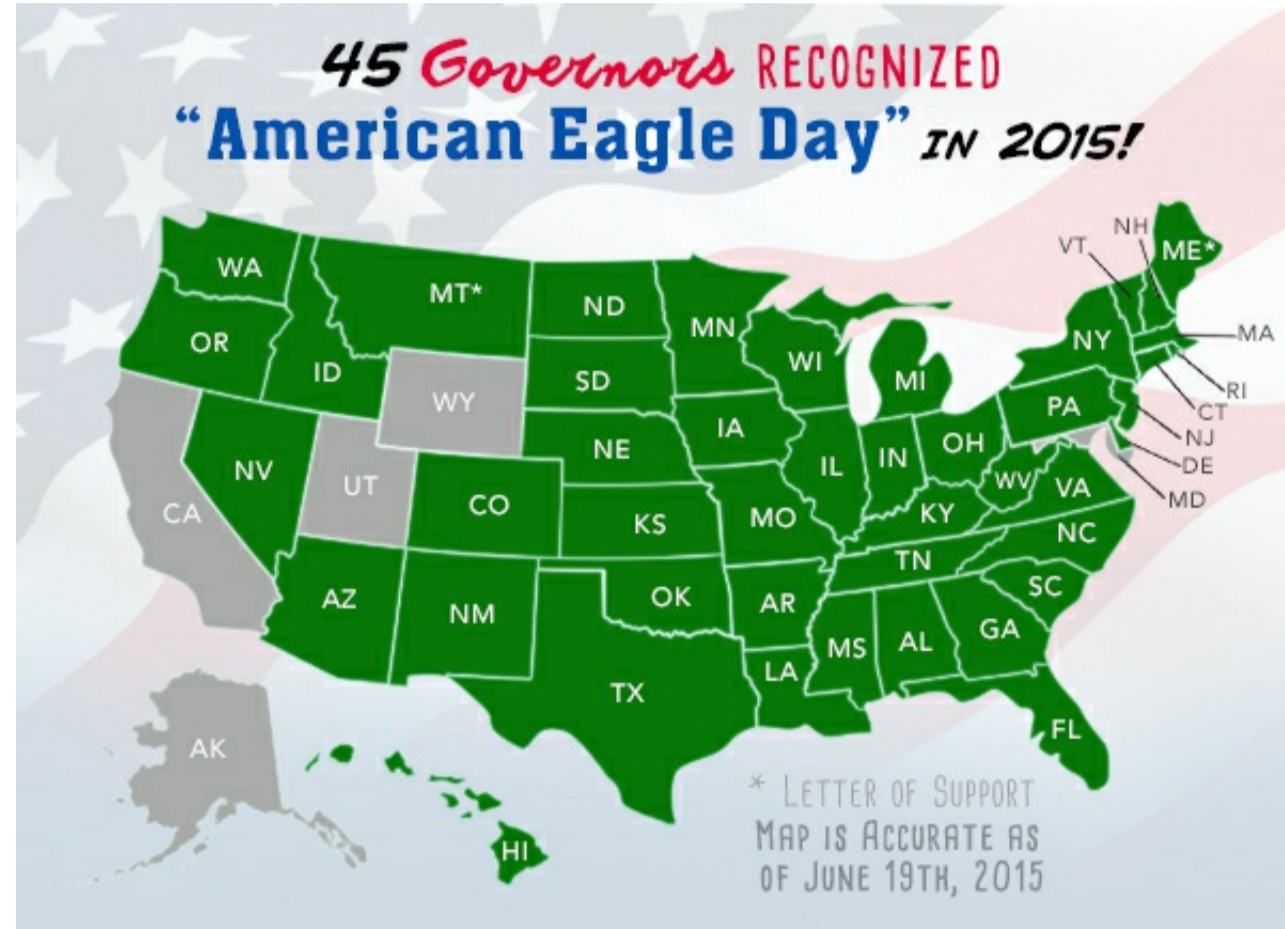




In this photo, Challenger the celebrity Bald Eagle poses majestically during a recent educational visit to the Statue of Liberty. This non-releasable eagle is cared for by the American Eagle Foundation of Tennessee ([www.eagles.org](http://www.eagles.org)). Photo: (C) 2015 American Eagle Foundation, All Rights Reserved. Photographer: John Nacion Imaging.

## Happy "American Eagle Day"



This was our most successful American Eagle Day to date. 45 Governors issued Proclamations and special documents recognizing June 20th as American Eagle Day. Check out the map above. Is your state in "green"? If so, it's "American Eagle Day" in your state!

### "American Eagle Day" Resolved by the United States Senate

Tennessee Senator Lamar Alexander, along with several co-sponsors, introduced an "American Eagle Day" Resolution in the United States Senate this week. The resolution passed by unanimous consent! This is the 8th "American Eagle Day" Resolution passed by the U.S. Senate. "American Eagle Day" was announced on the floor in the United States House of Representatives by Representative Phil Roe. "American Eagle Day" passed in the House in 2007, 2008, and 2010.



#### American Eagle Day

The not-for-profit American Eagle Foundation (AEF) has been a major proponent and organizer in establishing "American Eagle Day," a commemorative annual national day on June 20<sup>th</sup> to celebrate the Bald Eagle's symbolism to Americans and its dramatic recovery from the brink of extinction.

For over 230 years, the Bald Eagle has served as the living symbol of all that America stands for: Freedom, Courage, Strength, Spirit, Independence, & Excellence.

On June 20th, 1782, our nation's Founding Fathers placed this majestic creature, which is unique to North America, at the center of the Great Seal of the United States.

On June 20<sup>th</sup>, 2015, the American Eagle Foundation, along with the United States Congress and Governors coast to coast, invite U.S. citizens to celebrate "American Eagle Day." Citizens may do so by remembering the Bald Eagle's dramatic comeback, reflecting on its special symbolism, and conducting educational activities and ceremonies (including recognizing "American Eagles" in their communities—those individuals who exemplify the qualities the Bald Eagle represents.)

"We once almost lost this precious national treasure due to our own mistakes and neglect. Habitat destruction, illegal shootings, and the use of DDT caused the Bald Eagle population to drop to less than 500 nesting pairs in the lower 48 states in the early 60s," says AEF Founder and President Al Cecere, "but we the people joined together, rose to the occasion, and vigilantly brought it back to America's lands, waterways and skies."

There are an estimated 14-15,000 Bald Eagle pairs in the contiguous United States today. The Bald Eagle was removed from Endangered Species Act protection in 2007.

"American Eagle Day" was first recognized in 1995 by President Bill Clinton, TN Governor Don Sundquist, TN Senators Howard Baker Jr. and Lamar Alexander, and celebrity entertainer Dolly Parton.

Since then, Governors from 47 states have recognized "American Eagle Day" with Proclamations and special documents, giving the USA's National Bird its own "official day" in their states. The United States Senate and House of Representatives have unanimously passed several "American Eagle Day" Resolutions since 2007.

"On American Eagle Day, and every day, let us continue to treasure and protect the Bald Eagle all across this great land for future generations to enjoy," says Cecere, who has been spearheading the effort for two decades.

#### About the American Eagle Foundation

The American Eagle Foundation is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization whose mission is to care for, restore and protect the USA's living symbol of freedom, the Bald Eagle, and other birds of prey. The AEF is celebrating its 30<sup>th</sup> year of carrying out its mission through Education, Repopulation, Conservation, & Rehabilitation. It is headquartered in the foothills of the Great Smoky Mountains at Dollywood theme park in Pigeon Forge, TN. Learn more at [www.eagles.org](http://www.eagles.org)

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