

Jul - Sep 2014

# Red Seas, White Sands, Blue Skies: An American Citizens Services Newsletter

## Secretary of State John Kerry on Ramadan Kareem

As the holy month of Ramadan begins, I wish the millions of Muslims here at home and so many more all around the world Ramadan Kareem.

Ramadan is a time for peaceful reflection and prayer, a time for acts of compassion and charity -- universal values and aspiration ingrained in every human heart.

Across the globe, Muslims will assemble and celebrate a rich tradition with fasting and prayer, as generations have done every year since the time of the Prophet Muhammad. Here in America, Muslims will commemorate Ramadan in ways that reflect the great diversity of our country and the spirit of community that binds us together.

The diversity and patriotism of America's religious communities are sources of strength for all of us, and our freedom to worship is a powerful reminder of the traditions we share. E Pluribus Unum -- From Many, One. And from many faiths, we stand together in one shared country.

Along with many of our Ambassadors all over the world, I will host an Iftar celebration at the State Department in Washington, DC. This event will bring together leaders from across the Muslim community to join together and reflect on our shared values.

On behalf of the U.S. Department of State, I wish all Muslims around the world a peaceful Ramadan and joyful month.



### ACS Brochure - Gulf Region

#### Travel Information for Citizens of the United States

Please check out the recently released ACS Gulf Brochure, which features information on travel to Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, United Arab Emirates, and Yemen. We hope that by following the tips in this guide, your trip will also be a safe one. Learn more here:

[http://photos.state.gov/libraries/saudi-arabia/231771/public/Arabian%20Gulf%20ACS%20Brochure\\_001.pdf](http://photos.state.gov/libraries/saudi-arabia/231771/public/Arabian%20Gulf%20ACS%20Brochure_001.pdf)



#### Reminder – Appointment Required for All ACS Services

In order to reduce your wait time and serve you more efficiently, the American Citizen Services unit uses an online appointment system for all routine services.

This includes passport renewals for adults and minors, report of birth abroad, adding visa pages, and notarials. If you have an urgent, unforeseen need to travel, such as a death or illness, please contact us at [RiyadhACS@state.gov](mailto:RiyadhACS@state.gov). Please note that we cannot book appointments over the phone. To make or cancel an appointment, please visit the U.S. Citizens Services Appointment System <https://evisaforms.state.gov/acs/default.asp?>



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#### Upcoming Holiday Closures

|             |                        |
|-------------|------------------------|
| Jul 27 - 31 | - Eid-Al-Fitr holidays |
| Aug 31      | - Labor Day            |
| Sep 23      | - Saudi National Day   |

#### How to Reach Us

**The US Embassy is located in the Diplomatic Quarter, in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.**

**Public hours:** Sunday through Thursday, 1:00pm-3:30pm

*Schedule an Appointment:*  
<https://evisaforms.state.gov/acs/default.asp?postcode=RID&appcode=1>

**Phone:** (966)(11)488-3800

**US Consulate Jeddah**  
**Public hours:** Sunday through Thursday, 1:00-3:00pm

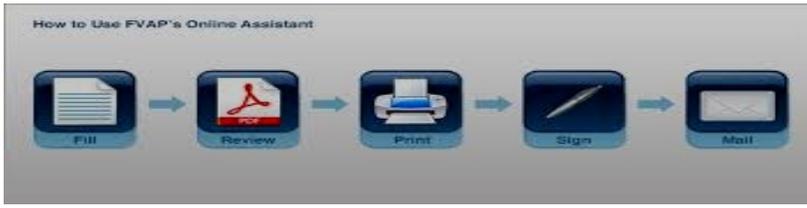
*Schedule an Appointment:*  
<https://evisaforms.state.gov/acs/default.asp?postcode=JDD&appcode=1>

**Phone:** (966)(12)667-0080

**US Consulate Dhahran**  
**Public hours:** Sunday through Thursday, 1:00-3:30 pm

*Schedule an Appointment:* <https://evisaforms.state.gov/acs/default.asp?postcode=dhr&appcode=1>

**Phone:** (966)(13) 330-3200



[The online assistant is easy and helps guide you through completing the FPCA and FWAB](#) [Learn More](#)

### MINNESOTA PRIMARY ELECTION ON AUGUST 12

July 1 - Minnesota will hold its primary election on August 12. If you are a Minnesota resident and need to vote absentee, you may register and request an absentee ballot using the Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) found at FVAP.gov. Complete, sign and send the FPCA to your local election official. Forms need to be received by August 12. Detailed information is available at [fvap.gov/Minnesota](http://fvap.gov/Minnesota)

If you request your absentee ballot and do not receive it 30 days before the election use the Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot to vote. The form is also available at [fvap.gov/Minnesota](http://fvap.gov/Minnesota) under "Get My Ballot."

