

# 1946 in the United States

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Events from the year **1946 in the United States**.

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## Incumbents

### Federal Government

- President: Harry S. Truman (D-Missouri)
- Vice President: *vacant*
- Chief Justice: Harlan F. Stone (New York) (until April 22), Fred M. Vinson (Kentucky) (starting June 24)
- Speaker of the House of Representatives: Sam Rayburn (D-Texas)
- Senate Majority Leader: Alben W. Barkley (D-Kentucky)
- Congress: 79th

## Governors and Lieutenant Governors

### Governors

- Governor of Alabama: Chauncey Sparks (Democratic)
- Governor of Arizona: Sidney Preston Osborn (Democratic)
- Governor of Arkansas: Benjamin Travis Laney (Democratic)
- Governor of California: Earl Warren (Republican)
- Governor of Colorado: John Charles Vivian (Republican)
- Governor of Connecticut: Raymond E. Baldwin (Republican) (until December 27), Charles W. Snow (Democratic) (starting December 27)
- Governor of Delaware: Walter W. Bacon (Republican)
- Governor of Florida: Millard F. Caldwell (Democratic)
- Governor of Georgia: Ellis Arnall (Democratic)
- Governor of Idaho: Arnold Williams (Democratic)
- Governor of Illinois: Dwight H. Green (Republican)
- Governor of Indiana: Ralph F. Gates (Republican)
- Governor of Iowa: Robert D. Blue (Republican)
- Governor of Kansas: Andrew F. Schoepel (Republican)
- Governor of Kentucky: Simeon S. Willis (Republican)
- Governor of Louisiana: Jimmie H. Davis (Democratic)
- Governor of Maine: Horace A. Hildreth (Republican)
- Governor of Maryland: Herbert R. O'Connor (Democratic)
- Governor of Massachusetts: Maurice J. Tobin (Democratic)
- Governor of Michigan: Harry Kelly (Republican)
- Governor of Minnesota: Edward John Thye (Republican)
- Governor of Mississippi: Thomas L. Bailey (Democratic) (until November 2), Fielding L. Wright (Democratic) (starting November 2)
- Governor of Missouri: Phil M. Donnelly (Democratic)
- Governor of Montana: Sam C. Ford (Republican)
- Governor of Nebraska: Dwight Griswold (Republican)
- Governor of Nevada: Vail M. Pittman (Democratic)
- Governor of New Hampshire: Charles M. Dale (Republican)
- Governor of New Jersey: Walter Evans Edge (Republican)
- Governor of New Mexico: John J. Dempsey (Democratic)
- Governor of New York: Thomas Dewey (Republican)
- Governor of North Carolina: R. Gregg Cherry (Democratic)
- Governor of North Dakota: Fred G. Aandahl (Republican)
- Governor of Ohio: Frank J. Lausche (Democratic)
- Governor of Oklahoma: Robert S. Kerr (Democratic)
- Governor of Oregon: Earl Snell (Republican)
- Governor of Pennsylvania: Edward Martin (Republican)
- Governor of Rhode Island: John Orlando Pastore (Democratic)
- Governor of South Carolina: Ransome Judson Williams (Democratic)
- Governor of South Dakota: Merrill Q. Sharpe (Republican)
- Governor of Tennessee: Jim Nance McCord (Democratic)
- Governor of Texas: Coke R. Stevenson (Democratic)
- Governor of Utah: Herbert B. Maw (Democratic)
- Governor of Vermont: Mortimer R. Proctor (Republican)
- Governor of Virginia: Colgate Darden (Democratic) (until January 16), William M. Tuck (Democratic) (starting January 16)
- Governor of Washington: Monrad C. Wallgren (Democratic)
- Governor of West Virginia: Clarence W. Meadows (Democratic)
- Governor of Wisconsin: Walter S. Goodland (Republican)
- Governor of Wyoming: Lester C. Hunt (Democratic)

### Lieutenant Governors

- Lieutenant Governor of Alabama: Leven H. Ellis (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Arkansas: James Lavesque Shaver (political party unknown)
- Lieutenant Governor of California: Frederick F. Houser (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Colorado: William Eugene Higby (Republican)

