

Protocol in Paradise 2.0.

The [Protocol School of Washington](#)® (PSOW), in partnership with the Protocol and International Affairs Division, Miami-Dade Aviation Department (MDAD), organized PSOW flagship **Protocol Officer Training Course** at the Miami International Airport Hotel Conference Room from April 22 to 26, 2024. The special five-day training was dubbed “Protocol in Paradise 2.0.” The Protocol & International Affairs Division of Miami-Dade Aviation Department hosted the first successful PSOW Protocol Officer Training Course in Miami, Florida from September 27 to October 1, 2021.

This year’s five-day comprehensive in-person classroom training provided expert instruction, guided exercises and coaching for a thorough foundation in the fundamentals of operational protocol. Participants gained a broad understanding of functional business, government, and international protocol. A total of 24 participants from the private and public sectors graduated from the course.

The topics included:

- * Protocol History, Precedence and Positioning
- * Titles and Forms of Address
- * VIP Management
- * Seating
- * Ceremonies
- * International: The Impact of Culture on Protocol
- * Official Gifts
- * Flags and Logos
- * Logistics and Event Management
- * Personal Diplomacy and Dining Skills
- * Military Protocol
- * Leadership and Legendary Service
- * Professional Development

PSOW is accredited by the Accrediting Council for Continuing Education & Training (www.ACCT.org). ACCET is listed by the U.S. Department of Education as a nationally recognized accrediting agency. As an accredited institution it continues to review, monitor, and revise the curriculum, instructional delivery, and facilitators in order to ensure the highest quality education and training.



Front row seating (center): Pamela Eyring, President & Owner, PSOW (in black); To her right is U. Desmond Alufohai (blue); To her left is Saeed Al Salkhadi, Vice President of PSOW, with PSOW trainers and graduates of PSOW Protocol Training Course - Miami Class of 2024.

MAY 2024

Division Director’s Message



U. Desmond Alufohai
Director

Protocol & International Affairs Division
Miami-Dade Aviation Department (MDAD)

The term ‘[May](#)’ comes from the Latin word ‘[maius](#)’, after the [Greek goddess](#) of fertility Maia. After all, [spring](#) is a time of blooming flowers and trees, animals waking from hibernation, and many baby animals being born. It is also the month that Wiccans and Pagans celebrate [Beltane](#). May is the fifth month in the Julian and Gregorian calendars. It has 31 days and it is late [spring](#) in the [northern hemisphere](#), and conversely [autumn](#) or fall in the [southern hemisphere](#).

We congratulate the graduates of PSOW’s Miami Class of 2024, Protocol Training Course. We express our gratitude and appreciation to Ms. Pamela Eyring, PSOW trainers, and staff for giving us the opportunity to host the “Protocol in Paradise” training course for the second time. We were thrilled to receive the coveted and first-ever “**Aviation Protocol Excellence Award**,” from PSOW.

We join in the celebration of the respective National Heritage Month in May and we salute the nations celebrating their Independence or National Day.

The 2024 Atlantic hurricane season is upon us. We urge everyone to make adequate preparations for this hurricane season.

Please be safe, always.

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DIPLOMATIC & CONSULAR RELATIONS

World Protocol Matters - Advocating for May 11th as “World Protocol Day”



LaDonna L. Myers

On May 10 and 11, 2024, nearly ninety (90) participants from more than 60 countries gathered to learn from diplomats, protocol professionals, thought leaders, and intellectuals, as they exchanged views and examined the effects of protocol and its tenets on diplomatic relations today and beyond. Now in its third year, the theme of the World Protocol Matters 2024 Online Conference was “*Diplomacy Connects, Protocol Unites - A World of Civility Re-imagined*.” The online event was organized by the [International Centre for Protocol and Diplomacy](#) (ICPD), [World Protocol Magazine](#) (WPM) and World Protocol Organisation (WPO) and Myers & Associates, LLC. More than 20 distinguished speakers from across the globe joined the conference to leverage their collective knowledge and experiences, with an eye toward establishing May 11th as “World Protocol Day.”

