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July 31, 2026



July 2026

A monthly snapshot of peace stories, insight, and inspiration.

The Lasting Legacy of Parental Love

"Parents nurture the lives of their children. They are the source of life, love and protection. They protect life, give love, and nurture."

— Dr. Hak Ja Han

Each year, National Parents' Day reminds us that strong families are the foundation of a strong nation. Established by Congress in 1994, the observance recognizes the invaluable role parents play in raising responsible children, strengthening communities, and shaping the future of America.

Parents are a child's first teachers and greatest source of love and encouragement. Through their daily sacrifices and commitment, they instill the values of integrity, compassion, responsibility, and service that help build a more caring society. As families face growing challenges in today's world, supporting and honoring parents is more important than ever. By celebrating National Parents' Day, we affirm that investing in strong families is one of the greatest investments we can make in a peaceful and prosperous future.



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National Parents' Day Winners:

UPF-USA proudly recognized Bishop Charles and First Lady Marion Dudley as the 2026 National Parents of the Year for their lifelong dedication to faith, family, and community service. Through decades of ministry and unwavering devotion to one another, the Dudleys have inspired countless families while demonstrating the values of sacrificial love and resilience, even in the face of personal loss and health challenges.

Founders of New Beginnings Ministry of Faith in North Carolina, the Dudleys have served their community through outreach, mentorship, and interfaith cooperation. Parents of three sons and grandparents of ten, they continue to exemplify the belief that strong families are the foundation of strong communities.



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UPF Chicago Recognizes Family Values at National Parents' Day

UPF Chicago celebrated National Parents' Day by honoring Dan and Jennifer Davis, parents of ten children whose lives exemplify faith, family, and service. Together they built Davisware into a global software company while raising their family. After becoming empty nesters, Jennifer felt called to public service and is now the Republican nominee for Illinois' 8th Congressional District, promoting family-centered, pro-life values and common-sense leadership.

The Davises were introduced to UPF through an Ambassador for Peace over a year ago, and the relationship grew through continued dialogue and shared values. One of the most touching moments of the program came when the couple's oldest daughter tearfully introduced her mother, reflecting on the love and sacrifices that shaped their family. Dr. Robert Renteria welcomed Jennifer into the "UPF family," and the event highlighted how investing in Ambassadors for Peace continues to open doors for new partnerships and advance UPF's mission.



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Arkansas Celebrates National Parents' Day at the State Capitol

UPF Arkansas celebrated National Parents' Day on July 25 at the historic Old Supreme Court Room in the Arkansas State Capitol. The interfaith program brought together Christian, Muslim, and Jewish leaders to honor exemplary parents, while Governor Sarah Huckabee

Sanders issued an official proclamation and personally signed letters of recognition for each of the honorees.

The celebration recognized three outstanding couples and one exemplary single mother for their dedication to family and community service. Through the support of Ambassador for Peace, Ms. Vee Mays, who serves in both the Arkansas Senate and the State Auditor's Office, the program also received greetings from the Arkansas Attorney General and the Speaker of the House. The event concluded with participants joining hands to sing "Reach Out and Touch Somebody's Hand," celebrating unity, family, and the shared commitment to building peaceful communities.



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The Lasting Legacy of Parental Love

"Being together as a family with parents, husband and wife, and children, is the ideal model of human relationships... Only true love brings balance to these relationships." — Dr. Hak Ja Han

Every year, on the fourth Sunday of July, Americans celebrate National Parents' Day—a day dedicated to recognizing the immeasurable contributions of parents in raising children and strengthening families. Established by Congress in 1994 and signed into law by President Bill Clinton, the observance was created to honor, uplift, and support parents whose daily sacrifices often go unnoticed. Unlike Mother's Day or Father's Day, National Parents' Day celebrates the shared partnership of parenting and the vital role both mothers and fathers play in nurturing the next generation.

At a time when families face increasing pressures—from economic uncertainty and mental health challenges to the influence of technology and social division—the role of parents has never been more important. Research consistently shows that children thrive when they are raised in stable, loving homes where they experience guidance, encouragement, and consistent care. Strong families build strong communities, and strong communities build a stronger nation.

