

By Jennifer Lucas
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46 B.C.- Roman Empire Julius Caesar declared first leap day.

1564- Michelangelo Buonarroti, Italian painter, sculptor and architect; best known for painting the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel, died.

1582- Pope Gregory XIII [13] issued a papal bull introducing the Gregorian calendar reform.

1635- Boston Latin School, the oldest public school in the United States was founded.

1669- French King Louis XIV [14th] limits freedom of religion

1692- Sarah Goode, Sarah Osborne, and Tituba were the first accused of witchcraft in Salem, Mass.

1733- Led by philanthropist James Oglethorpe, the first English colonists arrived in Georgia, as the site of Savannah.

1789- George Washington and John Adams are elected President and Vice President of the United States.

1790- The Supreme Court of the United States convened for the first time, in New York City.

1792- President George Washington signed the Post Office Act, establishing a permanent Post Office Department.

1805- Lewis and Clark's Shoshone guide Sacajawea gave birth to son, Jean Baptiste.

1809- The Supreme Court ruled the power of the federal government is greater than that of any individual state.

1817- Baltimore became first U.S. city to be lit by gas.

1836- First revolving barrel multishot firearm was patented by Samuel Colt.

1849- The steamship California landed in San Francisco, CA, bringing the first East Coast to the Gold rush.

1862- Julia Ward Howe's poem "Battle Hymn of the Republic" was published in the Atlantic Monthly.

1870- The 15th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was passed, ending Black Suffrage.

1870- The National Weather Service was established under the U.S. Army Signal Corps.

1879- Frank Winfield Woolworth opened his first "Five Cent Store" in Utica, New York.

1884- The first volume of the Oxford English Dictionary (A-Ant) was published.

1887- The first gathering at Gobber's Knob in Punxsatowney, PA to wait for the groundhog's shadow weather prediction.

1896- The Tootsie Roll was introduced by Leo Hirshfield.

1898- USS Maine blew up in Havana, Cuba harbor touching off the Spanish-American War.

1901- U.S. Steel Corporation was formed by J.P. Morgan, the first billion-dollar corporation in the world.

1904- The lease agreement between the United States and Cuba for the area of Guantanamo Bay was signed.

1904- Disastrous fire destroyed more than 1,500 buildings in downtown Baltimore.

1909- The national Association for the Advance of Colored People (NAACP) was founded.

1913- The New York Armory Show opened, introducing Americans to Picasso, Duchamp and Matisse.

1919- Establishment of Grand Canyon National Park.

1920- Basic points of the Nazi party were unveiled by Adolf Hitler at Hofbrauhaus in Munich, Germany.

1924- Calvin Coolidge, made the first presidential radio broadcast from the White House.

1926- Carter G. Woodson founded Negro History Week, which later evolved into Black History Month.

1930- Pluto, the ninth planet in the solar system, was discovered by American astronomer Clyde Tombaugh.

1935- RADAR (Radio Detection and Ranging) was first demonstrated by Robert Watson-Watt.

1935- The popular board game Monopoly went on sale for the first time.

1940- Hattie McDaniel became the first black woman to win an Oscar. She won for Best Supporting Actress award for the role of Mammy, in Gone With The Wind.

1942- Glenn Miller received the first ever gold record for selling a million copies of "Chattanooga Choo Choo."

1942- President Franklin Roosevelt signed an executive order that resulted in the internment of thousands of Japanese-Americans living on the West Coast.

1945- The U.S. Marines went ashore at Iwo Jima, Japan.

1952- Princess Elizabeth became Queen

Elizabeth II of Great Britain.

1953- The first 3-D movie, Bwana Devil, opened in New York.

1959- Rock singers, Buddy Holly, Richie Valens, and Big Bopper died in a plane crash. Base for the 1987 movie La Bamba's re-counting of Richie Valens life and death.

1960- Four Black college students from North Carolina Agricultural and Technical University began a series of sit-ins at a White-only lunch counter in Woolworth's Department Store, Greensboro North Carolina.

1960- Hugh Hefner opened first Playboy Club in Chicago, IL.

1962- John Glenn became the first American to orbit earth.

This Month in History

1964- Cassius Clay (Muhammad Ali) became World Heavyweight Boxing Champion for the first time by knocking out Sonny Liston in Miami Beach.

1965- Black nationalist leader Malcolm X was assassinated.

1968- The first nationwide broadcast of Mr. Roger's Neighborhood aired on PBS.

1972- President Richard Nixon became the first U.S. President to visit China.

1973- Members of the American Indian Movement occupied the village of Wounded Knee, SD.

1973- The first release of American prisoners of war from Vietnam war took place.

1980- The U.S. Olympic hockey team defeated the USSR Soviets hockey team 4-3 at Lake Placid, NY.

1980- President Jimmy Carter revealed his plan to reinstate selective service draft registration.

1983- The final episode of M*A*S*H aired. It was the most watched television program in history.

1990- South African resistance leader, Nelson Mandela, was released from prison after more than 27 years.

1993- Bombing at World Trade Center in New York killed six people and injured more than 1,000.

1996- Chess Champion Garry Kasparov beat the IBM computer, Deep Blue, winning the six-game match.

1997- Under international pressure, three of Switzerland's biggest banks created a fund worth 100 million Swiss francs for Holocaust victims and their families.

1997- Scottish scientists announced the successful cloning of a sheep, Dolly.

2001- NASCAR driver Dale Earnhardt, Sr., dies from injuries sustained at the Daytona 500.

2001- A U.S. nuclear sub struck the Ehime Maru, a Japanese fishing boat.

2002- Olympics officials resolved the judging scandal by awarding Canadian pairs figure skater Jamie Sale and David Pelletier a gold medal while allowing the Russians Elena Berezhnaya and Anton Sikarulidze, to keep their medal.

2003- A fire in a nightclub in Warwick, RI, killed 100 and injured over 150.

2003- The country of Yugoslavia disappeared and was replaced by the two loose federations of Serbia and Montenegro.

2003- Fred Rogers, of the popular kids show Mister Rogers' Neighborhood on PBS, died.

2004- Janet Jackson's famous "wardrobe malfunction" occurred at Super Bowl XXX-VIII.

2004- The Massachusetts Supreme Court declared that gays had the right to marry.

2008- Kosovo declared independence from Serbia.

2010- The 2012 Winter Olympics opened in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada after Republic of Georgia, luger Nodar Kumaritshvili's death during a training run crash.

Sources: infoplease.com/dayinhistory/ & historyorb.com/day