



Information Resource Centers

• The U.S. Diplomatic Mission

Leipzig

Newsletter for English Teachers June 2004

This Newsletter for English Teachers is a monthly publication by the Information Resource Centers in Germany. It focuses on American Studies topics of relevance to our academic audiences.

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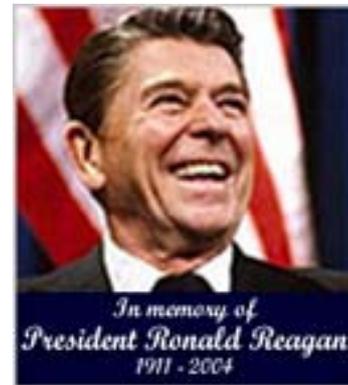
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Remembering Ronald Reagan 40th president of the U.S. from 1981-1989

World leaders, present and former, including German Chancellor Gerhard Schröder, attended the National Funeral Service at Washington National Cathedral on June 11 for President Ronald Reagan. President Reagan, the 40th US President, died on June 5, 2004.

In a letter to US President George W. Bush, Chancellor Schröder expressed his sadness at the death of Reagan and also the lasting impression Reagan left on Germany: "His commitment to overcoming the East-West conflict and his vision of a free and united Europe helped pave the way for those developments that ultimately enabled Germany also to regain its unity. In Germany therefore the memory of President Reagan will always be revered."

In June 1987, President Reagan stood in front of the Brandenburg Gate in then divided Berlin, and delivered these memorable words, addressing Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev: "General Secretary Gorbachev, if you seek peace, if you seek prosperity for the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, if you seek liberalization: Come here to this gate! Mr. Gorbachev, open this gate! Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall!"



- **Remembering Ronald Reagan, 40th President**
http://usinfo.state.gov/is/the_presidency/Ronald_Reagan_A_Tribute.html
- **President Ronald Reagan: biography**
<http://www.whitehouse.gov/history/presidents/rr40.html>
- **Reagan Presidential Library and Museum**
<http://www.reaganlibrary.com>
- **Letter from Chancellor Schröder to President Bush on death of Ronald Reagan, June 6, 2004**
http://www.germany-info.org/relaunch/politics/new/pol_schroeder_reagan_RIP.html

- Photos of President Reagan with German leaders in Washington and Germany, and on visits to Berlin
http://www.germany-info.org/relaunch/politics/new/pol_reagan_tribute.htm
- Remarks by President Reagan at the Brandenburg Gate, West Berlin, Germany, June 12, 1987
<http://www.reaganfoundation.org/reagan/speeches/wall.asp>

Father's Day: June 20

The idea of Father's Day originated with Sonora Dodd of Spokane, Wash., while listening to a Mother's Day sermon in 1909. Dodd wanted to honor her father, William Smart, a widowed Civil War veteran who raised his six children by himself on a rural farm. June was chosen for the first Father's Day celebration — proclaimed in 1910 by Spokane's mayor — because it was the month of William Smart's birth. The first presidential proclamation honoring fathers was issued in 1966 when President Lyndon Johnson designated the third Sunday in June as Father's Day. It has been celebrated annually since 1971.

Facts for Features: Father's Day: June 20 (U.S. Census Bureau)

http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/archives/facts_for_features_special_editions/001792.html

Flag Day



Flag Day is observed in the United States to commemorate the adoption of the *Stars and Stripes* by the Continental Congress on June 14, 1777. The resolution read:

"Resolved, that the flag of the United States be thirteen stripes, alternate red and white; that the union be thirteen stars, white in a blue field representing a new constellation."

The resolution gave no instruction as to how many points the stars should have, nor how the stars should be arranged on the blue union. Consequently, there were many variations. During the Revolutionary War, several patriots made flags for the new Nation. Betsy Ross is the best known of these persons, but there is no proof that she made the first Stars and Stripes. It was not until April 4,

1818, when President Monroe accepted a bill that prescribed the basic design of the flag which would assure that the growth of the country would be properly symbolized. It required that the flag of the United States have a union of 20 stars, white on a blue field, and that upon admission of each new State one star be added to the union of the flag on the fourth of July following the date of admission. The 13 alternating red and white stripes would remain unchanged.

