

German-American Heritage Month



This October marks the 20th anniversary of German-American Heritage Month. It was begun in 1989 by the German-American Citizens League of Greater Cincinnati, which was founded in 1895.

German-American Heritage Month takes place in October since German-American Day is October 6th and is the day in 1683 when the first permanent German settlement in America was established at Germantown, Pennsylvania.

German-American Day was officially declared as a day of commemoration by President Ronald Reagan in 1987 and has been celebrated ever since across the country.

Dr. Don Heinrich Tolzmann, president of the German-American Citizens League, led the national campaign for German-American Day, and in 1989 organized the first German-American Heritage Month in Cincinnati.

Since that time, other places around the country have followed suit and established German-American Weeks or Months.

This year a month-long program again has been put together by the German-American Citizens League of Greater Cincinnati.

The Cincinnati program serves as a model that should be adopted elsewhere across the country, centering the celebration on the 6th of October and building a month-long program of events relating to German-American history and relations.

For the calendar of events in Cincinnati, see: www.gacl.org

Germerica.net (September 21, 2009)