Over the course of the two-day conference, speakers provided 20–30-minute briefs, surrounding the theme, as attendees asked thought-provoking questions in support of the need to recognize May 11th as “World Protocol Day.” “*These discussions framed the conversation around the need for a more formal practicum,*” said, the Honourable Patricia Kenneth-Divine, Director, International Centre for Protocol & Diplomacy. “*We aim to achieve a set of global brand standards for protocol, that starts with recognition and declaration of May 11th as “World Protocol Day,”* she opined. “*Protocol matters. It is a unique term for embracing tradition, interconnectedness, and innovation,*” said Nikoletta Hossó, Ph. D., President, Organization of International Protocol Professionals, and originator behind the online conference and May 11th as World Protocol Day.

At the end of each session, an original poem entitled “*Empowerment of Protocol,*” written by Dr. Hossó, accompanied by an original composition by Mr. Thibault Chavanis, French Composer for Film & TV, was played. To close out the final session of the two-day event, the poem was recited by Dr. Yewande Austin, Founder of One Change, LLC, and conference speaker. Click on the following link to access the poem - [Empowerment of Protocol Recited](#). For more information on the speakers and the World Protocol Matters Online Conference 2025, please visit [World Protocol Matters Facebook group](#).

The goal, mission, vision, and motivation for the World Protocol Matters Online conference are listed below:

Our goal: To obtain United Nations recognition that extends to a global understanding and cooperation across the field.

Our mission: To highlight the expertise and strategic value of the protocol and diplomacy as the “perfect union,” thus influencing university-level fields of study for its continued growth and development.

Our vision: To amass an extensive network of protocol stakeholders with shared interests to present research, generate ideas, and serve as an intellectual resource on soft-power, soft-diplomacy and glocalization to support the community at large.

Our motivation: To instil a global civility mindset and reiterate the value of protocol as part of an organization’s cultural framework and method for achieving business objectives.

Why are the professionals of this highly complex field advocating to have their own international day? And perhaps, one might ask, why the proposition for May 11th? Protocol is an interdisciplinary field without which diplomacy would not function, and no interstate communication would occur in the world. It is a high-risk, impactful profession.

Extensive research was conducted to find a neutral date with protocol ties and significance that would be mutually accepted by many nations. The following historical events occurred on the eleventh day of May:

- * In 330 AD the ancient city of Byzantium was renamed “New Rome” by Emperor Constantine the Great; it became more commonly known as Constantinople in honour of Emperor Constantine. This name persisted for many centuries, and today is known as Istanbul.
- * In 868 AD, “The Diamond Sutra,” the world’s oldest surviving printed book, was produced in China during the Tang Dynasty.
- * In 913 AD, Constantine VII, “the Purple-Born,” became the Byzantine Emperor. He ruled for more than 46 years, and made significant contributions to governance, diplomacy, and culture.
- * In 1502, explorer Christopher Columbus set sail from Cadiz, Spain, to the Americas in search of a westward passage to Asia.
- * In 1995, more than 170 countries agreed to extend the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) indefinitely, to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons and promote peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

“*Together we can create the protocol momentum, continue the World Protocol Movement, and celebrate every world protocol moment...We are not in competition with one another, we want to bring the field together so we may obtain United Nations recognition for a World Protocol Day,*” noted Ms. Kenneth-Divine.

Ms. LaDonna L. Myers is the founder of Myers & Associates, LLC., a consulting group designed for business engagement strategies for private, public, and non-profit organizations seeking to expand their international acumen and portfolio. She is the co-organizer of the annual World Protocol Matters Online Conference. She is a member of the Board of Directors of Protocol & Diplomacy International - Protocol Officers Association (PDI-POA), a graduate of the Protocol School of Washington®, an alumnus of International School of Protocol and Diplomacy, and the UN Institute for Training and Research Protocol Courses.

CULTURE, ETIQUETTE, AND PROTOCOL

Cool facts about etiquette



Different countries and cultures have different norms and etiquette. What is considered normal or even polite behavior in one country may turn out to be offensive or unacceptable in another.

The rules of etiquette around the world vary considerably, sometimes even within the same country. For example, what is considered polite in the north of China, may be considered impolite and ignorant in the southern regions of that country.

There is no polite address like “sir” or “miss” in Russian. In the Soviet Union, people addressed each other as “comrade”. After the collapse of the Soviet Union, they stopped using this word. Now Russians address strangers using the words “man” and “woman”.

Etiquette also varies greatly in different European countries. However, its basic norms are similar for most European countries. Most of them were formed among the French nobility in Versailles during the reign of King Louis XIV.

