

## **There's A Month for That: Exploring Federal Government Resources for Diverse Monthly Celebrations – Transcript of audio**

Please stand by for realtime captions. and

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Afternoon, everyone. Welcome to the FDLP Academy. My name is Joe Paskoski from GPO, I am with my colleagues Ashley Dahlen and Jane Canfield. We have another webinar for you today. Title of which is there is a month for that: exploring federal government resources for diverse monthly celebrations. With us today is our presenter, Jane Canfield -- you may more in the future. Let me read a little bit more about Jane if you don't know this already. Jane is the coordinator of the federal government documents of the profession for Catholic University Patrica. She has six years of experience in the field, she started her career as a public library and, went to two libraries. So -- taught six years at the library information sciences, worked as a director of the library of postsecondary educational -- and a ride to her current job in 2007. She fell in love with a world of government documents and was taken on with the special task of documents and other languages, especially Spanish. Like 100% of her users are native Spanish speakers. With that now, virtual microphone over to Jane who will take it from here.

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Good, good afternoon, everyone. As always, a pleasure to be doing this. Welcome, and thank you for being here. As you can see, my contact information is on the first slide. As always, if you would like a copy of my actual PowerPoint, send me an email and I will send it to you. The presentation will be available on the FDLP Academy website as well. With that, let's get started. There is a month for that. This webinar came about because I did a webinar on federal holidays. Part of the comments and questions were, had to do with what other holidays there are. So, I started exploring and there is a month for that. Next webinar up will be there is a week for that, because there is a lot of weekly holidays. Also, diverse monthly celebrations because there are an amazing number of months designated for celebrating all kinds of diverse events, groups of people that historical events that are very interesting. So, first a little bit of background information. In doing the research for this, I came across two very interesting congressional research service reports. Having to do with what's called cumulative legislation in Congress, the first is a report that tracks the trends and does some observations from the 93rd through the 115th Congress. On the kind of legislation that has been proposed for commemorative celebrations. It's an interesting, it's a really interesting report that I'm going to talk a little bit about it, if you would like to read the full report him on the link is in the presentation. Second report was commemorative days, weeks, and months, background and current practice with in college and the link for it within Congress. The link for it is also here. So, with that I would like to talk a little bit about what the report contains. I thought they were a really interesting historical background to how we have come up with so many daily, monthly, weekly holidays. The first national commemoration was in 1783. It was an equestrian statue dedicated to George Washington. Since that time, Congress has used commemorative legislation that can be anything from a recommendation or resolution to an actual wall. To honor numerous people. Numerous an event that is deemed to be important to us as Americans. We are going to introduce the Senate -- six primary types of legislation. Which are covered in the two congressional reports. The illustration here are the first U.S. postage stamps. Commemorating a person in 1847. With Benjamin Franklin, the other was a \$.10 stamp for George Washington. A lot of the measures that Congress takes or can take include naming federal facilities. If you get, if you get Publix with laws in any form or have looked at public laws. A lot of the laws passed every year are those that naming federal facilities including the local post offices, court analysis, hospitals, veterans facilities. Those wind up being enacted too long in our public laws. The United States Postal Service can be directed by Congress. To issue commemorative stamps. The U.S.

