

# 1975 in the United States

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Events from the year **1975 in the United States**.

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## Incumbents

### Federal Government

- President: Gerald Ford (R-Michigan)
- Vice President: Nelson Rockefeller (R-New York)
- Chief Justice: Warren E. Burger (Minnesota)
- Speaker of the House of Representatives: Carl Albert (D-Oklahoma)
- Senate Majority Leader: Mike Mansfield (D-Montana)
- Congress: 93rd (until January 3), 94th (starting January 3)

## Governors and Lieutenant Governors

### Governors

- Governor of Alabama: George Wallace (Democratic)
- Governor of Alaska: Jay Hammond (Republican)
- Governor of Arizona: Jack Richard Williams (Republican) (until January 6), Raul Hector Castro (Democratic) (starting January 6)
- Governor of Arkansas:
  - until January 3: Dale Bumpers (Democratic)
  - January 3-January 14: Bob C. Riley (Democratic)
  - starting January 14: David Pryor (Democratic)
- Governor of California: Ronald Reagan (Republican) (until January 6), Jerry Brown (Democratic) (starting January 6)
- Governor of Colorado: John David Vanderhoof (Republican) (until January 14), Richard Lamm (Democratic) (starting January 14)
- Governor of Connecticut: Thomas J. Meskill (Republican) (until January 6), Ella T. Grasso (Democratic) (starting January 6)
- Governor of Delaware: Sherman W. Tribbitt (Democratic)
- Governor of Florida: Reubin Askew (Democratic)
- Governor of Georgia: Jimmy Carter (Democratic) (until January 14), George Busbee (Democratic) (starting January 14)
- Governor of Hawaii: George Ariyoshi (Democratic)
- Governor of Idaho: Cecil D. Andrus (Democratic)
- Governor of Illinois: Dan Walker (Democratic)
- Governor of Indiana: Otis R. Bowen (Republican)
- Governor of Iowa: Robert D. Ray (Republican)
- Governor of Kansas: Robert Docking (Democratic) (until January 13), Robert F. Bennett (Republican) (starting January 13)
- Governor of Kentucky: Julian M. Carroll (Democratic)
- Governor of Louisiana: Edwin W. Edwards (Democratic)
- Governor of Maine: Kenneth M. Curtis (Democratic) (until January 2), James B. Longley (Independent) (starting January 2)
- Governor of Maryland: Marvin Mandel (Democratic)
- Governor of Massachusetts: Francis W. Sargent (Republican) (until January 2), Michael Dukakis (Democratic) (starting January 2)
- Governor of Michigan: William Milliken (Republican)
- Governor of Minnesota: Wendell R. Anderson (Democratic)
- Governor of Mississippi: Bill Waller (Democratic)
- Governor of Missouri: Kit Bond (Republican)
- Governor of Montana: Thomas Lee Judge (Democratic)
- Governor of Nebraska: J. James Exon (Democratic)
- Governor of Nevada: Mike O'Callaghan (Democratic)
- Governor of New Hampshire: Meldrim Thomson, Jr. (Republican)
- Governor of New Jersey: Brendan Byrne (Democratic)
- Governor of New Mexico: Bruce King (Democratic) (until January 1), Jerry Apodaca (Democratic) (starting January 1)
- Governor of New York: Hugh Carey (Democratic) (starting January 1)
- Governor of North Carolina: James E. Holshouser, Jr. (Republican)
- Governor of North Dakota: Arthur A. Link (Democratic)
- Governor of Ohio: John J. Gilligan (Democratic) (until January 13), Jim Rhodes (Republican) (starting January 13)
- Governor of Oklahoma: David Hall (Democratic) (until January 13), David L. Boren (Democratic) (starting January 13)

- Governor of Oregon: Tom McCall (Republican) (until January 13), Robert W. Straub (Democratic) (starting January 13)
- Governor of Pennsylvania: Milton Shapp (Democratic)
- Governor of Rhode Island: Philip W. Noel (Democratic)
- Governor of South Carolina: John C. West (Democratic) (until January 21), James B. Edwards (Republican) (starting January 21)
- Governor of South Dakota: Richard F. Kneip (Democratic)
- Governor of Tennessee: Winfield Dunn (Republican) (until January 18), Ray Blanton (Democratic) (starting January 18)
- Governor of Texas: Dolph Briscoe (Democratic)
- Governor of Utah: Calvin L. Rampton (Democratic)
- Governor of Vermont: Thomas P. Salmon (Democratic)
- Governor of Virginia: Mills E. Godwin, Jr. (Republican)
- Governor of Washington: Daniel J. Evans (Republican)
- Governor of West Virginia: Arch A. Moore, Jr. (Republican)
- Governor of Wisconsin: Patrick J. Lucey (Democratic)
- Governor of Wyoming: Stanley K. Hathaway (Republican) (until January 6), Edgar J. Herschler (Democratic) (starting January 6)

