

*“Nothing is politically right
which is morally wrong.”*
– Daniel O’Connell



*“Free and fair discussion will ever be
found the firmest friend of truth.”*
– George Campbell

MISSOURI SENATE

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Senator Stouffer- Honor Thy Mother and Father

The person who kissed your bruise when you fell off your bike, cooked your meals, wiped away your tears; the person who taught you how to fix your car, play a sport, or taught you to be strong. Whether it was your mom’s gentle touch or your father’s strength, your parents are the people who have made you the person you are today. Each year we celebrate our mothers and fathers or the people who step up and take the role of a mother or father. When and how did these holidays begin?

In the United States, Mother’s Day did not become an official holiday until 1914 but can be traced back to ancient Greece. Mother’s Day started in honor of Rhea, “mother of gods.” In the 1600s it developed into “Mothering Sunday” when the English sent their servants (who usually lived in the home of their employers) home during the fourth Sunday of Lent to spend time with their families. The day was originally about the mother church but then turned the attention away from the church and back to mothers. Many countries celebrate Mother’s Day

throughout the year. Denmark, Finland, Italy, Turkey, Australia and Belgium celebrate Mother's Day the second Sunday in May along with the United States.

Father's Day had a quite different history compared to Mother's Day. The idea of Father's Day was first proposed in 1909. A woman wanted to honor her father who was a Civil War Veteran and became a widow after his wife died during the birth of their sixth child. When one of his daughters became older, she realized the strength and selflessness her father had shown in raising his children as a single parent and wanted to honor him. Father's Day did not become official until 1966.

A good productive society starts with a strong family unit. I teach a Sunday school class to young married couples, most of which have children. I applaud all parents for the hard work they perform in raising a family in today's society. Most mothers and fathers are both in the career field trying to raise a family. As a father of two grown sons, I know being a parent is a blessed job as well as a challenging one.

Whether you make a homemade card with a bunch of scribbles on it, bake cookies or just make the phone call that hasn't been made in days, months or even years, the days highlighting your parents should be a day of remembrance. Your parents did the best they could and have made you the person you are today so make sure you honor them not only during this once-a-year holiday, but every day.

If you have questions or comments about this issue or any other please feel free to call my office toll free at 866-768-3987 or send an email to bstouffer@senate.mo.gov.