Rev. Dr. Sun Myung Moon often taught that the family is the cornerstone of peace. He explained, "The satanic world is filled with division, hatred, arrogance and ungodliness. God's realm is filled with harmony, unity, love and service for others." He believed parents are the first teachers of these values, shaping not only the character of their children but the future of society itself.

National Parents' Day reminds us that parenting is more than a personal responsibility—it is a public good. Every parent who sacrifices for a child, every grandparent who steps in to help raise a family, and every mentor who nurtures the next generation contributes to a stronger, more compassionate America. By honoring parents and supporting families, we invest in the future of our communities and the enduring hope for a more peaceful world.



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2026 National Parents of the Year: Bishop Charles and First Lady Marion Dudley

UPF-USA is honored to recognize Bishop Charles and First Lady Marion Dudley as the 2026 National Parents of the Year for their unwavering commitment to faith, family, and service. Married since 1995, the Dudleys have devoted their lives to strengthening families, serving their community, and demonstrating the transformative power of sacrificial love.

Over the past three years, the Dudleys have endured profound personal loss, including the passing of both parents and their youngest son, Chandon. Even while carrying their own grief, they have continued to offer hope, encouragement, and compassionate care to those around them. Their steadfast faith and love have become a source of inspiration for countless families and friends.

In early 2026, the couple faced another difficult chapter when Pastor Marion was diagnosed with heart failure and pulmonary hypertension. Throughout her health challenges, Bishop Charles has cared for his wife with extraordinary devotion, providing a living example of the lifelong commitment and selfless love that marriage and parenthood call us to embody. Their children, grandchildren, church family, and community have witnessed firsthand a relationship built on faithfulness, sacrifice, and unconditional love.

The Dudleys founded New Beginnings Ministry of Faith in Havelock, North Carolina, in 2002, faithfully pastoring the congregation for more than two decades. Together, they have mentored hundreds of families while partnering with local ministries to provide food assistance to families in need. Their service extends throughout the community through leadership with organizations including Craven Community College, Habitat for Humanity, local law enforcement and fire departments, and the North Carolina Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, where Bishop Dudley serves as a commissioner and member of the Governor's Advisory Council on Health and Wellness.

Their commitment to building God's family has also fostered interfaith cooperation. In 2021, they welcomed the Ocean Family Church to their church campus, later becoming a Blessed Couple themselves. In 2023, they hosted the first Cheon Shim Won prayer room established on a Christian church campus in America and have traveled to South Korea in support of religious freedom and international peace initiatives.

Parents of three sons—Eugene, Christopher, and Chandon—and proud grandparents of ten grandchildren, Charles and Marion have always placed family at the center of their lives. Their dedication extends beyond words, as demonstrated by the extraordinary efforts they make to keep their family connected across multiple states so their grandchildren can grow together in love and unity.

Through decades of ministry, service, and unwavering devotion to one another, Bishop Charles and Pastor Marion Dudley exemplify the ideals celebrated on National Parents' Day. Their lives remind us that the strongest families are built through faith, perseverance, compassion, and a



daily commitment to living for the sake of others.

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UPF Chicago Recognizes Family Values at National Parents' Day

UPF Chicago celebrated National Parents' Day with a heartfelt program recognizing the central role of strong families in building peaceful communities. The event brought together Ambassadors for Peace, community leaders, clergy, and guests to honor exemplary parents whose lives reflect the values of faith, service, and selfless love.



The highlight of the celebration was the presentation of the National Parents' Day Award to **Dan and Jennifer Davis**, an inspiring couple whose commitment to family, entrepreneurship, and public service has positively impacted countless lives. Parents of ten children, including three who were adopted, the Davises have demonstrated that success in family life and professional life can go hand in hand.

Together, Dan and Jennifer founded Davisware, a software company that grew into a global leader in service technology, expanding as rapidly as their own family. After successfully leading the company for decades and becoming empty nesters, Jennifer felt called to a new season of public service. She entered the race for Illinois' 8th Congressional District with a vision of bringing common-sense leadership, family-centered values, and a pro-life perspective to government during an increasingly challenging political climate.