Sometimes conflict situations arise due to cultural differences and ignorance of local etiquette. Therefore, there are special experts who help public people avoid awkward situations while communicating with representatives of other cultures.

There are lots of types of etiquette: meeting, business, bathroom, table, military, social, corporate, workplace, etc. They are also different in different countries.

Behavior is important

Men do not shake hands when meeting in most countries of the Middle East and Asia. Touching other people, especially strangers, is considered impolite there. The rules of etiquette prescribe men shake hands firmly and confidently in Western countries. A lazy and weak handshake is considered an expression of neglect. However, it's totally the opposite in some Eastern cultures.

Touching someone's head is a gross violation of etiquette in countries with mostly Buddhist population. It is believed that the head is the receptacle of the soul, so touching it is forbidden for everyone except spouses and other family members.

In theory, the rules of etiquette are the same for everyone, but in fact, the attitude towards foreigners may be different in countries with a conservative culture. There are very complex rituals of greeting, farewell, etc., in Korea and Japan, but locals often don't bother with all these difficulties when communicating with foreigners. This makes sense: most foreigners wouldn't understand that anyway.

Japanese etiquette is considered one of the most difficult. There are many different bows in it, and the preferred bow depends on the status of the people present at the meeting, their age, social status, and other factors. The Japanese understand this perfectly, of course, but it's super difficult for foreigners.

Random facts about etiquette rules

Etiquette rules in many cultures don't allow a man to carry women's purses, even if the lady asked for help. This may be regarded as inappropriate behavior for a man.

In Western countries, people usually say something like “Bless you” or “Be healthy” to the person who sneezed. However, in some Asian countries, a person who just sneezed must apologize to the people around him or her.

Violation of the rules of behavior in some countries of the Middle East can lead to serious consequences. The penalty can range from a fine to physical punishment or imprisonment.

The rules of etiquette regarding the use of plastic bags are the same in all countries. They cannot be used anywhere as permanent bags! They should be used only to carry purchases from the store.

It's impolite in Thailand to be taller than the elders in the room. Of course, we can't control our height, right? But a person can try to sit down so that his or her head is lower than the heads of the elders present.

Source: [Top Facts](#)

BRIEFS & NOTES

Recipient of the first-ever PSOW “Aviation Protocol Excellence Award”



L-R: Hellen C. Thompson, Administrative Secretary, Protocol Officer William Herrera, Aviation Protocol Specialist Cristine Keller, Protocol Officer Veronique Louis, Division Director U. Desmond Alufohai, MDAD’s Director & CEO Ralph Cutié, President & Owner of PSOW Pamela Eyring, and PSOW Vice President Saeed Al Salkhadi.

The Protocol School of Washington® (PSOW) presented the coveted “*Aviation Protocol Excellence Award*” to the Protocol and International Affairs Division, Miami-Dade Aviation Department (MDAD) on April 25, 2024. The award was presented during the pre-graduation ceremony of PSOW Miami Training Course held at the Airport’s Consular Lounge.

The award was presented to MDAD’s Protocol Division as the first Protocol Office of any airport in the nation that provides an array of protocol services to dignitaries and for its work in advancing the tenets of Protocol, diplomacy, interculturalism, and etiquette.

The special award is the first of its kind to be awarded to any organization/agency

by PSOW. The award is a replica of the airplane built by Wilbur and Orville Wright, two brothers from Dayton, Ohio, who were successful in flying an airplane they built. Their powered aircraft flew for 12 seconds above the sand dunes of Kitty Hawk, North Carolina, making them the first men to pilot a heavier-than-air machine that took off on its own power, remained under control, and sustained flight.

Below were the criteria for PSOW’s Aviation Protocol Excellence Award:

Innovation: The recipient demonstrates a commitment to innovative practices within the field of aviation, pioneering new technologies, procedures, or strategies to improve efficiency, safety, or sustainability, while adhering to international protocol and standards.

Resilience: The recipient exhibits resilience in the face of challenges, overcoming obstacles with determination and adaptability to ensure the continued success and advancement of protocol in aviation, both domestically and in international affairs.

Commitment to Excellence: The recipient consistently maintains high standards of protocol excellence in all aspects of aviation operations, including but not limited to safety, security, customer service, and operational efficiency.

