

1971 in the United States

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Events from the year **1971 in the United States**.

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Incumbents

Federal Government

- President: Richard Nixon (R-California)
- Vice President: Spiro Agnew (R-Maryland)
- Chief Justice: Warren E. Burger (Minnesota)
- Speaker of the House of Representatives: John William McCormack (D-Massachusetts) (until January 3), Carl Albert (D-Oklahoma) (starting January 21)
- Senate Majority Leader: Mike Mansfield (D-Montana)
- Congress: 91st (until January 3), 92nd (starting January 3)

Governors and Lieutenant Governors

Governors

- Governor of Alabama: Albert Brewer (Democratic) (until January 18), George Wallace (Democratic) (starting January 18)
- Governor of Alaska: William A. Egan (Democratic)
- Governor of Arizona: Jack Richard Williams (Republican)
- Governor of Arkansas: Winthrop Rockefeller (Republican) (until January 12), Dale Bumpers (Democratic) (starting January 12)
- Governor of California: Ronald Reagan (Republican)
- Governor of Colorado: John Arthur Love (Republican)
- Governor of Connecticut: John N. Dempsey (Democratic) (until January 6), Thomas J. Meskill (Republican) (starting January 6)
- Governor of Delaware: Russell W. Peterson (Republican)
- Governor of Florida: Claude R. Kirk, Jr. (Republican) (until January 5), Reubin Askew (Democratic) (starting January 5)
- Governor of Georgia: Lester Maddox (Democratic) (until January 12), Jimmy Carter (Democratic) (starting January 12)
- Governor of Hawaii: John A. Burns (Democratic)
- Governor of Idaho: Don Samuelson (Republican) (until January 4), Cecil D. Andrus (Democratic) (starting January 4)
- Governor of Illinois: Richard B. Ogilvie (Republican)
- Governor of Indiana: Edgar Whitcomb (Republican)
- Governor of Iowa: Robert D. Ray (Republican)
- Governor of Kansas: Robert Docking (Democratic)
- Governor of Kentucky: Louie B. Nunn (Republican) (until December 7), Wendell H. Ford (Democratic) (starting December 7)
- Governor of Louisiana: John J. McKeithen (Democratic)
- Governor of Maine: Kenneth M. Curtis (Democratic)
- Governor of Maryland: Marvin Mandel (Democratic)
- Governor of Massachusetts: Francis W. Sargent (Republican)
- Governor of Michigan: William Milliken (Republican)
- Governor of Minnesota: Harold LeVander (Republican) (until January 4), Wendell R. Anderson (Democratic) (starting January 4)
- Governor of Mississippi: John Bell Williams (Democratic)
- Governor of Missouri: Warren E. Hearnes (Democratic)
- Governor of Montana: Forrest H. Anderson (Democratic)
- Governor of Nebraska: Norbert T. Tiemann (Republican) (until January 7), J. James Exon (Democratic) (starting January 7)
- Governor of Nevada: Paul Laxalt (Republican) (until January 4), Mike O'Callaghan (Democratic) (starting January 4)
- Governor of New Hampshire: Walter R. Peterson, Jr. (Republican)
- Governor of New Jersey: William T. Cahill (Republican)
- Governor of New Mexico: David F. Cargo (Republican) (until January 1), Bruce King (Democratic) (starting January 1)
- Governor of New York: Nelson Rockefeller (Republican)
- Governor of North Carolina: Robert W. Scott (Democratic)
- Governor of North Dakota: William L. Guy (Democratic)
- Governor of Ohio: Jim Rhodes (Republican) (until January 11), John J. Gilligan (Democratic) (starting January 11)
- Governor of Oklahoma: Dewey F. Bartlett (Republican) (until January 11), David Hall (Democratic) (starting January 11)
- Governor of Oregon: Tom McCall (Republican)

