

# Patriotic Holidays *of the United States*

An Introduction to the History, Symbols,  
and Traditions Behind the Major Holidays  
and Days of Observance



By Helene Henderson

Foreword by Matthew Dennis

*Omni*graphics

615 Griswold • Detroit, MI 48226

# Table of Contents

Foreword . . . . .	7
Preface . . . . .	9
Chronologies . . . . .	15
Historical Events Commemorated by Holidays and Observances . . . . .	15
Establishment of Holidays and Observances . . . . .	15

## **Patriotic Holidays of the United States**

Patriotism in the United States: An Introduction to American Patriotism, Holidays, Government, Political Parties, National Symbols, and Mottoes . . . . .	19
Armed Forces Day . . . . .	47
Citizenship Day . . . . .	63
Columbus Day . . . . .	73
Election Day and Inauguration Day . . . . .	83
Emancipation Day and Juneteenth . . . . .	97
Flag Day . . . . .	117
Independence Day . . . . .	127
Labor Day . . . . .	175
Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday . . . . .	185
Memorial Day . . . . .	207
National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day . . . . .	219
Patriot Day (September 11) . . . . .	227
Thanksgiving . . . . .	237
Veterans Day . . . . .	249
Washington's Birthday (Presidents' Day) . . . . .	265

## Appendix: Primary Sources

Excerpts from the Journal of Christopher Columbus (1492) . . . . .	277
The Mayflower Compact (1620) . . . . .	278
The Declaration of Independence (1776) . . . . .	280
The Constitution of the United States (1787), The Bill of Rights (1791), and Amendments to the Constitution (1795-1992) . . . . .	284
Sarah Ridg [Schuyler] Recalls President George Washington’s Birthday and Inauguration Day (1809). . . . .	307
A Letter from Sarah Josepha Hale to President Abraham Lincoln about the Creation of Thanksgiving (1863). . . . .	310
The Emancipation Proclamation (1863) and the 13th Amendment (1865) . . . .	312
Bishop H. M. Turner Recalls the Issuance of the Emancipation Proclamation (1863). . . . .	315
Fourth of July Celebrations in Oregon (1867, 1870s). . . . .	318
Memorial Day Observances in Washington, D.C. (ca. 1870, 1885) . . . . .	320
A Columbus Day Program by Francis Bellamy (1892). . . . .	324
The Pullman Workers’ Strike (1894). . . . .	327
President Franklin D. Roosevelt’s Speech after the Attack on Pearl Harbor (1941) . . . . .	334
Flag Laws and Regulations (1942; amended 1998). . . . .	336
“I Have a Dream,” Address at March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom (1963). . . . .	342
President George W. Bush Addresses the Nation after the Attacks of September 11 (2001) . . . . .	347
U.S. Representative William Lacy Clay Discusses the 40th Anniversary of the 1963 March on Washington (2003) . . . . .	352
U.S. Representative John Conyers Jr. Reflects on the Significance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day (2004) . . . . .	358
<b>Bibliography</b> . . . . .	363
<b>Web Sites</b> . . . . .	379
<b>Photo and Illustration Credits</b> . . . . .	389
<b>Index</b> . . . . .	393