Historical Significance: The recipient acknowledges and honors the rich history of aviation, drawing inspiration from aviation pioneers such as the Wright Brothers, and actively contributes to preserving and promoting the legacy of aviation innovation, while fostering international cooperation.

Global Connectivity: The recipient demonstrates a dedication to building and fostering global connections within the aviation community, facilitating collaboration, knowledge-sharing, and mutual support among diverse stakeholders.

Positive Impact: The recipient's actions and initiatives have a tangible, positive impact on the aviation industry, benefiting stakeholders such as passengers, airlines, airports, and the broader community, while contributing to the advancement of international affairs and protocol.



Leadership: The recipient serves as a leader and role model within the aviation sector, inspiring others to emulate their commitment to excellence, innovation, and continuous improvement, while advocating for the importance of international cooperation.

Community Engagement: The recipient actively engages with and contributes to the local and/or global community, promoting awareness of aviation-related issues, supporting education and outreach initiatives, and fostering positive relationships with stakeholders, while advocating for the importance of international collaboration and adherence to aviation protocols and agreements.

The Aviation Protocol Excellence Award

BRIEFS & NOTES

Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Heritage Month

Celebrating
National Asian American
& Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander
Heritage Month

May 2024

Since 1990, the U.S. government has designated the month of May as Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month, celebrating the achievements and contributions of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPI) in the United States. The month of May was chosen to mark the arrival of the first Japanese immigrant to the United States on May 7, 1843, as well as the anniversary of the completion of the transcontinental railroad on May 10, 1869. [Click here to view President Biden's Proclamation on Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islanders Heritage Month, 2024.](#)

Facts about AANA&PI

- * The term "Asian American" was coined in 1968 by student activists Emma Gee and Yuji Ichioka, as a unifying political identity for different groups of people of Asian descent. The term "Asian American" also pushed back against the usage of the Euro-centric term "Oriental" to refer to Asians in the United States, which holds racist and colonialist connotations.
- * 1982 marked a turning point for the pan-Asian identity and community. On June 19, 1982, 27-year-old Vincent Chin was celebrating with friends at his bachelor party in Detroit, Michigan. Two white autoworkers, Ronald Ebens and Michael Nitz, mistook Chinese American Vincent Chin for a Japanese, escalating a fight and eventually fatally beating him.
- * Vincent Chin's murder initially did not make national news. However, the lenient sentences handed down to the murderers, which included a \$3,000 fine and three years' probation with no jail time, outraged Asian American communities in Detroit, San Francisco, and across the country. They realized that if Chin's murder could result in essentially scot-free outcomes, then it could happen to anyone of Asian descent. Asian Americans of all backgrounds supported the rallying cry "Remember Vincent Chin," and Chin became an icon and represented a narrative that Asian Americans could identify with. The rise of protests and formation of new organizations, such as the American Citizens for Justice, convinced the U.S. Department of Justice to investigate the case as a civil rights violation.
- * The Vincent Chin murder was the first Asian American case prosecuted under the federal hate crime law. The Asian American civil rights movement thus led to the historic broadening of federal civil rights protection to include all people in America, regardless of immigrant status or ethnicity.
- * By the 1980s, the U.S. Census Bureau grouped persons of Asian ancestry and created the category "Asian & Pacific Islander" (API). In 2000, the API category was separated into "Asian Americans" and "Native Hawaiians and Other Pacific Islanders" (NHOPI).
- * The Federal Government defines "Asian American" to include persons having origins in any of the original peoples of the Far East, Southeast Asia, or the Indian subcontinent. "Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander" includes persons having origins in any of the original peoples of Hawaii, Guam, Samoa, or other Pacific Islands.
- * Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders are the two fastest-growing racial populations in the United States, projected to become the largest immigrant group in the country by 2055. Unlike other racial groups, most AAPIs are foreign born. Immigration is therefore a significant and relevant issue for AAPIs across the country. In addition, as the U.S. naturalization rates among the largest 20 immigrant groups has increased between 2005 and 2015, more attention has been paid to the AAPI voter base.
- * As of 2019, the largest United States Asian populations are of Chinese, Indian, and Filipino origin. However, the AAPI population represents over 30 countries and ethnic groups that speak over 100 different languages.

