

1948 in the United States

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Events from the year **1948 in the United States**.

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Incumbents

Federal Government

- President: Harry S. Truman (D–Missouri)
- Vice President: *vacant*
- Chief Justice: Fred M. Vinson (Kentucky)
- Speaker of the House of Representatives: Joseph William Martin, Jr. (R–Massachusetts)
- Senate Majority Leader: Wallace H. White, Jr. (R–Maine)
- Congress: 80th

Governors and Lieutenant Governors

Governors

- Governor of Alabama: Jim Folsom (Democratic)
- Governor of Arizona: Sidney Preston Osborn (Democratic) (until May 25), Dan Edward Garvey (Democratic) (starting May 25)
- Governor of Arkansas: Benjamin Travis Laney (Democratic)
- Governor of California: Earl Warren (Republican)
- Governor of Colorado: William Lee Knous (Democratic)
- Governor of Connecticut: James L. McConaughy (Republican) (until March 7), James C. Shannon (Republican) (starting March 7)
- Governor of Delaware: Walter W. Bacon (Republican)
- Governor of Florida: Millard F. Caldwell (Democratic)
- Governor of Georgia: Melvin E. Thompson (Democratic) (until November 17), Herman Talmadge (Democratic) (starting November 17)
- Governor of Idaho: C. A. Robins (Republican)
- Governor of Illinois: Dwight H. Green (Republican)
- Governor of Indiana: Ralph F. Gates (Republican)
- Governor of Iowa: Robert D. Blue (Republican)
- Governor of Kansas: Frank Carlson (Republican)
- Governor of Kentucky: Earle C. Clements (Democratic)
- Governor of Louisiana: Jimmie H. Davis (Democratic) (until May 11), Earl K. Long (Democratic) (starting May 11)
- Governor of Maine: Horace A. Hildreth (Republican)
- Governor of Maryland: William Preston Lane, Jr. (Democratic)
- Governor of Massachusetts: Robert F. Bradford (Republican)
- Governor of Michigan: Kim Sigler (Republican)
- Governor of Minnesota: Luther W. Youngdahl (Republican)
- Governor of Mississippi: Fielding L. Wright (Democratic)
- Governor of Missouri: Phil M. Donnelly (Democratic)
- Governor of Montana: Sam C. Ford (Republican)
- Governor of Nebraska: Val Peterson (Republican)
- Governor of Nevada: Vail M. Pittman (Democratic)
- Governor of New Hampshire: Charles M. Dale (Republican)
- Governor of New Jersey: Alfred E. Driscoll (Republican)
- Governor of New Mexico: Thomas J. Mabry (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: Thomas J. Herbert (Republican)
- Governor of Oklahoma: Roy J. Turner (Democratic)
- Governor of Oregon: John H. Hall (Republican)
- Governor of Pennsylvania: James H. Duff (Republican)
- Governor of Rhode Island: John Orlando Pastore (Democratic)
- Governor of South Carolina: Strom Thurmond (Democratic)
- Governor of South Dakota: George T. Mickelson (Republican)
- Governor of Tennessee: Jim Nance McCord (Democratic)
- Governor of Texas: Beauford H. Jester (Democratic)
- Governor of Utah: Herbert B. Maw (Democratic)
- Governor of Vermont: Ernest W. Gibson, Jr. (Republican)
- Governor of Virginia: William M. Tuck (Democratic)
- Governor of Washington: Monrad C. Wallgren (Democratic)
- Governor of West Virginia: Clarence W. Meadows (Democratic)
- Governor of Wisconsin: Oscar Rennebohm (Republican)
- Governor of Wyoming: Lester C. Hunt (Democratic)

Lieutenant Governors

- Lieutenant Governor of Alabama: James C. Inzer (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Arkansas: Nathan Green Gordon (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of California: Goodwin Knight (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Colorado: Homer L. Pearson (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Connecticut: James C. Shannon (Republican) (until month and day unknown), Robert E. Parsons (Republican) (starting month and day unknown)
- Lieutenant Governor of Delaware: Elbert N. Carvel (Democratic)

