**February**

**February 1 – Freedom Day**

A United States observance 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.

**Third Monday in February – President’s Day**

Established as a federal holiday in 1885. It celebrates the life and contributions of George Washington, first president of the United States and general of the American Revolution. In some states, the holiday is expanded to also commemorate President Abraham Lincoln's birthday, and is thus referred to as "President's Day". It occurs near both presidents' birthdays.

**March**

**March 29 – National Vietnam War Veterans Day**

This national commemoration was authorized by Congress, established under the Secretary of Defense, and launched by the President to thank and honor our Nation’s Vietnam veterans and their families for their service and sacrifice.  ***March 29*** was chosen to be celebrated in perpetuity as March 29, 1973 was the day Military Assistance Command Vietnam was deactivated.

**May**

**May 1 – Loyalty Day**

It is a day set aside "for the reaffirmation of loyalty to the United States and for the recognition of the heritage of American freedom."

**May 8 – V-E Day (Victory in Europe Day)**

Marks the formal acceptance by the Allies of World War II of Nazi Germany's unconditional surrender of its armed forces. The formal surrender of the German forces occupying the Channel Islands did not occur until the following day, 9 May 1945. It thus marked the end of World War II in Europe.

**May 10 – Military Spouse Appreciation Day**

On Military Spouse Appreciation Day we honor the contributions and sacrifices made by military spouses. Their commitment and support help to keep our country safe.  America’s military spouses are the backbone of the families who support our troops during mission, deployment, and reintegration. Military spouses are silent heroes who are essential to the strength of the nation, and they serve our country just like their loved ones.

**Third Saturday in May – Armed Forces Day**

Thanks to President Harry S. Truman, it’s a day to pay special tribute to the men and women of the Armed Forces. President Truman led the effort to establish a holiday in order for citizens to unite and to honor our military heroes for their patriotic service in support of the United States of America.

Although, originally, there were single day celebrations for each branch of the military, the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, and Air Force; this format changed on August 21, 1949, when Secretary of Defense Louis Johnson announced the creation of Armed Forces Day. Stemming from the unification of the Armed Forces under the Department of Defense, the annual celebration now commemorates all branches of the military during one solitary day.

**May 30 – Memorial Day – Traditional**

**Last Monday in May – Memorial Day – National**

Commemorates men and women who have died serving the United States. It was first instituted to remember soldiers who died in the Civil War, and was originally called "Decoration Day" because of the tradition of decorating soldiers' graves.

**June**

**June 6 – D Day**

In the military, **D-Day** is the day on which a combat attack or operation is to be initiated. The best known D-Day is during World War II, on June 6, 1944—the day of the Normandy landings—initiating the Western Allied effort to liberate mainland Europe from Nazi Germany.

**June 14 – Flag Day**

Commemorating the official adoption of the US flag by the Second Continental Congress in 1777. It celebrates the history and symbolic meaning of the American flag, and is also an opportunity to remember those who fight to protect it and the nation for which it stands. Although it has been celebrated since the Civil War, President Woodrow Wilson proclaimed that it would be celebrated on June 14th in 1916.

**June 14 – Army’s Birthday**

Army Birthday. The U.S Army Birthday is a day for the Army, soldiers, veterans and their families to celebrate the day on which the first United States Army was formed – the Continental Army.

**July**

**July 4 – Independence Day**

Marks the adoption by the first Continental Congress of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776.

**July 27 – National Korean War Veterans Armistice Day**

On National Korean War Veterans Armistice Day, we honor the patriots who defended the Korean Peninsula against the spread of Communism in what became the first major conflict of the Cold War. We remember those who laid down their lives in defense of liberty, in a land far from home, and we vow to preserve their legacy.

“Situated between World War II and the Vietnam War, the Korean War has often been labeled as the "Forgotten War," despite its having claimed the lives of more than 36,000 Americans. The Korean War began on June 25, 1950, when North Korean forces, backed by the Soviet Union, invaded South Korea. Shortly thereafter, American troops arrived and pushed back the North Koreans. For 3 years, alongside fifteen allies and partners, we fought an unrelenting war of attrition. Through diplomatic engagements led by President Eisenhower, Americans secured peace on the Korean Peninsula. On July 27, 1953, North Korea, China, and the United Nations signed an armistice suspending all hostilities.”

**August**

**August 4 – Coast Guard’s Birthday**

The United State Coast Guard is a unique branch of the Armed Forces of our country.  It has a dual mission of:    1) a maritime law enforcement mission (holding jurisdiction in both international and domestic waters)   and   2) a federal regulatory agency mission.

The Coast Guard was established on August 4, 1790 when the United States Congress authorized the then Secretary of the Treasury, Alexander Hamilton, to create and establish a maritime force (1 Stat. L. 145, 175).  Due to the lawlessness on the seas and a struggling homeland economy dependent upon tariffs, Hamilton had been adamantly urging Congress to create a  'Revenue-Marine'  to enforce the tariffs and other maritime laws.

**August 7 – Purple Heart Day**

A time for Americans to pause to remember and honor the brave men and women who were either wounded on the battlefield or paid the ultimate sacrifice with their lives. Purple Heart Day is also known as National Purple Heart Day, Purple Heart Recognition Day and Purple Heart Appreciation Day.

**September**

**First Monday in September – Labor Day**

It honors the American labor movement and the contributions that workers have made to the strength, prosperity, laws, and well-being of the country.

**September 11 – Patriot Day**

A bill to make September 11 a national day of mourning was introduced in the U.S. House on October 25, 2001, by Rep. Vito Fossella (R-NY) with 22 co-sponsors, among them 11 Democrats and 11 Republicans.The bill requested that the President designate September 11 of each year as **Patriot Day**. Joint Resolution 71 passed the House by a vote of 407–0, with 25 members not voting.The bill passed the Senate unanimously on November 30. President Bush signed the resolution into law on December 18 as Pub.L. 107–89. On September 4, 2002, President Bush used the authority of the resolution to proclaim September 11, 2002, as the first Patriot Day.

