

1976 in the United States

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Events from the year **1976 in the United States**.

Contents

- 1 Incumbents
 - 1.1 Federal Government
 - 1.2 Governors
 - 1.3 Lieutenant Governors
- 2 Events
 - 2.1 January
 - 2.2 February
 - 2.3 March
 - 2.4 April
 - 2.5 May
 - 2.6 June
 - 2.7 July
 - 2.8 August
 - 2.9 September
 - 2.10 October
 - 2.11 November
 - 2.12 December
 - 2.13 Undated
 - 2.14 Ongoing
- 3 Births
- 4 Deaths
- 5 See also
- 6 References
- 7 External links

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: 94th

Governors and Lieutenant Governors

Governors

- Governor of Alabama: George Wallace (Democratic)
- Governor of Alaska: Jay Hammond (Republican)
- Governor of Arizona: Raul Hector Castro (Democratic)
- Governor of Arkansas: David Pryor (Democratic)
- Governor of California: Jerry Brown (Democratic)
- Governor of Colorado: Richard Lamm (Democratic)
- Governor of Connecticut: Ella T. Grasso (Democratic)
- Governor of Delaware: Sherman W. Tribbitt (Democratic)
- Governor of Florida: Reubin Askew (Democratic)
- Governor of Georgia: George Busbee (Democratic)
- 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 F. Bennett (Republican)
- Governor of Kentucky: Julian M. Carroll (Democratic)
- Governor of Louisiana: Edwin W. Edwards (Democratic)
- Governor of Maine: James B. Longley (Independent)
- Governor of Maryland: Marvin Mandel (Democratic)
- Governor of Massachusetts: Michael Dukakis (Democratic)
- Governor of Michigan: William Milliken (Republican)
- Governor of Minnesota: Wendell R. Anderson (Democratic) (until December 29), Rudy Perpich (Democratic) (starting December 29)
- Governor of Mississippi: Bill Waller (Democratic) (until January 20), Cliff Finch (Democratic) (starting January 20)
- 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: Jerry Apodaca (Democratic)
- Governor of New York: Hugh Carey (Democratic)
- Governor of North Carolina: James E. Holshouser, Jr. (Republican)
- Governor of North Dakota: Arthur A. Link (Democratic)
- Governor of Ohio: Jim Rhodes (Republican)
- Governor of Oklahoma: David L. Boren (Democratic)
- Governor of Oregon: Robert W. Straub (Democratic)
- Governor of Pennsylvania: Milton Shapp (Democratic)
- Governor of Rhode Island: Philip W. Noel (Democratic)
- Governor of South Carolina: James B. Edwards (Republican)
- Governor of South Dakota: Richard F. Kneip (Democratic)
- Governor of Tennessee: Ray Blanton (Democratic)
- 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: Edgar J. Herschler (Democratic)

Lieutenant Governors

- Lieutenant Governor of Alabama: Jere Beasley (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Alaska: Lowell Thomas, Jr. (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Arkansas: Joe Purcell (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of California: Mervyn M. Dymally (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Colorado: George L. Brown (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Connecticut: Robert K. Killian (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Delaware: Eugene Bookhammer (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Florida: J.H. Williams (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Georgia: Zell Miller (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Hawaii: Nelson Doi (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Idaho: John V. Evans (Democratic)
- 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: Shelby Smith (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Kentucky: Thelma Stovall (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Louisiana: Jimmy Fitzmorris (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Maryland: Blair Lee III (political party unknown)
- Lieutenant Governor of Massachusetts: Thomas P. O'Neill III (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Michigan: James Damman (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Minnesota: Rudy Perpich (Democratic) (until December 29), Alec G. Olson (Democratic) (starting December 29)
- Lieutenant Governor of Mississippi: William F. Winter (Democratic) (until January 20), Evelyn Gandy (Democratic) (starting January 20)
- Lieutenant Governor of Missouri: William C. Phelps (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Montana: Bill Christiansen (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Nebraska: Gerald T. Whelan (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Nevada: Robert E. Rose (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of New Mexico: Robert E. Ferguson (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of New York: Mary Anne Krupsak (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of North Carolina: Jim Hunt (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of North Dakota: Wayne G. Sanstead (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Ohio: Dick Celeste (Democratic)
- 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: W. Brantley Harvey, Jr. (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of South Dakota: Harvey L. Wollman (Democratic)
- 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)
- Lieutenant Governor of Vermont: Brian D. Burns (Democratic)
- 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 11 – 1976 Flyers-Red Army game: The Philadelphia Flyers play the Soviet Red Army team, the Red Army left the ice for a portion of the game and the Flyers won 4–1
- January 15 – Would-be Gerald Ford presidential assassin Sara Jane Moore is sentenced to life in prison.
- January 18 – Super Bowl X: The Pittsburgh Steelers defeat the Dallas Cowboys 21–17 at the Orange Bowl in Miami, Florida.
- January 19 – Jimmy Carter wins the Iowa Democratic Caucus.
- January 27 – The United States vetoes a United Nations resolution that calls for an independent Palestinian state.
- January 30 – *Live from Lincoln Center* debuts on PBS.

