

# 1931 in the United States

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Events from the year **1931 in the United States**.

## Contents

- 1 Incumbents
  - 1.1 Federal Government
  - 1.2 Governors
  - 1.3 Lieutenant Governors
- 2 Events
  - 2.1 January–March
  - 2.2 April–June
  - 2.3 July–September
  - 2.4 October–December
  - 2.5 Undated
  - 2.6 Ongoing
- 3 Births
- 4 Deaths
- 5 See also
- 6 References
- 7 External links

## Incumbents

### Federal Government

- President: Herbert Hoover (R-California)
- Vice President: Charles Curtis (R-Kansas)
- Chief Justice: Charles Evans Hughes (New York)
- Speaker of the House of Representatives: Nicholas Longworth (R-Ohio) (until March 4), John Nance Garner (D-Texas) (starting December 7)
- Senate Majority Leader: James Eli Watson (R-Indiana)
- Congress: 71st (until March 4), 72nd (starting March 4)

## Governors and Lieutenant Governors

### Governors

- Governor of Alabama: Bibb Graves (Democratic) (until January 19), Benjamin M. Miller (Democratic) (starting January 19)
- Governor of Arizona: John Calhoun Phillips (Republican) (until January 5), George W. P. Hunt (Democratic) (starting January 5)
- Governor of Arkansas: Harvey Parnell (Democratic)
- Governor of California: Clement C. Young (Republican) (until January 6), James Rolph Jr. (Republican) (starting January 6)
- Governor of Colorado: Billy Adams (Democratic)
- Governor of Connecticut: John H. Trumbull (Republican) (until January 7), Wilbur Lucius Cross (Democratic) (starting January 7)
- Governor of Delaware: C. Douglass Buck (Republican)
- Governor of Florida: Doyle E. Carlton (Democratic)
- Governor of Georgia: Lamartine G. Hardman (Democratic) (until June 27), Richard Russell, Jr. (Democratic) (starting June 27)
- Governor of Idaho: H. C. Baldrige (Republican) (until January 5), C. Ben Ross (Democratic) (until January 5)
- Governor of Illinois: Louis L. Emmerson (Republican)
- Governor of Indiana: Harry G. Leslie (Republican)
- Governor of Iowa: John Hammill (Republican) (until January 15), Daniel Webster Turner (Republican) (starting January 15)
- Governor of Kansas: Clyde M. Reed (Republican) (until January 12), Harry H. Woodring (Democratic) (starting January 12)
- Governor of Kentucky: Flem D. Sampson (Republican) (until December 8), Ruby Laffoon (Democratic) (starting December 8)
- Governor of Louisiana: Huey P. Long (Democratic)
- Governor of Maine: William Tudor Gardiner (Republican)
- Governor of Maryland: Albert C. Ritchie (Democratic)
- Governor of Massachusetts: Frank G. Allen (Republican) (until January 8), Joseph B. Ely (Democratic) (starting January 8)
- Governor of Michigan: Fred W. Green (Republican) (until January 1), Wilber Marion Brucker (Republican) (starting January 1)
- Governor of Minnesota: Theodore Christianson (Republican) (until January 6), Floyd B. Olson (Farmer-Labor) (starting January 6)
- Governor of Mississippi: Theodore G. Bilbo (Democratic)
- Governor of Missouri: Henry S. Caulfield (Republican)
- Governor of Montana: John E. Erickson (Democratic)
- Governor of Nebraska: Arthur J. Weaver (Republican) (until January 8), Charles W. Bryan (Democratic) (starting January 8)
- Governor of Nevada: Fred B. Balzar (Republican)
- Governor of New Hampshire: Charles W. Tobey (Republican) (until January 1), John Gilbert Winant (Republican) (starting January 1)
- Governor of New Jersey: Morgan Foster Larson (Republican)
- Governor of New Mexico: Richard C. Dillon (Republican) (until January 1), Arthur Seligman (Democratic) (starting January 1)
- Governor of New York: Franklin D. Roosevelt (Democratic)
- Governor of North Carolina: Oliver Max Gardner (Democratic)
- Governor of North Dakota: George F. Shafer (Republican)
- Governor of Ohio: Myers Y. Cooper (Republican) (until January 12), George White (Democratic) (starting January 12)
- Governor of Oklahoma: William J. Holloway (Democratic) (until January 1), William H. Murray (Democratic) (starting January 1)
- Governor of Oregon: A. W. Norblad (Republican) (until January 12), Julius L. Meier (Independent) (starting January 12)
- Governor of Pennsylvania: John Stuchell Fisher (Republican) (until January 20), Gifford Pinchot (Republican) (starting January 20)
- Governor of Rhode Island: Norman S. Case (Republican)
- Governor of South Carolina: John Gardiner Richards, Jr. (Democratic) (until January 20), Ibra Charles Blackwood (Democratic) (starting January 20)
- Governor of South Dakota: William J. Bulow (Democratic) (until January 6), Warren Green (Republican) (starting January 6)
- Governor of Tennessee: Henry Hollis Horton (Democratic)
- Governor of Texas: Dan Moody (Democratic) (until January 20), Ross S. Sterling (Democratic) (starting January 20)
- Governor of Utah: George Dern (Democratic)
- Governor of Vermont: John E. Weeks (Republican) (until January 8), Stanley C. Wilson (Republican) (starting January 8)
- Governor of Virginia: John Garland Pollard (Democratic)
- Governor of Washington: Roland H. Hartley (Republican)
- Governor of West Virginia: William G. Conley (Republican)
- Governor of Wisconsin: Walter J. Kohler, Sr. (Republican) (until January 5), Philip La Follette (Republican) (starting January 5)

