

1947 in the United States

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Events from the year **1947 in the United States**.

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President Truman on opening day of the baseball season, 1947

Incumbents

Federal Government

- President: Harry S. Truman (D-Missouri)
- Vice President: *vacant*
- Chief Justice: Fred M. Vinson (Kentucky)
- Speaker of the House of Representatives: Sam Rayburn (D-Texas) (until January 3), Joseph William Martin, Jr. (R-Massachusetts) (starting January 3)
- Senate Majority Leader: Alben W. Barkley (D-Kentucky) (until January 3), Wallace H. White, Jr. (R-Maine) (starting January 3)
- Congress: 79th (until January 3), 80th (starting January 3)

Governors and Lieutenant Governors

Governors

- Governor of Alabama: Chauncey Sparks (Democratic) (until January 20), Jim Folsom (Democratic) (starting January 20)
- 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) (until January 14), William Lee Knous (Democratic) (starting January 14)
- Governor of Connecticut: Charles W. Snow (Democratic) (until January 8), James L. McConaughy (Republican) (starting January 8)
- Governor of Delaware: Walter W. Bacon (Republican)
- Governor of Florida: Millard F. Caldwell (Democratic)
- Governor of Georgia:
 - until January 14: Ellis Arnall (Democratic)
 - January 14-March 18: Herman Talmadge (Democratic)
 - starting March 18: Melvin E. Thompson (Democratic)
- Governor of Idaho: Arnold Williams (Democratic) (until January 6), C. A. Robins (Republican) (starting January 6)
- 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) (until January 13), Frank Carlson (Republican) (starting January 13)
- Governor of Kentucky: Simeon S. Willis (Republican) (until December 9), Earle C. Clements (Democratic) (starting December 9)
- Governor of Louisiana: Jimmie H. Davis (Democratic)
- Governor of Maine: Horace A. Hildreth (Republican)
- Governor of Maryland: Herbert R. O'Connor (Democratic) (until January 3), William Preston Lane, Jr. (Democratic) (starting January 3)
- Governor of Massachusetts: Maurice J. Tobin (Democratic) (until January 2), Robert F. Bradford (Republican) (starting January 2)
- Governor of Michigan: Harry Kelly (Republican) (until January 1), Kim Sigler (Republican) (starting January 1)
- Governor of Minnesota: Edward John Thye (Republican) (until January 8), Luther W. Youngdahl (Republican) (starting January 8)
- Governor of Mississippi: Fielding L. Wright (Democratic)
- Governor of Missouri: Phil M. Donnelly (Democratic)
- Governor of Montana: Sam C. Ford (Republican)
- Governor of Nebraska: Dwight Griswold (Republican) (until January 9), Val Peterson (Republican) (starting January 9)
- Governor of Nevada: Vail M. Pittman (Democratic)
- Governor of New Hampshire: Charles M. Dale (Republican)
- Governor of New Jersey: Walter Evans Edge (Republican) (until January 21), Alfred E. Driscoll (Republican) (starting January 21)
- Governor of New Mexico: John J. Dempsey (Democratic) (until January 1), Thomas J. Mabry (Democratic) (starting January 1)
- 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) (until January 13), Thomas J. Herbert (Republican) (starting January 13)
- Governor of Oklahoma: Robert S. Kerr (Democratic) (until January 13), Roy J. Turner (Democratic) (starting January 13)
- Governor of Oregon: Earl Snell (Republican) (until October 30), John H. Hall (Republican) (starting October 30)
- Governor of Pennsylvania:
 - until January 2: Edward Martin (Republican)
 - January 2-January 21: John C. Bell, Jr. (Republican)
 - starting January 21: James H. Duff (Republican)
- Governor of Rhode Island: John Orlando Pastore (Democratic)
- Governor of South Carolina: Ransome Judson Williams (Democratic) (until January 21), Strom Thurmond (Democratic) (starting January 21)
- Governor of South Dakota: Merrill Q. Sharpe (Republican) (until January 7), George T. Mickelson (Republican) (starting January 7)
- Governor of Tennessee: Jim Nance McCord (Democratic)
- Governor of Texas: Coke R. Stevenson (Democratic) (until January 21), Beauford H. Jester (Democratic) (starting January 21)
- Governor of Utah: Herbert B. Maw (Democratic)

