

## JUNE 2009 CELEBRATE SUMMER

June begins the next two months of summer fun. June is also National Safety Month. As we head outdoors, remember to practice safety with outdoor cooking and around pools, river and lakes. You may also be traveling, and need to be sure to take care of your personal safety and be aware of identity theft.

On June 14, 2009 is National Flag Day. So be sure to take the time to display the American Flag. Here is a little history of the evolution of the American Flag from [www.usflag.org](http://www.usflag.org).

No one knows with absolute certainty who designed the first stars and stripes or who made it. Congressman Francis Hopkinson seems most likely to have designed it, and few historians believe that Betsy Ross, a Philadelphia seamstress, made the first one.

Until the Executive Order of June 24, 1912, neither the order of the stars nor the proportions of the flag was prescribed. Consequently, flags dating before this period sometimes show unusual arrangements of the stars and odd proportions, these features being left to the discretion of the flag maker. In general, however, straight rows of stars and proportions similar to those later adopted officially were used. The principal acts affecting the flag of the United States are the following:

- On June 14, 1777, in order to establish an official flag for the new nation, the Continental Congress passed the **first Flag Act**: "Resolved, That the flag of the United States be made of thirteen stripes, alternate red and white; that the union be thirteen stars, white in a blue field, representing a new Constellation."
- Act of January 13, 1794 - provided for 15 stripes and 15 stars after May 1795.
- Act of April 4, 1818 - provided for 13 stripes and one star for each state, to be added to the flag on the 4th of July following the admission of each new state, signed by President Monroe.

- Executive Order of President Taft dated June 24, 1912 - established proportions of the flag and provided for arrangement of the stars in six horizontal rows of eight each, a single point of each star to be upward.
- Executive Order of President Eisenhower dated January 3, 1959 - provided for the arrangement of the stars in seven rows of seven stars each, staggered horizontally and vertically.
- Executive Order of President Eisenhower dated August 21, 1959 - provided for the arrangement of the stars in nine rows of stars staggered horizontally and eleven rows of stars staggered vertically.

## HAPPY FATHER'S DAY – JUNE 21, 2009

June is also time to celebrate the contributions of our Father's. In the June 06, 2009, *Sacramento Bee* there was an article about the issuance of the new President John Tyler dollar coin. What was more interesting was the history of the number of children that President Tyler had. Vice President Tyler became president in 1841 after the sudden passing of President William Henry Harrison. President Tyler's wife passed away from a sudden stroke after only one year in the White House. President Tyler became a widower of eight children.

Tyler's oldest son met a young socialite named Julia Gardiner. Julia Gardiner did not marry the younger Tyler but married President Tyler. Sara Gardiner was 23 years old and President Tyler was in his 50s. They went on to have seven more children. President Tyler fathered 15 children.

What was more astonishing is that when the coin was unveiled two weeks ago, one of those attending was President Tyler's grandson. **Yes, Grandson!** President Tyler had one of his daughters that lived through President Harry Truman's administration. What a testimony for a great gene pool.

## ENJOY THE SUMMER

