I was the first.

VOTE for ME!

CLASSROOM OPPORTUNITIES FOR ATTORNEYS

There are celebrations throughout the school year that present the perfect opportunity for attorneys to take ***I was the first. Vote for Me!*** into classrooms. Here are just a few ideas incorporating the historic figures.

FALL SEMESTER

Celebrate Freedom Week

The week of Sept. 17 is designated as Celebrate Freedom Week in public schools—a time to educate students about the sacrifices made for freedoms gained and the values on which this country was founded.

During this week, the Texas Education Code mandates appropriate instruction concerning the intent, meaning, and importance of the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution, including the Bill of Rights, in their historical contexts. Lessons on the Declaration of Independence must include the study of the relationship between the ideas expressed in that document and subsequent events in American history, as well as the relationship of its ideas to the rich diversity of our people as a nation of immigrants, the American Revolution, the formulation of the U.S. Constitution, and the abolitionist movement, which led to the Emancipation Proclamation and the women's suffrage movement. Additionally, students in grades 3-12 must study and recite the following text: "We hold these Truths to be self-evident, that all Men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness—That to secure these Rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just Powers from the Consent of the Governed."

Important firsts related to Celebrate Freedom Week:

Susan B. Anthony (Grade 5)
Benjamin Franklin (Grades 1, 3, 5)
John Hancock (Grade 2)
Thomas Jefferson (Grade 5)
Abraham Lincoln (Grade 1)
George Washington (Grades K, 1, 5)

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CLASSROOM OPPORTUNITIES FOR ATTORNEYS CONTINUED

Constitution Day

Constitution Day became a national observance in 2004 when U.S. Sen. Robert Byrd passed a bill designating Sept. 17 as the day for citizens to commemorate the signing of the U.S. Constitution and learn more about our founding document. Sen. Byrd once said, "Our ideals of freedom, set forth and realized in our Constitution, are our greatest export to the world." He added the Constitution Day clause to his 2004 federal spending bill requiring schools receiving federal funds to provide educational programs pertaining to the U.S. Constitution. Constitution Day is the culmination of Celebrate Freedom Week.

Important firsts related to Constitution Day:

Benjamin Franklin (Grades 1, 3, 5)
John Hancock (Grade 2)
Thomas Jefferson (Grade 5)
George Washington (Grades K, 1, 5)

National Hispanic Heritage Month

National Hispanic Heritage Month is observed from Sept. 15 to Oct. 15 and celebrates the histories, cultures, and contributions of Hispanic and Latino Americans whose ancestors are from Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean, and Central and South America. The month long tribute began in 1968 as Hispanic Heritage Week under President Lyndon B. Johnson and was expanded to cover a 30-day period by President Ronald Reagan in 1988.

Important firsts related to National Hispanic Heritage Month:

César Chávez (Grade 5)
Héctor P. García (Grade 3)
Raúl A. González Jr. (Grade 4)
Irma Rangel (Grade 2)

Veterans Day

Veterans Day is an official U.S. holiday observed on November 11 honoring those who have served in the armed services, known as veterans. It is celebrated with the annual Veterans Day National Ceremony, which commences precisely at 11 a.m. Veterans Day was originally known as Armistice Day, an official federal holiday that marked the end of World War I. The war formally ended at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month of 1918, when the Germans signed the Armistice, or temporary cessation of hostilities. In 1954, after World War II and the Korean War, Congress replaced "Armistice" with "Veterans," and Veterans Day was created to honor American veterans of all wars.

Important firsts relevant to Veterans Day:

442nd Regimental Combat Team (Grade 5)
Code Talkers (Grade 2)
Héctor P. García (Grade 3)

SPRING SEMESTER

Presidents Day

Presidents Day is a federal holiday celebrated on the third Monday of February. Originally it was celebrated on Feb. 22 in honor of George Washington and is also referred to as Washington's Birthday. George Washington's Birthday was originally implemented in 1879 by an Act of Congress for government offices in the District of Columbia and was the first federal holiday to honor American citizens. In January 1971, the holiday was changed to the third Monday in February by the Uniform Monday Holiday Act. It now falls on a date between February 15 and February 21 and not on Washington's actual birthday.

Important firsts related to Presidents Day:

Thomas Jefferson (Grade 5)
Abraham Lincoln (Grade 1)
Barack Obama Jr. (Grades K-5)
George Washington (Grades K, 1, 5)

CLASSROOM OPPORTUNITIES FOR ATTORNEYS CONTINUED

Black History Month

Black History Month, or National African American History Month, is an annual celebration of achievements by black Americans and a time for remembrance of important African American people and events in U.S. history. It is celebrated during the month of February, which was chosen in 1976 because the month marked the birthday of both Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass.

Important firsts related to Black History Month:

Ruby Bridges (Grade 3)
Wallace B. Jefferson (Grade 4)
Barbara Jordan (Grade 4)
Martin Luther King Jr. (Grades 1 and 5)
Thurgood Marshall (Grade 2)
Barack Obama Jr. (Grades K-5)

Women's History Month

March has been designated as Women's History Month, which celebrates the contributions to society, culture, and history made by women. International Women's Day, which occurs on March 8, is a celebration that grew in popularity and resulted in the National Women's History Project petitioning back in 1987 that the entire month of March become Women's History Month.

Important firsts related to Women's History Month:

Susan B. Anthony (Grade 5)
Ruby Bridges (Grade 3)
Amelia Earhart (Grade 2)
Barbara Jordan (Grade 4)
Irma Rangel (Grade 2)
Eleanor Roosevelt (Grade 1)

CLASSROOM OPPORTUNITIES FOR ATTORNEYS CONTINUED

Law Day

In 1958, Dwight D. Eisenhower declared May 1 as Law Day in the United States, a day marked to reflect on the role of law in the country's foundation and to recognize its importance in society. To celebrate, bar associations across the nation hold events featuring speakers or provide forums for discussing topics such as justice or the liberties provided for by the U.S. Constitution. Attorneys often use Law Day as an opportunity to visit schools and educate students about the rule of law.

Important firsts relevant to Law Day:

Raúl A. González Jr. (Grade 4)
Wallace B. Jefferson (Grade 4)
Barbara Jordan (Grade 4)
Thurgood Marshall (Grade 2)
Irma Rangel (Grade 2)