

National Freedom Day February 1, 2012



National Freedom Day is a United States observance on February 1 honoring the signing by Abraham Lincoln of a joint House and Senate resolution that later became the 13th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. President Lincoln signed the Amendment outlawing slavery on February 1, 1865, although it was not ratified by the states until later.

Major Richard Robert Wright Sr., a former slave, believed that there should be a day when freedom for all Americans is celebrated. While living in Philadelphia towards the end of his life, he invited local and national leaders to meet to organize a movement for a national holiday to commemorate Lincoln's signing of the 13th Amendment. The resulting National Freedom Association proposed having a memorial date to call attention to the continuing struggle for freedom for African-Americans. Since President Lincoln had signed the 13th Amendment on the first day of February, that date was chosen to celebrate National Freedom Day. The first commemoration took place on February 1, 1942, at Independence Hall. As it has every year since, the remembrance included laying a wreath at the Liberty Bell.

On June 30, 1948, President Harry Truman signed a bill proclaiming February 1 as National Freedom Day. It is not a federal holiday; government offices and banks are open for business. In the U.S. Code of Ethics at Cornell University National Freedom Day is written in the law books as: § 124. National Freedom Day The President may issue each year a proclamation designating February 1 as National Freedom Day to commemorate the signing by Abraham Lincoln on February 1, 1865, of the joint resolution adopted by the Senate and the House of Representatives that proposed the 13th amendment to the Constitution.

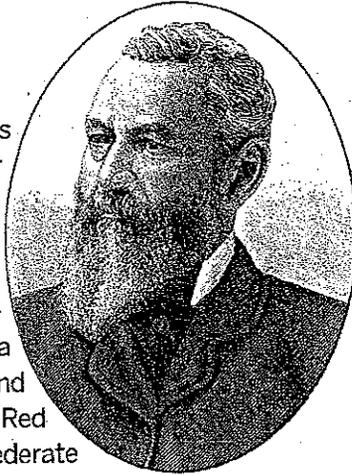
National Freedom Day has been observed since February 1, 1948 when Truman signed a bill proclaiming the day occur February 1. On this day many towns have festivals, while other citizens reflect on the freedoms that the United States honors and to appreciate the goodwill of the United States. Wreath-laying at the Liberty Bell has also been a tradition to mark National Freedom Day for many years. Symbols of the day may include a theme about freedom for all Americans. According to americaslibrary.gov National Freedom Day is defined as:

"[t]he purpose of this holiday is to promote good feelings, harmony, and equal opportunity among all citizens and to remember that the United States is a nation dedicated to the ideal of freedom. Major Richard Robert Wright Sr., a former slave, fought to have a day when freedom for all Americans is celebrated. When Wright got his freedom, he went on to become a successful businessman and community leader in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Major Wright chose February 1 as National Freedom Day because it was the day in 1865 that President Lincoln signed the 13th Amendment to the Constitution.... The 13th Amendment outlawed slavery in the United States. Wright gathered national and local leaders together to write a bill declaring February 1 "National Freedom Day" and President Harry Truman signed the bill in 1948 making it official."

BLACK HISTORY

December 9, 1872—

P.B.S. Pinchback, union officer and politician, was sworn in as the first Black governor of Louisiana after Henry Clay Warmoth was impeached for "high crimes and misdemeanors" on this day. Pickney Benton Stewart Pinchback was born on May 10, 1837. He was one of 10 children born to a White Mississippi planter and a former slave. At the age of 12, Pinchback started out as a cabin boy and worked his way up to steward on canal and steamboats that traveled the Mississippi, Missouri and Red Rivers. In 1861, during the Civil War, he ran the Confederate blockade on the Mississippi to reach federal-held New Orleans. Pinchback became the only Black officer in the Union-controlled Louisiana Native Guards. After the war, Pinchback became active in Republican Party politics. He was elected to the state Senate in 1868 and then was named president pro tempore; he later became lieutenant governor upon the death of the incumbent (Oscar Dunn) in 1871. Pinchback served as acting governor when Warmoth was impeached because of corruption. Pinchback served for 35 days, and 10 acts of the legislature became law during that time. He died on Dec. 21, 1921, in Washington, D.C.