Source: [National Endowment for the Humanities](#)



Jewish American Heritage Month originated in 1980 when Congress passed a [resolution](#), which authorized and requested the President to issue a proclamation designating April 21-28, 1980 as Jewish Heritage Week. Following a series of annual presidential proclamations designating a week in April or May of each year as Jewish Heritage Week, President George W. Bush [proclaimed May as Jewish American Heritage Month](#) on April 20, 2006.

The proclamation began with efforts by the Jewish Museum of Florida and South Florida Jewish community leaders that resulted in resolutions introduced by Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz of Florida and Arlen Specter of Pennsylvania. These resolutions urged the president to proclaim a month that would recognize the rich history of Jews in America and the more than [350-year history](#) of Jewish contributions to American society. The resolutions passed unanimously, first in the House of Representatives in December 2005 and in the Senate in February 2006.

Since 2007, Presidents Bush, Obama, Trump, and Biden have all issued proclamations for Jewish American Heritage Month, which celebrate Jewish Americans and encourage all Americans to learn more about Jewish heritage and contributions to the United States. Over the past 370 years, Jewish Americans have given to their communities and this nation as loyal and patriotic citizen, always grateful for the safe harbor that America provided for them. Jewish Americans have served in government and the military, have won Nobel prizes, headed universities and corporations, advanced medicine, created and performed in enduring works of performing and visual art, written great American novels, and become emblematic of justice as members of the Supreme Court, and so much more. Perhaps most importantly, American Jews have always pushed America to live up to its promise as a nation that upholds freedom and justice for all. [Click here to view President Biden's Proclamation on Jewish American Heritage Month, 2024.](#)

BRIEFS & NOTES



[The Haitian Flag](#), adopted on May 18, 1803, symbolizes the pride, resilience, and spirit of the Haitian people in their fight for freedom and independence, and is now celebrated annually on May 18th worldwide to commemorate Haitian heritage, culture, language, cuisine, and history. The “Flag Festival” is an opportunity to reflect on the values of freedom and determination which continue to forge the Haitian national identity.

The “[Flag Festival](#)” commemorates the creation of the Haitian bicolor on May 18, 1803, during the Congress of Arcahaie. On this occasion, Jean-Jacques Dessalines, one of the leaders of the struggle for independence, made the historic decision to remove the white stripe from the French flag, a gesture symbolizing the union of blacks and mulattoes in their fight for freedom. Afterwards, he ordered Catherine Flon to sew the two remaining strips, blue and red, to form the new Haitian flag, carrying the motto “Liberty or Death”.

Every year, on May 18th, Haitians gather to honor this symbol of their independence and their struggle for freedom. Parades of schools and various musical groups fill the streets, singing anthems such as the Hymn to Youth and other songs that reflect Haitian pride and nationalist spirit. Parades, speeches, and ceremonies are organized across the country to recall the importance of national unity and the sacrifices made by ancestors to achieve independence. Public and private institutions as well as local, national, and even Haitian communities abroad actively participate in these celebrations, demonstrating their attachment to this symbol.

Beside the Flag Day celebration, the month of May carries several significant historical and cultural traditions that Haitians are proud to make aware of and to pass on to future generations. In Haiti, May 1 is celebrated as Labor and Agriculture Day. May 2 used to be Flower Day. The Congress of Arcahaie that united black and mulatto officers to fight together for Haiti's independence is remembered from May 15 through 18. The revolutionary general, [Toussaint Louverture](#), was born on May 20, 1743. Teacher's Day is May 17, University Day May 18, and Mother's Day is celebrated on the last Sunday of May. For Haitian [Catholics](#), May is the month of [Mary](#), the mother of [Jesus](#).



[Memorial Day](#) is an American holiday, observed on the last Monday of May, honoring the men and women who died while serving in the U.S. military. Memorial Day 2024 will occur on Monday, May 27. Originally known as Decoration Day, it originated in the years following the Civil War and became an official federal holiday in 1971. Many Americans observe Memorial Day by visiting cemeteries or memorials, holding family gatherings and participating in parades. Unofficially, it marks the beginning of the summer season.