**September 17 – Constitution Day & Citizenship Day**

Memorializing the date that the Constitution was signed in 1787. Previously known as "Citizenship Day", it became an official federal holiday called "Constitution Day" in 2004. On this day, students learn about the constitution, the rights it ensures, and related issues in American government and history.

**September 18 – Air Force’s Birthday**

Between 1909 -- when that the US military purchased its first aircraft -- and 1947, the US Air Force did not exist as a separate and independent military service organization. It went through a series of designations: Aeronautical Section, Signal Corps (1909); Aviation Section, Signal Corps (1914); United States Army Air Service (1918); United States Army Air Corps (1926), and United States Army Air Forces (1941).

WWII illustrated the value of airpower, and the need to change the basic organization of the US Military Forces.  The result was the creation of a single Department of Defense with a strong Joint Chiefs of Staff with Army, Navy, and Air Force chiefs.  In 1947 President Truman signed the National Security Act which established this new defense organization, and along with it the creation of the US Air Force as an independent service, equal to the US Army and US Navy.  The official birthday of the US Air Force is 18 September 1947.

**Third Friday in September – POW/MIA Recognition Day**

From morning to evening, solemn ceremonies of remembrance are held throughout our country which pay homage to those who have been or are being held captive and to those who are missing in action. The unknown fate of US servicemen missing in action from the Vietnam War and associated theaters in Southeast Asia, was to bring forth US Public Law 101-355 on August 10, 1990. In said law, our 101st Congress designated the National League of POW/MIA Families' black POW/MIA Flag, "as the symbol of our Nation's concern and commitment to resolving as fully as possible the fates of Americans still prisoner, missing and unaccounted for in Southeast Asia, thus ending the uncertainty for their families and the Nation".

**Last Sunday in September – Gold Star Mother’s Day/Family Day**

We annually remember the Gold Star Mothers of our United States Armed Forces on the last Sunday of the month of September. Our pride in their valor, courage, and strength goes beyond anything we can express. Brave Americans who have raised their children to be outstanding citizens and committed patriots. Women who understand and cherish the American way and who have given all that we might live with freedom, dignity, and peace.

**October**

**October 13 – Navy’s Birthday**

The early Continental navy was designed to work with privateers to wage tactical raids against the transports that supplied British forces in North America. To accomplish this mission the Continental Congress purchased, converted, and constructed a fleet of small ships -- frigates, brigs, sloops, and schooners. These navy ships sailed independently or in pairs, hunting British commerce ships and transports.

Two years after the end of the war, the money-poor Congress sold off the last ship of the Continental navy, the frigate Alliance. But with the expansion of trade and shipping in the 1790s, the possibility of attacks of European powers and pirates increased, and in March 1794 Congress responded by calling for the construction of a half-dozen frigates, The United States Navy was here to stay.

**October 27 – Navy Day**

In 1922, the Navy League of the United Stated selected October 27th as 'Navy Day', a day in which to recognize and celebrate our Naval Forces.

**November**

**The Tuesday following the First Monday in November – Election Day**

When ballots are cast for elected officials. The first presidential election to occur simultaneously on this day took place in 1848, and the House of Representatives election was moved to take place on the same date in 1872. Voting that takes place on the same date throughout the country prevents earlier elections from affecting later ones.

**November 10 – Marine Corp’s Birthday**

Our Continental Congress met in Philadelphia to draft a resolution which would establish two battalions of Marines to fight for a democratic people's independence on sea and shore.  This resolution was approved on November 10, 1775, officially forming our 'Continental Marines', the naval infantry. Since that time, the duties and responsibilities of our Marine Corps have evolved and expanded according to the defense needs of the United States, advancing military doctrine, and American foreign policy.  Their mission taking new form and direction, their pride and honor growing as the noble and glorious legacy of the Marines took shape over the years.

**November 11 – Veteran’s Day**

Commemorates all veterans of the US military. A federal holiday, it occurs on November 11th to memorialize the Armistice which ended World War I on that date in 1918. It was proclaimed a holiday by President Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1954.

**December**

**December 7 – Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day**

National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day, also referred to as Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day or Pearl Harbor Day, is observed annually in the United States on December 7, to remember and honor the 2,403 men, women, and children of all occupations who died in the Japanese surprise attack on Pearl Harbor in Honolulu, Hawaii on December 7, 1941.

On Pearl Harbor Day, the American flag should be flown at half-staff until sunset to honor those who died as a result of Japanese action in Honolulu. Pearl Harbor Day is not a federal holiday – government offices, schools, and businesses do not close. Some organizations may hold special events in memory of those killed or injured at Pearl Harbor.

**December 13 – National Guard’s Birthday**

In a move that would create the first militia on the North American continent, the Massachusetts General Court in Salem issued an order on Dec. 13, 1636, requiring all able-bodied men between 16 and 60 years old to create a standing Army for protection.

With that order, what we now know as America's National Guard was born. The idea was simple: Establish an Army of citizen-soldiers who could be called upon to fight when needed.

In 1636, that meant defending Massachusetts Bay. Today, it means answering the call of both state and nation, deploying overseas and responding to natural disasters in the assistance of friends and neighbors.

**December 15 – Bill of Right’s Day**

Celebrating the addition of the Bill of Rights to the U.S. Constitution on that day in 1791. This holiday celebrates the freedoms and rights that the Bill of Rights preserve for Americans. In 1941, on the 150th anniversary of the ratification of the Bill of Rights, President Franklin D. Roosevelt declared the date a federal holiday.