

8. Bring the students into the Loyalty Day activities by holding school programs in assembly halls, by promoting Flag presentations and by means of special contests.

9. You can always urge the use of the Pledge of Allegiance at public gatherings.

10. You can fly your American Flag and encourage others to do the same.

11. Urge sermons on "Loyalty" from all church pulpits with Protestant, Catholic and Jewish leaders stressing the importance of our religious freedoms.

12. Law Day falls on May 1 as well. This is an excellent opportunity for cooperation with judges and lawyers.

13. Seek to publicize Loyalty Day through all forms of news media. Set up panel discussions or interviews for the media whenever possible. Be willing to write articles, editorials or even letters to the editor to promote the meaning of this *special* day.

Our 13 original colonies fought, won, prospered and grew into the United States of America.

The 13 suggestions listed above, when properly applied, will serve to keep their great dream intact.

Revised  
2017

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Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S.  
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## U.S. CONGRESS AND PRESIDENT

### Proclaimed LOYALTY DAY

Public Law 85-529

85th Congress, H.J. Res. 479

1958

### JOINT RESOLUTION

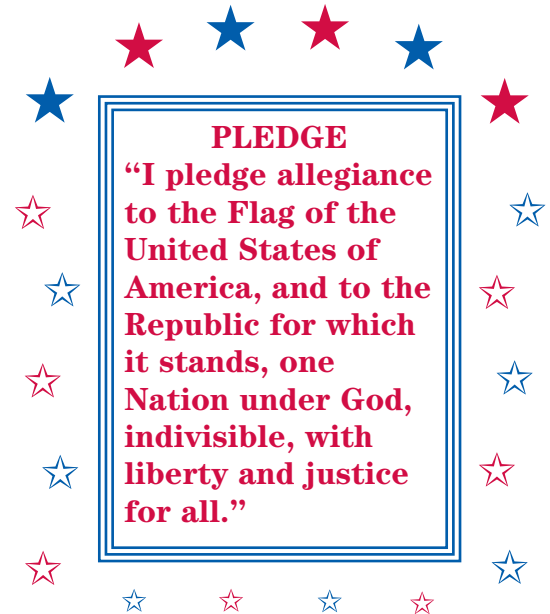
72 Stat. 369

To designate the 1st day of May  
of each year as  
LOYALTY DAY

*Resolved by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the 1st day of May of each year is hereby designated as Loyalty Day and is to be set aside as a special day for the reaffirmation of loyalty to the United States of America and for the recognition of the heritage of American freedom; and the President of the United States is authorized and requested to issue a proclamation calling upon officials of the Government to display the flag of the United States on all Government buildings on such day and inviting the people of the United States to observe such day, in schools and other suitable places, with appropriate ceremonies.*



# Loyalty Day



# MAY 1

*“God grants liberty only to those who love it and are always ready to guard and defend it.”*

Daniel Webster

# LOYALTY DAY

## HISTORY

May 1 of each year is designated as Loyalty Day by Congressional Act 85-529 of 1958. The passage of this particular Act was one of the brightest victories in the long, proud history of Americanism achievements by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.

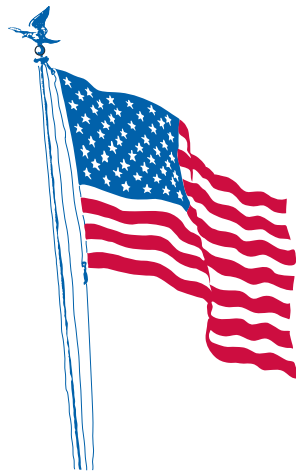
It was the culmination of a long struggle to set aside a special day on which Americans could pointedly counteract the Communists, who were using May Day for their annual hate demonstrations against our nation.

Loyalty Day was not a spur of the moment concept. The basic idea of staging patriotic demonstrations to offset the Communist rallies actually started in 1930. These annual demonstrations were simply termed Americanism rallies.

The VFW fight to obtain federal government recognition of May 1 as “Loyalty Day” began in earnest with the adoption of a resolution at the Golden Jubilee VFW National Convention in Miami in 1949.

A move to gain official endorsement of “Loyalty Day” was finally launched in Congress in 1954 with the introduction of a House Joint Resolution by Representative James E. Van Zandt, Pennsylvania, three-times Commander-in-Chief of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

In 1955, Congress approved it, but it simply designated May 1, 1955, as “Loyalty Day.” Still not satisfied, the VFW continued to push for a bill that would proclaim May 1 of *each* year as “Loyalty Day.” This official recognition was finally achieved with the Congressional adoption of Public Law 529 in 1958.



Since its passage, Loyalty Day has been a resounding success. Each year it gains impetus across the land as millions of Americans participate in or witness the observances in every state in the nation and in Asia, Europe, Pacific Areas, Panama Canal Zone and Puerto Rico.

## PURPOSE

Loyalty Day serves as that *specific* occasion when all American citizens should publicly reaffirm their complete loyalty to America by demonstrating against individuals who advocate the overthrow of our government.

Only *positive* patriotic reaction by the majority of our citizens will *effectively* counteract them.

This is the reason we have Loyalty Day – to continually encourage loyal Americans to **speak out**. It is a day upon which patriotic citizens should hold parades, flag ceremonies, public meetings, school programs and other Americanism activities throughout the nation.

The ideals and concepts of our forefathers have long endured and have forged these states into the strongest and greatest nation the world has ever known, but we need a tremendous resurgence of good, old-fashioned, red-white and blue patriotism, on a daily basis, if we are to continue to endure as free people.

Staunch Americans must awaken and live up to their obligations as responsible citizens if they truly desire to remain free for only the *loyal* and responsible full *deserve* to be free.

Loyalty is an intangible thing but it causes people to form a government, to obey its laws and rules and to willingly defend their country against its enemies. It is the cohesive factor that welds a people together to act for the common good.

We observe Loyalty Day, therefore, to remind ourselves and others that there is no substitute for loyalty and we observe it to pledge ourselves to maintain a free society in which loyalty is respected and encouraged.

## PROMOTION

The logical question that every good American citizen will immediately ask is “What can I do to help?” Here are some suggestions for personal action:

1. You can enlighten those you come in contact with about the importance of preserving law and order and of the necessity to proclaim their love for America and “Old Glory.”

2. You can address groups of all ages and do your level best to rekindle their pride in our democratic way of life.

3. National Volunteer Week is celebrated near Loyalty Day, May 1. Promote volunteering in your community.

4. The annual March of Dimes WalkAmerica event is held in Spring. Provide a Color Guard for the opening ceremonies and a walk team.

5. Don't forget the most obvious participants - your own neighbors and friends. They'll be among the most eager to join in if you have properly described the purpose of Loyalty Day.

6. You can also help develop Loyalty Day parades with lively bands, colorful floats, queens and thousands of marchers

7. Arranging public meetings where outstanding speakers are presented is an excellent idea. It is also a fine chance to use Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen winners whenever possible.