



ESO

Epsilon Sigma Omicron
Upsilon Chapter
February 2026



Authors with February Birthdays

February 1—James Hughes, American poet
February 2—James Joyce, best known for *The Dead* often cited as best short fiction ever written.
February 7—Laura Ingalls Wilder known for *Little House on the Prairie*
February 7—Charles Dickens, *Oliver Twist* and *Great Expectations*
February 12—Judy Blume, best known for children's books
February 26—Victor Hugo, *Les Misérables* and *Hunchback of Notre Dame*
February 27--John Steinbeck, Nobel Prize winner *East of Eden* and others.



Presidents Day



The third Monday in February is now designated as President's Day and it is a good time to celebrate the red, white, and blue. The federal holiday is called Washington's Birthday, even if it is not on February 22. Abraham Lincoln's birthday is February 12 and President's Day does not coincide with that date either.

George Washington was not big on celebrating his birthday, but the nation observed the day even before his death in 1799. After that February 22 was a day American's took time to remember the "Father of Our Country". Then in 1879, for the first time in American history, the United States set-aside that day as a national holiday. At first only the District of Columbia closed the banks and federal buildings, and it wasn't until 1885 that the entire nation joined and treated this day just like Christmas Day, New Years Day, Thanksgiving, and Independence Day.

The Uniform Monday Holiday Act in the 1960's changed everything, and Washington's Birthday was not to be celebrated on his actual birthday. The name Presidents' Day is really a promotional name used by retailers to boost sales from maybe February 12 through Presidents Day. The positioning of the apostrophe is interesting--in California we celebrate Presidents' Day. Our northern neighbor, Oregon, uses President's Day (referring to one president--Washington) There is really no agreement about who we are celebrating or recognizing on the third Monday of February. But I want to tell you we have a multitude of excellent books we can read about our Presidents--both past and present. *Confronting the Presidents* by Bill O'Reilly, *The Honest Book of Presidents: The Men Who Shaped America* by Prager University, and *US Presidents* by Oscar Johnson to name a few. Or select your favorite and read about him. There are also many children's books about our Presidents.

Fly your flag and celebrate Presidents' Day--no matter how you punctuate it!

We will have a "Bring One/Take One" book exchange at the California State Board on February 27 and 28. Join the fun and bring a book to exchange.



Reggie Mattox
CFWC ESO
Chairman

Writing Word Search

Find these words:

SIGNATURE EXPLORE HANDWRITTEN JOURNAL EDIT
LETTER THOUGHTS NOVEL NOTES STYLE CUT
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