- Lieutenant Governor of Connecticut: Charles Wilbert Snow (Democratic) (until December 27), vacant (starting December 27)
- Lieutenant Governor of Delaware: Elbert N. Carvel (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Idaho: vacant (until March 20), A. R. McCabe (Democratic) (starting March 20)
- Lieutenant Governor of Illinois: Hugh W. Cross (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Indiana: Richard T. James (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Iowa: Kenneth A. Evans (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Kansas: Jess C. Denious, Sr. (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Kentucky: Kenneth H. Tuggle (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Louisiana: J. Emile Verret (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Massachusetts: vacant
- Lieutenant Governor of Michigan: Vernon J. Brown (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Minnesota: C. Elmer Anderson (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Mississippi: Fielding L. Wright (Republican) (until November 2), vacant (starting November 2)
- Lieutenant Governor of Missouri: Walter Naylor Davis (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Montana: Ernest T. Eaton (political party unknown)
- Lieutenant Governor of Nebraska: Roy W. Johnson (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Nevada: vacant
- Lieutenant Governor of New Mexico: James B. Jones (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of New York: Joseph R. Hanley (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of North Carolina: Lynton Y. Ballentine (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of North Dakota: Clarence P. Dahl (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Ohio: George D. Nye (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Oklahoma: James E. Berry (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Pennsylvania: John C. Bell, Jr. (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Rhode Island: vacant
- Lieutenant Governor of South Carolina: vacant
- Lieutenant Governor of South Dakota: Sioux K. Grigsby (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Tennessee: Larry Morgan (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Texas: John Lee Smith (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Vermont: Lee E. Emerson (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Virginia: William M. Tuck (Democratic) (until January 16), Lewis Preston Collins II (Democratic) (starting January 16)
- Lieutenant Governor of Washington: Victor A. Meyers (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Wisconsin: Oscar Rennebohm (Republican)

## Events

### January–March

- January 6 – A revised revival of Jerome Kern and Oscar Hammerstein II's *Show Boat* opens on Broadway at the Ziegfeld Theatre.
- January 17 – U.S. Senator Dennis Chávez (D-NM) calls for a vote on an Fair Employment Practice Committee bill which calls for an end to discrimination in the workplace. A filibuster prevents it from passing.
- January 25 – The United Mine Workers rejoins the American Federation of Labor.
- January 29 – The Central Intelligence Group is established (the CIA in 1947).
- February 14 – ENIAC (for "Electronic Numerical Integrator and Computer"), the first general-purpose electronic computer, is unveiled at the University of Pennsylvania.
- February 28 – In Philadelphia, General Electric strikers and police clash.
- March 5 – In his speech at Westminster College, in Fulton, Missouri, Winston Churchill talks about the *Iron Curtain*.

- March 6 – Vietnam War: Ho Chi Minh signs an agreement with France which recognizes Vietnam as an autonomous state in the Indochinese Federation and the French Union.
- March 7 – The 18th Academy Awards ceremony is held.
- March 21 – The Los Angeles Rams of the National Football League, newly relocated from Cleveland, sign Kenny Washington, making him the first African American player in the league since 1933.
- March 24 – BBC Home Service radio in the United Kingdom broadcasts Alistair Cooke's first *American Letter*. As *Letter from America*, this programme will continue until a few weeks before Cooke's death in 2004.



March 5: In Missouri, Churchill speaks on the "Iron Curtain"

## April–June

- April 1 – A 14-meter high tsunami strikes Hilo and Laupāhoehoe on the Big Island of Hawaii; 173 are killed, thousands injured.
- April 18 – The United States recognizes Josip Broz Tito's government in Yugoslavia.
- April 23
  - The Eastern Pennsylvania Basketball League (which is now the CBA) is founded.
  - Howard Hughes's Western movie *The Outlaw* (1943), starring Jane Russell, goes on general release.
- June 6 – The Basketball Association of America is formed in New York City.
- June 17
  - A tornado on the Detroit River kills 17.
  - Laurence Olivier's *Henry V* opens in the United States nearly 2 years after its release in England. It is the first Shakespeare film in color, and critics hail it as the finest film of a Shakespeare play ever made.

## July–September

- July 4 – The Philippines is granted independence by the United States.
- July 7 – Mother Frances Xavier Cabrini becomes the first American to be canonized by the Roman Catholic Church.
- July 14 – Benjamin Spock's influential *The Common Sense Book of Baby and Child Care* is published.
- July 25
  - Nuclear testing: In the first underwater test of the atomic bomb, the surplus USS *Saratoga* is sunk near Bikini Atoll in the Pacific Ocean, when the United States detonates the *Baker* device during Operation Crossroads.
  - At Club 500 in Atlantic City, New Jersey, Dean Martin and Jerry Lewis stage their first show as a comedy team.
  - 1946 Georgia lynching: In the last mass lynching in the United States, a mob of white men shoot and kill two African-American couples near Moore's Ford Bridge in Georgia.
- August 1 – President Harry Truman signs the Atomic Energy Act of 1946, which establishes the United States Atomic Energy Commission.
- September 15 – DuMont Television Network begins broadcasting regularly.
- September 22 – Yogi Berra makes his Major League Baseball debut, entering a game for the New York Yankees against the Philadelphia A's and hitting a home run in his first time at bat.
- September 24 – White House counsel Clark Clifford presents President Truman with a top secret report authored by George Elsey on *American Relations with the Soviet Union* which forms the basis of the U.S. policy of containment.