- Governor of Pennsylvania: Raymond P. Shafer (Republican) (until January 19), Milton Shapp (Democratic) (starting January 19)
- Governor of Rhode Island: Frank Licht (Democratic)
- Governor of South Carolina: Robert Evander McNair (Democratic) (until January 19), John C. West (Democratic) (starting January 19)
- Governor of South Dakota: Frank Farrar (Republican) (until January 5), Richard F. Kneip (Democratic) (starting January 5)
- Governor of Tennessee: Buford Ellington (Democratic) (until January 16), Winfield Dunn (Republican) (starting January 16)
- Governor of Texas: Preston Smith (Democratic)
- Governor of Utah: Calvin L. Rampton (Democratic)
- Governor of Vermont: Deane C. Davis (Republican)
- Governor of Virginia: A. Linwood Holton, Jr. (Republican)
- Governor of Washington: Daniel J. Evans (Republican)
- Governor of West Virginia: Arch A. Moore, Jr. (Republican)
- Governor of Wisconsin: Warren P. Knowles (Republican) (until January 4), Patrick J. Lucey (Democratic) (starting January 4)
- Governor of Wyoming: Stanley K. Hathaway (Republican)

Lieutenant Governors

- Lieutenant Governor of Alabama: vacant (until January 18), Jere Beasley (Democratic) (starting January 18)
- Lieutenant Governor of Alaska: H. A. Boucher (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Arkansas: Maurice Britt (Republican) (until January 12), Bob C. Riley (Democratic) (starting January 12)
- Lieutenant Governor of California: Edwin Reinecke (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Colorado: Mark Anthony Hogan (Democratic) (until January 12), John David Vanderhoof (Republican) (starting January 12)
- Lieutenant Governor of Connecticut: Attilio R. Frassinelli (Democratic) (until January 6), T. Clark Hull (Republican) (starting January 6)
- Lieutenant Governor of Delaware: Eugene Bookhammer (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Florida: Ray C. Osborne (Republican) (until January 5), Thomas Burton Adams, Jr. (Democratic) (starting January 5)
- Lieutenant Governor of Georgia: George T. Smith (Democratic) (until January 12), Lester Maddox (Democratic) (starting January 12)
- Lieutenant Governor of Hawaii: George Ariyoshi (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Idaho: Jack M. Murphy (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Illinois: Paul Simon (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Indiana: Richard E. Folz (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Iowa: Roger Jepsen (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Kansas: James H. DeCoursey, Jr. (Democratic) (until January 11), Reynolds Shultz (Republican) (starting January 11)
- Lieutenant Governor of Kentucky: Wendell H. Ford (Democratic) (until December 28), Julian Carroll (Democratic) (starting December 28)
- Lieutenant Governor of Louisiana: C. C. Aycok (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Maryland: vacant (until January 20), Blair Lee III (political party unknown) (starting January 20)
- Lieutenant Governor of Massachusetts: Francis W. Sargent (Republican) (until month and day unknown), Donald R. Dwight (Republican) (starting month and day unknown)
- Lieutenant Governor of Michigan: vacant (until month and day unknown), James H. Brickley (Republican) (starting month and day unknown)

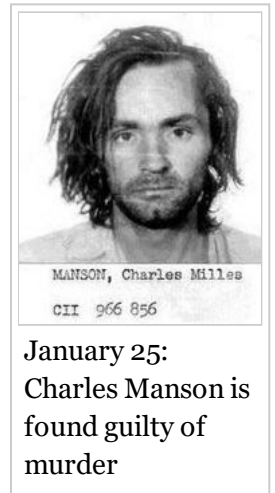
- Lieutenant Governor of Minnesota: James B. Goetz (Republican) (until month and day unknown), Rudy Perpich (Democratic) (starting month and day unknown)
- Lieutenant Governor of Mississippi: Charles L. Sullivan (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Missouri: William S. Morris (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Montana: Thomas Lee Judge (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Nebraska: John E. Everroad (Republican) (until month and day unknown), Frank Marsh (Republican) (starting month and day unknown)
- Lieutenant Governor of Nevada: Edward Fike (political party unknown) (until January), Harry Reid (Democratic) (starting January)
- Lieutenant Governor of New Mexico: Elias Lee Francis II (Republican) (until January 1), Roberto Mondragón (Democratic) (starting January 1)
- Lieutenant Governor of New York: Malcolm Wilson (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of North Carolina: Hoyt Patrick Taylor, Jr. (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of North Dakota: Richard F. Larsen (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Ohio: John William Brown (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Oklahoma: George Nigh (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Pennsylvania: Raymond J. Broderick (Republican) (until January 19), Ernest P. Kline (Democratic) (starting January 19)
- Lieutenant Governor of Rhode Island: J. Joseph Garrahy (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of South Carolina: John C. West (Democratic) (until January 19), Earle Morris, Jr. (Democratic) (starting January 19)
- Lieutenant Governor of South Dakota: James Abdnor (Republican) (until January 5), William Dougherty (Democratic) (starting January 5)
- Lieutenant Governor of Tennessee: Frank Gorrell (Democratic) (until January 7), John S. Wilder (Democratic) (starting January 7)
- Lieutenant Governor of Texas: Ben Barnes (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Vermont: Thomas L. Hayes (Republican) (until month and day unknown), John S. Burgess (Republican) (starting month and day unknown)
- Lieutenant Governor of Virginia:
 - until June 13: J. Sargeant Reynolds (Democratic)
 - June 13-December 4: vacant
 - starting December 4: Henry Howell (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Washington: John Cherberg (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Wisconsin: Jack B. Olson (Republican) (until January 4), Martin J. Schreiber (Democratic) (starting January 4)

