



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS  
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## VFW Post 8555 Newsletter/ Calendar



Presidents' Day is a federal holiday celebrated on the third Monday in February; Presidents' Day 2022 will occur on Monday, February 21. Originally established in 1885 in recognition of President George Washington, 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.

### **Uniform Monday Holiday Act**

The shift from Washington's Birthday to Presidents' Day began in the late 1960s, when Congress proposed a measure known as the Uniform Monday Holiday Act. Championed by Senator Robert McClory of [Illinois](#), this law sought to shift the celebration of several federal holidays from specific dates to a series of predetermined Mondays.

The proposed change was seen by many as a novel way to create more three-day weekends for the nation's workers, and it was believed that ensuring holidays always fell on the same weekday would reduce employee absenteeism. While some argued that shifting holidays from their original dates would cheapen their meaning, the bill also had widespread support from both the private sector and [labor unions](#) and was seen as a surefire way to bolster retail sales.

The Uniform Monday Holiday Act also included a provision to combine the celebration of Washington's birthday with that of [Abraham Lincoln](#), which fell on February 12. Lincoln's Birthday had long been a state holiday in places like Illinois, and many supported joining the two days as a way of giving equal recognition to two of America's most famous statesmen.



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# VFW Post 8555 Spotlight





# The Sinking of the Maine

[Richard Cavendish](#) | Published in [History Today Volume 48 Issue 2 February 1998](#)

At 9.40pm on the night of 15 February 1898 the United States battleship *Maine*, riding quietly at anchor in Havana harbour, was suddenly blown up, apparently by a mine, in an explosion which tore her bottom out and sank her, killing 260 officers and men on board. In the morning only twisted parts of the huge warship's superstructure could be seen protruding above the water, while small boats moved about examining the damage. The *Maine* had been showing the flag in Cuba, where the Spanish regime was resisting an armed uprising by nationalist guerrillas.

No one has ever established exactly what caused the explosion or who was responsible, but the consequence was the brief Spanish-American War of 1898. American sentiment was strongly behind Cuban independence and many Americans blamed the Spanish for the outrage. The yellow press, led by William Randolph Hearst and Joseph Pulitzer, proprietors of the *New York Journal* and the *New York World*, took every opportunity to inflame the situation with the exhortation to 'Remember the Maine', publicise the alleged cruelties of Spanish repression and encourage a belligerent hunger for action. They were vigorously supported by hawkish senators and the Assistant Secretary of the Navy, Theodore Roosevelt, who attacked President McKinley for trying to cool the situation down. In the end the government in Spain declared war on the United States on April 24th. The American Congress had already authorised the use of armed force and the United States formally declared war on April 25th.



# Liberation of Kuwait Campaign

Morse, Stan (1991). *Gulf War Debrief*. World Air Power Journal.

Belligerents	
Iraq	United States
Kuwait	Saudi Arabia
Egypt	Canada
Syria	Oman
Morocco	United Kingdom
Commanders and leaders	
Saddam Hussein	Jaber Al-Khaled Al-Sabah
Ali Hassan al-Majid	Norman Schwarzkopf
	Colin Powell
	Khalid bin Sultan
	Peter de la Billière
Strength	
Around 500,000 <sup>[citation needed]</sup>	Around 650,000 <sup>[citation needed]</sup>
Casualties and losses	
Between 20,000 - 35,000 casualties <sup>[citation needed]</sup>	1,155 casualties <sup>[citation needed]</sup>
Around 150,000 POWs <sup>[citation needed]</sup>	70 POWs <sup>[citation needed]</sup>

The **Liberation of Kuwait** was the campaign to retake Kuwait from Iraq after the [massive air campaign](#), between 24–28 February 1991. U.S. troops and the Coalition entered to find the Iraqis surrendering en masse; however, pockets of resistance existed, particularly at Kuwait International Airport where Iraqi troops, seemingly unaware that a retreat order had been issued to them, continued to fight, resulting in a fierce battle over the airport itself. The majority of the fighting took place in Iraq, rather than Kuwait.

After four days of fighting, all Iraqi troops were expelled from Kuwait, ending a nearly seven-month occupation of Kuwait by Iraq. A little over 1,100 casualties were suffered by the Coalition. Estimates of Iraqi casualties range from 30,000 to 150,000. Several U.S. and one Kuwaiti aircraft were shot down by Iraqi air defenses, compared to no losses of Iraqi aircraft, though this was primarily because the [Iraqi Air Force](#) had already been almost entirely destroyed prior to the Coalition ground invasion. Iraq lost thousands of vehicles, while the advancing Coalition lost relatively few. Iraq's export model (Monkey Model) of the Soviet [T-72](#) tank proved no match for the U.S. [M1 Abrams](#) tank. Manufactured in the 1970s, the Iraqi T-72s lacked later modernizations such as [composite armor](#), [depleted uranium](#) rounds and thermal imaging sights.



# February 2022

March 2022						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
27	28	1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31	1	2

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30	31	1	2 Food Distribution (0745)	3	4	5 District 20 Quarterly Mtg
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14 VFW Meeting	15 VPR—Sinking of USS Maine 1898	16	17	18	19
20	21 Presidents Day	22	23	24	25	26
27	28 VPR—Liberation of Kuwait, Operation Desert Storm	1	2	3	4	5

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# March 2022

April 2022						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27	28	1	2 Food Distribution (0745)	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14 VFW Meeting	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24 VPR—Start of Kosvo Campaign	25	26
27	28	29	30	31 VPR—End of Operation Restore Hope	1	2

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