

# WHY IS MAY THE 4<sup>TH</sup> CALLED STAR WARS DAY?

May the Fourth is a play on words that celebrates the popular phrase, "May the Force Be With You," from the movie, Star Wars. Star Wars was introduced in 1977 and quickly became a worldwide sensation branching out to new episodes, books, a television series, video games and comics. In the movie, the phrase is used to wish an individual good luck and that they be in good favor with, The Force.

The catchy phrase, was first used on May, 4, 1979, when Margaret Thatcher took office as Prime Minister of the United Kingdom. That evening, a reporter wrote in the London Evening News, "Congratulations Maggie, May the Fourth be with you!" Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, who died on April 2013, served as Prime Minister from 1979 to 1990. She is recognized as being the first woman to have ever held the title, and also as the longest-serving Prime Minister of the 20th century.

In 2008, a new Facebook group celebrated Luke Skywalker Day. While the early group never received widespread attention, the sensation spread to college campuses a few years later, and Star Wars Day was born.

In 2011, the first organized celebration of Star Wars Day took place in Canada at the Toronto Underground Cinema. Festivities included an Original Trilogy Trivia Game Show, a costume contest with celebrity judges, and tribute films shown on a big screen. Fans have celebrated Star Wars in a variety of ways in social media and on television ever since.

In 2012, The Walt Disney Company purchased Lucasfilm which included the rights to Star Wars. Since 2013, Disney has officially observed the holiday every year with several Star Wars festivities and events at Disneyland and Walt Disney World.

On Star Wars Day 2015, astronauts celebrated in the International Space Station by watching the movie. May the Fourth is becoming more and more popular as people find new and creative ways to celebrate.

The hashtag #MayTheFourthBeWithYou trends every year, as people all over the world share their various, Star Wars Day, celebrations. What do you think would be a fun way to celebrate Star Wars Day with friends?