December 9, 1971—

Bill Pickett, rodeo cowboy/bull wrestler, became the first Black inducted to the Rodeo Hall of Fame in Oklahoma City on this day. He is credited with inventing the steer-wrestling event, which is famous in today's rodeos. Over time his roping, riding and bulldogging skills earned him a legendary reputation at Wild West shows that toured throughout the United States, Canada, Mexico, South America and England. A native of Travis County, TX, Pickett, born to former slaves on Dec. 5, 1870, was the second of 13 children. Pickett started his career as a cowboy with only a fifth-grade education. Pickett died April 2, 1932, from injuries he suffered after he was kicked by a horse. The Bill Pickett Invitational Rodeo tours annually in his honor. A painting of the famous Black cowboy was presented to the Oklahoma Senate to be displayed along with other historical paintings in the state's Capitol.

PRESIDENT'S DAY (UNITED STATES)



Presidents Day (or **Presidents' Day**), is the common name for the federal holiday officially designated as **Washington's Birthday**, and both variants are among the official names of a number of coinciding state holidays. It is celebrated on the third Monday of February.

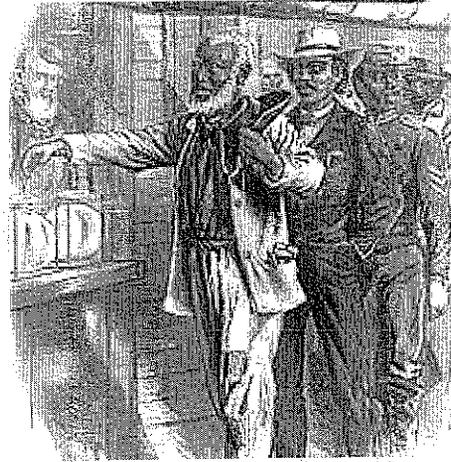
As the official title of the federal holiday, Washington's Birthday was originally implemented by the federal government of the United States in 1880 in the District of Columbia (20 Stat. 277) and expanded in 1885 to include all federal offices (23 Stat. 516). As the first federal holiday to honor an American citizen, the holiday was celebrated on Washington's actual birthday, February 22. January 1, 1971 the federal holiday was shifted to the third Monday in February by the Uniform Monday Holiday Act. A draft of the Uniform Holidays Bill of 1968 would have renamed the holiday to Presidents' Day to honor both Washington and Lincoln, but when signed into law on June 28, 1968 simply moved Washington's Birthday.

In the late 1980s, with a push from advertisers (see detail below), the term Presidents Day began its public appearance. The theme has expanded the focus of the holiday to honor another President born in February, Abraham Lincoln, and often other Presidents of the United States. Although Lincoln's birthday, February 12, was never a federal holiday, approximately a dozen state governments have officially renamed their Washington's Birthday observances as "Presidents Day", "Washington and Lincoln Day", or other such designations. It is also interesting to note that "Presidents Day" is not always an all-inclusive term. In Massachusetts, while the state officially celebrates "Washington's Birthday," state law also prescribes that the governor issue an annual Presidents Day proclamation honoring the presidents that have come from Massachusetts: John Adams, John Quincy Adams, Calvin Coolidge, and John F. Kennedy. (Coolidge, the only one born outside of Massachusetts, spent his entire political career before the vice presidency there.) Alabama uniquely observes the day as "Washington and Jefferson Day," even though Jefferson's birthday was in April. In Connecticut, while Presidents Day is a federal holiday, Abraham Lincoln's birthday is still a state holiday, falling on February 12 regardless of the day of the week.

In Washington's home state of Virginia the holiday is legally known as "George Washington Day."