- Governor of Vermont: Mortimer R. Proctor (Republican) (until January 9), Ernest W. Gibson, Jr. (Republican) (starting January 9)
- Governor of Virginia: William M. Tuck (Democratic)
- Governor of Washington: Monrad C. Wallgren (Democratic)
- Governor of West Virginia: Clarence W. Meadows (Democratic)

Lieutenant Governors

- Lieutenant Governor of Alabama: Leven H. Ellis (Democratic) (until January 20), James C. Inzer (Democratic) (starting January 20)
- Lieutenant Governor of Arkansas: James Lavesque Shaver (political party unknown) (until month and day unknown), Nathan Green Gordon (Democratic) (starting month and day unknown)
- Lieutenant Governor of California: Frederick F. Houser (Republican) (until January 7), Goodwin Knight (Republican) (starting January 7)
- Lieutenant Governor of Colorado: William Eugene Higby (Republican) (until January 14), Homer L. Pearson (Republican) (starting January 14)
- Lieutenant Governor of Connecticut: vacant (until January 8), James C. Shannon (Republican) (starting January 8)
- Lieutenant Governor of Delaware: Elbert N. Carvel (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Georgia: Melvin E. Thompson (Democratic) (starting January 14)
- Lieutenant Governor of Idaho: A. R. McCabe (Democratic) (until January 6), Donald S. Whitehead (Democratic) (starting January 6)
- 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) (until January 13), Frank L. Hagaman (Republican) (starting January 13)
- Lieutenant Governor of Kentucky: Kenneth H. Tuggle (Republican) (until December 9), Lawrence Wetherby (Democratic) (starting December 9)
- Lieutenant Governor of Louisiana: J. Emile Verret (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Massachusetts: vacant (starting January 2), Arthur W. Coolidge (Republican) (starting January 2)
- Governor of Wisconsin: Walter S. Goodland (Republican) (until March 12), Oscar Rennebohm (Republican) (starting March 12)
- Governor of Wyoming: Lester C. Hunt (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Michigan: Vernon J. Brown (Republican) (until January 1), Eugene C. Keyes (Republican) (starting January 1)
- Lieutenant Governor of Minnesota: C. Elmer Anderson (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Mississippi: vacant
- 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) (until January 9), Robert B. Crosby (Republican) (starting January 9)
- Lieutenant Governor of Nevada: vacant (until January), Clifford A. Jones (Democratic) (starting January)
- Lieutenant Governor of New Mexico: James B. Jones (Democratic) (until January 1), Joseph Montoya (Democratic) (starting January 1)
- 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) (until January 13), Paul M. Herbert (Republican) (starting January 13)
- Lieutenant Governor of Oklahoma: James E. Berry (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Pennsylvania: John C. Bell, Jr. (Republican) (until January 21), Daniel B. Strickler (Republican) (starting January 21)
- Lieutenant Governor of Rhode Island: vacant (until month and day unknown), John S. McKiernan (Democratic) (starting month and day unknown)

- Lieutenant Governor of South Carolina: vacant (until January 21), George Bell Timmerman, Jr. (Democratic) (starting January 21)
- Lieutenant Governor of South Dakota: Sioux K. Grigsby (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Tennessee: Larry Morgan (Democratic) (until month and day unknown), George Oliver Benton (Democratic) (starting month and day unknown)
- Lieutenant Governor of Texas: John Lee Smith (Democratic) (until January 21), Allan Shivers (Democratic) (starting January 21)
- Lieutenant Governor of Vermont: Lee E. Emerson (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Virginia: Lewis Preston Collins II (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Washington: Victor A. Meyers (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Wisconsin: Oscar Rennebohm (Republican)

Events

January–March

- January 15 – Elizabeth Short, an aspiring actress nicknamed the "Black Dahlia", is found brutally murdered in a vacant lot in Los Angeles. The case remains unsolved to this day.
- February 3 – Percival Pratts becomes the first African-American news correspondent allowed in the United States House of Representatives and Senate press galleries.
- February 17 – Cold War: The *Voice of America* begins to transmit radio broadcasts into Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union.
- February 20
 - An explosion at the O'Connor Electro-Plating Company in Los Angeles, California, leaves 17 dead, 100 buildings damaged, and a 22-foot-deep (6.7 m) crater in the ground.
 - Ordnance Corps Hermes project V-2 rocket *Blossom I* launched into space carrying plant material and fruitflies, the first animals to enter space.
- February 21 – In New York City, Edwin Land demonstrates the first "instant camera", his Polaroid Land Camera, to a meeting of the Optical Society of America.
- February 28 – The United States grants France a military base in Casablanca.
- March 6 – The *USS Newport News*, the first completely air-conditioned warship, is launched in Newport News, Virginia.
- March 19 – The 19th Academy Awards ceremony is held. The movie *Best Years of Our Lives* wins the Academy Award for Best Picture, along with several other Academy Awards.
- March 25 – A coal mine explosion in Centralia, Illinois, kills 111 miners.