Events

January

- January 1 – The Uniform Monday Holiday Act takes effect: Washington's Birthday and several other Federal holidays are always observed on certain Mondays, resulting in more three-day weekends for federal employees.
- January 2 – A ban on radio and television cigarette advertisements goes into effect in the United States.^[1]
- January 12 – The landmark television sitcom *All in the Family*, starring Carroll O'Connor as Archie Bunker, debuts on CBS.
- January 17 – Super Bowl V: The Baltimore Colts defeat the Dallas Cowboys 16–13 at the Orange Bowl in Miami, Florida.

- January 25 – In Los Angeles, Charles Manson and three female "Family" members are found guilty of the 1969 Tate-LaBianca murders.
- January 31 – Apollo program: *Apollo 14* (carrying astronauts Alan Shepard, Stuart Roosa, and Edgar Mitchell) lifts off on the third successful lunar landing mission.



February

- February 9 – The 6.5–6.7 Mw Sylmar earthquake hits the Greater Los Angeles Area with a maximum Mercalli intensity of XI (*Extreme*), killing 64 and injuring 2,000.
 - Apollo program: *Apollo 14* returns to Earth after the third manned Moon landing.
 - Satchel Paige becomes the first Negro League player to become voted into the Baseball Hall of Fame.
- February 11 – The US, UK, USSR and others sign the Seabed Treaty, outlawing nuclear weapons on the ocean floor.
- February 20
 - Fifty tornadoes rage in Mississippi, killing 74.
 - The U.S. Emergency Broadcast System sends an erroneous warning; many radio stations just ignore it.

March

- March 1 – A bomb explodes in the men's room at the United States Capitol; the Weather Underground Organization claims responsibility.^[2]
- March 8 – Boxer Joe Frazier defeats Muhammad Ali at Madison Square Garden.
- March 29
 - U.S. Army Lieutenant William Calley is found guilty of 22 murders in the My Lai massacre and sentenced to life in prison (later pardoned).
 - A Los Angeles, California, jury recommends the death penalty for Charles Manson and 3 female followers.

April

- April 9 – Charles Manson is sentenced to death; in 1972, the sentence for all California Death Row inmates is commuted to life imprisonment.
- April 10 – Veterans Stadium in Philadelphia opens.
- April 20 – *Swann v. Charlotte-Mecklenburg Board of Education*: The Supreme Court of the United States rules unanimously that busing of students may be ordered to achieve racial desegregation.
- April 24 – Five hundred thousand people in Washington, DC and 125,000 in San Francisco march in protest against the Vietnam War.^[2]

May

- May 1 – Amtrak begins inter-city rail passenger service in the United States.
- May 3 – A Harris Poll claims that 60% of Americans are against the Vietnam War.
 - Anti-war militants attempt to disrupt government business in Washington, D.C.; police and military units arrest as many as 12,000, most of whom are later released.

