colonies regarded themselves as a new nation, the United States of America, and were no longer part of the British Empire.

World Population Day, an observance established in 1989 by the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Program. The annual event is designed to raise awareness of global population issues.

Nelson Mandela International Day, launched in recognition of Nelson Mandela's birthday on July 18, 2009 via unanimous decision of the UN General Assembly. It was inspired by a call Nelson Mandela made a year earlier, for the next generation to take on the burden of leadership in addressing the world's social injustices when he said "It is in your hands now". It is more than a celebration of "Madiba's" life and legacy. It is a global movement to honor his life's work and act to change the world for the better.

Disability Independence Day, which marks the anniversary of the 1990 signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

AUGUST

International Day of Friendship was proclaimed in 2011 by the UN General Assembly with the idea that friendship between peoples, countries, cultures and individuals can inspire peace efforts and build bridges between communities.

Purple Heart Day is an observance that commemorates the creation of the Purple Heart Medal in 1782. The purple heart medal is awarded to those who were wounded or killed while serving the US military. Thank soldiers for their service today.

Marcus Garvey Day, which celebrates the birthday of the Jamaican politician and activist who is revered by Rastafarians. Garvey is credited with starting the Back to Africa movement, which encouraged those of African descent to return to the land of their ancestors during and after slavery in North America.

International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and the anniversary of the uprising in Santo Domingo (today Haiti and the Dominican Republic) that initiated the abolition of slavery in that nation.

Women's Equality Day, which commemorates the August 26, 1920 certification of the 19th Amendment to the United States Constitution that gave women the right to vote. Congresswoman Bella Abzug first introduced a proclamation for Women's Equality Day in 1971.

Since that time, every president has published a proclamation recognizing August 26 as Women's Equality Day.

SEPTEMBER

Hispanic Heritage Month

Labor Day in the United States. Labor Day honors the contribution that laborers have made to the country and is observed on the first Monday of September.

Hispanic Heritage Month. This month corresponds with Mexican Independence Day, which is celebrated on September 16, and recognizes the revolution in 1810 that ended Spanish dictatorship.

OCTOBER

National Disability Employment Awareness Month

National Coming Out Day. For those who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender, this day celebrates coming out and the recognition of the 1987 march on Washington for gay and lesbian equality.

National Pharmacy Technician Day

Dia de los Muertos or Day of the Dead is a Mexican holiday celebrated throughout Mexico, in particular the Central and South regions, and by people of Mexican ancestry living in other places, especially the United States. The multi-day holiday focuses on gatherings of family and friends to pray for and remember friends and family members who have died, and help support their spiritual journey.

NOVEMBER

Native American Heritage Month

Veterans Day, an annual U.S. federal holiday honoring military veterans. The date is also celebrated as Armistice Day or Remembrance Day in other parts of the world and commemorates the ending of the first World War in 1918.

Transgender Day of Remembrance, established in 1998 to memorialize those who have been killed as a result of transphobia, and to raise awareness of the continued violence endured by the transgender community.

DECEMBER

Universal Human Rights Month

World AIDS Day, which was created to commemorate those who have died of AIDS, and to acknowledge the need for a continued commitment to all those affected by the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

International Day of Disabled Persons, which is designed to raise awareness in regard to persons with disabilities in order to improve their lives and provide them with equal opportunity.

International Human Rights Day, established by the United Nations in 1948 to commemorate the anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

JANUARY 2019

Human Trafficking Prevention Month

Martin Luther King Day commemorates the birth of Martin Luther King, Jr., recipient of the 1964 Nobel Peace Prize and activist for non-violent social change until his assassination in 1968.

The anniversary of the liberation of the Auschwitz death camp in 1945 and UN Holocaust Memorial Day, the Annual International Day of Commemoration to remember the victims of the Holocaust.

FEBRUARY

Black History Month

National Freedom Day, which celebrates the signing of the 13th Amendment, which abolished slavery in 1865.

President's Day is a federally recognized celebration of George Washington's birthday, as well as every president proceeding after Washington.

Chinese Lantern Festival is celebrated on the fifteenth day of the first month in the lunisolar Chinese calendar. It marks the final day of the traditional Chinese New Year celebrations.

MARCH

Women's History Month

Shrove Tuesday, also called Mardi Gras, or Fat Tuesday refers to events of the Carnival Celebrations, beginning on or after the Christian feasts of the Epiphany.

International Women's Day. First observed in 1911 in Germany, has now become a major global celebration honoring women's economic, political, and social achievements.

Deaf History Month celebrates key events in deaf history, including the founding of Gallaudet University and the American School for the Deaf.

St. Patrick's Day celebrates Ireland's patron saint, who brought Christianity to Ireland.

APRIL

Celebrate Diversity Month

World Autism Awareness Day was created to raise awareness of the developmental disorder.

Earth Day promotes peace and sustainability of planet Earth; worldwide events are held to show support of environmental protection of the earth.

Day of Silence (LGBT Protest) is the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network's (GLSEN) annual day of action to spread awareness about the effects of the bullying and harassment of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) students. Students take a day-long vow of silence to represent the silencing of LGBT students.

MAY

Asian-American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month

Cinco de Mayo which commemorates the Mexican army's 1862 victory over France at the Battle of Puebla during the Franco-Mexican War (1861-1867). This day celebrates Mexican culture and heritage, including parades and mariachi music performances.

International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia, a global celebration of sexual and gender diversities.

Armed Forces Day is a day to pay tribute to men and women who serve the United States' armed forces.

World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development, a day set aside by the United Nations as an opportunity to deepen our understanding of the values of cultural diversity and to learn to live together better.

Memorial Day in the United States. It is a federal holiday established to honor military veterans who died in wars fought by American forces.

JUNE

LGBT Pride Month

Flag Day in the United States. This day is observed to celebrate the history and symbolism of the American flag.

Native American Citizenship Day. This observance commemorates the day in 1924 when the United States Congress passed legislation recognizing the citizenship of Native Americans.

Juneteenth, also known as Freedom Day or Emancipation Day. It is observed as a public holiday in 14 U.S. states. This celebration honors the day in 1865 when slaves in Texas and Louisiana finally heard they were free, two months after the end of the Civil War. June 19, therefore, became the day of emancipation for thousands of Blacks.

National Indigenous People's Day is an alternative celebration to Columbus Day, promoting political correctness in giving recognition to the indigenous populations affected by colonization.

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender (LGBT) Pride Day in the United States. It commemorates the Stonewall Riots on June 28, 1969.