

1939 in the United States

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Events from the year **1939 in the United States**.

Contents

- 1 Incumbents
- 2 Events
- 3 Births
- 4 Deaths
- 5 See also
- 6 References
- 7 External links

Incumbents

Federal Government

- President: Franklin D. Roosevelt (D-New York)
- Vice President: John Nance Garner (D-Texas)
- Chief Justice: Charles Evans Hughes (New York)
- Speaker of the House of Representatives: William B. Bankhead (D-Alabama)
- Senate Majority Leader: Alben W. Barkley (D-Kentucky)
- Congress: 75th (until January 3), 76th (starting January 3)

Governors and Lieutenant Governors

Governors

- Governor of Alabama: Bibb Graves (Democratic) (until January 17), Frank M. Dixon (Democratic) (starting January 17)
- Governor of Arizona: Rawghlie Clement Stanford (Democratic) (until January 2), Robert Taylor Jones (Democratic) (starting January 2)
- Governor of Arkansas: Carl Edward Bailey (Democratic)
- Governor of California: Frank Merriam (Republican) (until January 2), Culbert Olson (Democratic) (starting January 2)
- Governor of Colorado: Teller Ammons (Democratic) (until January 10), Ralph Lawrence Carr (Republican) (starting January 10)
- Governor of Connecticut: Wilbur Lucius Cross (Democratic) (until January 4), Raymond E. Baldwin (Republican) (starting January 4)
- Governor of Delaware: Richard C. McMullen (Democratic)
- Governor of Florida: Fred P. Cone (Democratic)
- Governor of Georgia: Eurith D. Rivers (Democratic)
- Governor of Idaho: Barzilla W. Clark (Democratic) (until January 2), C. A. Bottolfson (Republican) (starting January 2)
- Governor of Illinois: Henry Horner (Democratic)
- Governor of Indiana: M. Clifford Townsend (Democratic)
- Governor of Iowa: Nelson G. Kraschel (Democratic) (until January 12), George A. Wilson (Republican) (starting January 12)
- Governor of Kansas: Walter A. Huxman (Democratic) (until January 9), Payne Ratner (Republican) (starting January 9)
- Governor of Kentucky: Happy Chandler (Democratic) (until October 9), Keen Johnson (Democratic) (starting October 9)
- Governor of Louisiana: Richard W. Leche (Democratic) (until June 26), Earl K. Long (Democratic) (starting June 26)
- Governor of Maine: Lewis O. Barrows (Republican)
- Governor of Maryland: Harry W. Nice (Republican) (until January 11), Herbert R. O'Connor (Democratic) (starting January 11)
- Governor of Massachusetts: Charles F. Hurley (Democratic) (until January 5), Leverett Saltonstall (Republican) (starting January 5)
- Governor of Michigan:
 - until January 1: Frank Murphy (Democratic)
 - January 1-March 16: Frank Fitzgerald (Republican)
 - starting March 16: Luren Dickinson (Republican)
- Governor of Minnesota: Elmer A. Benson (Farmer-Labor) (until January 2), Harold E. Stassen (Republican) (starting January 2)
- Governor of Mississippi: Hugh L. White (Democratic)
- Governor of Missouri: Lloyd C. Stark (Democratic)
- Governor of Montana: Roy E. Ayers (Democratic)
- Governor of Nebraska: Robert Leroy Cochran (Democratic)
- Governor of Nevada: Richard Kirman, Sr. (Democratic) (until January 2), Edward P. Carville (Democratic) (starting January 2)
- Governor of New Hampshire: Francis P. Murphy (Republican)
- Governor of New Jersey: A. Harry Moore (Democratic)
- Governor of New Mexico: Clyde Tingley (Democratic) (until January 1), John E. Miles (Democratic) (starting January 1)
- Governor of New York: Herbert H. Lehman (Democratic)
- Governor of North Carolina: Clyde R. Hoey (Democratic)
- Governor of North Dakota: William Langer (Republican) (until January 5), John Moses (Democratic) (starting January 5)
- Governor of Ohio: Martin L. Davey (Democratic) (until January 9), John W. Bricker (Republican) (starting January 9)
- Governor of Oklahoma: Ernest W. Marland (Democratic) (until January 9), Leon C. Phillips (Democratic) (starting January 9)
- Governor of Oregon: Charles H. Martin (Democratic) (until January 9), Charles A. Sprague (Republican) (starting January 9)
- Governor of Pennsylvania: George Howard Earle III (Democratic) (until January 17), Arthur James (Republican) (starting January 17)
- Governor of Rhode Island: Robert E. Quinn (Democratic) (until January 3), William Henry Vanderbilt III (Republican) (starting January 3)
- Governor of South Carolina: Olin D. Johnston (Democratic) (until January 17), Burnet R. Maybank (Democratic) (starting January 17)
- Governor of South Dakota: Leslie Jensen (Republican) (until January 3), Harlan J. Bushfield (Republican) (starting January 3)
- Governor of Tennessee: Gordon Browning (Democratic) (until January 16), Prentice Cooper (Democratic) (starting January 16)
- Governor of Texas: James Allred (Democratic) (until January 17), W. Lee O'Daniel (Democratic) (starting January 17)
- Governor of Utah: Henry H. Blood (Democratic)