- Governor of Wyoming: Frank C. Emerson (Republican) (until February 18), Alonzo M. Clark (Republican) (starting February 18)

## Lieutenant Governors

- Lieutenant Governor of Alabama: Hugh D. Merrill (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Arkansas: Lawrence Elery Wilson (political party unknown)
- Lieutenant Governor of California: H.L. Carnahan (Republican) (until January 6), Frank Merriam (Republican) (starting January 6)
- Lieutenant Governor of Colorado: Edwin C. Johnson (Democratic) (until month and day unknown), vacant (starting month and day unknown)
- Lieutenant Governor of Connecticut: Ernest E. Rogers (Republican) (until January 7), Samuel R. Spencer (Republican) (starting January 7)
- Lieutenant Governor of Delaware: James H. Hazel (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Idaho: G. P. Mix (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Illinois: Fred Sterling (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Indiana: Edgar D. Bush (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Iowa: Arch W. McFarlane (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Kansas: Jacob W. Graybill (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Kentucky: James Breathitt, Jr. (Democratic) (until December 8), Happy Chandler (Democratic) (starting December 8)
- Lieutenant Governor of Louisiana: Paul N. Cyr (Democratic) (until month and day unknown), Alvin O. King (Democratic) (starting month and day unknown)
- Lieutenant Governor of Massachusetts: William S. Youngman (political party unknown)
- Lieutenant Governor of Michigan: Luren D. Dickinson (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Minnesota: Charles Edward Adams (Republican) (until January 6), Henry M. Arens (Farmer Labor) (starting January 6)
- Lieutenant Governor of Mississippi: Bidwell Adam (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Missouri: Edward Henry Winter (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Montana: Frank A. Hazelbacker (political party unknown)
- Lieutenant Governor of Nebraska: George A. Williams (Republican) (until January 6), Theodore Metcalfe (Republican) (starting January 6)
- Lieutenant Governor of Nevada: Morley Griswold (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of New Mexico: Andrew W. Hockenhull (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of New York: Herbert H. Lehman (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of North Carolina: Richard T. Fountain (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of North Dakota: John W. Carr (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Ohio: William G. Pickrel (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Oklahoma: Robert Burns (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Pennsylvania: Arthur H. James (Republican) (until January 20), Edward C. Shannon (Republican) (starting January 20)
- Lieutenant Governor of Rhode Island: James G. Connelly (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of South Carolina: Joseph Emile Harley (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of South Dakota: John T. Grigsby (Democratic) (until January 6), Odell K. Whitney (Republican) (starting January 6)
- Lieutenant Governor of Tennessee: Ambrose B. Broadbent (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Texas: Edgar E. Witt (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Vermont: Benjamin Williams (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Virginia: James H. Price (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Washington: John Arthur Gellatly (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Wisconsin: Henry A. Huber (Republican)

# Events

## January–March

- January – The American Federation of Labor's National Committee for Modification of the Volstead Act is formed to work for the repeal of Prohibition in the United States.
- January 2 – South Dakota native Ernest Lawrence invents the cyclotron, used to accelerate particles to study nuclear physics.
- January 6 – Thomas Edison submits his last patent application.
- February 20 – California gets the go-ahead by the U.S. Congress to build the San Francisco–Oakland Bay Bridge.
- March 1 – Battleship USS *Arizona* is placed back in full commission after a refit.
- March 3 – *The Star-Spangled Banner* is adopted as the United States national anthem.
- March 17 – Nevada legalizes gambling.
- March 25 – The Scottsboro Boys are arrested in Alabama and charged with rape.

