

Military Days of Honor and Observances

January	None	July	
February		4 th	Independence Day
19 th	Coast Guard Reserves Birthday	21 st	Department of VA Created
March		27 th	Nat'l Korean War Veterans Armistice Day
3 rd	Navy Reserves Birthday	29 th	Anniversary of the Army Chaplain Corp
15 th	American Legion's Birthday	August	
19 th	National Day of Honor	4 th	Coast Guard Birthday
30 th	Welcome Home Veterans Day	14 th	V – J Day
April	Military Child Month	16 th	Nat'l Airborne Day
5 th	Gold Star Wives Day	29 th	Marine Corps Reserve Birthday
14 th	Air Force Reserves Birthday	September	
23 rd	Army Reserves Birthday	11 th	Patriot Day (9/11 Remembrance Day)
May	Nat'l Military Appreciation Month	17 th	Constitution Day
1 st	Silver Star Service Banner Day	18 th	U.S. Air Force Birthday
	Loyalty Day	3 rd Fri	Nat'l POW/MIA Recognition Day
8 th	V – E Day	Last Sun	Gold Star Mother's Day
1 st Full Week	Public Service Recognition Week	October	
2 nd Sat – 3 rd Sun	May Armed Forces Week	13 th	U.S. Navy Birthday
2 nd Friday	Military Spouse Day	26 th	Day of the Deployed
16 th	Armed Forces Day	November	National Military Family Month
22 nd	Maritime Day	10 th	U.S. Marine Corps Birthday
Last Monday	Memorial Day	11 th	Veteran's Day
June	PTSD Awareness Month	11 th	Veteran Owned Business Day (Est 11/11/08)
6 th	D-Day Invasion Anniversary	December	
14 th	U.S. Flag Day (also Nat'l Flag Week)	1 st	Civil Air Patrol Auxiliary Birthday
14 th	U.S. Army Birthday	7 th	Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day
23 rd	U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Birthday	13 th	U.S. Nat'l Guard Birthday
27 th	PTSD Awareness Day		
28 th	Operation Red Wing Observance		

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FEBRAURY

19TH February Coast Guard Birthday – February 19 is formally recognized as the birth of the Coast Guard Reserve while June 23 is recognized as birthday of the Coast Guard Auxiliary. On Dec. 7, 1941, Lt. Cmdr. Frank D. Higbee ordered the Auxiliary to duty in the 11th Naval District (Calif.) and told them in effect: “Come back with your shield, or on it!”

MARCH

3RD March Navy Reserves Birthday – First formed in response to the outbreak of World War I, lead legislation, under the President Woodrow Wilson administration, to the creation of the Naval Reserve Force. It was passed on March 3, 1915.

15TH March American Legion’s Birthday – The American Legion was chartered by Congress in 1919 as a patriotic veterans organization. Focusing on service to veterans, Service members and communities. March 15th – 17th, members of the American Expeditionary Force convene in Paris for the first American Legion caucus.

19th March National Day of Honor – on the is day in 2012, President Barack Obama proclaimed this day as a celebration to honor the success, service and sacrifice of all Servicemen and women of the United States Armed forces, return from Iraq.

30th March Welcome Home Veterans Day – This day marks the historic withdrawal of United States troops from Vietnam on March 30, 1973.

APRIL

Military Child Month (ALL MONTH LONG) – April is the Month of the Military Child; a time to recognize and appreciate military children for their service and sacrifice. Military children live with challenges presented by frequent moves, parental deployments and life transitions including reintegration and dealing with profoundly changed parents.

5th April Gold Star Wives Day – The widows/widowers whose spouses died while serving in the Armed Forces of the United States or as result of service-connected disabilities.

14th April Air Force Reserves Birthday – The Air Force Reserve started April 14th, 1948 by the order of President Harry S. Truman. It was initially meant to be a ‘Stand By’ force to augment the Active Air Force in times of need. That mission soon changed and evolved into what the Air Reserve is today.

23rd April Army Reserves Birthday – The Army Reserve was founded April 23, 1908, when Congress authorized the Army to establish a Medical Reserve Corps, the official predecessor of the Army Reserve. Over the years, Reserve Soldiers have participated in every major military campaigns.

MAY

National Military Appreciation Month (ALL MONTH LONG) – National Military Appreciation Month (NMAM), as designated by Congress, provides a period encompassing both the history and recognition of our armed

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services with an in-depth look at the diversity of its individuals and achievements. It allows Americans to educate each generation on the historical impact of our military through the participation of the community with those who serve encouraging patriotism and love for America.

1st May Silver Star Service Banner Day – Silver Star Service Banner Day was created by The Silver Star Families of America (SSFOA); a 501(c) tax exempt organization dedicated to honoring and supporting wounded, ill, and injured veterans of all branches of the armed forces of the United States of America. On April 21, 2010, the United States House of Representatives passed H Res. 855, a stand-alone resolution, making the SSFOA Silver Star Service Banner official and making May 1 Silver Star Service Banner Day.

1st May Loyalty Day – President Dwight D. Eisenhower proclaimed May 1, 1959 as Loyalty Day; first observed in 1921 as “Americanization Day.” This day is to recognize the American spirit of loyalty and the sacrifices that so many have made for our Nation.