- Governor of Vermont: George David Aiken (Republican)
- Governor of Virginia: James H. Price (Democratic)
- Governor of Washington: Clarence D. Martin (Democratic)
- Governor of West Virginia: Homer A. Holt (Democratic)

- Governor of Wisconsin: Philip La Follette (Wisconsin Progressive) (until January 2), Julius P. Heil (Republican) (starting January 2)
- Governor of Wyoming: Leslie A. Miller (Democratic) (until January 2), Nels H. Smith (Republican) (starting January 2)

Lieutenant Governors

- Lieutenant Governor of Alabama: Thomas E. Knight (Democratic) (until January 17), Albert A. Carmichael (Democratic) (starting January 17)
- Lieutenant Governor of Arkansas: Robert L. Bailey (political party unknown)
- Lieutenant Governor of California: George J. Hatfield (Republican) (until January 2), Ellis E. Patterson (Democratic) (starting January 2)
- Lieutenant Governor of Colorado: Frank J. Hayes (Democratic) (until January 10), John Charles Vivian (Republican) (starting January 10)
- Lieutenant Governor of Connecticut: T. Frank Hayes (Democratic) (until January 4), James L. McConaughy (Republican) (starting January 4)
- Lieutenant Governor of Delaware: Edward W. Cooch (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Idaho: Charles C. Gossett (Democratic) (until January 2), Donald S. Whitehead (Republican) (starting January 2)
- Lieutenant Governor of Illinois: John H. Stelle (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Indiana: Henry F. Schricker (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Iowa: John K. Valentine (Democratic) (until January 12), Bourke B. Hickenlooper (Republican) (starting January 12)
- Lieutenant Governor of Kansas: William M. Lindsay (Democratic) (until month and day unknown), Carl E. Friend (Republican) (starting month and day unknown)
- Lieutenant Governor of Kentucky: Keen Johnson (Democratic) (until October 9), Rodes K. Myers (political party unknown) (starting October 9)
- Lieutenant Governor of Louisiana: Earl K. Long (Democratic) (until June 26), Coleman Lindsey (Democratic) (starting June 26)
- Lieutenant Governor of Massachusetts: Francis E. Kelly (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Michigan:
 - until month and day unknown: Leo J. Nowicki (Democratic)
 - month and day unknown: Luren D. Dickinson (Republican)
 - starting month and day unknown: vacant
- Lieutenant Governor of Minnesota: Gottfrid Lindsten (Republican) (until January 2), C. Elmer Anderson (Republican) (starting January 2)
- Lieutenant Governor of Mississippi: Jacob Buehler Snider (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Missouri: Frank Gaines Harris (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Montana: Hugh R. Adair (political party unknown)
- Lieutenant Governor of Nebraska: Nate M. Parsons (Democratic) (until January 5), William E. Johnson (Republican) (starting January 5)
- Lieutenant Governor of Nevada: Fred S. Alward (political party unknown) (until January 2), Maurice J. Sullivan (Democratic) (starting January 2)
- Lieutenant Governor of New Mexico: Hiram M. Dow (Democratic) (until month and day unknown), James Murray, Sr. (Democratic) (starting month and day unknown)
- Lieutenant Governor of New York: Charles Poletti (Democratic) (starting January 1)
- Lieutenant Governor of North Carolina: Wilkins P. Horton (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of North Dakota: Thorstein H. H. Thoresen (Republican) (until January 5), Jack A. Patterson (Republican) (starting January 5)

- Lieutenant Governor of Ohio: Paul P. Yoder (Democratic) (until January 9), Paul M. Herbert (Republican) (starting January 9)
- Lieutenant Governor of Oklahoma: James E. Berry (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Pennsylvania: Thomas Kennedy (Democratic) (until January 17), Samuel S. Lewis (Democratic) (starting January 17)
- Lieutenant Governor of Rhode Island: Raymond E. Jordan (Democratic) (until January 3), James O. McManus (Republican) (starting January 3)
- Lieutenant Governor of South Carolina: Joseph Emile Harley (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of South Dakota: Donald McMurchie (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Tennessee: Bryan Pope (Democratic) (until month and day unknown), Blan R. Maxwell (Democratic) (starting month and day unknown)
- Lieutenant Governor of Texas: Walter Frank Woodul (Democratic) (until January 17), Coke Robert Stevenson (Democratic) (starting January 17)
- Lieutenant Governor of Vermont: William H. Wills (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Virginia: Saxon W. Holt (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Washington: Victor A. Meyers (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Wisconsin: Herman L. Ekern (Progressive) (until January 2), Walter S. Goodland (Republican) (starting January 2)

Events

January

- January 1
 - The Hewlett-Packard Company is founded.
 - Texas A&M University wins its only football national championship.
- January 5 – Amelia Earhart is officially declared dead after her 1937 disappearance.