## April–June

- April 15 – The Castellammarese War ends with the assassination of Joe "The Boss" Masseria, briefly leaving Salvatore Maranzano as *capo di tutti i capi* ("boss of all bosses") and undisputed ruler of the American Mafia. Maranzano is himself assassinated less than 6 months later, leading to the establishment of the Five Families.
- April 18 – Cheverly, Maryland is incorporated.
- April 22 – Austria, Britain, Denmark, Germany, Italy, Sweden and the USA recognize the Spanish Republic.
- May 1 – Construction of the Empire State Building is completed in New York City.
- June 19 – In an attempt to stop the banking crisis in Central Europe from causing a worldwide financial meltdown, President Herbert Hoover issues the Hoover Moratorium.
- June 23 – Wiley Post and Harold Gatty take off from Roosevelt Field, Long Island in an attempt to accomplish the first round-the-world flight in a single-engine plane.<sup>[1]</sup>

## July–September

- July – John Haven Emerson of Cambridge, Massachusetts perfects the Emerson iron lung just in time for the growing polio epidemic.
- July 26 – The International Bible Students Association<sup>[2]</sup> adopts the name Jehovah's Witnesses at a convention in Columbus, Ohio.

## October–December

- October – The Caltech Department of Physics Faculty and graduate students meet with Albert Einstein as a guest.
- October 17 – American gangster Al Capone is sentenced to 11 years in prison for tax evasion in Chicago, Illinois.



May 1: Empire State Building completed

- October 24 – The George Washington Bridge is dedicated; it opens to traffic the following day.
- November 26 – Deuterium is discovered by Harold Urey.
- December 12 – The Eta Chapter of Kappa Delta Phi is founded at The University of Maine at Machias.
- December 26 – Phi Iota Alpha, the oldest existing Latino fraternity, is founded.

## Undated

- Elizabeth Dilling begins anti-communist activism.

## Ongoing

- Lochner era (c. 1897–c. 1937)
- U.S. occupation of Haiti (1915–1934)
- Prohibition (1919–1933)
- Great Depression (1929–1933)
- Dust Bowl (1930–1936)

## Births

- January 5
  - Alvin Ailey, choreographer (d. 1989)
  - Robert Duvall, actor and director
- January 6
  - Fern Battaglia, baseball player (d. 2001)
  - E. L. Doctorow, novelist (d. 2015)
- January 7 – Mack Mattingly, U.S. Senator from Georgia from 1981 to 1987
- January 20
  - Preston Henn, businessman, founder of Fort Lauderdale Swap Shop
  - David Lee, physicist, recipient of the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1996
- January 27 – Red Bastien, wrestler, trainer and promoter (d. 2012)
- January 29 – Jim Baumer, baseball player and manager (d. 1996)
- February 18
  - Johnny Hart, cartoonist (d. 2007)
  - Toni Morrison, African American writer, recipient of the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1993
  - Bob St. Clair, American football player
- February 24 – James Abourezk, U.S. Senator from South Dakota from 1973 to 1979
- March 22 – Burton Richter, physicist, recipient of the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1976
- March 24 – Connie Hines, actress (d. 2009)
- March 26 – Leonard Nimoy, actor and director (d. 2015)

