

Commemorative Day Amendments

2026 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Heidi Balderree

House Sponsor:

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This bill modifies commemorative periods recognized by the state.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- establishes the first Friday in September as Utah Civic Engagement and Service Day; and
- makes technical and conforming changes.

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

None

Other Special Clauses:

None

Utah Code Sections Affected:

AMENDS:

63G-1-401, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapter 351

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:

Section 1. Section **63G-1-401** is amended to read:

63G-1-401 . Commemorative periods.

(1) As used in this section, "commemorative period" means a special observance declared by the governor that annually recognizes and honors a culturally or historically significant day, week, month, or other time period in the state.

(2)(a) The governor may declare a commemorative period by issuing a declaration.

(b) The governor shall maintain a list of all commemorative periods declared by the governor.

(3)(a) The governor's declaration of a commemorative period expires the year

immediately following the day on which the governor issues the declaration.

(b) Subsection (3)(a) does not prevent the governor from redeclaring a commemorative period before or after the commemorative period expires.

31 (4) Notwithstanding Subsections (2) and (3), the following days shall be commemorated
32 annually:

33 (a) Utah History Day at the Capitol, on the Friday immediately following the fourth
34 Monday in January, to encourage citizens of the state, including students, to
35 participate in activities that recognize Utah's history;

36 (b) Day of Remembrance for Incarceration of Japanese Americans, on February 19, in
37 remembrance of the incarceration of Japanese Americans during World War II;

38 (c) Utah State Flag Day, on March 9;

39 (d) Vietnam Veterans Recognition Day, on March 29;

40 (e) Utah Railroad Workers Day, on May 10;

41 (f) Dandy-Walker Syndrome Awareness Day, on May 11;

42 (g) Armed Forces Day, on the third Saturday in May, in honor of men and women who
43 are serving or have served in the United States Armed Forces around the world in
44 defense of freedom;

45 (h) Arthrogryposis Multiplex Congenita Awareness Day, on June 30;

46 (i) Navajo Code Talker Day, on August 14;

47 (j) Rachael Runyan/Missing and Exploited Children's Day, on August 26, the
48 anniversary of the day three-year-old Rachael Runyan was [kidnaped] kidnapped
49 from a playground in Sunset, Utah, to:

50 (i) encourage individuals to make child safety a priority;

51 (ii) remember the importance of continued efforts to reunite missing children with
52 their families; and

53 (iii) honor Rachael Runyan and all Utah children who have been abducted or
54 exploited;

55 (k) Utah Civic Engagement and Service Day, on the first Friday in September, to
56 promote civic responsibility, community service, and constructive dialogue in
57 response to political violence committed in the state of Utah on September 10, 2025;

58 [(k)] (l) September 11th Day of Remembrance, on September 11, in honor and
59 remembrance of the first responders and persons killed and injured in the terrorist
60 attacks on September 11, 2001;

61 [(l)] (m) Constitution Day, on September 17, to invite all Utah adults and Utah school
62 children to read directly from the United States Constitution and other primary
63 sources, and for students to be taught principles from the United States Constitution
64 that include federalism, checks and balances, separation of powers, popular

65 sovereignty, limited government, and the necessary and proper, commerce, and
66 supremacy clauses;

67 [(m)] (n) POW/MIA Recognition Day, on the third Friday in September;

68 [(n)] (o) Victims of Communism Memorial Day, on November 7;

69 [(o)] (p) Indigenous People Day, on the Monday immediately preceding Thanksgiving;
70 and

71 [(p)] (q) Bill of Rights Day, on December 15.

72 (5) The Department of Veterans and Military Affairs shall coordinate activities, special
73 programs, and promotional information to heighten public awareness and involvement
74 relating to Subsections (4)(g) and [(m)] (n).

75 (6) The month of April shall be commemorated annually as Clean Out the Medicine
76 Cabinet Month to:

77 (a) recognize the urgent need to make Utah homes and neighborhoods safe from
78 prescription medication abuse and poisonings by the proper home storage and
79 disposal of prescription and over-the-counter medications; and

80 (b) educate citizens about the permanent medication disposal sites in Utah listed on
81 useonlyasdired.org that allow disposal throughout the year.

82 (7) The second full week of April shall be commemorated annually as Animal Care and
83 Control Appreciation Week to recognize and increase awareness within the community
84 of the services that animal care and control professionals provide.

85 (8) The first full week of May shall be commemorated annually as State Water Week to
86 recognize the importance of water conservation, quality, and supply in the state.

87 (9) The third full week of June shall be commemorated annually as Workplace Safety
88 Week to heighten public awareness regarding the importance of safety in the workplace.

89 (10) The second Friday and Saturday in August shall be commemorated annually as Utah
90 Fallen Heroes Days to:

91 (a) honor fallen heroes who, during service in the military or public safety, have
92 sacrificed their lives to protect the country and the citizens of the state; and

93 (b) encourage political subdivisions to acknowledge and honor fallen heroes.

94 (11) The third full week in August shall be commemorated annually as Drowsy Driving
95 Awareness Week to:

96 (a) educate the public about the relationship between fatigue and driving performance;
97 and

98 (b) encourage the Department of Public Safety and the Department of Transportation to

99 recognize and promote educational efforts on the dangers of drowsy driving.

100 (12) The month of September shall be commemorated annually as American Founders and
101 Constitution Month to:

102 (a) encourage all civic, fraternal, and religious organizations, and public and private
103 educational institutions, to recognize and observe this occasion through appropriate
104 programs, teaching, meetings, services, or celebrations in which state, county, and
105 local governmental officials are invited to participate; and

106 (b) invite all Utah school children to read directly from the United States Constitution
107 and other primary sources, and to be taught principles from the United States
108 Constitution that include federalism, checks and balances, separation of powers,
109 popular sovereignty, limited government, and the necessary and proper, commerce,
110 and supremacy clauses.

111 (13) The third full week of September shall be commemorated annually as Gang Prevention
112 Awareness Week.

113 (14) The month of October shall be commemorated annually as Italian-American Heritage
114 Month.

115 (15) The month of November shall be commemorated annually as American Indian
116 Heritage Month.

117 (16) The first full week of December shall be commemorated annually as Avalanche
118 Awareness Week to:

119 (a) educate the public about avalanche awareness and safety;

120 (b) encourage collaborative efforts to decrease annual avalanche accidents and fatalities;
121 and

122 (c) honor Utah residents who have lost their lives in avalanches, including those who
123 lost their lives working to prevent avalanches.

124 **Section 2. Effective Date.**

125 This bill takes effect on May 6, 2026.