15th Amendment to the Constitution

The 15th Amendment to the Constitution granted African American men the right to vote by declaring that the "right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude." Although ratified on February 3, 1870, the promise of the 15th Amendment would not be fully realized for almost a century. Through the use of poll taxes, literacy tests and other means, Southern states were able to effectively disenfranchise African Americans. It would take the passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 before the majority of African Americans in the South were registered to vote.



"The first vote"

A.R. Waud.

Wood engraving. 1867.

Prints & Photographs Division.

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National Go Red for Women



National Wear Red Day 02.03.12

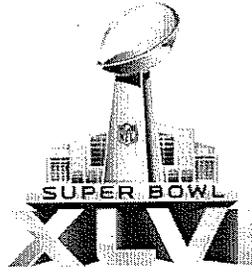
Go Red for Women is a nationwide movement celebrating the energy, passion and power we have to band together and wipe out heart disease. Too few people realize that heart disease is the No. 1 killer of women - and of men - but the good news is that heart disease can largely be prevented. Spreading the Go Red For Women message empowers women to love - and save - their hearts through lifestyle choices and actions.

National Wear Red Day is Friday, February 3, 2006. On this day, millions of Americans will be wearing red to show their support for women and the fight against heart disease. By wearing red on National Wear Red Day, you can help the American Heart Association raise awareness of heart disease and inspire women to take charge of their heart health.

National Wear Red Day has its own dress code. On this day, you're free to Go Red in your own fashion. Wear your favorite red clothes or accessory - a red blouse, red lipstick, a red dress lapel pin (the symbol of women's heart health) - carry a fabulous red handbag or sport a red tie and red socks...and show some heart for heart disease prevention.

Join the millions of Americans wearing red on Friday, February 3rd and encourage others to do the same. Get involved. Go Red For Women. It's a simple, powerful way to improve women's heart health. For more information, visit www.goredforwomen.org or call the American Heart Association at 1-888-MY-HEART (1-888-694-3278).

Super Bowl XLVI



AWAY TEAM: NFC Champion
HOME TEAM: AFC Champion
DATE: February 5, 2012
STADIUM: Lucas Oil Stadium
CITY: Indianapolis, Indiana

TV in the United States

NETWORK: NBC

ANNOUNCERS:

Al Michaels and Cris Collinsworth (play-by-play and color),
Michele Tafoya and Alex Flanagan (sideline reporters)

For many years, the Super Bowl has possessed a large US television viewership, and it is often the most watched television program of the year. The game tends to have high Nielsen television ratings, which is usually around a 40 rating and 60 share. This means that on average, 80 to 90 million Americans are tuned into the Super Bowl at any given moment.

A frequently misquoted figure from NFL press releases has led to the common perception that the Super Bowl has an annual global audience of around one billion people. In reality, the NFL states one billion as the game's *potential* worldwide audience, or the number of people able to watch the game. The New York-based media research firm Initiative measured the global audience for the 2005 Super Bowl at 93 million people, with 98 percent of that figure being viewers in North America, which meant roughly 2 million people outside North America watched the Super Bowl.

2011's Super Bowl XLV holds the record for total number of U.S. viewers, attracting an average audience of 111 million viewers, making the game the most viewed television broadcast of any kind in U.S. history.

The highest-rated game according to Nielsen was Super Bowl XVI in 1982, which was watched in 49.1 percent of households (73 share), or 40,020,000 households at the time. Ratings for that game, a San Francisco victory over Cincinnati, may have been aided by a large blizzard that had affected much of the northeastern United States on game day, leaving residents to stay at home more than usual. Also, because network television was still the predominant means of viewership and pay television services (cable, and later satellite) were still relatively unavailable, there were not many choices of things to watch on television. Super Bowl XVI still ranks fourth on Nielsen's list of top-rated programs of all time, and three other Super Bowls, XII, XVII, and XX, made the top ten.

