



June 18, 2009

## Celebrating Flag Day and Father's Day

June marks the celebration of two holidays: this year, Flag Day on June 14<sup>th</sup> and Father's Day on June 21<sup>st</sup>.

Father's Day is specifically set aside to celebrate the significance of fathers. Fathers that have set an example of what it means to truly be there for their family, willing to offer their support and wisdom. Fathers are the ones who show us what it is to be a good dad, a good leader, and a good person. They are our own personal heroes.

It was during a 1909 sermon about Mother's Day when Sonora Smart Dodd became inspired to create Father's Day. Having been raised by her father after her mother died, Sonora wanted her father to know how special he was to her as a courageous, selfless, and loving man. Sonora's father was born in June, thus, the first Father's Day was celebrated on June 19, 1910.

June 14<sup>th</sup> is the day each year dedicated to our flag, the symbol of our nation. Flag Day was observed for the first time in 1877 which was the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the adoption of our country's red-white-and-blue banner.

On April 25, 1976, the Chicago Cubs were playing in Dodger Stadium when a father and

son rushed onto the field with an American flag. The pair doused the flag in lighter fluid and attempted to light it on fire. Rick Monday, a center fielder for the Cubs, ran by the two and snatched the flag out of their hands, saving the flag from desecration. Afterwards, the crowd spontaneously broke into a round of “God Bless America” as the words “Rick Monday, you made a great play,” flashed on the scoreboard. Years later, this event was selected as one of the top 100 moments in major league baseball. ([Rick Monday Tribute, 1976 Video](#))

Our flag is a symbol that we respect and admire because it provides a constant reminder of the bravery of our armed forces. The stars and stripes have inspired works of art, musical compositions, literary works, and acts of bravery. From the creation of our nations’ anthem to the raising of the flag at the battle of Iwo Jima, our flag has served as a stirring reminder of the values our country continues to represent.

The month of June brings us much to reflect on: our fathers, the respect we hold for our county’s flag, and the many military members who made our great country what it is today. I wish you all many happy celebrations as we mark these two important holidays.

### **Contact Me**

As always, I appreciate hearing your comments, opinions, and concerns. Please feel free to contact me in Jefferson City at (573) 751-2459. You may write to me at Jason Crowell; Missouri Senate; State Capitol; Jefferson City, MO 65101, or email me at: [jcrowell@senate.mo.gov](mailto:jcrowell@senate.mo.gov) or visit me on the web at <http://www.senate.mo.gov/crowell>.

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