
August 2024 Diversity Messaging

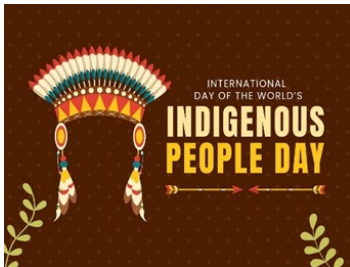
Emancipation Day August 8th



Andrew Johnson, Tennessee's military governor at the time, and later the 17th president of the United States, successfully persuaded Lincoln to exclude Tennessee from the consequences of the Proclamation. This meant that enslaved Tennesseans did not join people in states such as Alabama, Florida, Georgia, and Mississippi in celebrating Emancipation Day on January 1. Seven months after the Proclamation's implementation, on August 8, 1863, when Andrew Johnson freed his personal slaves at his home in Greeneville, Tennessee, emancipation was finally acknowledged in East Tennessee.

August 8 became Emancipation Day, also known as Freedom Day, and was celebrated in Greeneville. Sam Johnson, a man formerly enslaved by Andrew Johnson, was instrumental in having the date observed and celebrated.

International Day of the World's Indigenous People August 9th



International Day of the World's Indigenous People or Tribal Day aims to raise awareness of the needs of indigenous populations, to educate others on how to help protect the rights of indigenous people, to maintain their distinct culture and way of life, and to pay tribute to the contributions of the Indigenous communities of the world.

Important Facts

- Indigenous communities have over 5,000 cultures and an estimated 7,000 languages
- Indigenous communities bring unique perspectives, a rich diversity, and generations of knowledge to addressing so many of the challenges facing our planet today

Raksha Bandhan August 19th



Raksha Bandhan, also known as Rakhi Purnima or Rakhi, is a Hindu festival that focuses on the love and duty between brothers and sisters. Raksha Bandhan means "the tie or knot of protection." On this day, sisters tie a sacred thread called 'Rakhi' around their brothers' wrists, praying for their long lives and prosperity. The brothers vow to protect their sisters from all harm and trouble. It marks the love, harmony, and duty between siblings.

Women's Equality Day August 26, 2024



"Women's Equality Day" was established by Congress in 1973 in observance of women receiving the right to vote in August of 1920. The observance commemorates the efforts of women activists for their remarkable achievements and promotion of equality.

Changing the Constitution began in 1848 with the first Women's Rights Convention in Seneca Falls, New York. It was not until the passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, 45 years after the enactment of the 19th Amendment, that Black women were able to exercise this right without restrictions. In 1973, women declared the right to broader educational and professional opportunities and the right of married women to control their wages and property.

Today, Women's Equality Day also highlights women's continued fight for equal wages and rights.

Krishna Janmashtami – Hindu August 26, 2024



One of the most important Hindu festivals celebrated is the birth of Krishna Janmashtami, also known as Janmashtami, the eighth incarnation of the Lord Vishnu, the protector Lord. Vishnu incarnated to restore the balance of good over evil. Hindus' belief that Lord Vishnu incarnated as Krishna brings hope and frees the earth from the despair caused by the tyranny of evil rulers.

Things to know:

- Observed on the eighth day of the Hindu month of Bhadrava
- Two-day long celebration
- Consists of prayers, fasting, devotional singing
- Celebrated by praising and glorifying (kirtan) in the temple, public scriptural readings and discussions, dances and dramas enacting the life of Krishna

Clinton 12 and Oak Ridge 85 Day August 31, 2024



The Clinton 12 and the Scarboro 85 are honored for their historic and heroic efforts as the first Black students to enter the desegregated public schools in both cities back in the 1950s. On Sept. 6, 1955, 85 Black students entered a previously segregated Robertsville Junior High and Oak Ridge High School. On Aug. 27, 1956, the Clinton 12 integrated the Clinton High School. The "Clinton 12" and their allies faced "threats and acts of violence" from integration opponents, including the bombing of Clinton High School in 1958.

Governor Bill Lee proclaimed August 31 as the Clinton 12 and Oak Ridge Day stating, "Our office set aside this day in particular and proclaimed it as the Clinton 12 and Oak Ridge 85 Day to commemorate the events that occurred in this community. In 1955 and 1956 these events changed America for particularly African Americans as a part of what was happening across the country."