### WISCONSIN PRIMARY ELECTION ON AUGUST 12

July 1 - Wisconsin will hold its primary election on August 12. If you are a Wisconsin resident and need to vote absentee, you may register and request an absentee ballot using the Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) found at FVAP.gov.

Complete, sign and send the FPCA to your local election official. Forms need to be received by July 23.

Detailed information is available at [fvap.gov/wisconsin](http://fvap.gov/wisconsin). If you request your absentee ballot and do not receive it 30 days before the election use the Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot to vote. The form is also available at [fvap.gov/wisconsin](http://fvap.gov/wisconsin) under "Get My Ballot."

If you experience any issues or have questions, FVAP's call center is available at 1-800-438-VOTE (8683), DSN 425-1584 or at [vote@fvap.gov](mailto:vote@fvap.gov). Toll-free phone numbers from 67 countries are listed at FVAP.gov. Find us on Facebook at /DoDFVAP and follow @FVAP on Twitter.

### CONNECTICUT PRIMARY ELECTION ON AUGUST 12

July 1 - Connecticut will hold its primary election on August 12. If you are a Connecticut resident and need to vote absentee, you may register and request an absentee ballot using the Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) found at FVAP.gov.



Complete, sign and send the FPCA to your local election official. Forms need to be received by August 11.

Detailed information is available at [fvap.gov/Connecticut](http://fvap.gov/Connecticut).

If you request your absentee ballot and do not receive it 30 days before the election use the Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot to vote. The form is also available at [fvap.gov/connecticut](http://fvap.gov/connecticut) under "Get My Ballot."

### SOUTH DAKOTA PRIMARY RUNOFF ELECTION ON AUGUST 12

July 1 - South Dakota will hold its primary runoff election on August 12. If you are a South Dakota resident and need to vote absentee, you may register and request an absentee ballot using the Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) found at FVAP.gov.

Complete, sign and send the FPCA to your local election official. Forms need to be received by July 28.

Detailed information is available at [fvap.gov/south-dakota](http://fvap.gov/south-dakota).

If you request your absentee ballot and do not receive it 30 days before the election use the Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot to vote. The form is also available at [fvap.gov/south-dakota](http://fvap.gov/south-dakota) under "Get My Ballot." If you experience any issues or have questions, FVAP's call center is available at 1-800-438-VOTE (8683), DSN 425-1584 or at [vote@fvap.gov](mailto:vote@fvap.gov). Toll-free phone numbers from 67 countries are listed at FVAP.gov. Find us on Facebook at /DoDFVAP and follow @FVAP on Twitter.

### Enrolling in STEP



Please remind your family and friends to enroll in the U.S. State Department's free [Smart Traveler Enrollment Program](#) in order for them to be included on the Messages and ACS Newsletter mailing list. It is a great way to keep abreast of any public announcements on Travel Warnings, safety and security issues in Saudi Arabia and elsewhere. The Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP) is a free service provided to U.S. citizens who are traveling to or living in a foreign country. STEP allows you to enter information about your upcoming trip abroad so that U.S. Embassies and Consulates can better assist you in an emergency, including situations where your family or friends in the U.S. are having problems contacting you with important news.

### Leaving Saudi Arabia?

If you no longer live in or travel to Saudi Arabia, or you need to update your registration status so that you no longer receive travel updates and our ACS Newsletter, please go to the [Smart Traveler Enrollment Program \(STEP\)](#). Updating your status in [STEP](#) will remove you from the mailing list for this newsletter and other Embassy Messages for U.S. citizens traveling to or living in Saudi Arabia.

If you encounter any difficulties or have any questions about our travel registration website, please send an e-mail to [CASTEP@state.gov](mailto:CASTEP@state.gov).

### FBAR Information for Individuals

On Wednesday, June 4, 2014, the IRS hosted a Webinar on Reporting of Foreign Financial Accounts (FBAR). If you own a foreign bank account, brokerage account, mutual fund, unit trust, or other financial account overseas, then you might be required to report the account yearly to the Treasury Department's Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN).

To assist all taxpayers in meeting their foreign bank account reporting requirements, please check out a recording of the online seminar here: <http://www.irsvideos.gov/ElectronicFBAR/>.

