

National Theme: From Our Roots to Our Branches Extending Service to Our Veterans  
Department Theme: United in Service for Veterans



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The first President of the United States -George Washington- was born in February and is honored with federal holiday status. Share the facts about its official name with members. Also, focus on the handling and care for U.S. Flags flying outside. Together we can care and handle this symbol with the respect, so rightly deserving.

Toni

Federal Holiday: **Washington's Birthday** (Presidents' Day) on Monday, February 17, 2025

What is the official name of the federal holiday in February?

Originally started in 1796 during 1<sup>st</sup> President George Washington's last year in office was a celebration to honor him on his birthdate- February 22<sup>nd</sup>.

On February 22, 1879 President Rutherford B. Hayes declared **Washington's Birthday** a holiday in Washington D.C. only. In 1885 this federal holiday expanded to the entire country.

While the name -Presidents' Day- was proposed for this Monday holiday in 1951, the U.S. government **never** officially changed the name.

In 1971 the Uniform Monday Holiday Act of 1968 resulted in the holiday being moved to the third Monday in February.

Having declared the federal holiday between Lincoln and Washington's birthdates the term -Presidents' Day- has led to honoring both men and other U.S. Presidents by society and retailers; but it is not the official federal holiday name to this day.

## The American Flag Displayed Outdoors

Handling properly ensures respect for the Flag.

### HANDLING

- Never let the U.S. Flag touch the ground or water.
- Shine a light on the Flag whenever flown at night.
- Enthusiastically raise the Flag up the flagpole and slowly lower when descending.
- Properly fold the Flag once removed from the flagpole.
- Additional points are provided on the Veterans of Foreign Wars site---  
<https://www.vfw.org/community/flag-etiquette>

Good care can contribute to a longer Flag life.

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### CARE

To keep the Flag colors vibrant clean the Flag regularly according to material it is made from.

- Nylon or Polyester—Hand or machine wash with a mild detergent in cool water and dry it on a gentle cycle or lay it flat. Note: do not let the Flag soak as the colors may run together.
- Wool or Cotton—recommend taking to dry cleaners.
- To extend the life of the Flag the torn or frayed ends may be trimmed off or rehemmed.