

## What Modern America Expects of Dads

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Welcome to This Is America from VOA Learning English. I'm Kelly Jean Kelly.

And I'm Bob Doughty. This week on our program, we look at modern changes in the American father.

Moms Are Great. But What About Dads?

Father's Day \_\_\_\_\_ (1) \_\_\_\_\_ (2) this year on Sunday, June 16. This special day to honor and celebrate fathers has over a century of history behind it. In 1909 there was a woman named Sonora Dodd. She \_\_\_\_\_ (3) in church at a service for Mother's Day, which is celebrated in May.

Her mother \_\_\_\_\_ (4) died in childbirth, leaving her father to raise \_\_\_\_\_ (5) \_\_\_\_\_ (6) her five brothers and sisters. She thought about how difficult it had been for her father to raise six children all by himself. She decided that since there was a day honoring mothers, there should also be one recognizing \_\_\_\_\_ (7) campaigned for the idea in her home state of Washington, in the Pacific Northwest. The first Father's Day was celebrated in June of 1910 in the city of Spokane. June was the month her father was born.

At \_\_\_\_\_ (8) Sonora \_\_\_\_\_ (9) had found little support. But in the years that followed, the idea of Father's Day spread across the country. It gained the approval of President Woodrow Wilson in \_\_\_\_\_ (10). Yet he never signed an official proclamation, as he did two years earlier for the first Mother's Day.

President Calvin Coolidge in 1924 added his \_\_\_\_\_ (11) to a national observance of Father's Day. Then in 1966 President Lyndon Johnson declared it \_\_\_\_\_ (12) third Sunday in \_\_\_\_\_ (13). Finally, in 1972, President Richard Nixon made it \_\_\_\_\_ (14) also celebrate Father's Day, some on the third Sunday in June, others on a different day.

Dads Are More than a Paycheck

OK, let's be honest. As holidays go, Mother's Day in America is still a bigger deal than Father's \_\_\_\_\_ (15). But millions of dads receive at least a card or a call or maybe a necktie or some other gift from their family. And much has changed since that first celebration in 1910.

Kevin Roy is an associate professor in the Department of Family Science at the \_\_\_\_\_ (16) of \_\_\_\_\_ (17). Professor Roy says fathers today \_\_\_\_\_ (18) expected to do more than just provide financially for their families' needs.

"Cultural expectations have changed kind of dramatically, where now we have what's called a package deal. Which means that fathers \_\_\_\_\_ (19) now expected to not only be providers but also caregivers for their kids."

The change from providers to caretakers could be seen in the differences between two television fathers from different \_\_\_\_\_ (20) 1950s and early 60s, Robert Young played Jim Anderson on the family \_\_\_\_\_ (21) "Father Knows Best." He was an insurance salesman who worked hard to provide for his family. He did not cook or clean \_\_\_\_\_ (22) was his wife's job—but he \_\_\_\_\_ (23) a thoughtful father and husband.

"Well Cathy, I don't want a million dollars, or even a half a million. I only want \_\_\_\_\_ (24) money to have a nice home like we have, and good food, good health...and enough money to help those less fortunate than ourselves from time to time."

"And enough to raise my allowance a little."

"I might even arrange that."

By the time \_\_\_\_\_ (25) Cosby Show" \_\_\_\_\_ (26) in 1984, it was common in American society for mothers to work. Bill Cosby played Heathcliff Huxtable, a loving husband and father who was a doctor married to a lawyer.

Heathcliff and Claire Huxtable were partners not \_\_\_\_\_ (27) in marriage but in managing the household and parenting their children. Here, Cliff Huxtable tries to \_\_\_\_\_ (28) his son Theo an \_\_\_\_\_ (29) life lesson.

"How do you expect to get into college with grades like this?"

"No problem. See, I'm not going to college."

"Damn right."

"I am going to \_\_\_\_\_ (30) through high school and then get a job like regular people."

"Regular people?"

"Yeah you \_\_\_\_\_ (31) work in the gas station, drive a bus, something like that."

"So what you're saying is your \_\_\_\_\_ (32) and I shouldn't care if you get Ds because you don't need good \_\_\_\_\_ (33) to be regular people."

"Right."

He Never Said He Loved Me...Guess He Thought I Knew