

Don't forget Father's Day!

20th June 2010

History of Father's Day

About 4,000 years ago a young boy named El-musu wished his Babylonian father good health and a long life by carving a Father's Day message on a card made out of clay. No-one knows what happened to Elmesu or his father, but the tradition of having a special day honouring fathers has continued through the years in countries across the world.

The idea for an official Father's day celebration did not come until two years after the celebration of the first Mother's day. The idea came to a young woman, Mrs. Sonora Smart Dodd, who, during a Mother's Day mass praising the sacrifices women made for children realised it was her father who had sacrificed most for herself and her five brothers, raising them on his own after his wife died in childbirth.

Mrs. Dodd proposed a local Father's Day celebration to be held in her home town of Spokane, which received wide support from ministers and members of the Spokane YMCA. Newspapers across the country carried stories of the unique holiday, and interest in father's day increased.

Father's Day was not as easily accepted as Mother's Day was. Members of the all-male Congress felt it would look like a self-congratulatory pat on the back if they made it a official celebration.

In 1916, President Woodrow Wilson celebrated Father's Day and in 1924, President Calvin Coolidge recommended the States hold their own Father's Day celebrations if they wished. Many people attempted to secure official recognition for Father's Day, but it was not made official until 1972, sixty-two years after it was proposed.



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