mint can be instructed to issue commemorative coins. Probably one of the most recent examples where the series of state coins were issued for each state over a number of years. Congress can award congressional -- can authorize national memorials around the District of Columbia and around the country. Congress can create permanent commemorative observances by authorizing federal holidays and other national observances and we can create temporary observances as well. Typically in every Congress, there are hundreds of legislative measures that are introduced. To recognize support on days, weeks, months and people. It's been observed and is included in the Congressional research service report that commemorative legislation is a universal appeal it's an opportunity for it's a very popular thing to do. The measures that Congress can take to commemorate an individual, a group, or an event. Divide into three categories, creation of federal holidays. Patriotic and natural services, and recognition of a special day, week or month that commemorates an individual, a group, an event. To create a federal holiday or a national observance, it requires a law, however to simply recognize her honor or support a day or a week, or a month just requires a simple resolution which can be either in the house, the Senate, or a concurrent resolution. This is a graphic illustration of the legislation introduced by type. Obviously, most of it has to do with commemorative time period. Posted, this is a table within the Congressional research service report. If you want to search within Congress.gov for commemorative legislation that exists these charts suggest what type of looking for, whether it's a building or a post of stat or a coin, a memorial. Search terms to use within Congress.gov for your search. I want to go to the fun part, the fun part of this now that you have a little background about how it happens. Talk about holidays and I'm going to mention are by no means all of the monthly celebration that exists. I did not cover there is a week for that, another webinar. January is glaucoma awareness month. There is a link to the national institutes of health information about glaucoma awareness. January is also natural thyroid awareness month. That link is information from the California government about that particular awareness month. In addition to federal information within the USA.gov, there is a significant amount of information from the state and local governments about these monthly celebrations as well. February is African-American history month. The information that I have here is from archives.gov and it talks about how African Americans life was. Proposed by Dr. Carter Woodson and February was chosen because of - it contains the birthdays of both Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass. Both of whom were historically important in terms of the effects of the lives of African-Americans. That's why February was chosen for the celebration of African-American history month. February is also national cancer permission month -- prevention month. The Center for disease control has a lot of information for celebrating and for promoting national cancer prevention month. Cancer is one of the leading causes of death within the United States. March is national women's history month. Again, there is information that archives.gov about how national women's history month came around. It actually first began in 1857. It commemorates female textile workers who marched in protest of their unfair working conditions. So, there is a long history of why March is the month for commemorating national women's history month. March is also national nutrition month and this particular information can -- came from the Oklahoma State health department. Although there is also within USA.gov and at my plate.gov significant information on nutrition. Specific information for national nutrition month exists in the site, I also put a link to a YouTube video commemorating national nutrition month. It's an annual celebration, it was created by the Academy of nutrition and I Gen X. It is to focus attention on making and -- informed choices about what we eat and developing good eating and physical activity habits. April has a number of different areas in which it commemorates. Occupational therapy month, there are two references here for occupational therapy month. One is from the the Beaverton Oregon government, a local reference. The other is from the United States Army, which apparently because there is a great deal of occupational therapy for soldiers who have been victims of war. Also commemorates occupational therapy month. April is also stress awareness month, stress awareness month after two years and now of dealing with COVID, stress awareness month is something probably all of us should be

aware of. Take a look at the resources that exist. April also is the month of the military child. This is probably one of the most interesting designations I came across. I had no idea that it even existed. April is the month of the military child, in which we can recognize and thank the children of servicemembers for their service to the United States. I have not thought about this, I think it's a wonderful idea, I have nieces and nephews who spent many years with their father serving in various military posts. My mother who is no longer with us would probably be very proud of this month because my mother was a military child and she went to 17 different schools, 17 different locations. Her father served in the military during the second world war. The month of the military child if you don't already know about it is something new, I think probably important to celebrate. Link here to the Federal Register and the celebration of the month of the military child. May, we are moving onto May. The month we are currently in. We still have a few days in May that you can celebrate some of these events, Asian Pacific American month. I see a number of references in news media and other sources to celebration. Asian Pacific American month. Again, there's the historical information here from [archives.gov](https://www.archives.gov). Audio observance began and it was first commemorated by President George Bush signing a proclamation, it is celebrated in May because the first Japanese immigrants came to the United States on May 7th, 1843. May is also national inventors month. In which we celebrate ingenuity, innovation, and creativity. Another interesting thing that you got a few more days to think about celebrating. May is American wetland month. Who knew, this information is from [EVA.gov](https://www.eva.gov) and American wetland month was important because wetlands are, have to do with our water quality, they provide habitat for plants, fish and wildlife, may is American wetland month, then I think probably lesser-known celebration in the month of May. May is also, hallelujah for those of us who can claim to be older Americans. May is also older Americans month. Older Americans month began in 1963 when only 17 Americans were over the age of 65. About a third of them lived in poverty, there are many more older Americans now and there are many more older Americans, particularly in times of inflation, who are living in poverty still. Taking a look at and celebrating our senior citizens is I think a good thing to do in the month of May. This was first coined by President John Kennedy when it was called senior citizen month, it's now called older Americans month. Worth taking a look at some information for celebrating, June. June is lesbian bisexual and transgender pride month. It was named in June because of the supporters of protests in New York City in June of 1969. To resist the persecution of LGBTQ Americans. It is I think an age of diversity and in a country as diverse as the United States, an important month to recognize and offer information about our patrons. July, in addition to having the Fourth of July, July is also juvenile arthritis awareness month. There is information here from the national institutes of health, juvenile arthritis is a serious disease and that I think it's one of the childhood diseases that isn't talked about very much. July is an opportunity to spread information and awareness of juvenile arthritis. July is recreation and Parks month. I think appropriate in combination with the Fourth of July and this natural -- national parks and recreation month was actually approved by the United States health representatives through 2009 within official resolution. August is national health observances, if you go to this site, [health.gov](https://www.health.gov). You will find a lot of information. One of which is there are national health observances designated for every month of the year, the one in August is offering information about its immunization awareness month, it's trying to inspire health and safety month. It is national breast-feeding month, so all three of those are designated as national health observances in August. National immune awareness month is also an annual month in which the CDC can -- in particular works toward improving recognition of the importance of vaccination. Obviously, I think COVID-19 and some of us have now had four COVID vaccinations and the awareness of the importance of the house vaccinations, and the resistance that we have seen on the part of some people to getting them. I assume all of you have been seeing the same news I have about monkeypox and cases of monkeypox. The possibility that monkeypox is occurring because we no longer vaccinate children for smallpox and the smallpox vaccines are also preventative apparently for monkeypox. August is your chance to celebrate national immunization awareness month.