The connection between Mrs. Davis and UPF began over a year ago when one of Chicago's Ambassadors for Peace introduced her to the organization while she was exploring a congressional campaign. Through continued conversations and a growing understanding of the Davis family's remarkable example of faith, marriage, and service, the relationship deepened naturally. When approached about receiving the National Parents' Day Award, Jennifer accepted enthusiastically, expressing appreciation for the mission and values of UPF.

One of the most moving moments of the program came when the Davises' oldest daughter introduced her mother. Speaking through tears, she reflected on the love, sacrifices, and values that shaped her childhood, creating an emotional atmosphere that set the tone for the entire celebration. Although Dan Davis was out of town and unable to attend, Jennifer accepted the award on behalf of their family and expressed gratitude for the warm embrace she received from the UPF community.

Dr. Robert Renteria, an Ambassador for Peace who had introduced Mrs. Davis to UPF, offered congratulatory remarks and warmly welcomed her into the "UPF family." Members of her campaign team later shared that they were deeply touched by the genuine spirit of love and encouragement shown by everyone in attendance.

The event also reinforced an important lesson for the Chicago chapter. Organizers reflected that investing in relationships with Ambassadors for Peace leads naturally to greater opportunities for outreach and partnership. As Ambassadors deepen their own understanding of UPF's vision, they become confident advocates who introduce new leaders and help expand the movement for peace.

The celebration concluded with renewed inspiration and hope that, by recognizing exemplary families and cultivating meaningful relationships with community leaders, the values of strong marriages, responsible parenting, and living for the sake of others can continue to strengthen both local communities and the nation.

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Arkansas Celebrates National Parents' Day at the State Capitol

On Saturday, July 25, 2026, the Universal Peace Federation of Arkansas, in partnership with local faith and community organizations, celebrated National Parents' Day in the historic Old Supreme Court Room at the Arkansas State Capitol. The event welcomed 53 participants, including 34 guests, 15 members, and 4 first-time participants, reflecting UPF's continued outreach to community and faith leaders.



The celebration opened with an interfaith prayer service featuring representatives from the Christian, Muslim, and Jewish communities, highlighting the shared belief that strong families are the foundation of peaceful societies. Throughout the program, speakers emphasized the importance of honoring parents whose love, sacrifice, and commitment strengthen both their families and their communities.

A major highlight was the recognition of three outstanding couples and one exemplary single mother with National Parents' Day awards. The honorees represented diverse backgrounds and life experiences but shared a common dedication to raising children with strong moral values and serving others.

The event benefited greatly from the support of Ambassador for Peace Ms. Vee Mays, who serves in both the Arkansas Senate and the State Auditor's Office. Through her efforts, Governor Sarah Huckabee Sanders personally signed letters of recognition for each of the honored parents and issued an official Parents' Day proclamation. Additional letters of greeting were received from Arkansas Attorney General Tim Griffin and Speaker of the Arkansas House Brian S. Evans, reflecting strong bipartisan support for honoring exemplary families.

The program featured inspiring remarks from Rev. Dr. John Jackson, who spoke about True Parents' vision of the family as the cornerstone of peace, as well as musical presentations by a choir representing first-generation members, second-generation youth, and new members. Community leaders and guests also shared personal testimonies celebrating the lifelong influence of devoted parents and the importance of preserving family values for future generations.

The celebration concluded with all participants joining hands to sing "Reach Out and Touch Somebody's Hand," symbolizing unity, love, and mutual support. Each guest received a commemorative magnet featuring True Parents and UPF contact information, providing a meaningful reminder of the day's message.

The Arkansas National Parents' Day celebration strengthened partnerships with government officials, faith leaders, educators, and community representatives while reaffirming UPF's vision that strong marriages and healthy families remain the essential building blocks of a peaceful and prosperous society.

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We invite you to join our effort, share your ideas, and contribute to this global effort to build a world of sustainable and lasting peace.

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