



MISSOURI SENATE
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**A Weekly Column for the
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Honoring the Special Mother-Figure in Your Life

I'd like to take time to show my deep appreciation to all the women in the 28th Senatorial District who take upon themselves the most difficult job ever known to man, being a mother. Mother's Day is more than a "Hallmark Holiday" — the day offers the opportunity for all individuals to celebrate the special mother-figure in their life.

The idea behind Mother's Day started in Britain in the 17th Century. A religious celebration of motherhood, called Mothering Sunday, was held on the fourth Sunday during the Lenten season. This holiday featured the reunification of families who were separated when working class families had to send off their young children to be employed as servants.

Mother's Day in the United States, however, has two "founding mothers." Anna Reeves Jarvis was the first woman to hold an official celebration of mothers in the United States. She instituted Mothers' Work Day in her home state of West Virginia in order to raise awareness about local sanitation issues. Meanwhile another woman, Julia Ward Howe, attempted to institute a national celebration of mothers that honored women's inclinations toward peace. Both of these celebrations enjoyed some popularity, but then quickly faded.

In 1905, Anna Reeves Jarvis passed away and her daughter, Anna Jarvis, took up her mother's dream of creating a national day to honor mothers. In 1907, Anna launched her campaign by handing out white carnations to congregants at her mother's church and, in 1908, the church held a special Sunday service to honor mothers—a tradition that spread the very next year to churches throughout the country.

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In 1912, West Virginia adopted an official Mother's Day, and, two years later, the U.S. Congress passed a joint resolution, signed by President Wilson, establishing a national Mother's Day to emphasize the role of women in their families as well as in the public arena. Since the passage of that joint resolution, Mother's Day has been celebrated by Americans on the second Sunday in May.

Mother's Day is a time to honor the women in your life that make a difference. The day isn't just about being a mother; it's about appreciating the people in our lives while you have them, no matter who that person is. Let us honor the mothers of the past and show gratitude to the moms, grandmas, aunts, and other female role models in our lives on this very special day.

If you have questions or comments, please feel free to contact me at 573-751-8793 or by e-mail at: delbertscott@senate.state.mo.us.

Senator Delbert Scott represents the people of Barton, Benton, Cedar, Dallas, Henry, Hickory, Pettis, Polk and St. Clair counties in the Missouri Senate.