In 1916, President Woodrow Wilson issued a proclamation calling for a nationwide observance of Flag Day on June 14, the birthday of the Stars and Stripes. It was not until 1949 that Congress made this day a permanent observance.

- **Celebrate: Flag Day**
<http://www.usembassy.de/usa/etexts/gov/celebrateflagday.pdf>
- **Flag Day (Factmonster)** <http://www.factmonster.com/spot/flagday2.html>
- **History of the American Flag**
<http://www.factmonster.com/ipka/A0875838.html>
- **The Flag of the United States: The Stars and Stripes**
<http://www.usembassy.de/usa/etexts/gov/flagusembse.pdf>
- **Flag Protection: A Brief History and Summary of Recent Supreme Court Decisions and Proposed Constitutional Amendment**
<http://www.usembassy.de/usa/etexts/gov/govtref4.pdf>
- **Guidelines for Display of the Flag**
<http://www.usembassy.de/usa/etexts/gov/flagguidelines.pdf>
- **The Origins of Flag Day** <http://www.usembassy.de/usa/etexts/gov/flagday.pdf>
- **The United States Flag** <http://www.usembassy.de/usa/etexts/gov/flag.pdf>
- **The Star-Spangled Banner. The Flag that Inspired the National Anthem (Smithsonian)** http://americanhistory.si.edu/ssb/2_home/fs2.html
- **The Betsy Ross Homepage (Independence Hall Association)**
<http://www.ushistory.org/betsy/index.html>
- **About the USA > Government > The Flag**
<http://www.usembassy.de/usa/government-flag.htm>

The Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance received official recognition by Congress in an Act approved on June 22, 1942. However, the pledge was first published in 1892 in the Youth's Companion Magazine in Boston, Massachusetts to celebrate the 400th anniversary of the discovery of America.

In its original version, the pledge read "my flag" instead of "the flag of the United States." The change in the wording was adopted in 1923. The phrase "under God" was added to the pledge by a Congressional act approved on June 14, 1954.

**I pledge allegiance to the Flag
of the United States of America,
And to the Republic for which it
stands,
One Nation under God, indivisible,
With liberty and justice for all.**
— *The Pledge of Allegiance*, 1892
Francis Bellamy (1856-1931)

About the USA > Government > Pledge of Allegiance

<http://www.usembassy.de/usa/government-pledge.htm>

Fourth of July 2004

Independence Day 2004 commemorates the 228th anniversary of the signing of the U.S. Declaration of Independence.

On this day in 1776, the Declaration of Independence was approved by the Continental Congress, starting the 13 colonies on the road to freedom as a sovereign



nation. As always, this most American of holidays will be marked by parades, fireworks and backyard barbecues across the country.

- **Celebrating Independence Day in the U.S.**
<http://usinfo.state.gov/usa/holidays/july4/>
- **About the USA > Holidays > Fourth of July**
<http://www.usembassy.de/usa/holidays-fourth.htm>
- **Facts for Features: The Fourth of July 2004**
http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/archives/facts_for_features_special_editions/001798.html
- **Declaration of Independence**
<http://usinfo.state.gov/usa/infousa/facts/democrac/1.htm>

Did you know.....

The U.S. Embassy in Germany offers a telephone and web-based reference and referral service for information on exchange opportunities in the United States.

InfoLine - Tel: 030 - 31 80 08 99 (Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 14:00-17:00)

Internet <http://www.usembassy.de/austausch>

Educational Information Services of the U.S. Embassy

Austauschinformationen	
● News & Termine von Informationsveranstaltungen zu Austauschfragen Events finden Sie im Veranstaltungskalender	
▶▶ Allgemeine Informationen Beratungsmöglichkeiten in Deutschland Publikationen & Ressourcen US-Bildungssystem Glossar Visainformationen	▶▶ Studium in den USA Undergraduate Study Graduate Study Specialized Professional Study Akkreditierung Finanzielle Förderung Tests & Testverfahren Visainformationen
▶▶ Arbeiten in den USA Praktika Summer Jobs Au Pair Lebenslauf Anerkennung von Abschlüssen Visainformationen	▶▶ Schüleraufenthalt Austauschorganisationen Öffentliche und private High Schools Visainformationen
▶▶ Kurzaufenthalte Sprachkurse Summer Sessions Camps Visainformationen	▶▶ Lehreraustausch Austauschprogramme & -organisationen Visainformationen

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