Topics include:

- FBAR legal authorities
- FBAR mandatory e-filing overview
- Using FinCEN Forms
- FBAR filing requirements
- FBAR filing exceptions
- Live Q&A session with Subject Matter Experts

Learn More : <http://www.irs.gov/Businesses/Corporations/Foreign-Account-Tax-Compliance-Act-FATCA>

### Subscribe to the FATCA News and Information List

We have received many inquiries about the Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act (FATCA). The IRS FATCA site provides news, guidance, and regulations related to the [Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act \(FATCA\)](#) including information that affects:

- Individuals with foreign accounts
- Foreign financial institutions registration, reporting and withholding requirements
- Non-Financial Foreign Entities
- Tax and compliance professionals interested in the implementation and requirements of FATCA

To subscribe to the FATCA News and Information List to receive information as it becomes available click [here](#). When you subscribe, you will receive a confirmation message by e-mail. Remember, you must respond to the email in order to verify your subscription.

#### **Instructions to register for FATCA News and Information:**

1. Click the "Subscribe/Unsubscribe" link at the bottom.
2. On the registration page, enter your email address, then click "submit."
3. On the subscription page, check the box labeled "FATCA News and Information," which you will find under the Large Business and International (LB&I) heading.
4. Click the "submit" button at the bottom of the page.

### IRS Adopts "Taxpayer Bill of Rights;" 10 Provisions to be Highlighted on IRS.gov

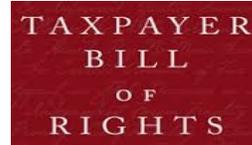
WASHINGTON — The Internal Revenue Service today announced the adoption of a "[Taxpayer Bill of Rights](#)" that will become a cornerstone document to provide the nation's taxpayers with a better understanding of their rights.

The Taxpayer Bill of Rights takes the multiple existing rights embedded in the tax code and groups them into 10 broad categories, making them more visible and easier for taxpayers to find on IRS.gov.

Publication 1, "[Your Rights as a Taxpayer](#)," has been updated with the 10 rights and will be sent to millions of taxpayers this year when they receive IRS notices on issues ranging from audits to collection. The rights will also be publicly visible in all IRS facilities for taxpayers and employees to see.

"The Taxpayer Bill of Rights contains fundamental information to help taxpayers," said IRS Commissioner John A. Koskinen. "These are core concepts about which taxpayers should be aware. Respecting taxpayer rights continues to be a top priority for IRS employees, and the new Taxpayer Bill of Rights summarizes these important protections in a clearer, more understandable format than ever before."

The IRS released the following extensive taxpayer Advocate Service office inside the IRS lists of U.S. taxpayers. Taxpayer Bill of Rights



Taxpayer Bill of Rights discussions with the Taxpayer Advocate Service, an independent organization that represents the interests of U.S. taxpayers. Since 2007, adopting a Taxpayer Bill of Rights has been a goal of National Taxpayer Advocate Nina E. Olson, and it was listed as the Advocate's top priority in her most recent Annual Report to Congress.

"Congress has passed multiple pieces of legislation with the title of 'Taxpayer Bill of Rights,'" Olson said. "However, taxpayer surveys conducted by my office have found that most taxpayers do not believe they have rights before the IRS and even fewer can name their rights. I believe the list of core taxpayer rights the IRS is announcing today will help taxpayers better understand their rights in dealing with the tax system."

The tax code includes numerous taxpayer rights, but they are scattered throughout the code, making it difficult for people to track and understand. Similar to the U.S. Constitution's Bill of Rights, the Taxpayer Bill of Rights contains 10 provisions. They are:

1. The Right to Be Informed
2. The Right to Quality Service
3. The Right to Pay No More than the Correct Amount of Tax
4. The Right to Challenge the IRS's Position and Be Heard
5. The Right to Appeal an IRS Decision in an Independent Forum
6. The Right to Finality
7. The Right to Privacy
8. The Right to Confidentiality
9. The Right to Retain Representation
10. The Right to a Fair and Just Tax System

Learn More : <http://www.irs.gov/uac/Newsroom/IRS-Adopts-Taxpayer-Bill-of-Rights;-10-Provisions-to-be-Highlighted-on-IRSGov,-in-Publication-1>



Independence Hall is located in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. At this building, colonial leaders met to plan the future of the new nation. Some of the most important documents in U.S. history were written at Independence Hall. Independence Hall was also the home of the Liberty Bell for over 200 years.

