



“To promote an understanding of the life and times of President Woodrow Wilson, his impact on the world, his relevance today and for the future.”

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FLAG DAY CELEBRATION: UNITED WE STAND

STAUNTON, VA – In recognition of President Woodrow Wilson’s establishment of Flag Day in 1916, the Woodrow Wilson Presidential Library and Museum will co-host a Flag Day Celebration on Sunday, June 10th from 2:00 until 4:00 pm. Three local chapters of the Daughters of the American Revolution – Augusta Parish, Beverley Manor, and Colonel Thomas Hughart – are co-hosting the event. The event is free and open to the public.

The speaker will be Chaplain (Lieutenant Colonel) Ben Sprouse, US Army, and the service will begin at 2:30 pm. Festivities will include free tours of the presidential birthplace and museum, children’s activities, a reception, and a special appearance by President Woodrow Wilson portrayed by Judd Bankert. Children will have the opportunity to fold Pocket Flags and send notes to our military personnel serving abroad.

President Woodrow Wilson established Flag Day with a Proclamation in 1916. Communities across the nation began celebrating Flag Day that year. Below is an excerpt of the proclamation:

I, therefore, suggest and request that throughout the nation, and if possible in every community, the 14th day of June be observed as Flag Day with special patriotic exercises, at which means shall be taken to give significant expression to our thoughtful love of America, our comprehension of the great mission of liberty and justice to which we have devoted ourselves as a people, our pride in the history and our enthusiasm for the political program of the nation, our determination to make it greater and purer with each generation, and our resolution to demonstrate to all the world its vital union in sentiment and purpose, accepting only those as true compatriots who feel as we do the compulsion of this supreme allegiance.

President Wilson gave two major speeches about Flag Day. On June 14, 1915, he gave an address honoring the flag. The next year, he gave a Flag Day address describing the proclamation and urging Americans to honor the flag and led the Flag Day parade in Washington

The idea for Flag Day originated in 1885, when a Wisconsin public school teacher decided that his students should celebrate June 14 as “Flag Birthday.” That day marked the 108th anniversary of the official adoption of the Stars and Stripes in 1777. In 1949, 33 years after President Wilson’s proclamation, President Harry Truman signed an Act of Congress officially designating June 14th of each year as National Flag Day.



Those interested in more information about either Flag Day or visiting the Woodrow Wilson Presidential Library and Museum should visit the website at <http://www.woodrowwilson.org/visit/calendar-of-events>.

The Flag Day Celebration is sponsored in part by Country Confections of Fishersville, Virginia.

The Woodrow Wilson Presidential Library & Museum is located at 20 N. Coalter Street in Staunton and includes Wilson's birthplace, a museum, gardens, and a library and archive. The Museum is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday – Saturday, and 12 – 5 p.m. on Sundays. The WWPL's archival collections are accessible through its e-Library or by appointment. For additional information, call 540-885-0897 or visit www.woodrowwilson.org.

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