February

- February 6 – Raymond Chandler's hardboiled California private detective Philip Marlowe is introduced in his first full-length work of crime fiction, *The Big Sleep*, published by Alfred A. Knopf.
- February 21 – The Golden Gate International Exposition opens in San Francisco.
- February 27 – Sitdown strikes are outlawed by the Supreme Court of the United States.

March

- March 3 – Students at Harvard University demonstrate the new tradition of swallowing goldfish to reporters.
- March 28 – American adventurer Richard Halliburton delivers a last message from a Chinese junk, before he disappears on a voyage across the Pacific Ocean.

April



Fallingwater

- April 9 – African-American singer Marian Anderson performs before 75,000 people at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C., after having been denied the use both of Constitution Hall by the Daughters of the American Revolution, and of a public high school by the federally controlled District of Columbia. First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt resigns from the DAR because of their decision.
- April 14 – John Steinbeck's novel *The Grapes of Wrath* is first published.
- April 30 – The 1939 New York World's Fair opens.

May

- May 2 – Major League Baseball's Lou Gehrig, the legendary Yankee first baseman known as "The Iron Horse", ends his 2,130 consecutive games played streak after contracting amyotrophic lateral sclerosis. The record stands for 56 years before Cal Ripken, Jr. plays 2,131 consecutive games.
- May 20 – Pan American Airways begins trans-Atlantic mail service with the inaugural flight of its Boeing 314 flying boat *Yankee Clipper* from Port Washington, New York to Marseille.
- May – Batman makes his first appearance in Detective Comics #27.

June

- Superman (comic book) begins publication.
- June 4 – The SS *St. Louis*, a ship carrying a cargo of 907 Jewish refugees, is denied permission to land in Florida after already having been turned away from Cuba. Forced to return to Europe, many of its passengers later die in Nazi death camps during the Holocaust.
- June 12 – The National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum is officially dedicated in Cooperstown, New York.

July

- July 2 – The 1st World Science Fiction Convention opens in New York City.
- July 8 – The Pan American Airways Boeing 314 flying boat *Yankee Clipper* inaugurates the world's first heavier-than-air North Atlantic air passenger service between the United States (Port Washington, New York) and Britain.

August

- August 2 – Albert Einstein writes to President Franklin Roosevelt about developing the atomic bomb using uranium. This leads to the creation of the Manhattan Project.
- August 15 – MGM's classic musical film *The Wizard of Oz*, based on L. Frank Baum's famous novel, and starring Judy Garland as Dorothy, premieres at Grauman's Chinese Theatre in Hollywood.

September

- September 5 – World War II: The United States declares its neutrality in the war.
- September 21 – Radio station WJSV in Washington, D.C. records an entire broadcast day for preservation in the National Archives.

- September 29 – Gerald J. Cox, speaking at an American Water Works Association meeting, becomes the first person to publicly propose the fluoridation of public water supplies in the United States.

October

- October 11 – Manhattan Project: U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt is presented a letter signed by Albert Einstein, urging the United States to rapidly develop the atomic bomb.
- October 15 – The New York Municipal Airport (later renamed La Guardia Airport) is dedicated.
- October 24 – Nylon stockings go on sale for the first time anywhere in Wilmington, Delaware.
- October 25 – *The Time of Your Life*, a drama by William Saroyan, debuts in New York City.

November

- November 4 – World War II: U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt orders the United States Customs Service to implement the Neutrality Act of 1939, allowing cash-and-carry purchases of weapons to non-belligerent nations.
- November 6 – *Hedda Hopper's Hollywood* debuts on radio with Hollywood gossip columnist Hedda Hopper as host (the show runs until 1951, making Hopper a powerful figure in the Hollywood elite).
- November 8 – CBS television station W2XAB resumes test transmission with an all-electronic system broadcast from the top of the Chrysler Building in New York City.^[1]
- November 15 – In Washington, D.C., U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt lays the cornerstone of the Jefferson Memorial.

December

- December 2 – La Guardia Airport opens for business in New York City.
- December 15 – The film *Gone with the Wind*, starring Vivien Leigh, Clark Gable, Olivia de Havilland and Leslie Howard, premieres at Loew's Grand Theatre in Atlanta, Georgia. It is based on Margaret Mitchell's best-selling novel. It is the longest American film made up to that time (nearly four hours).

