

1954 in the United States

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Events from the year **1954 in the United States**.

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Incumbents

Federal Government

- President: Dwight D. Eisenhower (R-Kansas/New York)
- Vice President: Richard Nixon (R-California)
- Chief Justice: Earl Warren (California)
- Speaker of the House of Representatives: Joseph William Martin, Jr. (R-Massachusetts)
- Senate Majority Leader: William F. Knowland (R-California)
- Congress: 83rd

Governors and Lieutenant Governors

Governors

- Governor of Alabama: Gordon Persons (Democratic)
- Governor of Arizona: John Howard Pyle (Republican)
- Governor of Arkansas: Francis Cherry (Democratic)
- Governor of California: Goodwin Knight (Republican)
- Governor of Colorado: Daniel I. J. Thornton (Republican)
- Governor of Connecticut: John Davis Lodge (Republican)
- Governor of Delaware: J. Caleb Boggs (Republican)
- Governor of Florida: Charley Eugene Johns (Democratic)
- Governor of Georgia: Herman Talmadge (Democratic)
- Governor of Idaho: Leonard B. Jordan (Republican)
- Governor of Illinois: William G. Stratton (Democratic)
- Governor of Indiana: George N. Craig (Republican)
- Governor of Iowa:
 - until November 21: William S. Beardsley (Republican)
 - November 21-November 22: vacant
 - starting November 22: Leo Elthon (Republican)
- Governor of Kansas: Edward F. Arn (Republican)
- Governor of Kentucky: Lawrence W. Wetherby (Democratic)
- Governor of Louisiana: Robert F. Kennon (Democratic)
- Governor of Maine: Burton M. Cross (Republican)
- Governor of Maryland: Theodore R. McKeldin (Republican)
- Governor of Massachusetts: Christian A. Herter (Republican)
- Governor of Michigan: G. Mennen Williams (Democratic)
- Governor of Minnesota: C. Elmer Anderson (Republican)
- Governor of Mississippi: Hugh L. White (Democratic)
- Governor of Missouri: Phil M. Donnelly (Democratic)
- Governor of Montana: J. Hugo Aronson (Republican)
- Governor of Nebraska: Robert B. Crosby (Republican)
- Governor of Nevada: Charles H. Russell (Republican)
- Governor of New Hampshire: Hugh Gregg (Republican)
- Governor of New Jersey: Alfred E. Driscoll (Republican) (until January 19), Robert B. Meyner (Democratic) (starting January 19)
- Governor of New Mexico: Edwin L. Mechem (Republican)
- Governor of New York: Thomas Dewey (Republican) (until end of December 31)
- Governor of North Carolina: William B. Umstead (Democratic) (until November 7), Luther H. Hodges (Democratic) (starting November 7)
- Governor of North Dakota: Clarence Norman Brunsdale (Republican)
- Governor of Ohio: Frank J. Lausche (Democratic)
- Governor of Oklahoma: Johnston Murray (Democratic)
- Governor of Oregon: Paul L. Patterson (Republican)
- Governor of Pennsylvania: John S. Fine (Republican)
- Governor of Rhode Island: Dennis J. Roberts (Democratic)
- Governor of South Carolina: James Francis Byrnes (Democratic)
- Governor of South Dakota: Sigurd Anderson (Republican)
- Governor of Tennessee: Frank G. Clement (Democratic)
- Governor of Texas: Allan Shivers (Democratic)
- Governor of Utah: J. Bracken Lee (Republican)
- Governor of Vermont: Lee E. Emerson (Republican)
- Governor of Virginia: John S. Battle (Democratic) (until January 20), Thomas Bahnson Stanley (Democratic) (starting January 20)
- Governor of Washington: Arthur B. Langlie (Republican)
- Governor of West Virginia: William C. Marland (Democratic)
- Governor of Wisconsin: Walter J. Kohler, Jr. (Republican)
- Governor of Wyoming: Clifford Joy Rogers (Republican)

Lieutenant Governors

- Lieutenant Governor of Alabama: James B. Allen (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Arkansas: Nathan Green Gordon (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of California: Harold J. Powers (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Colorado: Gordon L. Allott (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Connecticut: Edward N. Allen (Republican)