The first Memorial Day took place on May 30, 1868. James A. Garfield, an Ohio congressman who would later become the 20th American president, gave a speech honoring fallen Civil War soldiers at Arlington National Cemetery. Below are some facts and pertinent information about Memorial Day:

- * John A. Logan (1826-1886) was a Union general during the American Civil War, a U.S. Congressman, and the creator of Memorial Day. Logan served as a Union Army general during the Civil War and later resumed a career in politics.
- * American flags should be flown at half-staff from sunrise until noon on Memorial Day. According to the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs, “the flag should be flown at half-staff from sunrise until noon only, then raised briskly to the top of the staff until sunset, in honor of the nation’s battle heroes” on Memorial Day.
- * Memorial Day was officially recognized as a federal holiday in 1971. Congress passed the Uniform Monday Holiday Act in 1968, which established Memorial Day as a federal holiday on the last Monday of May.
- * Every Memorial Day, there is a wreath-laying ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington National Cemetery is a symbolic grave for fallen soldiers whose remains were not found or identified.
- * Memorial Day was created to honor fallen soldiers of the Civil War. Since then, the holiday has expanded to honor all U.S. military personnel who died while serving the country.
- * Memorial Day was originally called Decoration Day. Waterloo, New York is the official birthplace of Memorial Day. President Lyndon B. Johnson named Waterloo, New York as the birthplace of Memorial Day in 1961. However, several other towns have also claimed to be the holiday's birthplace.
- * Many people wear poppies on the Friday before Memorial Day. Poppies have symbolized remembrance of the fallen since World War I. May 24 is National Poppy Day. Since World War I, poppies have been commonly worn to honor fallen soldiers, largely due to John McCrae’s popular poem "In Flanders Fields."
- * There is a national moment of silence at 3 p.m. Congress passed the National Moment of Remembrance Act in 2000. The act designates 3:00 p.m. on Memorial Day as a time for prayer and reflection.

SPORTS MECCA OF THE UNITED STATES



South Florida is considered a sports mecca in the United States, with five major league sports teams, including the Miami Dolphins, Miami Heat, Miami Marlins, Florida Panthers, and Inter Miami CF Soccer Club. Sports fans and enthusiasts flock to South Florida for numerous reasons, including great year-round weather, amazingly modern and fan-friendly venues that are easy to get to.

South Florida's emergence as a premier sporting destination has not only enhanced its global reputation but has also had a tangible impact on its economy and real estate market. The region also hosts many major sporting events, including minor leagues, college sporting events, Formula One Auto Race, The Grand Slam Miami Open Tennis Tournament, etc.

The Homestead–Miami Speedway was opened in 1995. It is a motor racing track located in Homestead, Florida. The track, which has several configurations, has promoted several series of racing, including NASCAR, the IndyCar Series, the IMSA SportsCar Championship series, and the Championship Cup.

Cricket – the sport with the world's second-highest number of viewers behind soccer – is now played every weekend on three fields in Tampa's Hillsborough County and also by leagues throughout Central and South Florida, which hosts the country's first internationally certified cricket stadium near Fort Lauderdale. The City of Lauderhill, located in Broward County, Florida, is considered the Cricket capital of the United States!

The addition of Lionel Messi has significantly enhanced Miami's status in the sports world, propelling it to a new level of global recognition. The Miami Heat's acquisition of Shaquille O'Neal from the Lakers in 2004, and the arrival of LeBron James in the summer of 2010 to play alongside Dwyane Wade and Chris Bosh on the Miami Heat roster were also significant in the annals of South Florida's sports landscape.

Miami is the host city for the 2024 CONMEBOL Copa America, which is set to be co-organized by the Confederation of North, Central America, and Caribbean Association Football (CONCACAF) alongside the South American Football Confederation. CONCACAF moved its headquarters to Miami in September 2018. Also, Miami's selection as a host city for the 2026 FIFA World Cup and the 2024 CONMEBOL Copa America solidifies its status as an international hotspot, drawing increased attention to its economy and real estate market.

FIFA has also opened a new office in Coral Gables, Florida (near Miami) to prepare for its 2026 World Cup which is due to take place in the United States, Canada, and Mexico. Miami is one of 11 American host cities for the FIFA World Cup, with fixtures set to be played in the 64,767-seat Hard Rock Stadium. It will stage as many as five matches and Miami is also bidding to be home of the tournament's International Broadcast Centre, Main Media Centre, and Fanfest site.

