Fun Fact, June 15, 2022

Question: Flag Day is celebrated on June 14. Known as the Father of Flag Day, who originated the idea of an annual flag day, and when?

Clue: He was a grade school teacher and then a dentist.

Answer: Bernard J. Cigrand.

Working as a grade school teacher in Waubeka, Wisconsin, in 1885, Cigrand held the first recognized formal observance of Flag Day at Stony Hill School in Waubeka. The school has been restored, and a bust of Cigrand also honors him at the National Flag Day Americanism Center in Waubeka.

He moved to Chicago to attend dental school and, in June 1886, first publicly proposed an annual observance of the birth of the United States flag in an article titled "The Fourteenth of June," published in the Chicago "Argus" newspaper. In June 1888, Cigrand advocated establishing the holiday in a speech before the "Sons of America," a Chicago group. The organization founded a magazine, *American Standard*, in order to promote reverence for American emblems. Cigrand was appointed editor-in-chief and wrote articles in the magazine as well as in other magazines and newspapers to promote the holiday.

After 30 years of Cigrand's advocacy, President Woodrow Wilson proclaimed June 14 as Flag Day in 1916. (The United States Congress formally made the proclamation law in August 1949).

Cigrand generally is credited with being the "Father of Flag Day," with the *Chicago Tribune* noting that he "almost singlehandedly" established the holiday.



Image: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bernard_J._Cigrand