April–June

- April 1 – Jackie Robinson, the first African American baseball professional since the 1880s, signs a contract with the Brooklyn Dodgers.
- April 6 – The 1st Tony Awards, recognizing achievement in American theater, are awarded at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel in New York City.
- April 9
 - Multiple tornadoes strike Texas, Oklahoma, and Kansas killing 181 and injuring 970.
 - The Journey of Reconciliation begins, organized by the Congress of Racial Equality.

- April 15 – Jackie Robinson becomes the first African American to play Major League Baseball since the 1880s.
- April 16
 - Texas City Disaster: The ammonium nitrate cargo of French-registered Liberty ship SS *Grandcamp* explodes in Texas City, Texas, killing at least 581, including all but one member of the city fire department, injuring at least 5,000 and destroying 20 city blocks. Of the dead, remains of 113 are never found and 63 are unidentifiable.
 - American financier and presidential adviser Bernard Baruch describes the post–World War II tensions between the Soviet Union and the United States as a "Cold War".
- April 26 – Academy-Award winning *Tom and Jerry* cartoon, *The Cat Concerto*, is released to theatres.
- May 22
 - Cold War: In an effort to fight the spread of Communism, President Harry S. Truman signs an Act of Congress that implements the Truman Doctrine. This Act grants \$400 million in military and economic aid to Turkey and Greece.^[1]
 - David Lean's film *Great Expectations*, based on the novel by Charles Dickens, opens in the United States. Critics call it the finest film ever made from a Charles Dickens novel.
- June 5 – Secretary of State George Marshall outlines the Marshall Plan for American reconstruction and relief aid to Europe.
- June 21 – Seaman Harold Dahl claims to have seen six UFOs near Maury Island in Puget Sound, Washington. On the next morning, Dahl reports the first modern so-called "Men in Black" encounter.
- June 23 – The United States Senate follows the House of Representatives in overriding President Harry S. Truman's veto of the Taft-Hartley Act.
- June 24 – Kenneth Arnold makes the first widely reported UFO sighting near Mount Rainier, Washington.

July–September

- July 7 – A supposedly downed extraterrestrial spacecraft is reportedly found in the Roswell UFO incident, near Roswell, New Mexico, which has been written about by Stanton T. Friedman and many others.
- July 18 – President Harry S. Truman signs the Presidential Succession Act into law, which places the Speaker of the House and the President Pro Tempore of the Senate next in the line of succession after the United States Vice President.
- July 26 – Cold War: U.S. President Harry S. Truman signs the National Security Act of 1947 into law, creating the Central Intelligence Agency, the Department of Defense, the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and the National Security Council.
- August – Fernwood Park race riot in Chicago.
- August 29 – US announces the discovery of plutonium fission, suitable for nuclear power generation.
- September 17–21 – The 1947 Fort Lauderdale Hurricane in southeastern Florida, and also in Alabama, Mississippi, and Louisiana, causes widespread damage and kills 51 people.
- September 17 – Office of Indian Affairs renamed Bureau of Indian Affairs.
- September 18 – Most provisions of the National Security Act go into effect, reorganizing the military to form the National Military Establishment (later the Department of Defense) with subordinate Departments of the Army, Navy, and Air Force; creating the Central Intelligence Agency and the National Security Council; and establishing the Secretary of Defense.
- September 26 – U.S. Air Force is made a separate branch of the military.