Cajun Turkey Jambalaya

Yield: Serves 6

Ingredients:

- 4 ounces bacon, coarsely chopped
- 1 1/2 cups chopped onion
- 1 cup chopped celery
- 3/4 cup chopped green bell pepper
- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- 3 cups leftover turkey, cut into cubes
- 3 1/4 cups chicken stock
- 1 cup chopped fresh parsley, divided
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon black pepper
- 1/2 teaspoon dried marjoram
- 1/2 teaspoon cayenne pepper
- 2 bay leaves
- 1 1/2 cups raw rice
- 1/2 cup sliced green onions

Preparation:

Preheat the oven to 350°F.

Cook the bacon over medium heat in a large heavy ovenproof pot or Dutch oven until the bacon fat is rendered and the bacon is crisp. Remove and crumble the bacon and set it aside.

Add the onion, celery, bell pepper, garlic and turkey and sauté in the bacon drippings for 20 minutes, stirring often.

Add the stock, 1/2 cup of the parsley, salt, pepper, marjoram, cayenne, and bay leaves and bring to a boil. Add the rice and stir to combine with the vegetables; cover and bake for 45 minutes.

Dish up and sprinkle with green onions, the additional 1/2 cup parsley, and the reserved bacon.

Old-Fashioned Peach Cobbler

Ingredients:

- 1 large egg
- 1 cup sugar, divided
- 3 tablespoons melted butter
- 1/3 cup milk, low fat is fine
- 1/2 cup all-purpose flour
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 4 cups sliced peeled peaches, about 8 medium peaches
- 1/4 teaspoon ground nutmeg
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon

Preparation:

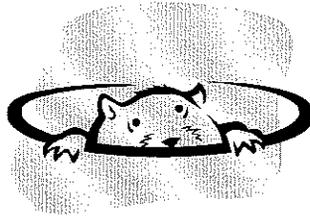
Grease a 2-quart shallow baking dish. Heat oven to 375°.

In a bowl, beat egg with 1/2 cup of the sugar, the melted butter, and the milk. Combine the flour, baking powder, and salt; stir into the first mixture until smooth and well blended.

Combine the peaches with the remaining 1/2 cup of sugar and the spices. Put in the prepared baking dish. Spoon batter evenly over the peaches then gently spread to cover. Bake for 30 minutes, or until the crust is nicely browned.

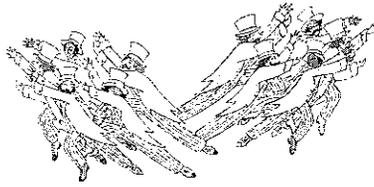
Serves 6.

Groundhog Day



Groundhog Day is celebrated every year on February 2nd midway between the Winter Solstice and the Vernal Equinox. It is celebrated with the Groundhog each year in Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania where folks gather around to see if the groundhog will see its shadow. If the groundhog sees a shadow, there will be 42 more days of winter! It has become a fun day to celebrate in elementary schools.

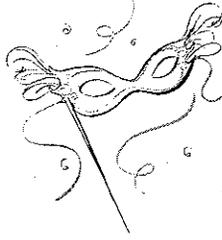
Leap Year and Leap Day



In the Gregorian calendar (used by most countries), Leap Day is the extra day in Leap Year that occurs every 4 years. The next leap day is February 29, 2012. Leap years are every year that is divisible by 4, except years that are divisible by 100, unless the year is also divisible by 400. Sound confusing? Then all you need to know is that leap year is every 4 years skipping the years 2100, 2200, 2300, 2500, etc.

Leap years are required so that the calendar stays in alignment with the earth's motion around the sun. This alignment, calculated by the mean time between two successive vernal equinoxes, is 365.2422 days long, resulting in an error of .2422 days in a 365 day calendar year. After 100 years, the calendar would be more than 24 days ahead of the seasons. Leap years keep the calendar in line with the seasons.

