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**A Weekly Column for the  
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## **June Holidays Honor Fathers In Two Special Ways**

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The month of June is the marker in each calendar year where spring ends and summer begins. You've probably already witnessed several signs indicating that summer is right around the corner — children are finishing up their schoolwork for the year, neighbors are doing more yard work and tending their luscious gardens, and the mercury is quickly climbing up the thermometer. There are several holidays in June that also help us say goodbye to spring and hello to summer. Two of these holidays honor fathers in different ways: Flag Day and Father's Day.

Flag Day was first observed in 1877 on the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Continental Congress' adoption of "Old Glory" as the official flag of the United States. In that year, Congress asked that all public buildings fly the flag on June 14. This act quickly became routine and in 1916, President Woodrow Wilson proclaimed Flag Day as a national celebration. It wasn't until President Harry Truman signed the National Flag Day Bill in 1949 that the holiday became official.

Our founding fathers — important political leaders who signed the Declaration of Independence, participated in the American Revolution, and drafted the United State Constitution — worked to ensure our everlasting rights and freedoms. It was because of their dedication to our country's future that on June 14, 1777, the Congressional Congress was able to approve a symbol of our nation's everlasting freedom. Our founding fathers played an important role in establishing the symbol of our nation that represents the never-ending dedication and sacrifice bestowed upon every American citizen. This same dedication and sacrifice can also be seen from modern day fathers and father-figures alike, and these selfless acts are celebrated on Father's Day.

Our country is one of the few in the world that have an official day on which fathers are honored. The origin of Father's Day is not clear, but regardless of when and where the first celebration occurred, individuals realized there needed to be a day in which fathers and father-figures received heartfelt thanks

from their loved ones. States and organizations began lobbying Congress to declare an annual Father's Day, and in 1916, President Woodrow Wilson approved of this idea. However, it wasn't until 1924 that President Calvin Coolidge made it a national event to "establish more intimate relations between fathers and their children and to impress upon fathers the full measure of their obligations."

Someone once said, "A father carries pictures where his money used to be." I know that being a father-figure to some of the most impressionable little souls is priceless and possibly the most important job I'll ever have. It's very fitting that we have the opportunity during the month of June to celebrate Flag Day and Father's Day back-to-back. If you have questions or comments, please feel free to contact me at 573-751-8793 or by e-mail at: [delbertscott@senate.mo.gov](mailto:delbertscott@senate.mo.gov).

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