September. September is national preparedness month. Information at FEMA.gov, in September there are numerous simulations for practicing for hurricanes. For earthquakes, September is national preparedness month because it has to do with being prepared for hurricanes which occur mostly in other months, they mostly occur in September. Taking a look at, prepared for whatever disaster, be it natural like hurricanes, tornadoes, earthquakes or be it something like COVID that being prepared, as much as we can is an important thing to do. Maybe this year National Preparedness Month in September. It would be a fun thing to do, September is also national Hispanic Heritage month again, national Hispanic heritage month was established by an executive order in 1968 which started designating a week, and then moved on until it became national Hispanic heritage month. There is national Hispanic heritage month and many holidays have also been designated by executive order of the president. Okay. October, in addition to Halloween day is national disability employment awareness month. It also was designated by presidential executive order, there is information at archives.gov about its history and how it began. It was originally physically handicapped week and began in 1945. Later, the word physically was dropped from the designation and it became a month in October to recognize that those people with any kind of disability are able to be employed and to function in various employment positions with out discrimination. October, national disability employment awareness month. Also, in October is national seafood months. Designated by NOAA. The agency that oversees hurricanes, NOAA also oversees the oceans and the food that comes from -- on behalf of my husband who is a marine biologist. Spent much of his life raising fish and shrimp, all of the fishermen in the world celebrate national seafood month in October please. November, in addition to having Thanksgiving day is national American Indian and Alaska native heritage month. Again, this has been declared by presidential proclamation in executive order. It began as a week in October in 1976 and progressed through becoming a month as designated by President Clinton in 1996. It's considered an appropriate month because not just because that is also when we celebrate Thanksgiving and the pilgrims, and the help provided by aid of tribes. November is also the month of which many native tribes celebrate the fall harvest. November was considered appropriate for American Indian and Alaska native heritage. November is also another one of those national health observance designated months. In November, the designated observances for national health are diabetes, lung cancer, obstructive pulmonary disease, COPD, and antibiotic resistance. Again, there is a link here if you go to health.gov, you can see the list of all of the designations in terms of our health and being aware of health concerns that are designated as national health observance month. Okay, December. Of course, December is famous for Christmas and this one I included from substance abuse and mental health services administration, not just because I think it's important in December. It's the socializing safely this season, December is national impaired driving prevention month. Appropriate because of course, holiday celebrations involving alcohol and perhaps other substances we need to be aware of not driving when we are mentally impaired. Important month to know about, I did not know that this national impaired driving prevention month existed until I started working on the webinar, so one more thing to celebrate and make people aware of in December. It is very important to celebrate the holidays, but not to getting your car and drive if you are impaired from doing so. An interesting place to find information about holidays, demographics subjects like holidays, anniversaries, observances, topics that are of interest is at census.gov. The Census Bureau, does something called facts for features. It is not as well known as many other census publications. Each month, the Census Bureau does the facts for features and includes information on important months, important days, important holidays and provides facts that have to do with those holidays. They pull it by year, so if they go to facts for features in the Census Bureau, you can look at each year and what they have done for each year. They nearly always have facts for Thanksgiving for Valentines, for Hispanic heritage month that are useful if you want to provide information on doing exhibition. The information provided by facts for features is extremely useful and worth taking a look at. Okay, I'm going to say thank you but I'm also going to take a minute to share my screen. And go to

USA.gov because USA.gov is where I have started discovering much of this information, you can also look for holidays but you can look for monthly, I'm going to monthly holidays just to give you an idea of what shows up, okay, monthly holidays. The national holiday and health observance calendar. You also get information from state governments in the case, there is North Carolina. You get a holiday semi monthly pay calendar. All of those just by May monthly things, partnerships from the U.S. national Park service. The national Center for environmental health calendar events. You can find a lot of information just by putting in monthly holidays. One of the ones that I thought was really interesting, the national holiday and hope -- health observances calendar. If you open this, you get a list of nationally designated months for health observances. There are as you've seen the ones in January, family fit, in February, American heart month. National cancer prevention month, national canned food month, if you click in March. A very long list, so these could all, I found this site really interesting because they can give you some ideas for webinars for exhibitions for promotions in your library. All of which have to do with some aspect of our health. To give you an idea of what happens, I like national canned food month, if I click on national canned food month, I go to, it takes me to a site. Facts about canned foods. In this I could consider offering a presentation on offering my library users information about the value of canned foods doing this around the end of August September even though the month is February because they will not leave, important canned food becomes after hurricane when everything in your refrigerator is along since either gone or inedible. The canned food you can provide is an interesting thing, just to give you an idea of what's there if they go back. Sleep awareness week, I just click on sleep awareness week. Sleep awareness week, I get taken to the national sleep foundation. It presents from the information on sleep awareness week.'s this particular sign of national national health observances is programming for our users that can be extremely valuable I just wanted you to see those particular sites. Groups together a lot of with that, I'm going to. As always, thank you very much. If you know of or have found other monthly holidays, it would be fun to see them in the chat. Also, if you have any questions please put them in the chat and we have got some minutes left to take care of questions.

