



Flag Day is celebrated on 14 June in the US. It commemorates the adoption of our flag on the same date in 1777, by resolution of the Second Continental Congress. The first flag displayed thirteen alternating red and white stripes; the flag also had thirteen stars, in a blue field, representing a new constellation.

Many people and organizations have played roles in the establishing a national Flag Day celebration.

**1861, Civil War.** Shortly after the 1861 attack on Fort Sumter starting the Civil War, the flag flying over the fort was saved by Union soldiers. Fame transformed the flag from a fairly obscure military symbol used to identify American ships and forts into a popular symbol used by Americans to support the Union cause.



The **Fort Sumter Flag** is an historic US flag with a distinctive diamond-shaped pattern of 33 stars. When the main flagpole was felled during Fort Sumter bombardment by Confederate forces, **Peter Hart** rushed to retrieve the flag and remount it on a makeshift pole. The flag was lowered by Major **Robert Anderson** on 13 April 1861, when he surrendered Fort Sumter, Charleston, SC, at the outset of the Civil War.

Anderson took the flag to New York City for a 20 April 1861 patriotic rally. It was flown from the equestrian statue of George Washington in Union Square. More than 100,000 people thronged Manhattan, in what was the largest public gathering

in the country up to this time. The flag was then taken to towns and cities throughout the north, and "auctioned" to raise funds for the war effort.

On 14 April 1865, four years and one day after the surrender and as part of a celebration of the Union victory, Anderson

raised the flag in triumph over the battered remains of the fort. Anderson then thanked God he had lived to see this day as he took the flagpole's halcyons in his hands.

A day to celebrate the newly-popular flag was proposed by **Charles Dudley Warner** in Hartford, CT. At this time, flags were able to be mass produced.

## FATHER'S DAY

In 1908, Grace Golden Clayton proposed the day to honor those men who had died in a mining accident in the US. Though it was not accepted then, in 1909, Sonora Smart Dodd, who along with her five brothers were raised by her father alone, after attending Mother's Day in a church, convinced the Spokane Ministerial Association to celebrate Father's Day nationwide.

Father's Day was first recognized in 1916 by President Woodrow Wilson. President Calvin Coolidge then urged states to observe the holiday in 1924. Finally, in 1966, President Lyndon Johnson made the first presidential proclamation honoring fathers, designating the third Sunday in June as Father's Day.

**Happy Father's Day!**