## Lieutenant Governors

- Lieutenant Governor of Alabama: Jere Beasley (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Alaska: Lowell Thomas, Jr. (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Arkansas: Bob C. Riley (Democratic) (until January 14), Joe Purcell (Democratic) (starting January 14)
- Lieutenant Governor of California: John L. Harmer (Republican) (until January 6), Mervyn M. Dymally (Democratic) (starting January 6)
- Lieutenant Governor of Colorado: Ted L. Strickland (Republican) (until January 14), George L. Brown (Democratic) (starting January 14)
- Lieutenant Governor of Connecticut: Peter L. Cashman (Republican) (until January 8), Robert K. Killian (Democratic) (starting January 8)
- Lieutenant Governor of Delaware: Eugene Bookhammer (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Florida: Thomas Burton Adams, Jr. (Democratic) (until January 7), J.H. Williams (Democratic) (starting January 7)
- Lieutenant Governor of Georgia: Lester Maddox (Democratic) (until January 14), Zell Miller (Democratic) (starting January 14)
- Lieutenant Governor of Hawaii: Nelson Doi (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Idaho: Jack M. Murphy (Democratic) (until January 6), John V. Evans (Democratic) (starting January 6)
- Lieutenant Governor of Illinois: Neil Hartigan (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Indiana: Robert D. Orr (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Iowa: Arthur A. Neu (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Kansas: Dave Owen (Republican) (until January 13), Shelby Smith (Republican) (starting January 13)
- Lieutenant Governor of Kentucky: vacant (until December 9), Thelma Stovall (Republican) (starting December 9)
- Lieutenant Governor of Louisiana: Jimmy Fitzmorris (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Maryland: Blair Lee III (political party unknown)
- Lieutenant Governor of Massachusetts: Donald R. Dwight (Republican) (until January 2), Thomas P. O'Neill III (Democratic) (starting January 2)
- Lieutenant Governor of Michigan: James H. Brickley (Republican) (until month and day unknown), James Damman (Republican) (starting month and day unknown)
- Lieutenant Governor of Minnesota: Rudy Perpich (Democratic)

- Lieutenant Governor of Mississippi: William F. Winter (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Missouri: William C. Phelps (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Montana: Bill Christiansen (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Nebraska: Frank Marsh (Republican) (until month and day unknown), Gerald T. Whelan (Democratic) (starting month and day unknown)
- Lieutenant Governor of Nevada: Harry Reid (Democratic) (until January 5), Robert E. Rose (Democratic) (starting January 5)
- Lieutenant Governor of New Mexico: Roberto Mondragón (Democratic) (until January 1), Robert E. Ferguson (Democratic) (starting January 1)
- Lieutenant Governor of New York: Mary Anne Krupsak (Democratic) (starting January 1)
- Lieutenant Governor of North Carolina: Jim Hunt (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of North Dakota: Wayne G. Sanstead (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Ohio: John William Brown (Republican) (until January 13), Dick Celeste (Democratic) (starting January 13)
- Lieutenant Governor of Oklahoma: George Nigh (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Pennsylvania: Ernest P. Kline (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Rhode Island: J. Joseph Garrahy (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of South Carolina: Earle Morris, Jr. (Democratic) (until January 21), W. Brantley Harvey, Jr. (Democratic) (starting January 21)
- Lieutenant Governor of South Dakota: William Dougherty (Democratic) (until month and day unknown), Harvey L. Wollman (Democratic) (starting month and day unknown)
- Lieutenant Governor of Tennessee: John S. Wilder (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Texas: William P. Hobby, Jr. (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Utah: Clyde L. Miller (Democratic) (starting month and day unknown)
- Lieutenant Governor of Vermont: John S. Burgess (Republican) (until month and day unknown), Brian D. Burns (Democratic) (starting month and day unknown)
- Lieutenant Governor of Virginia: John N. Dalton (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Washington: John Cherberg (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Wisconsin: Martin J. Schreiber (Democratic)

## Events

### January

- January – Volkswagen introduces the Golf, its new front-wheel-drive economy car, in the United States and Canada as the Volkswagen Rabbit.
- January 1 – Watergate scandal: John N. Mitchell, H. R. Haldeman and John Ehrlichman are found guilty of the Watergate cover-up.
- January 2 – The Federal Rules of Evidence are approved by the United States Congress.
- January 6
  - *AM America* makes its television debut on ABC.
  - *Wheel of Fortune* premieres on NBC.
- January 8
  - Ella Grasso becomes Governor of Connecticut, the first woman U.S. governor who did not succeed her husband.
  - U.S. President Gerald Ford appoints Vice President Nelson Rockefeller to head a special commission looking into alleged domestic abuses by the CIA.