July 7: Saint Frances Xavier Cabrini

## October–December

- October 16 – The United Nations' first meeting in Long Island is held.
- November 1 – The New York Knicks play against the Toronto Huskies at the Maple Leaf Gardens, in the first Basketball Association of America game. The Knicks win 68–66.
- November 6 – Senate and House elections in the United States both give majorities to the Republicans.
- November 12 – In Chicago, a branch of the *Exchange National Bank* (now part of the LaSalle Bank) opens the first 10 drive-up teller windows.
- November 27 – Cold War: Indian Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru appeals to the United States and the Soviet Union to end nuclear testing and to start nuclear disarmament, stating that such an action would "save humanity from the ultimate disaster."
- December 2 – The International Whaling Commission was signed in Washington, D.C. to "provide for the proper conservation of whale stocks and thus make possible the orderly development of the whaling industry".
- December 5 – President Harry Truman establishes the President's Committee on Civil Rights to investigate the status of civil rights in the United States and propose measures to strengthen and protect the civil rights of American citizens.
- December 7 – A fire at the Winecoff Hotel in Atlanta, United States kills 119.
- December 20 – Frank Capra's *It's a Wonderful Life*, featuring James Stewart, Donna Reed, Lionel Barrymore, Henry Travers, and Thomas Mitchell, is released in New York.
- December 22 – The Havana Conference begins between U.S. organized crime bosses in Havana, Cuba.
- December 26 – The Flamingo Hotel opens on the Las Vegas Strip.

## Undated

- Airport Homes race riots in Chicago.
- The 20 mm M61 Vulcan Gatling gun contract is released.
- The All-America Football Conference team San Francisco 49ers is formed.

## Ongoing

- Cold War (1947–1991)

## Births

### January

- January 19 – Dolly Parton, singer-songwriter
- January 23 – Don Whittington, race car driver
- January 26
  - Deon Jackson, singer-songwriter (died 2014)
  - Gene Siskel, film critic (died 1999)

### February

- February 7 – Sammy Johns, American singer-songwriter (died 2013)
- February 9 – Jim Webb, U.S. Senator from Virginia from 2007 to 2013
- February 13 – Richard Blumenthal, U.S. Senator from Connecticut from 2011

## March

- March 13 – Yonatan Netanyahu, American-born Israeli soldier (died 1976 in Israel)

## April

- April 12 – Ed O'Neill, television actor
- April 24
  - Stafford James, bassist and composer
  - Phil Robertson, businessman, founded Duck Commander

## May

- May 20 – Cher, born Cherilyn Sarkisian, singer, songwriter and actress

## June

- June 13 – Paul L. Modrich, biochemist and recipient of the Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 2015
- June 14 – Donald Trump, businessman, television producer, politician, 45th President of the United States from 2017
- June 16 – Jodi Rell, 87th Governor of Connecticut from 2004 to 2011

## July

- July 4 – Michael Milken, financier, financial criminal and philanthropist
- July 6 – George W. Bush, businessman, 46th Governor of Texas from 1995 to 2000, and 43rd President of the United States from 2001 to 2009, son of George H. W. Bush, 41st President of the United States

## August

- August 13 – Janet Yellen, Chair of the Federal Reserve from 2014

- August 19 – Bill Clinton, 40th and 42nd Governor of Arkansas from 1979 to 1981 and 1983 to 1992, and 42nd President of the United States from 1993 to 2001

## September

- September 15 – Oliver Stone, film director, screenwriter, producer and veteran.

## October

- October 4 – Chuck Hagel, U.S. Senator from Nebraska from 1997 to 2009
- October 23 – Mel Martinez, U.S. Senator from Florida from 2005 to 2009

## November

- November 4 – Laura Bush, born Laura Lane Welch, First Lady of the United States as wife of George W. Bush
- November 17 – Terry Branstad, 39th and 42nd Governor of Iowa from 1983 to 1999 and from 2011

## December

- December 1
  - Jonathan Katz, comedian and actor
  - Jimmy McMillan, founder of the Rent Is Too Damn High Party, political activist, perennial candidate
- December 6 – Frankie Beverly, singer-songwriter and producer
- December 8 – John Rubinstein, actor, director and composer
- December 9 – Dennis Dunaway, bassist and composer
- December 10 – Thomas Lux, poet and academic
- December 12
  - Josepha Sherman, author, folklorist and anthropologist (d. 2012)
  - Paula Wagner, film producer and executive
- December 18 – Steven Spielberg, film director, screenwriter, producer and executive

- December 24 – Jeff Sessions, U.S. Senator from Alabama from 1997 to 2017 and 84th Attorney General of the United States from 2017

- December 28 – Tim Johnson, U.S. Senator from South Dakota from 1997 to 2015
- December 29 – Paul S. Trible, Jr., U.S. Senator from Virginia from 1983 to 1989