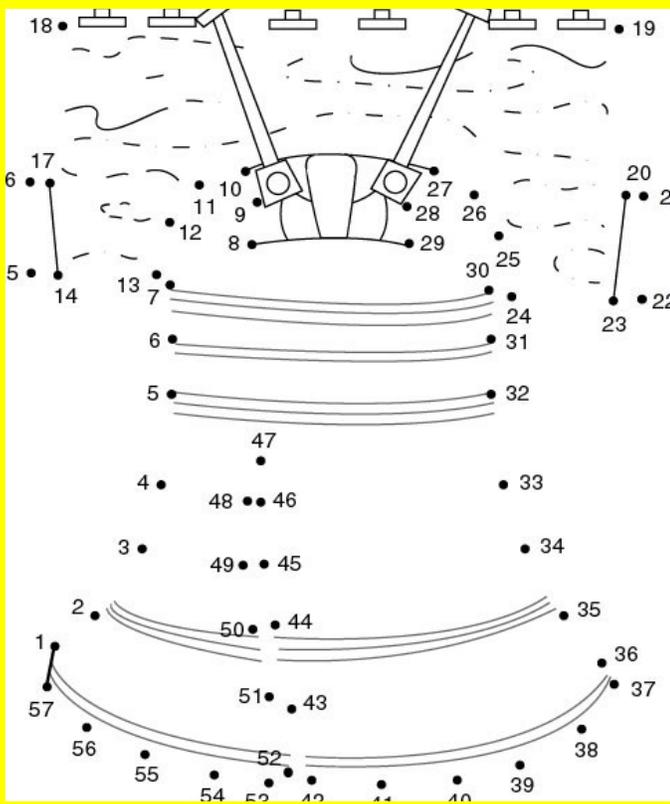
The Liberty Bell has become a symbol of freedom in the United States. The bell was cast in London, England in 1752. It is made mostly of copper and tin. After it arrived in the U.S., the bell cracked. A new bell was made from the metal in the old one, but this one also cracked. A third bell was built from the same metal, and now this one has a crack too! The last time the bell rang was on February 23, 1846 for George Washington's birthday celebration. Today, the Liberty Bell hangs in Philadelphia for all to see.



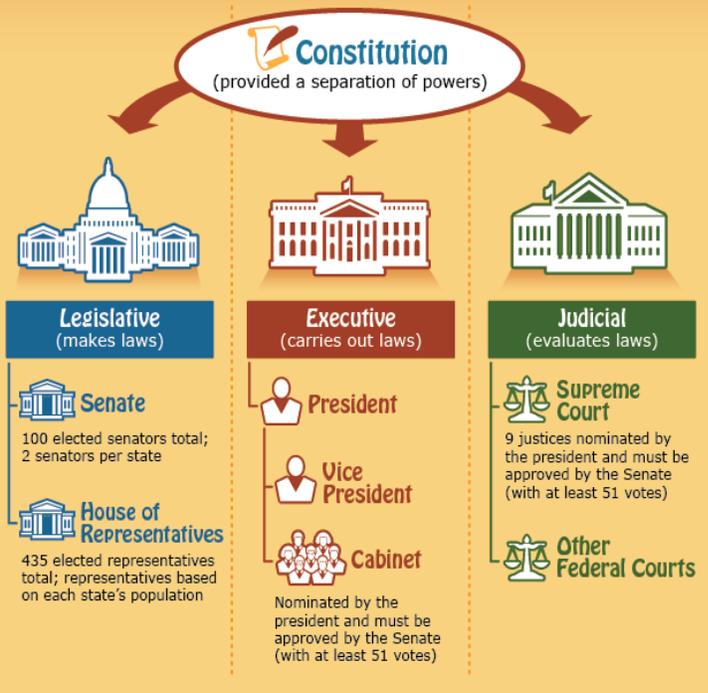
The Statue of Liberty is located in New York. The Statue of Liberty symbolizes freedom throughout the world. The Statue was actually a gift from the people of France. The Statue represents a woman escaping the chains of tyranny. She holds a torch, which represents liberty. The Statue's full name is Liberty Enlightening the World.

For more information, check out the [National Park Service](#).

### Can you identify this symbol of freedom?



### 3 BRANCHES of GOVERNMENT



Created by Kids.gov

### Labor Day



**Labor Day: How it Came About; What it Means:** "Labor Day differs in every essential way from the other holidays of the year in any country," said Samuel Gompers, founder and longtime president of the American Federation of Labor. "All other holidays are in a more or less degree connected with conflicts and battles of man's prowess over man, of strife and discord for greed and power, of glories achieved by one nation over another. Labor Day...is devoted to no man, living or dead, to no sect, race, or nation." Labor Day, the first Monday in September, is a creation of the labor movement and is dedicated to the social and economic achievements of American workers. It constitutes a yearly national tribute to the contributions workers have made to the strength, prosperity, and well-being of our country.

**The First Labor Day :** The first Labor Day holiday was celebrated on Tuesday, September 5, 1882, in New York City, in accordance with the plans of the Central Labor Union. The Central Labor Union held its second Labor Day holiday just a year later, on September 5, 1883. In 1884 the first Monday in September was selected as the holiday, as originally proposed, and the Central Labor Union urged similar organizations in other cities to follow the example of New York and celebrate a "workingmen's holiday" on that date. The idea spread with the growth of labor organizations, and in 1885 Labor Day was celebrated in many industrial centers of the country.