



Every year, on the third Sunday in June, People around the world take time to honor fathers and their role in the family and community.

History of Father's Day

After the success obtained by Anna Jarvis with the promotion of Mother's Day in the US, some wanted to create a similar holidays for other family members, and Father's Day was the choice most likely to succeed. *Father's Day was founded in 1910 by Sonora Smart Dodd, born in Arkansas from Spokane, who was also the driving force behind its establishment. Its first celebration was in Spokane, Washington on June 19, 1910. Her father, the Civil War veteran William Jackson Smart, was a single parent who reared his six children in Washington.* The idea of having a Father's Day came to the mind of Sonora Smart while listening to a Mother's Day sermon in 1909.

After the death of her mother, she along with her siblings was raised by her father, William Jackson Smart. *Sonora wanted to tell her father how special he was and what role he played in her life. She wanted to honor her father's parental sacrifices that he made for his children. She wanted him to know what courageous, selfless and loving man he was.* Although she initially suggested June 5, her father's birthday, the pastors hadn't enough time to prepare their sermons, and the celebration was deferred to the third Sunday of June.

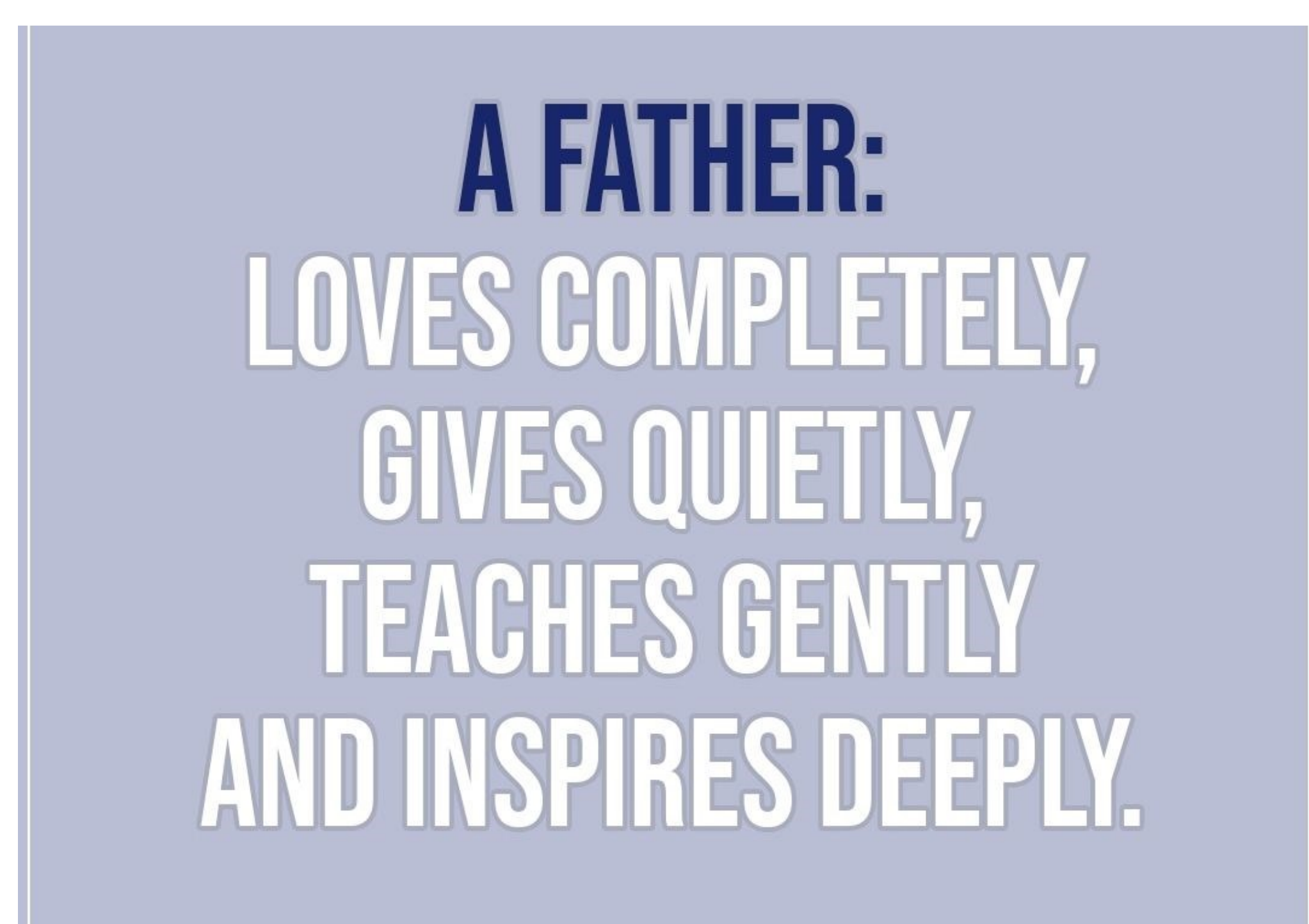
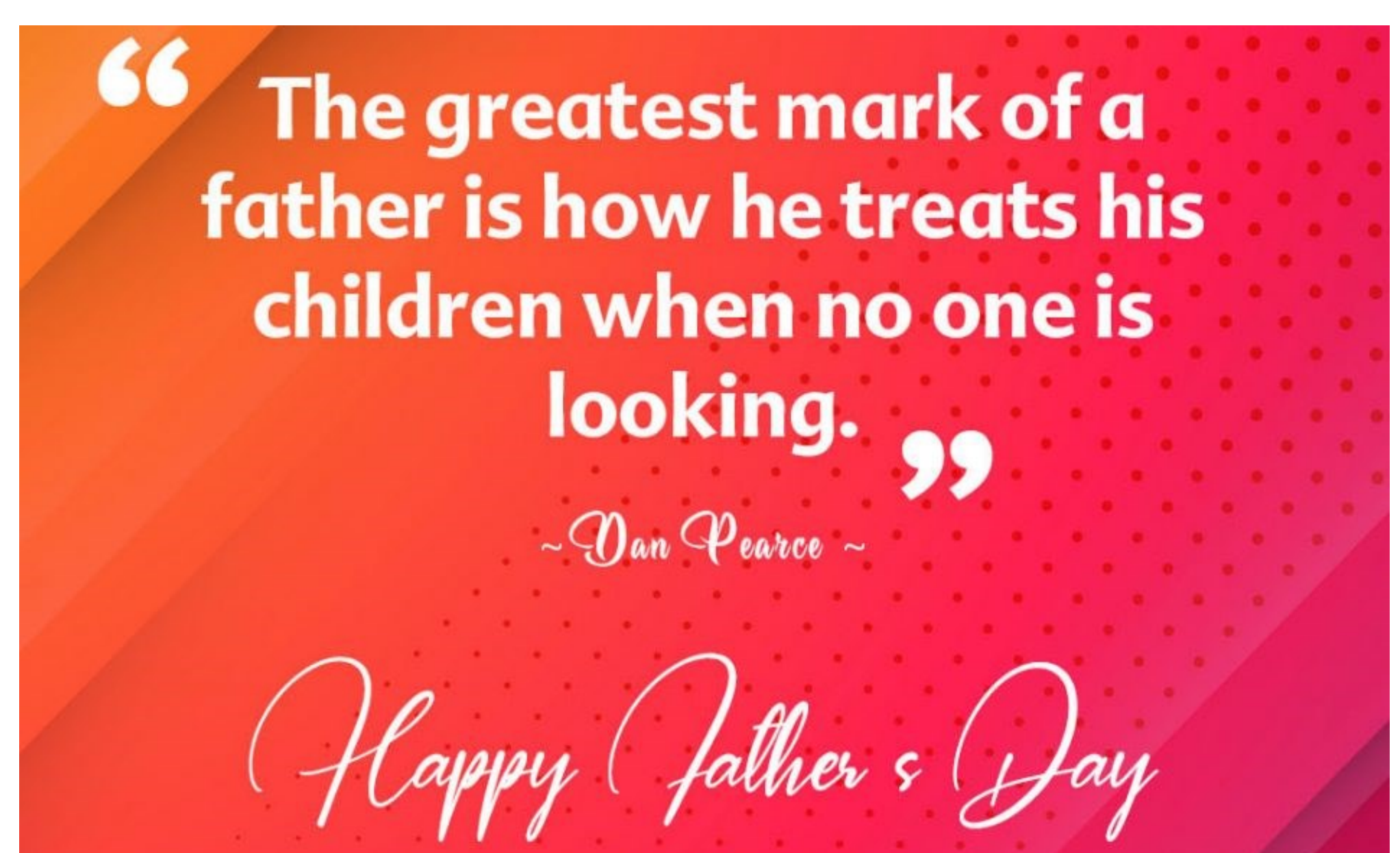
It did not have much success initially. In the 1920s, Dodd stopped promoting the celebration because she was studying in the Art Institute of Chicago, and it faded into relative obscurity, even in Spokane. In the 1930s Dodd returned to Spokane and started promoting the celebration again, raising awareness at a national level. She had the help of those trade groups that would benefit most from the holiday, for example the manufacturers of ties, tobacco pipes, and any traditional present to fathers. Since 1938 she had the help of the Father's Day Council, founded by the New York Associated Men's Wear Retailers to consolidate and systematize the commercial promotion.

