

MAY 2018

NHC Desloge

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Victoria, Victorious

Queen Victoria's rule over the United Kingdom was so strong that the time period under her monarchy became known as the Victorian Era. Her 63 years of rule lasted from 1837 to 1901, during which England greatly expanded its empire and became a world leader in both industry and economy. She also survived several assassination attempts and guided Britain through the Great Famine of 1845. Her most lasting contribution may have been establishing the monarchy as a mainstay of English culture. When Victoria ascended the throne at age 18, many believed that England should no longer be ruled by a king or queen. During her rule, Victoria so influenced British society that the monarchy became a permanent fixture. If you, like so many others, adore British royalty, then get ready for Victoria Day on May 22.

Victoria Day was established in Canada in 1845 as a means of unifying English and French Canadians. Both cultures understood and appreciated a monarchy, and loyalty to the queen was an important means for Canadians to distinguish themselves from the Americans to the south, who prided themselves on their revolution against a monarchy. The original date was May 24, the birthday of the queen. Other parts of England's vast Empire celebrated May 24 as Empire Day, but Canadians chose to honor Queen Victoria. She was, after all, Canada's "Mother of Confederation," the leader who urged Canadian unity and independence.

While the date of Victoria Day may have changed to the Monday nearest the queen's birthday, it is still a day to celebrate everything royal. Indeed, *anglophilia* seems to have reached an all-time high now that young royals Princes William and Harry are marrying and starting families of their own. Brits are even conquering the television with hit shows like *Downton Abbey*, *Victoria*, *The Great British Bake Off*, and *The Crown*. It's all enough to make you want to sing "God Save the Queen"!

Lei of the Land



Since May 1, 1928, Hawaii has celebrated the first of May as Lei Day. Lei—those beautiful garlands constructed of flowers, leaves, shells, seeds, nuts, feathers, and even bones and teeth are given at

birthdays, weddings, retirements, funerals, and graduations—any occasion one wishes to show honor, love, or high regard. While the lei's history dates back to the earliest Polynesian settlers of Hawaii, the holiday itself was introduced by Don Blanding, a poet from Oklahoma who had resettled in Hawaii.

The first Hawaiians adorned themselves with local flowers and vines. Certain lei flowers identified where you lived on the islands. Other lei represented your rank, wealth, or whether you were royalty. Many lei were not made of short-lived flowers or vines at all but of hardy bones and shells. In fact, lei were worn not just for celebrations or rituals but for everyday tasks by both commoners and chiefs alike.

Today, there is still a wide variety of lei, each unique to a particular occasion. The *hala* lei, made from the red fruit of the pandanus tree, is a symbol of cleansing and can be worn at funerals or for the new year. A delicate *ilima* blossom lei is the distinctive lei of royalty and is worn on special occasions. *Lehua* lei, made from blossoms associated with the fire goddess, are indicative of strength. *Pikake* is the flower of romance, worn at weddings. *Plumeria* lei are used to welcome guests but should never be given to sick people, as they are bad luck for those in ill health. Lei are woven into both the nature and mythology of Hawaii. They are not just given in love and esteem but as symbols that tell ancient and important stories.

Lei Day offers myriad opportunities to celebrate this unique form of art and culture, the greatest of which takes place in Waikiki on Oahu, where there is music, a lei competition, hula performances, craft demonstrations, and plenty of food for all.



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Hello everyone!

I hope everyone is faring well, and safely getting through the rest of this terrible flu season! Summer is right around the corner, and I know I am not the only one excited for that. May is a special time for the healthcare field. May 13th through 19th is National Skilled Nursing Care Week. We will be celebrating this week with special events each day. I hope you will come out and join us for the festivities! This will be the perfect opportunity to spend time with your loved one and get to know their caregivers on a deeper basis. If you have questions about particular events for each day, don't hesitate to give us a call!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Zed Aosh".

Man's Best Friends



May 6–12 is Pet Week, a week to honor our nonhuman companions. Pets have been shown to make us more empathetic and even interact more with others. Pets also offer many health benefits, too, such

as lower stress, sharper executive function, even a reduction in physical pain. Moreover, people who own pets get more exercise, both physically and mentally.

In many ways, our pets do much more than just act as companions. Three-year old Alida Knobloch of Georgia is literally attached to her pet goldendoodle, Mr. Gibbs. That's because Mr. Gibbs carries her heavy oxygen tank. Alida suffers from a rare form of lung disease that makes it difficult for her to breathe without assistance. With Mr. Gibbs by her side and an oxygen tank carried on the dog's back, Alida is able to run and play. Alida's family is so grateful that they call Mr. Gibbs Alida's "four-legged lifeline."

When a wildlife park became overcrowded with animals, Casey Anderson stepped in to save a baby grizzly bear. Little did Anderson know that the bear, named Brutus, would grow to be one of his best friends and even be the best man at his wedding! Anderson's love of grizzlies led him to found the Montana Grizzly Encounter sanctuary. When Brutus isn't roaming the park, he may be found cuddling with Anderson or eating at the dining room table.

An eight-year-old girl from Seattle befriended an entire flock of crows. As a four-year-old, she often spilled food in her yard, attracting the birds. Over the years she began to intentionally feed them. The crows, one of nature's cleverest animals, were so grateful that they began to bring her gifts in return: buttons, toys, dead fish, rocks, even a plastic heart, which, the girl says, proves "how much they love me." Animals may not be human, but they often bring out the best in us, so during Pet Week make sure you do your part to thank the animal that has given you so much.

Any Way the Wind Blows

The Netherlands is famous for its windmills, which are celebrated on May 12, Windmill Day. As part of Europe's "Low Countries" (so named because of their location below sea level), the Netherlands was prone to flooding. Dutch windmills were created to drain the water from the land. At one point, 10,000 windmills were in operation across the country. Today, windmills in the form of massive wind turbines are making a comeback as generators of electricity.

Wind turbines are often grouped in "wind farms," or arrays of windmills strategically placed in windy areas such as hilltops, open plains, or even offshore. As the wind turns the blades, a rotor spins a generator, which creates electricity. The major advantage of this type of electricity is that there is no dangerous waste created as a byproduct. The main disadvantage, of course, is that these windmills create energy only when the wind blows. However, advancements in technology are creating batteries that can store power for later use. Windmills, it seems, are not merely for tourists anymore but will become part of the power grids of the future.



Sandra Hunter

Mary Pritchard

Mary Humiston

Robert Jameson

Martha Sansoucie

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Postage
Information

A Long Time Ago...



“May the Fourth be with you.” So say the millions of *Star Wars* fans who will celebrate Intergalactic *Star Wars* Day on May 4.

What has made *Star Wars* one of the most beloved and successful film franchises in history? When it was released on May 25, 1977, it blew audiences away. In the middle of an era when dark and brooding films were all the rage, this space adventure with cutting-edge special effects, wild aliens, strange other worlds, funny banter, and an amazing musical score was a breath of fresh air. *Star Wars* creator George Lucas had mined both high- and low-brow sources for his space opera, paying homage to the filmmakers he had studied during his film school years. What grew out of that first film is a media empire as far-reaching as the evil Empire itself.

In
*Loving
Memory*

NHC Desloge Memorial Service

**Friday, May 25th
7:00pm**

Please call between 8am and 5pm
Monday – Friday to RSVP