

## DID YOU KNOW??

February 2017

### SOME FEBRUARY HISTORY

THE most popular theory about Valentine's Day origin is that Emperor Claudius II didn't want Roman men to marry during wartime. Bishop Valentine went against his wishes and performed secret weddings. For this, Valentine was jailed and executed. While in jail he wrote a note to the jailor's daughter signing it "from your Valentine"

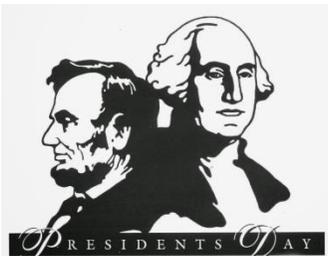


AN English poet made the holiday romantic. It was medieval English poet Geoffrey Chaucer who first created a strong association between St. Valentine's Day and romance. In 1381, Chaucer wrote a poem in honor of the marriage of King Richard II of England and Anne of Bohemia: "For this was on St. Valentine's Day, when every bird cometh there to choose his mate." This is the first recorded association between Valentine's Day and love or romance.

VALENTINE'S card exchanges date back to the 18th Century. In 1797, a British publisher issued "The Young Man's Valentine Writer," a book containing sentimental verses and short poems for young lovers. Printers soon began printing cards with verses called "mechanical valentines", this is the first precursor to those lovely, automated Valentine's Day e-cards.



PRESIDENT'S DAY is an American holiday celebrated on the third Monday in February. Originally established in 1885 in recognition of President George Washington, it is still officially called "Washington's Birthday" by the federal government. Traditionally celebrated on February 22<sup>nd</sup> —Washington's actual day of birth—the holiday became popularly known as Presidents' Day after it was moved as part of 1971's Uniform Monday Holiday Act, an attempt to create more three-day weekends for the nation's workers. While several states still have individual holidays honoring the birthdays. Of Washington, Abraham Lincoln and other figures, Presidents' Day is now popularly viewed as a day to celebrate all U.S. presidents past and present.



NATIONAL FREEDOM DAY commemorates the date – February 1, 1865 – when Abraham Lincoln, who was the nation's president at the time, signed a joint resolution that proposed the 13th amendment to the United States Constitution. The amendment was made to outlaw slavery and was ratified on December 18, 1865.