

Wife's day IS MISSING!

How a husband can express his gratitude towards his doting wife. ■ by Wg Cdr (retd) DP Sabharwal

When's wife's day, papa?" asked my son. "Every day is wife's day son," was my cryptic reply. But then, looking at his perplexed face, the next moment I added, "you are going to get married soon and you would realise it sooner."

"Leave aside jokes papa, I am serious."

Every day is Wife's day

That really set me thinking. I had been married for almost 30 years and here I was blinking. I tried to scratch every nook and corner of my mind, but I just could not find any trace of this day. 'May be I have forgotten' I thought to myself and decided to refresh my knowledge. I spoke to my friends and colleagues of decades but none could make me any wiser on this particular aspect. However I got many interesting feedbacks.

- I celebrate it quite frequently. In fact every time she emerges victorious from any discussion, is Wife's day as far as I am concerned!
- 'I celebrate it twice, along with my

children's birthday because of the precious gifts she delivered on that day' said an old school days friend.

- Oh Wife's day! Well there is at least one every month. On 'pay day' when she demands a dress or something else and I have to buy and present it to her.
- Why a separate day? Any day can be a wife's day. You see whenever she is dressed up and looks beautiful, it is her day. Whenever she throws a tantalising smile for whatever reason, it is her day. Whenever she cooks something delicious and gets an appreciation from any of the family members is her day. And whenever she decides to throw a tantrum, it is again her day. You see, there is never a shortage of wife's day in my life.

It is not there

Apart from interesting quips delivered by friends that brought smile to my lips, none could make me any wiser. However, intrigued by my son's question, inquisitiveness descended on me like sleeplessness! As a result, I delved into various information books and the internet. The first interesting piece of information that I discovered was that there are a record 131 international days currently observed by the United Nations; the largest number of such days being in June: 18 of them! Few of these are like World Cancer Day (4 February), World Wildlife Day (3 March), World Health Day (7 April), World Environment Day (5 June), International Literacy Day (8 September) and World AIDS Day (1 December).

A detailed analysis of such vast number of days celebrated worldwide for one cause or the other gave interesting information that there is a dedicated day for almost all the important relationships that can exist in an individual's life. These are:

- The famous lover's day known as Valentine Day (14 February)
- Women's Day (8 March)
- Mother's Day (second Sunday of May)
- Family's Day (15 May)
- Parents Day (1 June)
- Father's Day (third Sunday of June)
- Friendship Day (30 July)
- Grand-parents Day (September-date varies) Sibling's Day (25 September)
- Transgender Day of Remembrance (20 November)

But alas! No Wife's day!

There is however a reference to 'Wife Appreciation Day' which is observed annually on the third Sunday of September in some parts of United States of America. There is no recorded history of this day, but an oblique reference mentions that the idea originated to honour the women who, while they are married, do not have children. Wife Appreciation Day is a way to make up for Mother's Day since they do not have the privilege of getting into motherhood.

An important point

It is clear that wherever Wife Appreciation Day is celebrated, it is perhaps out of pity for the 'unfortunate ladies' who are denied the motherhood, in all probabilities for no fault of theirs. Pause here for a minute and think: It is not a case of what came first: the hen or the egg? It is a clear-cut case of 'first a wife, and then a mother.' Therefore it is quite logical that when there is a Mother's Day, these must be a Wife's Day as well.

I have been pondering as to why no one has thought of a proper and well designated 'Wife's Day?' Is it because

- Wives aren't considered worthy of it?
- There aren't enough roses to say it with?
- There are no spare days in a year to honour them?
- Honouring them with a 'Day' would be a mockery of the 'endless jokes' about women being too demanding, autocratic, dictatorial or even tyrannical.

Well jokes apart, there are so many things that a supportive and loving wife does for her husband that it would perhaps be difficult to list them all. Barring odd exceptions here and there, wives do so many things to make their husbands and homes happy. Therefore, there has to be a way for the husbands to look back and remember all the good things and happiness that a wife adds to his life. There has to be a day for the husbands to let their wives know just how much they appreciate both the little and the big things the wives do all year long. There has to be a wife's day, no two ways about it.

There can be endless ways to celebrate Wife's Day. It could be with a gift of flowers, perfume, jewellry or clothing. It could be by way of taking her out for a day at a spa, to a movie or a play, or dinner at a nice restaurant. A foot massage, cooking breakfast or dinner at home can also be a very nice way to say 'Thank you for all the things you do every day for me.'

There is a spare day

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And as regards the day, well 31 December, would be ideal for two reasons. Firstly it is not booked for any other World or International event. Secondly, and more importantly, the 'poor husbands' and there is no dearth of them, would always be able to start the New Year on a happy note! ■