- May 5 – The US dollar floods the European currency markets and threatens especially the Deutsche Mark; the central banks of Austria, Belgium, Netherlands and Switzerland stop the currency trading.
- May 9 – Mariner 8 fails to launch.
- May 29 – Al Unser wins the Indianapolis 500 in the *Vel's Parnelli Jones Special* Colt-Ford.
- May 30 – Mariner program: *Mariner 9* is launched toward Mars.

June

- June – Massachusetts passes its Chapter 766 laws enacting Special Education.
- June 1 – Vietnam War: Vietnam Veterans for a Just Peace, claiming to represent the majority of U.S. veterans who served in Southeast Asia, speak against war protests.
- June 6 – A midair collision between Hughes Airwest Flight 706 Douglas DC-9 jetliner and a U.S. Marine Corps McDonnell Douglas F-4 Phantom jet fighter near Duarte, California, claims 50 lives.
- June 10 – The U.S. ends its trade embargo of China.
- June 13 – Vietnam War: The *New York Times* begins to publish the Pentagon Papers.^{[3][4]}
- June 17 – Representatives of Japan and the United States sign the Okinawa Reversion Agreement, whereby the U.S. will return control of Okinawa.^[5]
- June 18 – Southwest Airlines, the most successful low cost carrier in history, begins its first flights between Dallas, Houston, And San Antonio.
- June 25 – Madagascar accuses the U.S. of being connected to the plot to oust the current government; the U.S. recalls its ambassador.
- June 27 – Concert promoter Bill Graham closes the legendary Fillmore East, which first opened on 2nd Avenue (between 5th and 6th Streets) in New York City on March 8, 1968.
- June 28 – Assassin Jerome A. Johnson shoots Joe Colombo in the head in a middle of an Italian-American rally, putting him in a coma.
- June 30 – *New York Times Co. v. United States*: The U.S. Supreme Court rules that the Pentagon Papers may be published, rejecting government injunctions as unconstitutional prior restraint.

July

- July 1 – The Postal Reorganization Act goes into effect replacing the Cabinet-level Post Office Department with the United States Postal Service.
- July 3 – Jim Morrison, lead singer and lyricist of The Doors, is found dead in his bathtub in Paris, France.
- July 5 – Right to vote: The 26th Amendment to the United States Constitution, formally certified by President Richard Nixon, lowers the voting age from 21 to 18.
- July 19 – The South Tower of the World Trade Center is topped out at 1,362 feet (415 m), making it the second tallest building in the world.
- July 26 – *Apollo 15* (carrying astronauts David Scott, Alfred Worden, and James Irwin) is launched.
- July 31 – *Apollo 15* astronauts David Scott and James Irwin become the first to ride in a lunar rover, a day after landing on the Moon.



July 26–August 7:
Apollo 15

August

- August – the unemployment rate peaks at 6.1%.
- August 1 – In New York City, 40,000 attend the Concert for Bangladesh.
- August 7 – *Apollo 15* returns to Earth.

- August 11 – Construction begins on the Louisiana Superdome in New Orleans.
- August 15 – President Richard Nixon announces that the United States will no longer convert dollars to gold at a fixed value, effectively ending the Bretton Woods system. He also imposes a 90-day freeze on wages, prices and rents.
- August 20 – The USS Manatee (AO-58) spills 1,000 US gallons (3,800 L) of fuel oil on President Nixon's Western White House beach in San Clemente, California.

September

- September 4 – A Boeing 727 (Alaska Airlines Flight 1866) crashes into the side of a mountain near Juneau, Alaska, killing all 111 people on board.
- September 8 – In Washington, DC, the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts is inaugurated, with the opening feature being the premiere of Leonard Bernstein's *Mass*.
- September 9 – September 13 – Attica Prison riots: – A revolt breaks out at the maximum-security prison in Attica, New York. In the end, state police and the United States National Guard storm the facility; 42 are killed, 10 of them hostages.^[6]
- September 22 – Ernest Medina is cleared of all charges connected with the Mylai massacre
- September 28 – Cardinal József Mindszenty, who has taken refuge in the U.S. Embassy in Budapest since 1956, is allowed to leave Hungary.

