It's July! This month's holidays and awareness days include:

**Independence Day:** Friday, 4

July 4, 2013, will be the 238th anniversary of the U.S. Declaration of Independence. On July 2, 1776, the Second Continental Congress announced that the 13 American Colonies, which had been at war with Great Britain for more than a year, considered themselves independent states and, thus, no longer part of the British Empire. On July 4th, Congress approved the wording of the Declaration, which was drafted by Thomas Jefferson. The Declaration was the formal explanation of why Congress declared independence from Great Britain.

The 13 American Colonies are represented by 56 delegate signatures on the Declaration of Independence. The Colonies, located along the Atlantic Coast of North America, consisted of the following: Connecticut, Delaware, Georgia, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts Bay, Maryland, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, South Carolina, Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, and Virginia.

For more information, please visit:

- [13 Colonies](#)
- [The Charters of Freedom](#)
- [United States Declaration of Independence](#)

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Filipino-American Friendship Day: Friday, 4

July 4 is also Fil-Am Friendship Day in the U.S. (first celebrated in 1963) and Republic Day in the Philippines. From 1898 to 1946, the Philippines was a U.S. territory and remained so between 1941 and 1946 during World War II when it was under Japanese invasion. On July 4, 1946, the Philippines acquired complete independence.

For more information, please visit:

- Filipino-American
- Filipino-American Day
- Filipino American Library
- Republic Day-Philippines

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Americans with Disabilities Act Signed: Saturday, 26

This year marks the 24th anniversary of the ADA enacted by Congress in 1990. Amendments were signed into law in 2009. The law makes it illegal for businesses to discriminate against anyone with a disability. The ADA also establishes a national mandate that businesses must provide access to all aspects of life to people with disabilities.

For more information, please visit:

- ADA
- ADA of 1990
- ADA Amendments Act of 2008

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French/Franco-American Heritage Month:

For more information, please visit:

- Franco-American Heritage Center
- Franco-American Oral History Archives
- French-American Heritage
- French Heritage Society

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.