In 1966, President Lyndon B. Johnson issued the first presidential proclamation honoring fathers, designating the third Sunday in June as Father's Day. Six years later, the day was made a permanent national holiday when President Richard Nixon signed it into law in 1972.

A new appreciation of fatherhood

On the first Father's Day in Spokane, families honored fathers by wearing roses—red for those still alive, and white for those who were deceased. Pastors in Presbyterian and Methodist churches gave Father's Day sermons. The city's mayor and even the state's governor issued Father's Day proclamations. Today, Father's Day is often celebrated with food, gatherings, and gifts.

Since Father's Day was first conceived, the nature of fatherhood itself has shifted. Most fathers are no longer the sole breadwinners and have become more involved in family life. Today, fathers spend an average of eight hours a week on childcare—nearly three times as many hours as they did in 1965. Fatherhood has, and continues to be, both a demanding and gratifying endeavor. Father's Day is an occasion to thank every person who has embraced the challenging role. "If the father's responsibilities are many, his rewards are also great—the love, appreciation, and respect of children and spouse," wrote President Lyndon B. Johnson.



Source: A Short history of Father's Day. (n.d.). Retrieved June 9, 2021, from <https://gloria.tv/post/wWAwPwXtRJs26oR6MkQzZzMs8>

Combs, S. (2021, May 03). The history of Father's Day and the woman who started it. Retrieved June 9, 2021, from <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/culture/article/fathers-day-campaign-daughter-create-holiday>