Mardi Gras (also called Fat Tuesday)



Mardi Gras or "Fat Tuesday" is the day before Ash Wednesday. It is a celebration that is held just before the season of Lent (the period of fasting and repentance)

- February 21, 2012
- February 12, 2013
- March 4, 2014
- February 17, 2015
- February 9, 2016
- February 28, 2017

February Is National Pet Dental Health Month

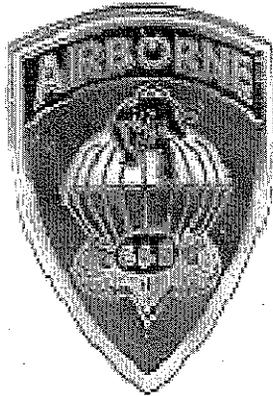


February is National Pet Dental Health Month. Dental health for your cat or dog is just as important as it is for you. Take some time this month to make sure your furry friend's oral health is in order.

"Oral disease is the most frequently diagnosed health problem for pets," said Dr. Henry Childers, DVM, president of the AVMA. "Just as the public has come to realize that their own oral health is linked to their overall health, veterinarians want people to understand that dental health care is essential to maintaining the overall health and well-being of the family pet."

Pets Need Dental Care, Too

The Triple Nickles



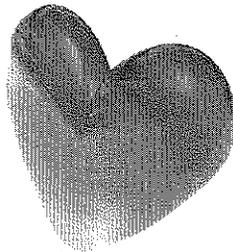
The unit was activated as a result of a recommendation made in December 1942 by the Advisory Committee on Negro Troop Policies, chaired by the Assistant Secretary of War, John J. McCloy. In approving the committee's recommendation for a black parachute battalion, Chief of Staff General George C. Marshall decided to start with a company, and on 25 February 1943 the **555th Parachute Infantry Company** was constituted.

On 19 December 1943, Headquarters, Army Ground Forces, authorized the activation of the company as an all-black unit with black officers as well as black enlisted men. All unit members were to be volunteers, with an enlisted cadre to be selected from personnel of the 92d Infantry Division at Fort Huachuca, Arizona.

The company was officially activated on 30 December 1943 at Fort Benning, Georgia. After several months of training, the unit moved to Camp Mackall, North Carolina, where it was reorganized and redesignated on 25 November 1944 as Company A of the newly-activated **555th Parachute Infantry Battalion**.

On 22 August 1950 the 555th Parachute Infantry Battalion was disbanded. Many of its former members later fought in the Korean War, in other units. First Lieutenant Harry Sutton, one of the battalion's former officers, died leading a rearguard action during the Hungnam Evacuation and was decorated posthumously with the Silver Star.

Valentine's Day



Valentine's Day or **Saint Valentine's Day** is a holiday celebrated on February 14 by many people throughout the world. In the English-speaking countries, it is the traditional day on which lovers express their love for each other by sending Valentine's cards, presenting flowers, or offering confectionery. The holiday is named after two among the numerous Early Christian martyrs named Valentine. The day became associated with romantic love in the circle of Geoffrey Chaucer in the High Middle Ages, when the tradition of courtly love flourished.

The day is most closely associated with the mutual exchange of love notes in the form of "valentines". Modern Valentine symbols include the heart-shaped outline, doves, and the figure of the winged Cupid. Since the 19th century, handwritten notes have largely given way to mass-produced greeting cards. The sending of Valentines was a fashion in nineteenth-century Great Britain, and, in 1847, Esther Howland developed a successful business in her Worcester, Massachusetts home with hand-made Valentine cards based on British models. The popularity of Valentine cards in 19th century America, where many Valentine cards are now general greeting cards rather than declarations of love, was a harbinger of the future commercialization of holidays in the United States. It's considered one of the Hallmark holidays.

The U.S. Greeting Card Association estimates that approximately one billion valentines are sent each year worldwide, making the day the second largest card-sending holiday of the year, behind Christmas. The association estimates that, in the US, men spend on average twice as much money as women.