- Lieutenant Governor of Georgia: Melvin E. Thompson (Democratic) (until November 17), Marvin Griffin (Democratic) (starting November 17)
- Lieutenant Governor of Idaho: Donald S. Whitehead (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Illinois: Hugh W. Cross (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Indiana:
 - until January 10: Richard T. James (Republican)
 - January 10-April 14: vacant
 - starting April 14: Rue J. Alexander (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Iowa: Kenneth A. Evans (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Kansas: Frank L. Hagaman (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Kentucky: Lawrence Wetherby (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Louisiana: J. Emile Verret (Democratic) (until May 11), William J. Dodd (Democratic) (starting May 11)
- Lieutenant Governor of Massachusetts: Arthur W. Coolidge (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Michigan: Eugene C. Keyes (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Minnesota: C. Elmer Anderson (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Mississippi: vacant (until month and day unknown), Sam Lumpkin (Democratic) (starting month and day unknown)
- Lieutenant Governor of Missouri: Walter Naylor Davis (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Montana: Ernest T. Eaton (political party unknown)
- Lieutenant Governor of Nebraska: Robert B. Crosby (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Nevada: Clifford A. Jones (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of New Mexico: Joseph Montoya (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: Paul M. Herbert (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Oklahoma: James E. Berry (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Pennsylvania: Daniel B. Strickler (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Rhode Island: John S. McKiernan (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of South Carolina: George Bell Timmerman, Jr. (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of South Dakota: Sioux K. Grigsby (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Tennessee: George Oliver Benton (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Texas: Allan Shivers (Democratic)
- 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

- January 1 – The latest New Jersey State Constitution goes into effect.
- January 29 – Plane crash at Los Gatos Creek, California kills 4 US citizens and 28 deportees, commemorated in a song by Woody Guthrie.

February

- February 1 – The Soviet Union begins to jam Voice of America broadcasts.

- February 21 – The stock car racing organization NASCAR is founded by Bill France, Sr. with other drivers meeting at the Streamline Hotel, Daytona Beach, Florida.^[1]

March

- March 8 – *McCullum v. Board of Education*: The United States Supreme Court rules that religious instruction in public schools violates the U.S. Constitution.
- March 17 – The Hells Angels motorcycle gang is founded in California.
- March 20 – Renowned Italian conductor Arturo Toscanini makes his television debut, conducting the NBC Symphony Orchestra in an all-Wagner program.



April 30: OAS

April

- April 3
 - President Harry Truman signs the Marshall Plan, which authorizes \$15 billion in aid for 16 countries.^[2]
 - Ludwig van Beethoven's *Ninth Symphony* is played on television in its entirety for the first time, in a concert featuring Arturo Toscanini conducting the NBC Symphony Orchestra. The chorus is conducted by Robert Shaw.
- April 30 – 21 American countries sign the Charter of the Organization of American States establishing the Organization of American States (in effect December 1, 1951).

May

- May 14 – The United States recognizes Israel as a country.
- May 19 – Mundt-Nixon Bill of 1948 fails to pass U.S. Senate; Mundt–Ferguson Communist Registration Bill passes in 1950, many parts of which go into McCarran Internal Security Act also of 1950
- May 26 – The U.S. Congress passes *Public Law 557*, which permanently establishes the Civil Air Patrol as the auxiliary of the United States Air Force.
- May 30 – A dike along the Columbia River breaks, obliterating Vanport, Oregon within minutes: 15 people die and tens of thousands are left homeless.

June

- June 3 – The Palomar Observatory telescope is finished in California.
- June 11 – The first monkey astronaut, Albert I, is launched into space from White Sands, New Mexico.
- June 12
 - MCWR renamed Women Marines.
 - Women in the Air Force (WAF) created.
- June 17 – A Douglas DC-6 carrying United Air Lines Flight 624 crashes near Mount Carmel, Pennsylvania, killing all 43 people on board.

- June 20 – The U.S. Congress recesses for the remainder of 1948, after an overtime session closes at 7:00 a.m. D.C. time (to be shortly interrupted by Truman's recall from Congressional recess for July 20, 1948).
- June 24 – The Berlin Blockade begins; in response, the U.S. orders the launch of Operation Vittles, the U.S. action of the Berlin Airlift.
- June 28 – David Lean's *Oliver Twist*, based on Charles Dickens's famous novel, premieres in the UK. It is banned for 3 years in the U.S. because of alleged anti-Semitism in depicting master criminal Fagin, played by Alec Guinness.