- January 12 – Super Bowl IX: The Pittsburgh Steelers defeat the Minnesota Vikings 16–6 at Tulane Stadium in New Orleans, Louisiana.
- January 15 - The Carousel of Progress moves to Walt Disney World from Disneyland.
- January 29 – The Weather Underground bombs the U.S. State Department main office in Washington, D.C..

## February

- February 13 – Fire breaks out in the World Trade Center.
- February 21 – Watergate scandal: Former United States Attorney General John N. Mitchell, and former White House aides H. R. Haldeman and John Ehrlichman, are sentenced to between 30 months and 8 years in prison.
- February 23 – In response to the energy crisis, daylight saving time commences nearly 2 months early in the United States.

## March

- March 9 – Construction of the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System begins.<sup>[1]</sup>
- March 10 – *The Rocky Horror Show* opens on Broadway in New York City with 4 performances.
- March 30 – James Ruppert murders 11 family members inside his home on Easter Sunday.

## April

- April 3 – Bobby Fischer refuses to play in a chess match against Anatoly Karpov, giving Karpov the title.
- April 4
  - Vietnam War: The first military Operation Babylift flight, C5A 80218, crashes 27 minutes after takeoff, killing 138 on board; 176 survive the crash.
  - Bill Gates founds Microsoft in Albuquerque, New Mexico.
- April 30 – Vietnam War: The Fall of Saigon: The Vietnam War ends as Communist forces take Saigon, resulting in mass evacuations of Americans and South Vietnamese. As the capital is taken, South Vietnam surrenders unconditionally.

## May

- May – The unemployment rate peaks at 9.0% ending the Post-War Boom.
- May 5 – The Busch Gardens Williamsburg theme park, originally known as Busch Gardens: The Old Country, opens in Williamsburg, Virginia.
- May 12 – Mayaguez incident: Khmer Rouge forces in Cambodia seize the United States merchant ship SS *Mayaguez* in international waters.
- May 15 – Mayaguez incident: The American merchant ship *Mayaguez*, seized by Cambodian forces, is rescued by the U.S. Navy and Marines; 38 Americans are killed.
- May 25 – Indianapolis 500: Bobby Unser wins for a second time in a rain-shortened 174 lap, 435 mile (696 km) race.

## June

- June 10 – In Washington, DC, the Rockefeller Commission issues its report on CIA abuses, recommending a joint congressional oversight committee on intelligence.

- June 26 – Two FBI agents and 1 AIM member die in a shootout, at the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota.

## July

- July 17 – Apollo–Soyuz Test Project: An American Apollo and Soviet Soyuz spacecraft dock in orbit, marking the first such link-up between spacecraft from the two nations. It is also the last Apollo mission and the last manned U.S. space mission until STS-1 (the first Space Shuttle orbital flight).
- July 22 – Stanley Forman takes the photo *Fire Escape Collapse*.
- July 31 – In Detroit, Michigan, Teamsters Union president Jimmy Hoffa is reported missing.



July 17: Apollo–Soyuz Test Project orbital docking

## August

- August 5 – U.S. President Ford posthumously pardons Robert E. Lee, restoring full rights of citizenship.
- August 8 – Samuel Bronfman, son of the president of Seagram's, is kidnapped in Purchase, New York.
- August 20 – Viking program: NASA launches the Viking 1 planetary probe toward Mars.

## September

- September 5 – In Sacramento, California, Lynette Fromme, a follower of jailed cult leader Charles Manson, attempts to assassinate U.S. President Gerald Ford, but is thwarted by a Secret Service agent.
- September 14 – Elizabeth Seton is canonized, becoming the first American Roman Catholic saint.
- September 18 – Fugitive Patricia Hearst is captured in San Francisco.
- September 22 – U.S. President Gerald Ford survives a second assassination attempt, this time by Sara Jane Moore in San Francisco.