October

- October 1 – Walt Disney World opens in Orlando, Florida
- October 18 – In New York City, the Knapp Commission begins public hearings on police corruption.
- October 21 – U.S. President Richard Nixon nominates Lewis Franklin Powell, Jr. and William H. Rehnquist to the U.S. Supreme Court.
- October 29 – Vietnam War – Vietnamization: The total number of American troops still in Vietnam drops to a record low of 196,700 (the lowest since January 1966).

November

- November 6 – Operation Grommet: The U.S. tests a thermonuclear warhead at Amchitka Island in Alaska, code-named Project Cannikin. At around 5 megatons, it is the largest ever U.S. underground detonation.
- November 12 – Vietnam War – Vietnamization: U.S. President Richard M. Nixon sets February 1, 1972, as the deadline for the removal of another 45,000 American troops from Vietnam.
- November 13 – Mariner program: *Mariner 9* becomes the first spacecraft to enter Mars orbit successfully.
- November 15 – Intel releases the world's first commercially available microprocessor, the Intel 4004.
- November 24 – During a severe thunderstorm over Washington, a man calling himself D. B. Cooper parachutes from the Northwest Orient Airlines plane he hijacked, with US\$200,000 in ransom money, and is never seen again.



November 15: The Intel 4004, the first commercially available microprocessor, is released

December

- December 8 – U.S. President Richard Nixon orders the 7th Fleet to move towards the Bay of Bengal in the Indian Ocean.

- December 10 – The John Sinclair Freedom Rally in support of the imprisoned activist features a performance by John Lennon at Crisler Arena, Ann Arbor, MI.
- December 11 – The Libertarian Party (United States) is established.
 - An explosion in a water tunnel beneath Lake Huron in Port Huron, Michigan, kills 22.
- December 18 – The U.S. dollar is devalued for the second time in history.
- December 25 – In the longest game in NFL history, the Miami Dolphins beat the Kansas City Chiefs.

Undated

- Crude oil production peaks in the continental United States at approximately 4.5 million barrels per day (720,000 m³/d).

Ongoing

- Cold War (1945–1991)
- Space Race (1957–1975)
- Vietnam War, U.S. involvement (1962–1973)
- Détente (c. 1969–1979)

Births

January

- January 7 – Jeremy Renner, actor
- January 8 – Jason Giambi, American baseball player
- January 11 – Mary J. Blige, singer
- January 15 – Regina King, actress
- January 20
 - Brian Giles, baseball player
 - Derrick Green, singer-songwriter
- January 19 – Shawn Wayans, actor, writer, and producer
- January 23 – Kevin Mawae, American football player and coach
- January 24 – Kenya Moore, actress and model

February

- February 1
 - Michael C. Hall, actor
 - Jill Kelly, pornographic actress
 - Hynden Walch, actress
- February 4 – Michael A. Goorjian, actor, director, producer, and screenwriter
- February 10 – Lisa Marie Varon, wrestler
- February 13 – Matt Berninger, American singer-songwriter
- February 14 – Tommy Dreamer, wrestler
- February 17 – Denise Richards, actress
- February 25 – Sean Astin, actor

March

- March 4 – Shavar Ross, actor and producer
- March 5 – Scott Mosier, producer
- March 7 – Peter Sarsgaard, actor
- March 9 – Emmanuel Lewis, actor
- March 11 – Johnny Knoxville, daredevil, actor, comedian, screenwriter and film producer
- March 21 – Craig McCracken, animator, director, and producer

April

- April 3 – Picabo Street, skier
- April 12 – Shannen Doherty, actress
- April 15 – Jason Sehorn, American football player
- April 22 – Eric Mabius, actor
- April 26 – Shondrella Avery, actress
- April 28 – Bridget Moynahan, actress

May

- May 1 – Ethan Albright, American football player
- May 12 – Doug Basham, wrestler
- May 14 – Sofia Coppola, screenwriter, film director, producer, actress, and daughter of Francis Ford Coppola
- May 18 – Desiree Horton, helicopter pilot, television reporter, and aerial firefighter
- May 20 – Tony Stewart, race car driver
- May 25 – Sonya Smith, actress
- May 26 – Matt Stone, television producer
- May 27 – Lisa Lopes, rapper, singer, songwriter, and dancer, died in La Ceiba, Atlántida, Honduras (d. 2002)
- May 28 – Marco Rubio, United States Senator from Florida since 2011.

