August 2022 (Capt J. Podgurski)

"People being civil to other people is what makes the world a whole lot better and is the key focus of National Civility Month, which is held in August each year. This holiday was founded to help the world remember to treat others the way we wish to be treated ourselves - with kindness, empathy, and respect." (FSU | Diversity and Inclusion)

Ways to Observe National Civility Month

1. Practice civility ourselves - true change starts at home, we set the example for others, especially those young minds that look to us for guidance, by how we treat others.

2. Inspire others towards civility - by being the role model, you will inspire others to act at the same levels of civility.

3. Raise awareness about civility together - share the importance of civility and this month's recognition with others throughout the month.

HISTORY OF NATIONAL CIVILITY MONTH (From National Today)

The Latin root of civility originated in 509 B.C. with the Romans. Their social and political structure became more decentralized, and democracy took root in the then-powerhouses, Ancient Rome and Ancient Greece. As people began to demand and receive more rights, they started devising words to describe their new republic. The term first meant 'civis' or 'citizen,' which referred to men with property. Over time, the word evolved to 'civitas,' a.k.a. the "rights and duties of citizenship," and then to 'civilitas,' for the "art and science of citizenship."

The current English word is derived from a French root — 'civilité' — but the meaning has changed again. It wasn't about the republic and citizens' rights anymore, it was now used mainly in the French courts to talk about proper behavior, dress, speech, service between the French lords and those who served them. The complete understanding and evolution of civility came during a major period of enlightenment spanning almost 300 years.

The Renaissance, the Age of Science, and the Age of Enlightenment broadened people's definition of the term, and civility now meant the sense of being human and acting with humanity. Educated and civilized people were expected to exhibit traits of civility, like polished manners, a love and sensitivity towards beauty, respect for absolutely everyone, and a solid adherence to honor and duty. Historians conclude that our understanding of this word inspired many events, including presidential and parliamentary democracy and the women's empowerment movements.

Today's meaning of civility is etched in every person's mind and is a common thread that unites our behavior. As we're gaining a new understanding of ourselves and the environment around

us, we are reaching out to people, sharing our love and care, and being civil to one another. And still have a long way to go to become a world mostly free of incivility, which is what National Civility Day addresses.

Special Observances for August:

All Month - National Civility Month
9th - International Day of the World's Indigenous People
13th - International Lefthanders Day
19th - World Humanitarian Day
23rd - International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition
26th - Women's Equality Day

This month's challenge: What can you do, today, to show civility to others?