“A father is a man who gives you enough room to make mistakes as you grow, crawl before you walk and watch you stubble along the way. He'll give you enough space to waddle in your experiences and encourage you when you're in doubt. He'll even let you fall, but catch you before you hit the ground.”

Source: https://www.familyfriendpoems.com/poem/what-is-a-father

We celebrate fathers every year on the third Sunday of June. However, the first Father's Day is noted as occurring on July 5, 1908, in a West Virginia church. The church sermon for the day was in memory of the 362 men who had died in the previous December's explosions at the Fairmont Coal Company mines in Monongah and was a one-time event.

The following year a Spokane, Washington woman named Sonora Smart Dodd, one of six children raised by a widower, went to local churches, the YMCA, shopkeepers, and government officials to gain support for a day dedicated to fathers. She was successful, and Washington State celebrated the nation's first statewide Father's Day on June 19, 1910. Sonora Smart Dodd was what we could say a "founding father" of Father's Day.

Father's Day gained additional backing during World War II by being seen as a day to honor American troops and support the war effort.

It was not until 1972 that Richard Nixon signed a proclamation making Father's Day a federal holiday. Every day is truly a celebration of the male figure(s) in our lives who have shaped us into the person we are today. Father's Day is not just a day to celebrate and recognize those we share DNA with; it is a day to remember, appreciate, and take a moment to acknowledge the wonderful fathers.

https://www.history.com/topics/holidays/fathers-day
Some of us can remember when Father’s Day was a rather underwhelming holiday. Where macaroni signs, paper ties and silly socks, didn’t really capture the appreciation we attempted to offer. Now, however, we’ve found more expressive methods to display the many dynamics of fatherhood and the love, guidance and support they continue to demonstrate, for the fathers especially.

Our active duty, reserve, and retired veterans are often our grandfathers, fathers, uncles, and brothers within the military community. We are grieving the loss of our fellow service members and simultaneously showing our gratitude to those still with us for their selfless dedication and service! This Father’s Day, we honor and celebrate all of our fathers and father figures (those we’ve lost and gained)- for the multitude of ways they have guided us, loved us and supported us in strength both in and out of uniform!

More often than we realize, their examples of courage, discipline, and resilience have informed and influenced the ways we’ve shown up in our own experiences. And while they’ve had to sacrifice some memorable moments- holidays, school events, extracurricular activities, and the like- we recognize their love, guidance, and support are also in service to something even more significant than us, in service to this country’s founding ideals.

To the men who serve, fight, and father, we lay down (and offer up) many flowers in memory and gratitude!
Virtual Resource Fair

On Wednesday, June 22, 2022, caregivers are invited to join the Connecting with My Community virtual Resource Fair to learn valuable information on:

- Federal benefits
- State benefits
- Elder Law information covering Medicaid eligibility, estate planning and overview of guardianships/conservatorships
- VA Health benefits: in-home care, respite, adult day care and Veteran Directed Care
- Grief and intimacy

Time: 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. ET. (1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. CT; 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. MT; 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Pacific).

WebEx link: https://veteransaffairs.webex.com/veteransaffairs/j.php?MTID=mbee28327eac9ecf2e7ffda76dbf224e5
WebEx number: 2762 016 1766
WebEx password: PafuccD?383 (72382230 from phones)
Call in number: 1-404-397-1596 (USA Toll free), Access code: 276 201 61766

Please note, some information will be specific to caregivers who reside in the state of Oregon, but all caregivers are welcome.

~VA Resources~

Caregivers, take a moment & contact your local caregiver support program within VAHCS to register.

There are programs available if you choose not to register!

Check out the website at caregiver.va.gov

There is Virtual Resource Fair scheduled for Wednesday, June 22, 2022. Check out the information below!

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Don't relax that mask!

facebook.com/STLFisherHouse
Eastbound JB Bridge has closed. Two lanes of eastbound I-255 traffic are diverted onto the westbound bridge. The Koch Rd ramp onto eastbound I-255 is also closed. Traffic headed east into Illinois from the JB Campus should follow the detour signs. This work is currently scheduled to be completed in December 2022. According to MODOT, the westbound JB Bridge will be closed next year, from April to December 2023. As MODOT shares more information, we will provide updates.

"My father didn't tell me how to live. He lived, and let me watch him do it."
– Clarence Budington Kelland

"We are not what other people say we are. We are who we know ourselves to be, and we are what we love. That’s okay."
– Laverne Cox

National Louis University

**SAVE THE DATE**
June 11, 2022

NATIONAL LOUIS UNIVERSITY’S WOMEN VETERANS STAND DOWN EVENT

Gain Information on Services & Resources for Veteran Women!

Learn More: on.niu.edu/standdown

Wish List

- Liquid Hand Soap
- Toilet Paper
- Chapstick
- Individual packaged snack items
- Breakfast Cereal
- Spices
- Gas Cards
- Restaurant Gift Cards

facebook.com/STLFisherHouse

June 2022
I just can’t say enough good things about the Fisher House and the people who make up the staff. This place is just a blessing. Several years back, my husband had a triple bypass at the Columbia, Missouri VA hospital. They did not have a place yet like this. There were so many families actually sleeping in the IUI waiting area—some with small children. I was absolutely devasted. It was so sad.

I was fortunate our church helped us financially so I could stay in a local hotel. But driving back forth for 11 days was very stressful. Having a place to rest was a great help.

Our veterans have given up so much. If they lived not just for the time they served but after returning home, my husband was a Vietnam Veteran and he suffers from many agent orange related diseases + PTSD.

We are here for more heart issues and he will have a procedure tomorrow. Both he & I are so much more at peace about things. He knows I’m safe & taken care of. Also they help us with rides back and forth to go. I’m not a car driven anymore. Thank you all so much! May God Bless each of you at this house.

Jan 5 2022

June 2022