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Thank you, Jane. Another great webinar, really informative. I like that last slide, I'm going to have to go there. The various months, I can see a number of my ailments are highlighted.

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Well -- which month you get to celebrate your illness and, absolutely.

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Let's see.

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Okay, I saw one.

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I believe May is also older Americans month, a while back I attended a GPO webinar on free public education .

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I see somebody asked to share an email address. I will share my email address, please, if you would like a copy of the original PowerPoint I will happily send it. With the original PowerPoint, the links are all active and it's easy to -- no coppery whatsoever, if you would like a copy and would like to change it, who is useful has a copy you can use in any way you could like.

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You also get tomorrow, or the day after you would get recording would be available also the PDF of the slides.

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I see other people, American heritage month in May. Celebrate diversity month in April,

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What does Allison say? Hydrocephalus month, I don't know what that is. I have no idea what that is. Sounds like a figure have that. For the lead holiday in Leicester. We can actually celebrate June 9th, Juneteenth. Give that a look okay, I see Christine putting in that April is sexual assault awareness month with an address, she's put together a webpage for that. Thank you very much, that is great information. Thank you, Allison. Let's hit the hydrocephalus -- knock on wood. Jane has offered to give the original PowerPoint.

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Send me an email and say please send me the PowerPoint, I will get it out to you. Any more questions for Jane? This is a very interesting presentation. There are some other remarks here while we were waiting on questions. We should send those in. First off, I would like to thank Jane for another great webinar, she has done so many webinars for us. Talking about more in the future, I would like to thank my colleague, Ashley -- Ashley Dahlen for great tech support. Keeping everything running smoothly, this is our last webinar for May. We have four or more scheduled so far for June. The next one is scheduled for next Wednesday, June 1st. June already, titled national responsible fatherhood clearinghouse resources for fathers and children, should be interesting. You'll receive notice of all the upcoming webinars with a sign out at FPL de.com, from FDL P.com you can link to, it used to be in indexed section. Now the links are at the top of -- see a calendar of upcoming webinars, accessing past webinars from, it should be -- this audience can do a great webinar. The government information resources, also FPL be specific, also different things of that nature, from the -- general government information welfare gains. The webinar. Actually, if she has not done it already to the satisfaction survey there it is, in the chat many of -- will be in there. Also a link to something earlier. Very interesting. Any last questions for Jane, I know we mentioned the presentation, the days and I think some -- somebody will mention it's the day, another issue. Ask questions. Did you mention this? I don't know if they tried to avoid overloading a month, or a day designating as a month. I know that December seems to have less designated. I'm assuming that has to do with so many other holiday events in December. Whether there's any contest efforts to limit how many designations there are. I don't think so.

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Black history month is what, February. I think that's the most prominent one, we hear about it all the time.

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Scrolling down, if there's any last questions, any suggestions for a spinoff of a similar type of webinar to this, we could be changing out --

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I think the next one is going to be that there is a week for that, I would like to take a look at the weeks that are designated for certain celebrations. It would be interesting if you could somehow track outcome that it is about that. A month or a day or a week, that would be interesting I don't know if they can quantify that. Just getting a lot of shut outs. We have suggestions for a different or similar add-ons, spinoffs of this particular topic which is extremely interesting, may help you hear about it.

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If you would like to do one, if you would like to do one. Maybe you've got a special one in your state, maybe you have something that you need from the state. The rest of us would be interested to learn about. Okay, I guess I can close things out. Thank you, once again, Jane. Another fabulous webinar.

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You are welcome point

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Jean will be doing another one, keep your eyes peeled on the calendar. Sign up for our News team alerts, you will get those. Thanks again, Ashley. Thank you for your support, thank you, audience. Come back on June 1st for the first of the June webinars. I scheduled a webinar on the 16th of June, which

should be very good. Keep your eyes peeled for that. Have a great rest of the day, everyone. Come on back to the FDLP Academy for more webinars.

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Thank you point

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Thank you.

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By. [ Event [Event Concluded]