2015 Special Observance Themes

Observance	Date	Authorization	Source/Theme
Martin Luther King's Birthday	19 January 2015	**Public Law 98-144**	**National and Department of Defense USD (P&R) Theme** Source: The King Center *Remember! Celebrate! Act!* *A Day On, Not A Day Off!!* (This theme does not change.)
African American/Black History Month	1-28 February 2015	**Public Law 99-244**	**National and Department of Defense USD (P&R) Theme** Source: Study of African American Life and History (ASALH) *2015 Theme: "A Century of Black Life, History, and Culture"*
Women's History Month	1-31 March 2015	**Public Law 100-9**	**National and Department of Defense USD (P&R) Theme** Source: Women's History Project *2015 Theme: "Weaving the Stories of Women's Lives"*
Holocaust Remembrance Day Days of Remembrance	16 April 2015 12-19 Apr 2015	**Public Law 96-388 and Presidential Proclamation**	**National and Department of Defense USD (P&R) Theme** Source: United States Holocaust Memorial Museum *2015 Theme: "Learning from the Holocaust: Choosing to Act."*
Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month	1-31 May 2015	**Title 36, U.S. Code, Section 102.**	**National and Department of Defense USD (P&R) Theme** Source: Federal Asian Pacific American Council (FAPAC) *2015 Theme: "Many Cultures, One Voice: Promote Equality and Inclusion."*
LGBT Pride Month	1-30 June 2015	**Presidential proclamation (historically published the beginning of June)**	**Department of Defense Theme** Source: Office of Diversity Management and Equal Opportunity *2015 Theme: "Leadership"*
Women's Equality Day	26 August 2015	**Joint Resolution of Congress, 1971 and Presidential Proclamation**	**National and Department of Defense USD (P&R) Theme** Source: Women's History Project *Celebrating Women's Right to Vote* (This theme does not change.)
Hispanic Heritage Month	15 September-15 October 2015	**Title 36, U.S. Code, Section 126.**	**National and Department of Defense USD (P&R) Theme** Source: National Council of Hispanic Employment Program Managers ***2015 Theme: Not Yet Available.***
National Disability Employment Awareness Month	1-31 October 2015	**Title 36, U.S. Code, Section 121.**	**National and Department of Defense USD (P&R) Theme** Source: Department of Labor ***2015 Theme: Not Yet Available.***
National American Indian Heritage Month	1-30 November 2015	**Public Law 102-188, Executive Order 13270 and Presidential Proclamation**	**National and Department of Defense USD (P&R) Theme** Source: Society of American Indian Government Employees (SAIGE) ***2015 Theme:*** *"Growing Native Leaders: Enhancing Seven Generations."*

PLEASE NOTE: On behalf of the Department of Defense office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness, and the Office of Diversity Management and Equal Opportunity (ODMEO), the Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute provides these themes for national observances on this compiled listing for use in developing special observance programs. DEOMI does not create these themes, but this listing provides the source of each of them. While these themes are representative of the Department of Defense, this does not preclude an organization from creating their own theme or using previously published themes. Organizations are not required to limit their special observances to just those reflected here. Others may be conducted providing the same local procedures are used for research, planning, implementation and evaluation as any other special observance. Organizations are reminded that special observances are conducted to recognize the continuous achievements of all Americans to American culture and to increase awareness, mutual respect, and understanding. They are designed to enhance cross-cultura1 and cross-gender awareness and promote harmony among all military members, their families, and the civilian workforce. For more information about how to conduct a special observance, please visit: www.deomi.org.

As of: 5 March 2015