- March 27 – David Janssen, actor (d. 1980)
- April 10 – James L. Dozier, U.S. Army officer
- April 26 – Ted Stanley, businessman and philanthropist (d. 2016)
- May 16 – Lowell P. Weicker, Jr., U.S. Senator from Connecticut from 1971 to 1989
- May 28 – Carroll Baker, actress
- May 31
  - John Schrieffer, physicist, recipient of the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1972
  - Shirley Verrett, mezzo-soprano (d. 2010)
- June 1 – Hal Smith, baseball player and coach (d. 2014)
- June 2
  - William H. Donaldson, banker and businessman, co-founded Donaldson, Lufkin & Jenrette
  - Larry Jackson, baseball player and politician (d. 1990)
- July 4 – Rick Casares, American football player and soldier (d. 2013)
- August 12 – William Goldman, writer
- August 15
  - Joe Feeney, singer (d. 2008)
  - Richard F. Heck, chemist, recipient of the Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 2010 (d. 2015)
- August 23 – Hamilton O. Smith, microbiologist, recipient of the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine in 1978
- September 2 – Alan K. Simpson, U.S. Senator from Wyoming from 1979 to 1997
- September 17 – Anne Bancroft, movie actress (d. 2005)
- September 29 – James Watson Cronin, nuclear physicist, recipient of the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1980
- October 23 – Jim Bunning, U.S. Senator from Kentucky from 1999 to 2011
- November 2 – Phil Woods, saxophonist (d. 2015)
- November 4 – Marie Mansfield, baseball pitcher
- November 5 – Ike Turner, African American rock musician (d. 2007)
- November 8 – Darla Hood, child actress (*Our Gang*), voice actress and singer (d. 1979)
- December 20
  - Terry Sanders, director, producer and screenwriter
  - Ike Skelton, lawyer and politician (d. 2013)
- December 27 – Scotty Moore, guitarist (d. 2016)
- December 30 – Skeeter Davis, country singer (d. 2004)

## Deaths

- January 4
  - Art Acord, actor (born 1890)
  - Roger Connor, baseball player and MLB Hall of Famer (born 1857)
- January 14 – Hardy Richardson, baseball player (born 1855)
- January 22 – Alma Rubens, actress (born 1897)
- February 18 – Louis Wolheim, actor (born 1880)

- February 28
  - Laton Alton Huffman, photographer of the American frontier and Native American life (born 1854)
  - Thomas S. Rodgers, admiral (born 1858)
- March 20 – Joseph B. Murdock, United States Navy admiral and New Hampshire politician (born 1851)
- March 24 – Robert Edeson, actor (born 1868)
- March 25 – Ida Wells, African-American lynching crusader
- March 28 – Ban Johnson, baseball executive (born 1864)
- March 31 – Knute Rockne, football coach (born 1888)
- April 9 – Nicholas Longworth, politician, Speaker of the House (born 1869)
- April 26 – George Herbert Mead, philosopher (born 1863)
- May 2 – George Fisher Baker, financier and philanthropist (born 1840)
- May 14 – David Belasco, Broadway impresario, theater owner and playwright (born 1853)
- June 2 – Joseph Farnham, screenwriter (born 1884)
- August 6 – Bix Beiderbecke, jazz trumpeter (born 1903)
- August 27 – Francis Marion Smith, businessman (born 1846)
- September 17 – Marvin Hart, World Heavyweight Boxing Champion (born 1876)
- October 6 – Carrie Babcock Sherman, wife of James S. Sherman, Second Lady of the United States (born 1856)
- October 18 – Thomas Edison, inventor (born 1847)
- October 31 – Charles E. Rushmore, businessman, attorney, namesake of Mount Rushmore (born in 1857)
- November 4 – Buddy Bolden, African-American musician (born 1877)
- November 6 – Jack Chesbro, baseball player and MLB Hall of Famer (born 1874)
- December 5 – Vachel Lindsay, poet (born 1879)
- December 18 – Jack Diamond, gangster (born 1897)
- December 23 – Tyrone Power, Sr., actor (born 1869)
- December 26 – Melvil Dewey, librarian, inventor of Dewey Decimal Classification (born 1851)

## See also

- List of American films of 1931

## References

1. "Wiley Post". U.S. Centennial of Flight Commission. Retrieved 2009-10-27.
2. Corporations of Jehovah's Witnesses#International Bible Students Association

## External links

-  Media related to 1931 in the United States at Wikimedia Commons

Retrieved from "[https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=1931\\_in\\_the\\_United\\_States&oldid=775710552](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=1931_in_the_United_States&oldid=775710552)"

Categories: 1931 in the United States

---

- This page was last modified on 16 April 2017, at 16:33.
- Text is available under the Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike License; additional terms may apply. By using this site, you agree to the Terms of Use and Privacy Policy. Wikipedia® is a registered trademark of the Wikimedia Foundation, Inc., a non-profit organization.