

Progressive Accomplishments

1776—The American Revolution—Declared independence from British rule

1791—Bill of Rights and forging of a Democracy— First Ten Amendments to the Constitution guaranteeing natural rights

1820—Universal White Male Suffrage

1862—Land Grant Universities—Morrill Acts of 1862 and 1890

1862—The Homestead Act—Any one who had never taken up arms against the U.S. Government including slaves and women, was 21 years old or head of family could file an application to claim a federal land grant.

9/2/1862—Emancipation of Slaves—President Lincoln issued preliminary proclamation ordering emancipation of all slaves in any state that did not end their rebellion against the union by January 1, 1862.

1862—First Income Tax Law—During Civil War a person earning \$600 to \$10,000 per year paid a tax at a rate of 3%.

1890—The Breaking of Monopolies—Sherman Antitrust Act was passed.

1906—Pure Food and Drug Act—Signed by President Theodore Roosevelt.

2/12/1909—NAACP—naacp.org

8/15/1916—National Park Service- Signed by President Woodrow Wilson mandating Dept. Of Interior to conserve the parks.

1916—Abolition of Child Labor—Signed into law by President Woodrow Wilson.

1918—Public Education—All American children were required to attend at least elementary school.

1920—Women’s Suffrage—19th Amendment—Right of citizens to vote shall not be based on sex.

1920—ACLU—American Civil Liberties Union—aclu.org

12/1923—Federal Reserve Act—President Woodrow Wilson signed the Act that a de-centralized bank would balance the competing interests of private and populist sentiment.

5/18/1933—TVA—Tennessee Valley Authority—President Franklin Roosevelt initiated TVA to include power production, navigation, flood control, malaria prevention, reforestation, erosion control, etc.

1936—UAW—United Auto Workers—uaw.org

1938—Fair Labor Standards Act—The act was signed by President Franklin Roosevelt and it placed limits on child labor.

1938—Minimum Wage—President Franklin Roosevelt signed this Act which set minimum wage at twenty five- cents an hour.

1938—Eight Hour Work Day—Included in New Deal’s Fair Labor Standards Act.

1933-1942 C.C.C.—Civilian Conservation Corp-Requirements were for unemployed, unmarried men from relief families aged eighteen to twenty five.

8/14/1935—Social Security—President Franklin Roosevelt signed into law and the vote was Democrats 344, Republicans 97.

1935—Rural Electrification—Established by President Franklin Roosevelt to help farmers meet the growing need for power.

1933—FDIC—Protected Bank Deposits—It is funded by premiums that banks and thrift institutions pay for deposit insurance coverage and from earnings on investments in U.S. Treasuries.

1933—Planned Parenthood—No federal money is spent on abortions.

1934—The Securities & Exchange Commission

5/16/1939 Food Stamp Program—Food surpluses on one hand and out-stretched hands on the other.

6/25/1941—Fair Employment Practices Committee—Created by President Franklin Roosevelt to prevent discrimination in the employment of workers in defense industries or government because of race, creed, color or national origin.

1944—GI Bill-Servicemen's Readjustments Act—Today is Educational Assistance Act

1946—Hill-Burton Act—It gave grants and loans to hospitals to grow and modernize and in exchange had to provide services for people who couldn't pay. Some 200 hospitals are still obligated.

6/4/1946—National School Lunch Program—President Truman signed this Act in response to claims that many American men had been rejected for WWII because of diet related health problems.

1947—A.D.A. Americans for Democratic Action—adaction.org

1960—Our First Catholic President—Kennedy's electoral college votes were 303. Nixon's electoral college votes were 219

1960—Birth Control Pill—The first pill was ten times too strong and had terrible side effects.

3/1/1961—Peace Corp—President Kennedy proposed to help people outside of the United States understand American culture and to help Americans understand cultures of other countries.

1964—Equal Pay for Equal Work—Made it illegal to pay men and women different wage rates for equal work.

1964—Civil Rights for minorities and women—Signed by President Johnson which outlawed discrimination based on color, religion, race, sex or national origin.

1965 and 1966—Head Start—Part of President Johnson's War on Poverty and continues today.

1965—National Endowments for the Humanities—Provides grants for high quality projects to cultural institutions such as museums, libraries, colleges, and public television.

1965—Voting Rights Act— Prohibits discrimination in voting signed by President Johnson. Department of Justice says it is the most important piece of civil legislation ever enacted in the

U.S. In Texas a gun permit is valid ID for voting but a college ID is not.

1965—Federal Pell Grant Program—The Higher Education Act named after Sen. Claiborne Pell. It need not be repaid and is for students needing financial aid.

7/30/1965—Medicare and Medicaid—Created when President Johnson signed Amendments to Social Security Act and is part of Johnson’s social reform movement known as The Great Society.

10/11/1966—Child Nutrition Act—A school Breakfast Program signed by President Johnson. He said “good nutrition is essential to good learning.”

1966—Warnings on Cigarette Packs—5.4 million deaths a year. Smoking is set to kill 6.5 million people in 2015 and 8.3 million in 2030.

1/1/1968—Seat Belt Legislation—All vehicles are to be fitted with seat belts.

12/2/1970—Environmental Protection Agency—Proposed by President Nixon and created for purpose of protecting human health and the environment by enforcing regulations passed by congress.

1972—Consumer Product Safety Act

1993—AmeriCorps— Under President Clinton and created for intensive community service work with the goal of helping others and meeting critical needs in the community. As of 2012 eighty thousand members participate annually.

1993—Family and Medical Leave Act—Eligible employees of eligible employers to take unpaid job protected leave for specified family and medical reasons with group health insurance coverage as if employee had not taken leave.

7/30/08—Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act

2008—Our first black President—President Barack Obama

1/29/2009—Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act—President Obama's first bill signed into law. An equal pay lawsuit regarding pay discrimination.

2009—American Recovery & Reinvestment Act—Signed into law by President Obama.

3/23/2010—Affordable Care Act—Signed by President Obama and is the most significant regulatory overhaul of healthcare since medicare and medicaid.

2012—Middle Class Tax Relief & Job Creation Act—Signed by President Obama to extend payroll tax holiday, unemployment compensation, medicare physician payment, provide for consideration of Keystone XL pipeline and for other purposes.