8th VE Day – Victory in Europe Day — known as V-E Day or VE Day — commemorates 8 May 1945, the date when the World War II Allies formally accepted the unconditional surrender of the armed forces of Nazi Germany and the end of Adolf Hitler’s Third Reich.

Public Service Recognition Week (FIRST FULL WEEK of MAY) – Celebrated the first week of May since 1985, Public Service Recognition Week (PSRW) is time set aside to honor the men and women who serve our nation as federal, state, county and local government employees and ensure that our government is the best in the world.

Armed Forces Week Starts Saturday (STARTS 2nd SATURDAY IN MAY)

Armed Forces Day is Saturday (3rd SATURDAY IN MAY)

Armed Forces Week Ends Sunday (ENDS SUNDAY AFTER ARMED FORCES DAY)

Armed Forces Week is traditionally scheduled to coincide with Armed Forces Day and offers an opportunity for our community to express its gratitude to our military for their dedication and service to our great nation. Armed Forces Day is celebrated annually on the third Saturday of May. Armed Forces Week begins on the second Saturday of May and ends on the third Sunday of May, the day after Armed Forces Day. Armed forces week serves to increase public understanding of the role of the military in a democratic society as well as honor and acknowledge the people of the Armed Forces of the United States.

Military Spouses Day (2nd FRIDAY IN MAY) – Under President Barack Obama; proclaim May 6, 2016, as Military Spouse Appreciation Day. Recognizing spouses who serve alongside our Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines, and Coast Guardsmen, our Nation's military families give of themselves and give up their time with their loved ones so we may live safely and freely.

22nd May Maritime Day – May 22nd is National Maritime Day, first declared so by Congress in 1933, the date that the American steamship Savannah set sail from Savannah, Georgia on the first ever transoceanic voyage under steam power. National Maritime Day’s observance honors the contributions of the American merchant marine, civilians who have defended the freedom of the United States since 1775, and who executed the largest sealift the world has ever known during World War II.

Memorial Day (LAST MONDAY IN MAY) – In honor of our fallen military brothers and sisters. Originated as Decoration Day after the American Civil War in 1868 and established as a time for the nation to decorate the graves of the Union war dead with flowers.

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JUNE

6th June D- Day Invasion Anniversary – On June 6, 1944, 160,000 Allied troops landed along a 50-mile stretch of heavily-fortified French coastline to fight Nazi Germany on the beaches of Normandy, France. General Dwight D. Eisenhower called the operation a crusade in which “we will accept nothing less than full victory.” More than 5,000 Ships and 13,000 aircraft supported the D-Day invasion, and by day’s end on June 6, the Allies gained a foot-hold in Normandy.

14th June U.S. Flag Day – According to legend, in 1776, George Washington commissioned Philadelphia seamstress Betsy Ross to create a flag for the new nation. In 1916, President Woodrow Wilson issued a presidential proclamation establishing a National Flag Day of commemoration and celebration of the Stars and Stripes.

14th U.S. Army Birthday – The Continental Army was created on 14 June 1775 by the Continental Congress as a unified army for the colonies to fight Great Britain, with George Washington appointed as its commander. Beginning a rich heritage of successfully defending this country and her citizens.

23rd U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Birthday – The United States Coast Guard Auxiliary is the uniformed volunteer component of the United States Coast Guard (“USCG”) and was established on June 23, 1939 by an act of Congress as the United States Coast Guard Reserve, and was re-designated as the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary on February 19, 1941. Congress authorized the Auxiliary to support all USCG missions, other than those related to direct engagement in either law enforcement activities or military combat operations.

27th June PTSD Awareness Day – Under a President Barack Obama administration, the Senate established PTSD Awareness Day in 2010. National Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder Awareness Day observance reflects how PTSD became known as an “invisible wound of war.” Based on the efforts of Senator Kent Conrad a day of awareness as a tribute to Army Staff Sgt. Joe Biel of the North Dakota National Guard, who suffered from PTSD and took his life in April 2007 after returning from his second tour of duty in the Iraq War. Biel’s birthday, June 27, was chosen to mark PTSD Awareness Day and honor his memory.

28th June Operation Red Wing Observance – On June 28, 2005, deep behind enemy lines east of Asadabad in the Hindu Kush of Afghanistan, a very committed four-man Navy SEAL team was conducting a reconnaissance mission. Remembering this day and the heroic efforts and sacrifices of a special team of operators as they made the ultimate sacrifice while engaged in that fierce fire fight on the front lines of the global war on terrorism.

JULY

4th July Independence Day – Independence Day of the United States, also referred to as the Fourth of July or July Fourth in the U.S., is a federal holiday commemorating the adoption of the Declaration of Independence in 1776 on July 4 by the Continental Congress.

21st July Department of VA Created – July 3, 1930. An Act to authorize the President to consolidate and coordinate government activities affecting war veterans. The President is authorized, by Executive order, to consolidate hospitals and executive and administrative bureaus, for the relief of veterans, into an establishment to be known as the Veterans’ Administration. On July 21, 1930, President Herbert Hoover signed Executive Order 5398 to create the Veterans Administration.

