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

**Labor Day: Monday, 1**

Labor Day in the United States celebrates workers’ economic and social contributions. While the concept of Labor Day was first proposed in 1882, it is arguable as to who first suggested such a celebration. Some believe that machinist Matthew Maguire suggested it while serving as secretary of the Central Labor Union (CLU) of New York. Others believe that it was suggested by Peter J. McGuire of the American Federation of Labor (AFL) after he attended an annual labor festival in Toronto, Canada.

In 1887, Oregon was the first state to make Labor Day a holiday. Thirty states were officially celebrating Labor Day by 1894, when President Glover Cleveland and Congress declared it a national holiday only six days after end of the Pullman Strike. The Pullman Strike was a nationwide dispute between labor unions and railroads. It ended when President Cleveland—on the basis that the strike interfered with the delivery of the U.S. Mail, violated the Sherman Antitrust Act, and was a threat to public safety—sent U.S. Marshals and approximately 12,000 U.S. Army troops. Thirteen strikers were killed and 57 were wounded.

For more information, please visit:

- [Labor Day](#)
- [International Workers’ Day](#)
- [Labor History of the U.S.](#)
- [Labor Unions in the U.S.](#)
- [Pullman Strike](#)
- [Trade Union](#)
- [Workers’ Memorial Day](#)

Symbolic facts not related to labor history:

- Labor Day has become the symbolic “end of summer” (as Memorial Day is the symbolic “beginning of summer”).
- Labor Day has been considered the last “fashionable” day to wear white or seersucker.
- Labor Day marks the beginning of NFL and college football (and Fantasy Football!). The National Hot Rod Association holds its finals to the U.S. Nationals drag race at the Indianapolis Raceway Park.

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Patriot Day: Thursday, 11

Celebrated every year since 2002, Patriot Day is in remembrance of the 2,977 people killed in the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks on the World Trade Center in New York City and the Pentagon in Washington, D.C. Each year, the President requests that U.S. homes, the White House, and all U.S. government buildings and establishments, at home and abroad, fly the U.S. Flag at half-staff. The President also asks people to observe a moment of silence beginning at 8:46 a.m. (EST), the time when the first plane struck the North Tower of the World Trade Center.


For more information, please visit:

- [Patriot Day](#)
- [Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act](#)
  - [Serve America Act Summary](#)
- [9/11 Memorial](#)
  - [9/11 Timeline](#)
- [History.com](#)
Constitution Day and Citizenship Day: Wednesday, 17

Constitution Day and Citizenship Day is a combined observation each year to commemorate the Sept. 17, 1787, signing of the Constitution and to “recognize all who, by coming of age or by naturalization, have become citizens.”

Originally proclaimed in 1940 as “I Am an American Day” and observed on the third Sunday in May, the day recognized those who had attained American citizenship status. Congress repealed the joint resolution in 1952 and established Sept. 17 as the date for “Citizenship Day,” thus commemorating both the signing of the Constitution and those who had achieved American citizenship.

Senator Robert C. Byrd successfully urged Congress in 2004 to change the day’s designation to “Constitution Day and Citizenship Day.” He also encouraged the addition that every federal agency head provide employees with educational and training materials about the Constitution and that each federally funded educational institution hold a program for students on September 17.

For more information on Constitution Day and Citizenship Day, please visit:

- [Center for Civic Education](#)
- [Constitution Day](#)
- [Constitution Day and Citizenship Day](#)
- [United States Constitution](#)
National Deaf Awareness Week/International Week of Deaf People: Sunday, 21 — Saturday, 27

The intent of National Deaf Awareness Week/International Week of the Deaf is to bring attention to people who have hearing impairments, to highlight their accomplishments, and to raise awareness about the issues they may face. Deaf organizations take this time to celebrate through sponsoring activities and educating people about deafness by holding public information campaigns.

The World Federation of the Deaf encourages everyone to campaign about issues related to this year’s theme: language recognition, education systems, and attitudes toward a bilingual society or raising awareness within deaf communities about rights as bilingual citizens.

For more information on the National Deaf Awareness Week, please visit:

- National Association of the Deaf
- World Federation of the Deaf

Hispanic/Latino Heritage Month: Monday, Sept. 15 — Wednesday, Oct. 15

Hispanic/Latino Heritage Month was originally established as a weeklong celebration in 1968 under President Lyndon Johnson. Twenty years later, President Ronald Reagan expanded the celebration to 30 days, Sept. 15 to Oct. 15.

The cultures, contributions and histories of American citizens whose ancestors came from the Caribbean, Central and South America, Mexico, and Spain are celebrated during Hispanic Heritage Month.
Significant days include:

- Sept. 16—Independence Day for Mexico
- Sept. 18—Independence Day for Chile
- Oct. 12—Dia de la Raza (Columbus Day)

*Please note that the words “Hispanic” and “Latino,” while used interchangeably are different. In brief, “Hispanic” refers to Spanish-speaking people of the Americas (generally, they are from North, Central, and South America whose first language is Spanish). “Latino” refers to people who speak a language derived from Latin (generally, they are from Central and South America and the Spanish-speaking Caribbean Islands). Brazilians are an example of Latinos who are not Hispanic (they speak Portuguese).

For more information on Hispanic and Latino Heritage, please visit:

- National Hispanic Heritage Month
- Hispanic Heritage Facts
- Famous Firsts by Hispanic Americans
- Hispanic vs. Latino: the difference
  - Hispanic vs. Latino
  - Hispanic vs. Latino: Spain Conqueror or Spain Mother?

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.