



**Greeting Card Association**

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### **Brief History of Father's Day in the U.S.**

Most historians attribute the celebration of Father's Day in the U.S. to Sonora Smart Dodd of Spokane, Washington, who got the idea of honoring fathers while listening to a Mother's Day sermon in 1909. At the time, her own father was a single parent raising six children after his wife had died in childbirth.

In 1910, Mrs. Dodd organized the first Father's Day celebration in Spokane, having convinced that city's mayor and Washington State's governor to officially support the event. The date chosen for the celebration was June 19, her father's birth date.

In 1924, President Calvin Coolidge publicly supported plans for a national Father's Day, and in 1926, a National Father's Day Committee met in New York City to further the concept of a special day in June for recognizing fathers.

In 1956, the observance of Father's Day in June was recognized through a Joint Resolution of Congress. President Lyndon B. Johnson proclaimed Father's Day an official national holiday in 1966.

In 1972, President Richard Nixon signed a law making Father's Day a permanent U.S. holiday to be observed on the third Sunday of every June.

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