The 2024 Copa América 48th edition will be held in the United States for the second time. The tournament will feature 16 teams, with all 10 CONMEBOL teams and 6 CONCACAF teams. This expanded tournament will bring South America's iconic competition to North American audiences. The Copa promises to continue showcasing exciting attacking football, world-class players, and passionate fans. With its centenary in 2016, the Copa América is firmly poised to grow its prestige and legacy with upcoming editions.

The 2024 Copa America final will be held on July 14 in Miami, Florida at the home of the city's NFL franchise. It will also host a pair of group stage matches, including games featuring both the United States and Argentina. Hard Rock Stadium has hosted plenty of soccer matches in the past, including a pre-World Cup friendly between Argentina and Honduras in September of 2022 that drew over 64,000 fans. The stadium is also part of the group of venues slated for 2026 FIFA World Cup matches.

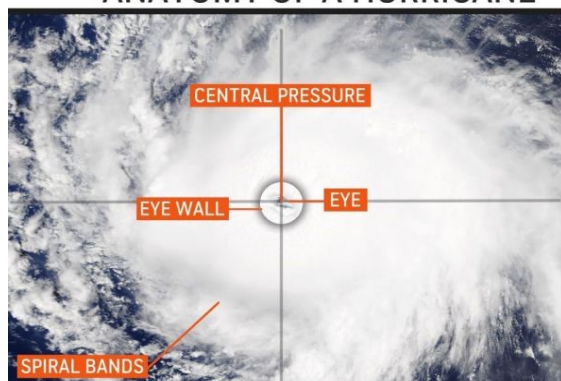
As the oldest continental football tournament, the Copa América has had a significant impact:

- * It has united South American nations around a shared sporting passion.
- * The tournament has driven the development of footballing infrastructure and culture across the continent.
- * It has showcased South American talent to the world, leading to global opportunities for players.
- * Victory in the tournament is a huge source of national pride for South Americans.
- * Its rich history and legends have established the Copa as one of the most prestigious international tournaments.
- * The Copa América occupies a special place in world football as a captivating celebration of skill, passion, and South American rivalry.

Sources: <https://www.britannica.com/sports/Copa-America>; <https://sportsflares.com/copa-america-history/>

BRIEFS & NOTES

ANATOMY OF A HURRICANE



The 2024 Atlantic hurricane season in the Northern Hemisphere officially begins on June 1, 2024, and ends on November 30, 2024. The [University of Colorado](#) (CSU) has released their [early season forecast for 2024](#). According to the release, a much more active than average season is predicted. The CSU team is predicting 23 named storms (14 is average) with 11 being category 1-2 storms (7 is average) and 5 bring category 3 or greater (3 is average). Additionally, they are suggesting storms will remain active for longer, with 115 days that have an active storm (70 is average) and 45 active hurricane days (27 is average). [The full 44-page report which includes methodology and other details is available online.](#)

[The forecast is the most aggressive one ever issued in the 30 years that the CSU team has been issuing April forecasts.](#) If the numbers verify, the number of named storms would rank as the third highest on record; the number of hurricanes, the fifth highest; the number of major hurricanes, the ninth highest; and the ACE index, the ninth highest.

The 2024 forecast falls just short of predicting a hyperactive season, defined as having an [Accumulated Cyclone Energy \(ACE\)](#) index of at least 214 (175% above average). Only seven seasons since records began in 1851 have met this definition: 1933 (ACE of 259), 2005 (ACE of 245), 1893 (ACE of 231), 1926 (ACE of 230), 1995 (ACE of 227), 2004 (ACE of 227), and 2017 (ACE of 225). [More on ACE can be found at the National Weather Service's website.](#)

[Pushing the early season forecast up is the likelihood of a transition from “El Niño” to “La Niña” and record warm ocean temperatures.](#) According to [Michael Lowry](#), hurricane specialist for WPLG-TV and a contributing author to Yale University Climate Connections [“From El Niño's peak last November-December to its impending demise. Anomalies across the main El Niño monitoring region haven't been this cool since last June. Headed toward neutral conditions this spring and into a potential La Niña into the summer.”](#)

[Yale Climate Connections notes that while April hurricane season forecasts have little or no “skill”, this year’s forecast is “of above normal confidence for an early April outlook”, emphasizing that “model guidance is unanimously pointing towards a hyperactive season”.](#) CSU will release updated hurricane season forecasts on June 11, July 9, August 6, and on November 26 a synopsis. You can view these reports [here](#) as they are released. Please ensure that you are adequately prepared for any Hurricane by viewing the Miami-Dade County government [Kits and Checklists](#) or the [CDC Hurricane Preparation Guide](#).

