It’s June! This month's diversity holidays and awareness days include:

**LGBT Pride Month:**

June was first declared “Gay & Lesbian Pride Month” by President Bill Clinton in 2000 in recognition of the 1969 Stonewall riots where, for the first time in history, members of the gay community united for three days at the Stonewall Inn in New York City to protest and fight for gay rights. Before 2000, lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender Pride Days were celebrated all over the United States at different times. Since 2009, President Barack Obama has declared June “Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Pride Month.” He will do the same this year and has issued a video challenge, “LGBT Pride Month Champions of Change.” Submission for the challenge is closed but you can check WhiteHouse.gov for updates.

For more information, please visit:

- ACLU LGBT Project
- CenterLink
- GLBT Historical Society
- LGBT Community Center in New York, NY.
- Stonewall Riots

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**Loving v. Virginia Anniversary:** Thursday, 12

Mildred and Richard Loving, originally from the Commonwealth of Virginia, were married in June 1958 in the District of Columbia. She was of African and Rappahannock American Indian descent, and he was white. They left Virginia to evade the Racial Integrity Act of 1924, a state law banning marriage between any white and nonwhite person. Shortly after they returned to Virginia, police officers invaded their home while they were sleeping. In an effort to defend their living arrangement, Mrs. Loving showed the marriage certificate. The police used it as evidence and charged them with criminal conduct under Section 20-58 of the Virginia Code prohibiting interracial couples from being married out-of-state and then returning to Virginia and Section 20-59 which made interracial marriage a felony and punishable by a prison sentence of one to five years. The Lovings pled guilty on January 6, 1959, and were sentenced to one year in prison, but the sentence was suspended for 25 years if they would leave Virginia.

On November 6, 1963, the American Civil Liberties Union filed the first of many motions to vacate the judgment. It wasn’t until 1967 in a unanimous landmark decision
that the United States Supreme Court declared Virginia’s anti-miscegenation statute and the Racial Integrity Act of 1924 unconstitutional. The decision overturned Pace v. Alabama (1883) and declared all race-based legal restrictions on marriage unconstitutional.

In 2000, Alabama was the last state to officially repeal its law against mixed-race marriage.

For more information, please visit:

- Loving Day

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Father’s Day: Sunday, 15

One of the earliest Father’s Day celebrations took place in Fairmont, W.Va. on July 5, 1908; it was coordinated by Grace Golden Clayton. Mrs. Clayton, perhaps inspired by Anna M. Jarvis’ efforts to establish Mother’s Day, wanted to recognize the 210 fathers who lost their lives in the Monongah Mining disaster on December 6, 1907. In honor of her recently deceased father, Mrs. Clayton chose the Sunday closest to his birthday. The first Father’s Day celebration was not extremely successful as it was minimized by other events of the day and was not officially registered as a holiday by West Virginia. Father’s Day was not celebrated in West Virginia again until 1972, when President Richard Nixon issued the proclamation.

However, Mrs. Clayton is not recognized for establishing Father’s Day. On June 19, 1910, Sonora Smart Dodd celebrated Father’s Day in Spokane, Wash., in honor of her Civil War Veteran father, William Jackson Smart, who raised six children as a single parent. She proposed June 5, her father’s birthday, for the celebration but did not give organizers enough time to make arrangements, so it was held on the third Sunday in June.

In 1913, a bill was presented to Congress to nationally recognize Father’s Day. Congress resisted President Woodrow Wilson’s attempt to make it official in 1916 because it did not want Father’s Day to be commercialized. In 1924, President Calvin Coolidge advocated for Father’s Day to be a national holiday but did not issue a national proclamation since Congress had defeated earlier attempts. Maine Senator Margaret Chase Smith accused Congress in 1957 of honoring mothers but ignoring fathers for 40 years. President Lyndon B. Johnson designated the third Sunday in June as Father’s Day

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by issuing the first proclamation to honor fathers in 1966. President Richard Nixon declared it a permanent national holiday in 1972, when he signed it into law.

For those lucky enough to still have your father, please honor him, Grace Clayton, and Sonora Dodd by taking time to show your appreciation and thank him with a handwritten note.

For more information, please visit:

- History.com
- Father’s Day History
- Monongah Mining Disaster
- Sonora Smart Dodd

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Juneteenth: Thursday, 19

Juneteenth is the oldest known celebration of the ending of slavery in the United States. It was on June 19, 1865 that Major General Gordon Granger arrived in Galveston, Texas leading Union soldiers and announced that the Civil War was over and slavery was abolished. This was two and half years after President Abraham Lincoln’s Emancipation Proclamation became official on January 1, 1863. There were few Union soldiers to enforce the Executive Order, so it had little impact on Texans until General Lee surrendered in April 1865 and General Granger’s regiment reinforced Union troops to influence and overcome the resistance.

For more information, please visit:

- Juneteenth.com
- Smithsonianmag.com
- Time.com

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WV Day: Friday, 20

This year marks the 151st anniversary of the creation of the state of West Virginia. WV broke away from Virginia after the Wheeling Conventions during the American Civil War. On June 20, 1863, WV was admitted as a new state to the Union and acted as a key border state during the Civil War. WV is the only state formed by seceding from a confederate state and one of only two states formed during the Civil War. WV is the only state that is located entirely in the Appalachian Regional Commission.

For more information, please visit:

- WV Official website
- WV-Wikipedia
- American Civil War-Wikipedia
- American Civil War Border States
- Appalachian Regional Commission
- Wheeling Convention-Wikipedia

Caribbean-American Heritage Month:

For more information, please visit:

- Official Site of National Caribbean-American Heritage Month
- Institute for Caribbean Studies

For more information on diversity and inclusion or to submit diversity and inclusion ideas, articles, and events, please visit Extension’s Social Justice website or contact me at Tonya.Michael@mail.wvu.edu / 304-293-8948 / 406 Knapp Hall, Morgantown WV 26506.