

For Mother....

Mother's Day is an age old tradition

One of America's most important holidays is Mother's Day. Though moms deserve recognition year-round, Mothers Day allows everyone to remember them with special thought and gifts.

The tradition of Mother's Day goes back many years ago to England. There, a celebration called "Mothering Sunday" was held in the middle of the Lenten season. Celebrations similar this were also held in European nations such as Yugoslavia.

In the United States, the first mention of a special day for

mothers came from Julia Ward Howe, author of "The Battle Hymn of the Republic." Howe originally wanted the day to be observed on June 2nd as a day of peace. For a few years, she observed this day at an annual gathering of mothers in Boston.

Other Mother's Day pioneers included a Kentucky schoolteacher named Mary Towles Sasseen. She introduced Mother's Day activities in 1887. In 1904, Frank E. Hering of Indiana launched a drive for the recognition of Mother's Day.

The final push for an official Mother's Day came in 1907 when Anna Jarvis of Grafton, West Virginia began a nationwide campaign for the holiday. Jarvis chose the second Sunday in May as Mother's Day and also began the custom of wearing a carnation. A colored carnation means that one's mother is still living, while a white one denotes that the person's mother has passed away.

In 1912, Jarvis' hard work on behalf of mothers bore results. At a General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church in

Minneapolis, a delegate from Jarvis' home church in Grafton introduced a resolution naming her as the founder of Mother's Day. The resolution also requested that the second Sunday in May be made the official day of motherly recognition.

In 1914, President Woodrow Wilson signed a joint resolution of Congress that Congress and the executive departments of the government recognize Mother's Day. The next year, President Wilson was authorized by Congress to name Mother's Day an annual national observance.

Mother's Day May 9th

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