October–December

- October–November – Great Fires of 1947: Forest fires in Maine consume more than 200,000 acres of wooded land statewide, including over 17,000 acres on Mount Desert Island alone. 16 persons are killed and more than 1,000 homes destroyed in the blazes, with total property damage exceeding \$23 million.
- October - The House Un-American Activities Committee begins its investigations into communism in Hollywood.
- October 6 - World Series games are broadcast on television for the first time.
- October 14 – The United States Air Force test pilot Captain Chuck Yeager flies a Bell X-1 rocket plane faster than the speed of sound, the first time that this has been accomplished in level flight, or climbing.
- October 20 – Pakistan establishes diplomatic relations with the United States.
- November 1 – U.S. Caribbean Command.
- November 2 – In California, the designer and airplane pilot Howard Hughes performs the maiden flight of the *Spruce Goose*, the largest fixed-wing aircraft ever built. (The flight lasts only eight minutes, and the "Spruce Goose" is never flown again.)
- November 6 – The program *Meet the Press* makes its television debut on the NBC-TV network in the United States.
- November 24 – Red Scare: The U.S. House of Representatives votes 346–17 to approve citations of Contempt of Congress against the so-called Hollywood 10, after the ten men refuse to co-operate with the House Un-American Activities Committee concerning allegations of communist influences in the movie business. (The ten men are blacklisted by the Hollywood movie studios on the following day).
- December 3 – The Tennessee Williams play *A Streetcar Named Desire* opens in a Broadway theater.
- December 6 – Arturo Toscanini conducts a concert performance of the first half of Giuseppe Verdi's opera *Otello*, which was based on William Shakespeare's play *Othello*, for a broadcast on NBC Radio. The second half of the opera is broadcast a week later.
- December 22 – The first practical electronic transistor is demonstrated by John Bardeen and Walter Brattain working under William Shockley at AT&T's Bell Labs.



October 14: Chuck Yeager breaks the sound barrier in the Bell X-1



Girls sunbathing at Cabrillo Beach, California, Dec. 28, 1947

Ongoing

- Cold War (1945–1991)
- Second Red Scare (1947–1957)

Births

January

- January 1 – Jon Corzine, U.S. Senator from New Jersey from 2001 to 2006.
- January 5
 - Mike DeWine, U.S. Senator from Ohio from 1995 to 2007.
 - Mercury Morris, American football player

- January 19 – Ann Compton, American journalist
- January 23 – Tom Carper, U.S. Senator from Delaware from 2001.
- January 24 – Michio Kaku, theoretical physicist and science popularizer.
- January 26 – Mark Dayton, Governor of Minnesota since 2011 and U.S. Senator from Minnesota from 2001 to 2007.
- January 28 – Jeanne Shaheen, U.S. Senator from New Hampshire.
- January 29 – Linda B. Buck, biologist, winner of the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine.

February

- February 2 – Jessica Savitch, television news journalist (d. 1983)
- February 4 – Dan Quayle, 44th Vice President of the United States from 1989 till 1993.
- February 7 – Wayne Allwine, voice actor (d. 2009)
- February 8 – John Roll, Federal Judge and murder victim (d. 2011)
- February 14 – Judd Gregg, United States Senator from New Hampshire from 1993 till 2011.
- February 15 – John Adams, composer of classical music and opera
- February 21 – Olympia Snowe, United States Senator from Maine from 1995 till 2013.

March

- March 5 – Ottis Toole, murderer (d. 1996)
- March 12 - Mitt Romney, governor of Massachusetts from 2003 to 2007.
- March 19 - Glenn Close, actress

April

May

- May 2 – Terry Tarnoff, writer
- May 10 – Jay Ferguson, singer-songwriter and keyboard player (Spirit and Jo Jo Gunne)

June

- June 6 - Robert Englund, actor, director and singer

July

- July 9 – O. J. Simpson, American football player, sportscaster, actor, author, alleged murderer

August

- August 16 – Carol Moseley-Braun, United States Senator from Illinois from 1993 till 1999.
- August 24 – Joe Manchin, United States Senator from West Virginia since 2010.

September

- September 1 – Al Green, politician
- September 6 – Jane Curtin, actress and comedian
- September 8 – Benjamin Orr, singer-songwriter (d. 2000)
- September 9 – Freddy Weller, singer-songwriter
- September 19 – Steve Bartlett, Texas politician
- September 21
 - Don Felder, rock guitarist
 - Stephen King, horror novelist
- September 22 – Norma McCorvey, abortion plaintiff (*Roe v. Wade*) (d. 2017)
- September 23 – Mary Kay Place, screen actress
- September 26 – Lynn Anderson, country-music singer (d. 2015)

October

- October 24 - Kevin Kline, actor
- October 26 – Hillary Clinton, First Lady of the United States, 67th Secretary of State, United States Senator from New York from 2001 till 2009 and wife of Bill Clinton, 42nd President of the United States
- October 29 - Richard Dreyfuss, actor

November

- November 3 – Mazie Hirono, United States Senator from Hawaii since 2013.
- November 12 – Ron Bryant, baseball player
- November 13
 - Toy Caldwell, guitarist and songwriter (The Marshall Tucker Band) (d. 1993)
 - Gene Garber, baseball player

December

- December 9 – Tom Daschle, United States Senator from South Dakota from 1987 till 2005.