- Lieutenant Governor of Delaware: John W. Rollins (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Georgia: Marvin Griffin (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Idaho: Edson H. Deal (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Illinois: John William Chapman (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Indiana: Harold W. Handley (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Iowa: Leo Elthon (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Kansas: Fred Hall (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Kentucky: Emerson Beauchamp (political party unknown)
- Lieutenant Governor of Louisiana: C. E. "Cap" Barham (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Massachusetts: Sumner G. Whittier (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Michigan: Clarence A. Reid (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Minnesota: vacant (until month and day unknown), Donald O. Wright (Republican) (starting month and day unknown)
- Lieutenant Governor of Mississippi: Carroll Gartin (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Missouri: James T. Blair, Jr. (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Montana: George M. Gosman (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Nebraska: Charles J. Warner (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Nevada: Clifford A. Jones (Democratic) (until December), vacant (starting December)
- Lieutenant Governor of New Mexico: Tibo J. Chavez (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of New York: vacant
- Lieutenant Governor of North Carolina: Luther H. Hodges (Democratic) (until November 7), vacant (starting November 7)
- Lieutenant Governor of North Dakota: Clarence P. Dahl (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Ohio: John William Brown (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Oklahoma: James E. Berry (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Pennsylvania: Lloyd H. Wood (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: Rex A. Terry (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Tennessee: Jared Maddux (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Texas: Ben Ramsey (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Vermont: Joseph B. Johnson (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Virginia: Allie Edward Stokes Stephens (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Washington: Emmett T. Anderson (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Wisconsin: George M. Smith (Republican)

Events

January

- January 14 – Marilyn Monroe marries baseball player Joe DiMaggio.
- January 20
 - The U.S.-based National Negro Network is established with 40 charter member radio stations.
 - Rogers Pass, Montana records the coldest temperature in the contiguous United States of $-70\text{ }^{\circ}\text{F}$ ($-56.7\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$).
- January 21 – The first nuclear-powered submarine, the USS *Nautilus*, is launched in Groton, Connecticut, by First Lady of the United States Mamie Eisenhower.
- January 25 – The foreign ministers of the United States, Britain, France and the Soviet Union meet at the Berlin Conference.



January 21: USS *Nautilus*, the first nuclear-powered submarine

February

- February 10 – After authorizing \$385 million over the \$400 million already budgeted for military aid to Vietnam, U.S. President Dwight Eisenhower warns against United States intervention in Vietnam.
- February 23 – The first mass vaccination of children against polio begins in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, United States.

March

- March 1 – U.S. officials announce that a hydrogen bomb test has been conducted on Bikini Atoll in the Pacific Ocean.
- March 1 – U.S. Capitol shooting incident: Four Puerto Rican nationalists open fire in the United States House of Representatives chamber and wound 5; they are apprehended by security guards.
- March 9 – American journalists Edward Murrow and Fred W. Friendly produce a 30-minute *See It Now* documentary, entitled *A Report on Senator Joseph McCarthy*.
- March 16 – The Army–McCarthy hearings are convened.
- March 19 – Joey Giardello knocks out Willie Tora at Madison Square Garden, in the first televised boxing prize fight to be shown in color.
- March 25 – The 26th Academy Awards ceremony is held.
- March 28 – Puerto Rico's first television station, *WKAQ-TV*, goes on the air.

April

- April 1 – President Dwight D. Eisenhower authorizes the creation of the United States Air Force Academy in Colorado
- April 7 – Dwight D. Eisenhower gives his "domino theory" speech during a news conference.
- April 16 – Vice President Richard Nixon announces that the United States may be “putting our own boys in Indochina regardless of Allied support.”
- April 22 – Senator Joseph McCarthy begins hearings investigating the United States Army for being "soft" on Communism.

May

- May 14 – The Boeing 707 is released after about two years of development.
- May 17 – *Brown v. Board of Education* (347 US 483 1954): The United States Supreme Court rules that segregated schools are unconstitutional.^[1]

June

- June 9 – McCarthyism: Joseph Welch, special counsel for the United States Army, lashes out at Senator Joseph McCarthy, during hearings on whether Communism has infiltrated the Army, saying, 'Have you, at long last, no decency?'.^[1]
- June 14 – The words "under God" are added to the United States Pledge of Allegiance.
- June 17 – A CIA-engineered military coup occurs in Guatemala.
- June 27 – Guatemalan President Jacobo Arbenz Guzmán steps down in a CIA-sponsored military coup, triggering a bloody civil war that continues for more than 35 years.

July

- July 1 – The United States officially begins using the international unit of the nautical mile, equal to 6,076.11549 ft. or 1,852 meters.
- July 15 – The maiden flight of the Boeing 367-80 (or Dash 80), a prototype of the Boeing 707 series.
- July 19 – Release of Elvis Presley's first single, "That's All Right", by Sun Records (recorded July 5 in Memphis, Tennessee).