June 24: Berlin Airlift

July

- July 20 – Cold War: President Harry S. Truman issues the second peacetime military draft in the United States, amid increasing tensions with the Soviet Union (the first peacetime draft occurred in 1940 under President Roosevelt).
- July 26
 - U.S. President Truman signs *Executive Order 9981*, ending racial segregation in the United States Armed Forces.
 - Turnip Day Session - Truman exhorts 80th United States Congress to pass legislation
- July 31
 - At Idlewild Field in New York City, New York International Airport (later renamed John F. Kennedy International Airport) is dedicated.
 - Elizabeth Bentley testifies before HUAC

August

- August 1 – The U.S. Air Force Office of Special Investigations is founded.
- August 3 – In an appearance before the House Committee on Un-American Activities (HUAC), Whittaker Chambers, a senior editor at *Time* magazine and a former Communist, accuses Alger Hiss of having been a member of "an underground organization of the United States Communist Party".
- August 25 – The House Un-American Activities Committee holds its first-ever televised congressional hearing, featuring "Confrontation Day" between Whittaker Chambers and Alger Hiss.



August 3: Alger Hiss is accused of being a Communist

September

- September 29 – Laurence Olivier's *Hamlet* opens in the United States.

October

- October 1 – National Guard Bureau made a Bureau of the Depart. of the Army and an Agency of the Dept. of the Air Force.
- October 11 – The Cleveland Indians defeat the Boston Braves to win the World Series, 4 games to 2.
- October 16 – The 57th Street Art Fair, the oldest juried art fair in the American Midwest, is founded.
- October 26 – Killer smog settles into Donora, Pennsylvania.

November

- November 2 – United States presidential election, 1948: Democratic incumbent Harry S. Truman defeats Republican Thomas E. Dewey and 'Dixiecrat' Strom Thurmond.

December

- December 10 – The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) is adopted by the United Nations General Assembly at the Palais de Chaillot in Paris.
- December 15 – The United States Department of Justice indicts Alger Hiss on two counts of perjury.

Undated

- The Fresh Kills Landfill, the world's largest, opens in Staten Island, New York.
- The first of the Kinsey Reports, *Sexual Behavior in the Human Male*, is published.
- Charles Lazarus starts Children's Supermart, the predecessor of Toys "R" Us, in Washington, D.C. as a baby-furniture retailer.
- The Rhode Island Highlanders Pipe Band is founded.

Ongoing

- Cold War (1945–1991)
- Second Red Scare (1947–1957)
- Marshall Plan (1948–1951)

Births

- January 23 – Anita Pointer, singer-songwriter (The Pointer Sisters)
- January 24 – Elliott Abrams, attorney and conservative policy analyst.
- February 4 – Rod Grams, United States Senator from Minnesota from 1995 till 2001. (d. 2013)
- February 7 – Jimmy Greenspoon, singer-songwriter and keyboard player (Three Dog Night) (d. 2015)
- February 15 – Ron Cey, baseball player and sportscaster
- March 5 - Leslie Marmon Silko, Native American Author
- March 11 – Kent Conrad, United States Senator from North Dakota from 1987 till 2013.
- March 14 – Tom Coburn, United States Senator from Oklahoma from 2005 till 2015.
- March 31 – Al Gore, 45th Vice President of the United States from 1993 till 2001.
- May 8 – Steve Braun, baseball player and coach
- May 18 – Tom Udall, United States Senator from New Mexico since 2009.
- June 2 – Jack Pierce, baseball player and coach (d. 2012)
- June 23 – Clarence Thomas, Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States since 1991.
- August 19 – Tipper Gore, wife of Al Gore, Second Lady of the United States
- September 20 – George R. R. Martin, novelist and short-story writer

- October 22 – Lynette Fromme, would-be assassin of President Gerald Ford
- November 12 – Cliff Harris, American football player
- December 6 – Don Nickles, United States Senator from Oklahoma from 1981 till 2005.
- December 12 – David K. Karnes, United States Senator from Nebraska from 1987 till 1988.
- December 13 – Ted Nugent, musician, singer, songwriter, and political activist
- December 21 – Samuel L. Jackson, actor and producer

Deaths

- January 30 – Orville Wright, pioneer aviator (born 1871)
- July 5 – Carole Landis, American actress (born 1919)
- July 11 – Franz Weidenreich, German-born American anatomist (born 1873)
- August 16 – Babe Ruth, baseball player (born 1895)
- August 17 – Mariette Rheiner Garner, wife of John Nance Garner, Second Lady of the United States (born 1869)
- June 9 – Edith Roosevelt, wife of Theodore Roosevelt, First Lady of the United States, Second Lady of the United States (born 1861)

See also

- List of American films of 1948

References

1. "History of NASCAR". NASCAR. 2010-08-17. Retrieved 2017-02-25.
2. "On This Day", *New York Times*, retrieved 24 August 2016

External links

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