Deaths

January–June

- January 3 – Gus Wickie, singer and voice actor (b. 1885)
- January 10 – Arthur E. Andersen, accountant (b. 1885)
- January 14 – Bill Hewitt, football player (Chicago Bears) and member of Pro Football Hall of Fame (b. 1909)
- January 16
 - Sonny Berman, jazz trumpeter, of suspected drug overdose (b. 1925)
 - Fate Marable, jazz pianist and bandleader, of pneumonia (b. 1890)
- January 20
 - Andrew Volstead, politician (b. 1860)
 - Josh Gibson, African-American baseball player and member of MLB Hall of Fame (b. 1911)
- January 25 – Al Capone, gangster (b. 1899)
- January 26 – Grace Moore, operatic soprano, in plane crash (b. 1898)
- February 12
 - Kurt Lewin, German-American psychologist (b. 1890)
 - Sidney Toler, actor (b. 1874)
- March 8 – Victor Potel, character actor and comedian (b. 1889)
- March 12 – Winston Churchill, novelist (b. 1871)
- March 18 – William C. Durant, automobile pioneer (b. 1861)
- March 21 – Homer Lusk Collyer, hermit brother (*Collyer brothers*) (b. 1881)
- March 28 – Johnny Evers, baseball player (Chicago Cubs) and member of MLB Hall of Fame (b. 1881)
- April 7 – Henry Ford, automobile manufacturer (b. 1863)
- April 8 – Langley Collyer, hermit brother (b. 1885)
- April 10 – John Ince, actor (b. 1878)
- April 24 – Willa Cather, novelist (b. 1873)
- May 6 – Louise Homer, operatic contralto (b. 1871)
- May 8 – Harry Gordon Selfridge, department store magnate (b. 1858)
- May 14 – John R. Sinnock, eighth Chief Engraver of the United States Mint (b. 1888)
- May 18 – Lucile Gleason, actress (b. 1888)
- May 30 – Baron Georg von Trapp, Austrian naval officer, patriarch of the Von Trapp Family Singers (b. 1880)
- May 31 – Adrienne Ames, actress (b. 1907)
- June 9 – J. Warren Kerrigan, actor (b. 1879)
- June 11 – Richard Höningwald, Hungarian-born philosopher (b. 1875)
- June 17 – Maxwell Perkins, literary editor (b. 1884)
- June 20 – Bugsy Siegel, gangster (b. 1906)
- June 22 – Jim Tully, vagabond, pugilist and writer (b. 1891)

July–December

- July 12 – Jimmie Lunceford, African-American jazz saxophonist and bandleader, of cardiac arrest (b. 1902)

- July 15
 - Walter Donaldson, songwriter (b. 1893)
 - Brandon Hurst, stage and screen actor (b. 1866)
- August 3 – Vic Willis, baseball player (Boston Braves) and member of MLB Hall of Fame (b. 1876)
- September 1 – Frederick Russell Burnham, father of the international Scouting movement (b. 1861)
- September 18 – Bert Kalmar, lyricist (b. 1884)
- September 20
 - Fiorello H. La Guardia, Mayor of New York (b. 1882)
 - Edward McCartan, sculptor (b. 1879)
- September 21 – Harry Carey, film actor (b. 1878)
- October 1
 - Olive Borden, actress (b. 1906)
 - James Gamble Rogers, architect (b. 1867)
- October 3 – Ernest L. Riebau, politician (b. 1895)
- October 17 – John Halliday, actor (b. 1880)
- October 29 – Frances Cleveland, First Lady, wife of President Grover Cleveland (b. 1864)
- November 3 – John Gilbert Winant, politician and diplomat, suicide (b. 1889)
- November 20 – Walter J. Mathews, California architect (b. 1850)
- November 28 – W. E. Lawrence, silent film actor (b. 1896)
- December 7 – Nicholas Murray Butler, polymath, president of Columbia University and recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize (b. 1862)

See also

- List of American films of 1947

References

1. "On This Day", *The New York Times*, retrieved 2016-08-24

External links

-  Media related to 1947 in the United States at Wikimedia Commons

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Categories: 1947 in the United States

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