## October

- October 1 – Thrilla in Manila: Muhammad Ali defeats Joe Frazier in a boxing match in Manila, Philippines.
- October 11 – NBC airs the first episode of *Saturday Night Live* (George Carlin is the first host; Billy Preston and Janis Ian the first musical guests).
- October 21–22 – 1975 World Series: The Boston Red Sox defeat the Cincinnati Reds in Game Six off Carlton Fisk's twelfth-inning home run; the Reds would go on to win in Game Seven.

## November

- November 3 – An independent audit of Mattel, one of the United States' largest toy manufacturers, reveals that company officials fabricated press releases and financial information to "maintain the appearance of continued corporate growth."
- November 5 – Travis Walton, a 22-year-old logger, is working in the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest with six co-workers near Snowflake, Arizona, when he suddenly disappears.<sup>[2]</sup> Walton is found five days later and says that he has been abducted by extraterrestrial aliens.<sup>[3]</sup> His book, *The Walton Experience* (1978), will become the basis for a film, *Fire in the Sky* (1993).<sup>[4]</sup>

- November 10 – The bulk carrier *Edmund Fitzgerald* sinks 15 miles off of Whitefish Point with all hands.
- November 20 – Former California Governor Ronald Reagan enters the race for the Republican presidential nomination, challenging incumbent President Gerald Ford.
- November 29 – The name "Micro-soft" (for microcomputer software) is used by Bill Gates in a letter to Paul Allen for the first time (Microsoft becomes a registered trademark on November 26, 1976).
- November 29 – While disabled, the submarine tender USS *Proteus* (AS-19) discharges radioactive coolant water into Apra Harbor, Guam. A Geiger counter at two of the harbor's public beaches shows 100 millirems/hour, 50 times the allowable dose.

## December

- December 8 – New York City is approved for bailout of \$2.3 billion each year through to 1978 – \$6.9 billion total.
- December 23 – United States Congress passes the Metric Conversion Act which encourages, but does not mandate, metrication in the United States and establishes the Metric Board.
- December 29 – A bomb explosion at LaGuardia Airport kills 11.

## Ongoing

- Cold War (1945–1991)
- Space Race (1957–1975)
- Détente (c. 1969–1979)
- Capital punishment suspended by *Furman v. Georgia* (1972–1976)
- 1970s energy crisis (1973–1980)
- DOCUMERICA photography project (1972-1977)

## Births

- January 2 – Dax Shepard, actor
- January 20 – David Eckstein, American baseball player
- January 23
  - Phil Dawson, American football player
  - Tito Ortiz, mixed martial artist, referee, and actor
- March 16 – Tara Buck, actress
- April 21
  - Benjamin Butler, painter
  - Killer Mike, rapper, songwriter, actor, and activist
- May 9 - Lane Kiffin, American football player and coach
- May 12 - Lawrence Phillips, American-Canadian football player
- May 26 - Lauryn Hill, actress, singer–songwriter, rapper and producer
- June 4 – Angelina Jolie, actress and director
- June 19 – Geoff Ramsey, voice actor and producer, co-founded Rooster Teeth
- June 27 – Tobey Maguire, actor and producer
- August 16 – Magic, American rapper (504 Boyz and Body Head Bangerz) (d. 2013)
- September 21 – Lil Rob
- November 14 – Stephen Guarino, actor
- December 30 - Tiger Woods, golfer

## Deaths

- March 30 – Pancho Barnes, pioneer aviator (b. 1901)
- April 20 - John Vachon, American photographer (b. 1914)
- June 6 - Larry Blyden, actor and game show host (b. 1925)
- June 15 - William Austin, English-born actor (b. 1884)
- September 6 – Shelton Brooks, Canadian-born African American song composer (b. 1886)
- December 24 – Bernard Herrmann, composer and husband of Lucille Fletcher (b. 1911)

## See also

- List of American films of 1975

## References

1. Mitchell K. Hall (2008). "Chronology". *Historical Dictionary of the Nixon-Ford Era*. Scarecrow Press. ISBN 978-0-8108-6410-8.
2. "Did a UFO Kidnap Navajo County Man?". *Arizona Daily Sun*. Flagstaff, AZ. 1975-11-08. p. 1.
3. "Brother finds 'UFO kidnap' victim". *Scottsdale Daily Progress*. Scottsdale, AZ. 1975-11-11. p. 1.
4. Hauck, Dennis William (2002). *Haunted Places: The National Directory: Ghostly Abodes, Sacred Sites, UFO Landings, and Other Supernatural Locations*. Penguin Books.

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