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27th July Nat'l Korean War Veterans Armistice Day – Presidential Proclamation -- National Korean War Veterans Armistice Day, 2016. In 1950, when Communist armies from the North stormed across the 38th parallel, brave American men and women though weary of combat in the wake of World War II stepped forward to defend their brothers and sisters on the Korean Peninsula.

29th July Anniversary of the Army Chaplain Corp – July 29, 1775, The U.S. Army Chaplaincy was established to provide religious support to America's Army while assisting commanders in ensuring the rights of free exercise of religion for all soldiers.

AUGUST

4th August Coast Guard Birthday – As of August 4, 1790, Congress authorized the Secretary of the Treasury, Alexander Hamilton, to create a maritime service to enforce customs laws. Alternately known as the system of cutters, Revenue Service, and Revenue-Marine this service was placed under the control of the Treasury Department.

14th August VJ Day – Victory over Japan Day is the day on which Japan surrendered in World War II, in effect ending the war.

16th August Nat'l Airborne Day – August 16, 1940 marked the first official Army parachute jump, validating the innovative concept of inserting United States ground combat forces behind a battle line by parachute.

29th August Marine Corps Reserve Birthday – The United States Marine Corps Reserve was established when Congress passed the Naval Appropriations Act of 29 August 1916 and is responsible for providing trained units and qualified individuals to be mobilized for active duty in time of war, national emergency or contingency operations.

SEPTEMBER

11th September Patriot Day (9/11 Remembrance Day) – Patriot Day, observed as the National Day of Service and Remembrance occurring on September 11 of each year in memory of the 2,977 people in the United States terrorist attacks.

17th September Constitution Day – Constitution Day (or Citizenship Day) is an American federal observance that recognizes the adoption of the United States Constitution and those who have become U.S. citizens. Established on September 17, the day in 1787 that delegates to the Constitutional Convention signed the document in Philadelphia.

18th September U.S. Air Force Birthday – The United States Air Force became a separate military service on September 18, 1947, with the implementation of the National Security Act of 1947. The Act created the National Military Establishment, later renamed the United States Department of Defense, which was composed of three branches, the Army, Navy and a newly created Air Force.

Nat'l POW/MIA Recognition Day (3RD FRIDAY OF SEPTEMBER) – National POW/MIA Recognition Day is observed on the third Friday in September It honors those who were prisoners of war and those who are still missing in action, as well as seeking the return of the remains of fallen soldiers. This day was established by an Act of Congress, by the passage of Section 1082 of the 1998 Defense Authorization Act.

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Gold Star Mother's Day (LAST SUNDAY OF SEPTEMBER) – Gold Star Mother's Day is observed in the United States on the last Sunday of September each year. It is a day for people to recognize and honor those who have lost a son or daughter while serving the United States Armed Forces.

OCTOBER

13th October U.S. Navy Birthday – On Friday, October 13, 1775, meeting in Philadelphia, the Continental Congress voted to fit out two sailing vessels, armed with ten carriage guns, as well as swivel guns, and manned by crews of eighty, and to send them out on a cruise of three months to intercept transports carrying munitions and stores to the British Army in America. This was the original legislation out of which the Continental Navy grew and as such constitutes the birth certificate of the Navy.

26th October Day of the Deployed – October 26, 2006 was founded as National Day of the Deployed. National Day of the Deployed honors all of the brave men and woman who have been deployed, are sacrificing, or have sacrificed their lives to defend our country.

NOVEMBER

National Military Family Month (ALL MONTH LONG) – Proclamation signed by President Barack Obama establishing the month of November in celebration of the Military Family recognized for their commitment and the many contributions they make every day in support of the military and our nation.

10th November U.S. Marine Corps Birthday – On that day in 1775, the Continental Marines were established. Is a branch of the United States Armed Forces responsible for providing power projection from the sea, using the mobility of the United States Navy to deliver combined-arms task forces rapidly. Semper Paratus!

11th November Veteran's Day – Veterans Day, formerly known as Armistice Day, was originally set as a U.S. legal holiday to honor the end of World War I, which officially took place on November 11, 1918.

11th November Veteran Owned Business Day – Established 11/11/08 to help support small businesses owned by those who proudly served (or continue to serve) in the United States Armed Forces.

DECEMBER

1st December Civil Air Patrol Auxiliary Birthday – In the late 1930s, more than 150,000 volunteers with a love for aviation argued for an organization to put their planes and flying skills to use in defense of their country. As a result, the Civil Air Patrol was born one week prior to the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. Thousands of volunteer members answered America's call to national service and sacrifice by accepting and performing critical wartime missions.

7th December Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day – The attack on Pearl Harbor was a surprise military strike conducted by the Imperial Japanese Navy against the United States naval base at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, on the morning of December 7, 1941.

13th December U.S. Nat'l Guard Birthday – the National Guard came into existence with a direct declaration on December 13, 1636. On this date, the Massachusetts General Court in Salem, for the first time in the

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history of the North American continent, established that all able-bodied men between the ages of 16 and 60 were required to join the militia.