August

- August 16 – The first issue of *Sports Illustrated* magazine is published in the United States.

September

- September 3 – The last new episode of *The Lone Ranger* is aired on radio, after 2,956 episodes over a period of 21 years.
- September 11 – The Miss America Pageant is broadcast on television for the first time.
- September 30 – The USS *Nautilus*, the first nuclear-powered submarine, is commissioned by the US Navy.

October

- October 15 – Hurricane Hazel makes U.S. landfall; it is the only recorded Category 4 hurricane to strike as far north as North Carolina.
- October 18 – Texas Instruments announces the development of the first transistor radio.

November

- November 10 – U.S. President Dwight D. Eisenhower dedicates the USMC War Memorial (Iwo Jima memorial) in Arlington National Cemetery.
- November 12 – The main immigration port-of-entry in New York Harbor at Ellis Island closes.
- November 23 – The Dow Jones Industrial Average rises 3.27 points, or 0.86%, closing at an all-time high of 382.74. More significantly, this is the first time the Dow has surpassed its peak level reached just before the Wall Street Crash of 1929.
- November 30 – In Sylacauga, Alabama, a 4 kg piece of the Hodges Meteorite crashes through the roof of a house and badly bruises a napping woman, in the first documented case of an object from outer space hitting a person.

December

- December 1 – The first Hyatt Hotel, The Hyatt House Los Angeles, opens. It is the first hotel in the world built outside of an airport.
- December 2
 - Red Scare: The United States Senate votes 67–22 to condemn Joseph McCarthy for "conduct that tends to bring the Senate into dishonor and disrepute."^[1]
 - The Sino-American Mutual Defense Treaty between the United States and Republic of China is signed.^[2]
- December 4 – The first Burger King opens in Miami, Florida, USA.
- December 23 – The first successful kidney transplant is performed by Joseph E. Murray, MD in Boston from one identical twin to his brother. Murray would later share the 1990 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine for his "[discovery] concerning organ and cell transplantation in the treatment of human disease".^[3]

Undated

- Gerbils (*Meriones unguiculatus*) are brought to the United States by Dr. Victor Schwentker.
- New York City Ballet co-founder and balletmaster George Balanchine's production of *The Nutcracker* is staged for the first time in New York, becoming an annual tradition there, still being performed as of 2008.
- The Boy Scouts of America desegregates on the basis of race.
- The TV dinner is introduced by the American entrepreneur Gerry Thomas.

Ongoing

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

Births

- April 23 – Michael Moore, filmmaker, writer, social critic, and activist.

January

- January 1 – Bob Menendez, United States Senator from New Jersey since 2006.
- January 23 – Richard Finch, bass player, songwriter, and producer (KC and the Sunshine Band)
- January 29 – Bill Evers, baseball player, coach, and manager

February

- February 15 – Matt Groening, author, cartoonist, producer and screenwriter
- February 16 – Margaux Hemingway, fashion model, actress, and sister of Mariel Hemingway (d. 1996)

March

April

- April 10 – Peter MacNicol, actor.

May

- May 8 – Pam Arciero, puppeteer and voice actress
- May 12 – Rafael Yglesias, novelist and screenwriter
- May 21 – Janice Karman, film producer, record producer, singer, voice artist and wife of Ross Bagdasarian, Jr.
- May 29 – Jerry Moran, United States Senator from Kansas since 2011.

June

- June 25 – Sonia Sotomayor, Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States since 2009.

July

- July 25 – Walter Payton, football running back who played for the Chicago Bears (d. 1999)

August

September

- September 6 – Carly Fiorina, businesswoman, CEO of Hewlett-Packard

October

- October 3 – Joe Gates, American baseball player and coach (d. 2010)

November

- November 14
 - Anson Funderburgh, guitarist and bandleader
 - Condoleezza Rice, first female African-American Secretary of State, in office from 2005-2009

December

- December 2 – Stone Phillips, journalist and educator
- December 10 – Gavin Smith, businessman (d. 2012)
- December 15 – Mark Warner, United States Senator from Virginia since 2009.

Deaths

- January 5 – Rabbit Maranville, baseball player (b. 1891)
- February 6 – Maxwell Bodenheim, poet and novelist, murdered (b. 1892)
- Jeremiah Dublanc, Philadelphia businessman

See also

- List of American films of 1954

References

1. "On This Day", *New York Times*, retrieved 25 August 2016
2. s:Mutual Defense Treaty between the United States of America and the Republic of China
3. Dente, Christopher J. (March 2005). "Joseph E. Murray (1919–)". *Archives of Surgery*. American Medical Association.

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