## Deaths

### January

- January 3 – William Joyce, Nazi propaganda broadcaster (executed) (born 1906)
- January 5 – Kitty Cheatham, singer (born 1864)
- January 6 – Slim Summerville, actor (born 1892)
- January 9 – Countee Cullen, African American poet (born 1903)
- January 10 – Harry Von Tilzer, songwriter (born 1872)
- January 29
  - Harry Hopkins, politician (born 1890)
  - Adriaan van Maanen, astronomer (born 1884 in the Netherlands)

### February

- February 2 – Rondo Hatton, film character actor (born 1894)
- February 15
  - Putney Dandridge, African American jazz musician (born 1902)
  - Cornelius Johnson, athlete (born 1913)
- February 17 – Dorothy Gibson, silent film actress and model (born 1889)
- February 21 – Theodore Stark Wilkinson, admiral (born 1888)

### March

- March 2 – George E. Stewart, Medal of Honor recipient (born 1872)
- March 23 – Gilbert N. Lewis, chemist (born 1875)

### April

- April 1
  - Noah Beery Sr., actor (born 1882)
  - Edward Sheldon, playwright (born 1886)
- April 2 – Kate Bruce, silent film actress (born 1858)
- April 5 – Vincent Youmans, Broadway composer (born 1898)
- April 14 – Otto Dowling, Captain (USN) and 25th Governor of American Samoa (born 1881)
- April 20 – Mae Busch, film actress (born 1891)
- April 22 – Harlan F. Stone, Chief Justice of the United States (born 1872)

### May

- May 1 – Bill Johnston, tennis player (born 1894)
- May 2 – Simon Flexner, pathologist and bacteriologist (born 1863)
- May 19 – Booth Tarkington, novelist (born 1869)
- May 25 – Patty Hill, nursery teacher and co-composer of "Happy Birthday to You" (born 1868)

### June

- June 10 – Jack Johnson, African American heavyweight boxer (born 1878)
- June 13 – Charles Butterworth, comic actor (born 1896)
- June 14 – Edward Bowes, radio personality (born 1874)
- June 23 – William S. Hart, stage actor and silent film cowboy star (born 1864/1865)
- June 27 – Wanda Gág, artist, author, translator and illustrator (born 1893)
- June 28 – Antoinette Perry, actress and director (born 1888)



## July

- July – Howard Hyde Russell, founder of the Anti-Saloon League (born 1855)
- July 2 – Mary Alden, stage and screen actress (born 1883)
- July 8 – Orrick Glenday Johns, poet and playwright (born 1887)
- July 12 – Ray Stannard Baker, journalist and author (born 1870)
- July 13 – Alfred Stieglitz, photographer (born 1864)
- July 14 – Riley Puckett, country musician (born 1894)
- July 20 – Tricky Sam Nanton, trombonist (born 1904)
- July 27 – Gertrude Stein, writer (born 1874)

## August

- August 6 – Tony Lazzeri, baseball player (New York Yankees) (born 1903)
- August 26 – Jeanie MacPherson, film actress and screenwriter (born 1887)
- August 28 – Florence Turner, film actress (born 1885)
- August 29 – John Steuart Curry, painter (born 1897)

## September

- September 16 – Mamie Smith, African American vaudeville performer and blues singer (born 1883)
- September 17 – Frank Burke, baseball player (born 1880)
- September 26 – William Strunk, Jr., professor of English (born 1869)

## October

## See also

- List of American films of 1946

## External links

-  Media related to 1946 in the United States at Wikimedia Commons

- October 4 – Barney Oldfield, race car driver and automobile pioneer (born 1878)
- October 9 – Enrica Clay Dillon, opera singer (born 1881)
- October 12 – Joseph Stilwell, general (born 1883)

## November

- November 5 – Joseph Stella, Futurist painter (born 1877 in Italy)
- November 7 – Henry Lehrman, film director (born 1886 in Austria)
- November 23 – Arthur Dove, abstract painter (born 1880)
- November 25 – George Gandy, entrepreneur (born 1851)

## December

- December 7 – Laurette Taylor, stage and silent film actress (born 1884)
- December 10
  - Walter Johnson, baseball player (Washington Senators) (born 1887)
  - Damon Runyon, short-story writer (born 1880)
- December 13 – Curtis Hidden Page, New Hampshire politician (born 1870)
- December 14 – Tom Dowse, baseball player (born 1866 in Ireland)
- December 16 – Zachary Taylor Davis, Chicago architect (born 1872)
- December 23 – John A. Sampson, gynecologist (born 1873)
- December 25 – W. C. Fields, comic actor (born 1880)
- December 28
  - Carrie Jacobs-Bond, singer-songwriter (born 1862)
  - Elie Nadelman, sculptor (born 1882 in Poland)

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