June

- June 4
 - Noah Wyle, actor
 - Mike Lee, United States Senator from Utah since 2011
- June 5 – Mark Wahlberg, actor and singer
- June 7
 - Terrell Buckley, American football player and coach
 - Alex Mooney, lawyer and politician
- June 8 – Troy Vincent, American football player
- June 10 – Bobby Jindal, 55th Governor of Louisiana since 2008
- June 12 – Mark Henry, wrestler
- June 16 – Tupac Shakur, rapper, poet, actor, and murder victim (d. 1996)
- June 18 – Nathan Morris, singer
- June 22
 - Kurt Warner, American football player
 - Mary Lynn Rajs kub, actress and comedian

July

- July 1 – Missy Elliott, singer

- July 9 – Marc Andreessen, software engineer and entrepreneur
- July 11 – Brett Hauer, ice hockey player
- July 12
 - Kristi Yamaguchi, figure skater
 - Loni Love, comedian
- July 22 – Kristine Lilly, soccer player
- July 26 – Reggie Carthon, American football player
- July 28 – Jeffrey S. Williams, American journalist and author
- July 29 – Monica Calhoun, actress
- July 30 – Christine Taylor, actress and wife of Ben Stiller

August

- August 4
 - Jeff Gordon, race car driver
 - Yo-Yo, rapper
- August 12 – Pete Sampras, tennis player
- August 18 – Jacob Vargas, actor
- August 28 – Janet Evans, swimmer
- August 29 – Carla Gugino, actress
- August 31 – Chris Tucker, actor and comedian

September

- September 2 – Tommy Maddox, American football player
- September 9 – Henry Thomas, actor and musician
- September 16 – Amy Poehler, actress
- September 18
 - Lance Armstrong, cyclist
 - Jada Pinkett Smith, actress
- September 19 – Sanaa Lathan, actress
- September 21 – Luke Wilson, actor
- September 24 – Michael S. Engel, paleontologist & entomologist
- September 25
 - John Lynch, American football player
 - Brian Dunkleman, comedian and actor
- September 26 – Joel Breton, video game producer
- September 30
 - Jeff Whitty, writer
 - Jenna Elfman, actress

October

- October 2 – Tiffany, singer
- October 3 – Kevin Richardson, singer
- October 8 – Sean Palmer, actor
- October 9 – Stevie Richards, wrestler
- October 17
 - Chris Kirkpatrick, singer
 - Martin Heinrich, United States Senator from New Mexico since 2013.
- October 24 – Caprice Bourret, model and actress

- October 27 – Jade Arcade, comics artist and writer
- October 29 – Winona Ryder, actress

November

- November 2 – Eric Wall, writer and political activist
- November 9 – Big Pun, rapper (d. 2000)
- November 11 – David DeLuise, actor and son of Dom DeLuise and Carol Arthur
- November 13 – Noah Hathaway, actor
- November 20 – Joel McHale, comedian, actor, writer, television producer, and television personality

December

- December 1 – John Schlimm, writer
- December 5 – Kali Rocha, actress
- December 6 – Ryan White, notable victim (d. 1990)
- December 16 – Michael McCary, singer
- December 19 – Tyson Beckford, model
- December 26 – Jared Leto, actor and musician
- December 27 – Jason Hawes, paranormal investigator and businessman
- December 28 – Frank Sepe, bodybuilder and model

Deaths

- January 4 – Arthur Ford, American psychic, founded the Spiritual Frontiers Fellowship (b. 1896)
- March 16 – Thomas E. Dewey, 47th Governor of New York and Republican nominee for president (b. 1902)
- April 6 – Igor Stravinsky, Russian-born American composer (b. 1882)
- July 3 – Jim Morrison, singer, songwriter, and poet, died in Paris, France (b. 1943)
- July 6 – Louis Armstrong, trumpeter and actor (b. 1901)
- December 9 – Ralph Bunche, Nobel diplomat (b. 1904)


See also

- List of American films of 1971

References

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-  Media related to 1971 in the United States at Wikimedia Commons

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