Undated

- Sandia View Academy, a private Adventist school, is founded in Corrales, New Mexico,
- General Motors introduces the Hydra-Matic drive, the first mass-produced, fully automatic transmission, as an option in 1940 model year Oldsmobile automobiles.
- Construction of Fallingwater, designed by Frank Lloyd Wright, is completed.

Births

- January 20 – Paul Coverdell, U.S. Senator from Georgia from 1993 to 2000 (died 2000)

- January 31 – Jerry Brudos, serial killer (died 2006)
- March 6 – Kit Bond, U.S. Senator from Missouri from 1987 to 2011
- March 15 – Ted Kaufman, U.S. Senator from Delaware from 2009 to 2010
- April 16 – John Delafosse, Zydeco accordionist (died 1994)
- May 12 – Chuck Hull, inventor, pioneer of 3D printing
- May 19 – Dick Scobee, astronaut (killed 1986)
- June 2 – John Schlee, golfer (died 2000)
- June 6 – Marian Wright Edelman, activist, founder of Children's Defense Fund
- June 26 – Chuck Robb, U.S. Senator from Virginia from 1989 to 2001
- July 18 – Dion DiMucci, singer-songwriter
- September 1 – Lily Tomlin, comic actress
- September 22 – Tim Wirth, U.S. Senator from Colorado from 1987 to 1993
- October 1 – Mariah A. Taylor, founder of the North Portland Nurse Practitioner Community Health Clinic
- October 18 – Lee Harvey Oswald, sniper who carries out the assassination of John F. Kennedy (35th President of the United States) (killed 1963)
- November 18 – John O'Keefe, American-born neuroscientist, recipient of Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine in 2014
- November 19 – Tom Harkin, U.S. Senator from Iowa from 1985 to 2015
- December 2 – Harry Reid, U.S. Senator from Nevada from 1987 to 2017
- December 11
 - Tom Hayden, academic, activist and politician (died 2016)
 - Thomas McGuane, author and screenwriter
- December 25 – Don Alias, jazz percussionist (died 2006)

Deaths

- January 8 – Charles Eastman, Native American author, physician, reformer, helped found the Boy Scouts of America (born 1858)
- January 13 – Arthur Barker, son of Ma Barker and a member of the Barker-Karpis gang (born 1899)
- January 25 – Helen Ware, stage and screen actress (born 1877)
- March 19 – Lloyd L. Gaines, civil rights activist
- April 6 – Bennie Dickson, bank robber (date of birth unknown)
- May 2 – Phillips Smalley, actor and director (born 1875)
- May 10 – James Parrott, actor (born 1898)
- May 20 – Joseph Carr, 2nd president of the National Football League (born 1880)
- May 23 – Witmer Stone, ornithologist and botanist (born 1866)
- May 27 – Alfred A. Cunningham, first United States Marine Corps aviator (born 1882)
- May 30 – Floyd Roberts, race car driver (born 1900)
- June 4 – Tommy Ladnier, jazz trumpeter (born 1900)
- June 6 – George Fawcett, actor (born 1860)
- June 9 – Owen Moore, actor (born 1886)
- June 16 – Chick Webb, musician (born 1905)
- June 19 – Grace Abbott, social worker and activist (born 1878)

- June 28 – Bobby Vernon, actor (born 1898)
- July 7 – Deacon White, baseball player and MLB Hall of Famer (born 1847)
- August 2 – Harvey Spencer Lewis, mystic (born 1883)
- August 23 – Sidney Howard, writer (born 1891)
- October 1 – Conway Tearle, actor (born 1878)
- October 3 – Fay Templeton, musical comedy star born 1865)
- October 7 – Harvey Cushing, neurosurgeon (born 1869)
- October 13 – Ford Sterling, actor (born 1882)
- October 23 – Zane Grey, writer (born 1872)
- October 28 – Alice Brady, actress (born 1892)
- October 29 – Dwight B. Waldo, educator and historian (born 1864)
- November 13 – Lois Weber, actress (born 1881)
- November 24 – John Harron, actor (born 1903)
- December 12 – Douglas Fairbanks, actor (born 1883)
- December 19 – Reginald F. Nicholson, United States Navy admiral (born 1852)
- December 22 – Ma Rainey, blues singer (born 1886)

See also

- List of American films of 1939

References

1. "Early Television Stations - W2XAB/W2XAX/WCBW - CBS, New York". *Early Television Museum*. Hilliard, OH. Retrieved 2014-11-26.

External links

-  Media related to 1939 in the United States at Wikimedia Commons

Retrieved from "https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=1939_in_the_United_States&oldid=770167395"

Categories: 1939 in the United States

-
- This page was last modified on 13 March 2017, at 20:37.
 - 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.