**Pan American Day - April 14**

April 14 - Pan American Day is celebrated annually as a "commemorative symbol of the American nations and the voluntary union of all in one continental community" marking the anniversary of the day in 1890 when this union was established.

Each year Pan American Day and Pan American Week are designated by official proclamations throughout the Western Hemisphere as the occasion on which Americans of all ages and nationalities can strengthen the bonds of friendship and understanding that unite the peoples of the 24 American nations. Americans as widely separated as those of Alaska and Punta Arenas, Chile, come to know each other better through special observances, classroom projects, club programs, plays and pageants, parades and social events.

It is important to understand the interdependence of the American nations and how the organization which unites them -the Organizations of American States- works for the peace, security, welfare, and human rights of all our peoples. And it is especially important to understand how the inter-American community is striving to attain these goals, through the OAS which is dedicated to securing a better life, under freedom and democracy, for present and future generations.

Pan American Day originated in a resolution adopted by the Governing Board of the Pan American Union on May 7, 1930, reading as follows:

WHEREAS, It would be desirable to recommend the designation of a date which should be observed as "Pan American Day" in all the Republics of America and which should be established as a commemorative symbol of the sovereignty of the American nations and the voluntary union of all in one continental community;

WHEREAS, April 14th is the date on which the resolution creating the Pan American Union was adopted,

The Governing Board of the Pan American Union

RESOLVES:

To recommend that the Governments, members of the Pan American Union, designate April 14th as "Pan American Day" and that the national flags be displayed on that date.

Pursuant to this recommendation the President of the United States issued a Proclamation calling upon

   the schools, civic associations, and people of the United States generally to observe the Day with appropriate ceremonies, thereby giving expression to the spirit of continental solidarity and to the sentiments of cordiality and friendly feeling which the Government and people of the United States entertain toward the peoples and Governments of the other republics of the American Continent.

Proclamations have been issued and legislation enacted in all the other American Republics setting aside April 14th as Pan American Day.

Today, Pan American Day has become one of the significant anniversaries of the Continent. It is the only day set apart by the Government of an entire continent to symbolize their common bonds and their common hopes for a system of international relations based on mutual respect and cooperation. The observance of Pan American Day by government leaders, as well as by educational institutions, clubs, commercial associations and other groups, and its recognition by the press and radio, convey its message of solidarity to young and old throughout the Continent. It has become a powerful agent in bringing about a closer understanding among the nations of the Western Hemisphere.

Minutes of the Permanent Council - Protocolary Sessions to Commemorate the Pan American Day [2001](http://www.oas.org/consejo/sp/actas/acta1271.pdf) , [2000](http://www.oas.org/consejo/sp/actas/acta1231.pdf), [1999](http://www.oas.org/consejo/sp/actas/acta1188.pdf).

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