Helpful web resources: [Miami-Dade County Hurricane Guide](#); [El Niño / La Niña](#); [National Hurricane Center \(best forecast map when there is a tropical cyclone\)](#); [F.I.U. Storm Surge Simulator](#); [Florida Division of Emergency Management](#); [US Department of Homeland Security Disasters and Emergencies](#).



Mental Health Awareness Month

May marks Mental Health Awareness Month, a crucial period for spotlighting mental health issues and combating associated stigmas. Recognizing that mental health is as vital as physical well-being is paramount.

According to the [National Alliance on Mental Illness](#) (NAMI):

- * 1 in 5 U.S. adults experience mental illness each year, and only half of them receive treatment.
- * 1 in 20 U.S. adults experience a serious mental illness each year, and only two-thirds receive treatment.
- * 1 in 6 U.S. youth experience a mental health condition each year, and only half of them receive treatment.
- * 50% of all lifetimes mental illness begins by age 14, and 75% by age 24.
- * The average delay between onset of mental illness symptoms and treatment is 11 years.
- * 122 million people live in Mental Health Professional Shortage Areas.
- * In 2020, 1 in 5 young people reported that the pandemic had a significant negative impact on their mental health.
- * In 2020, there was a 31% increase in mental health-related emergency department visits among adolescents.
- * As of 2021, 1 in 10 young people under age 18 experienced a mental health condition following a COVID-19 diagnosis.
- * More than three quarters of Americans (76%) say they are not content with the status of mental health treatment in this country.
- * 7 in 10 Americans (72%) agree that people with mental health conditions face discrimination in their everyday life.
- * Only half of Americans (53%) say they are familiar with the U.S. mental health care system.

Click on the following link to access the [2024 Mental Health Awareness Month Toolkit](#). Additional resources are available at: [Mental Health America](#), and [National Council for Mental Wellbeing](#).

INDEPENDENCE AND NATIONAL DAYS

May 9, 1877 – Romania: Although Romania's national holiday, Unification Day, is celebrated on December 1st, the country gained independence from the Ottoman Empire on May 9, 1877.

May 15, 1811 – Paraguay: During the night of the 14th to the 15th of May 1811, an uprising led to Paraguay achieving independence from Spain. Both days continue to be celebrated as Independence Days.

May 17, 1814 – Norway: Constitution Day, Norway's national holiday, celebrates the day the Norwegian constitution was adopted in 1814.

May 20, 2002 – Timor-Leste: Restoration of Independence Day celebrates the day Timor-Leste was internationally recognized as a sovereign state, gaining independence from Indonesia.

May 24, 1993 – Eritrea: Although Eritrea was fully liberated from Ethiopia in May 1991, the provisional government did not declare formal independence until May 24, 1993.

May 25, 1810 – Argentina: Initially intended as a show of loyalty to the Spanish Crown, the May Revolution (18 - 25 of May 1810) was the beginning of Argentina's quest for independence. May 25th is celebrated annually as the Day of the May Revolution.

May 25, 1946 – Jordan: Jordan gained independence from the League of Nations mandate which had placed it under British administration.

May 26, 1918 – Georgia: Georgia celebrates two Independence Days. On 26 May 1918, Georgia gained independence from the Soviet Russia, while on April 9, 1991, it regained its independence from the Soviet Union.

May 26, 1966 – Guyana: The country gained its independence from the United Kingdom.

May 28, 1918 – Armenia: Armenia declared independence from the Russian Empire. Since 1992, May 28th is celebrated as the Day of the Armenian First Republic, while independence from the Soviet Union is celebrated on September 21st (1991).

May 28, 1918 – Azerbaijan: Republic Day, Azerbaijan's National Day commemorates the founding of the Democratic Republic of Azerbaijan in 1918.

May 30, 1967 – Anguilla: Celebrated as Anguilla's Day. It remains a British Overseas Territory.

ABOUT US

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Tel: + 1 (305) 876-7457

Email: Protocol@FlyMIA.com

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