February

- February 5 – Nearly 2,000 students become involved in a racially charged riot at Escambia High School in Pensacola, Florida; 30 students are injured in the 4-hour fray.
- February 11 – Clifford Alexander, Jr. is confirmed as the first African-American Secretary of the United States Army.

March

- March 9–11 – Two coal mine explosions claim 26 lives at the Blue Diamond Coal Co. Scotia Mine in Letcher County, Kentucky.^[1]
- March 17 – Rubin "Hurricane" Carter is arrested in New Jersey.
- March 20 – Patty Hearst is found guilty of armed robbery of a San Francisco bank.
- March 27 – The first 4.6 miles of the Washington Metro subway system opens.
- March 31 – The New Jersey Supreme Court rules that persistent vegetative state patient in the Karen Ann Quinlan case can be disconnected from her ventilator. She remains comatose and dies in 1985.

April

- April 1
 - Conrail (Consolidated Rails Corporation) is formed by the U.S. government, to take control of 13 major Northeast Class-1 railroads that had filed for bankruptcy protection. Conrail takes control at midnight, as a government-owned and operated railroad until 1986, when it is sold to the public.
 - Apple Computer Company is formed by Steve Jobs and Steve Wozniak.^[2]



April 1: Conrail

- April 13 – The United States Treasury Department reintroduces the two-dollar bill as a Federal Reserve Note on Thomas Jefferson's 233rd birthday as part of the United States Bicentennial celebration.

May

- May 11 – U.S. President Gerald Ford signs the Federal Election Campaign Act.
- May 24 – Washington, D.C. Concorde service begins.
- May 25 – U.S. President Gerald Ford defeats challenger Ronald Reagan in three Republican presidential primaries: Kentucky, Tennessee and Oregon.
- May 30 – Indianapolis 500-Mile Race: Johnny Rutherford wins the (rain-shortened) shortest race in event history to date, at 102 laps or 255 miles (408 km).

June

- June 2 – A car bomb fatally injures Arizona Republic reporter Don Bolles.
- June 5 – The Teton Dam collapses in southeast Idaho in the U.S., killing 11 people.
- June 13 – Savage thunderstorms roll through the state of Iowa spawning several tornadoes, including an F-5 tornado that destroys the town of Jordan, Iowa.
- June 16 – Francis E. Meloy, Jr., the newly appointed United States Ambassador to Lebanon, is assassinated in Beirut.
- June 17 – The National Basketball Association and the American Basketball Association agree on the ABA-NBA merger.
- June 20 – Hundreds of Western tourists are moved from Beirut and taken to safety in Syria by the U.S. military, following the murder of the U.S. ambassador to Lebanon.

July

- July 3 – *Gregg v. Georgia*: The Supreme Court of the United States rules that the death penalty is not inherently cruel or unusual and is a constitutionally acceptable form of punishment.
- July 4
 - United States Bicentennial: From coast to coast, the United States celebrates the 200th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence.
 - The Puerto Rican Socialist Party leads 50,000 marchers in Philadelphia to demand a "Bicentennial Without Colonies" and independence for Puerto Rico.
- July 6 – The first class of women is inducted at the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland.
- July 15 – Jimmy Carter is nominated for U.S. President at the Democratic National Convention in New York City.
- July 20 – Viking program: The Viking 1 lander successfully lands on Mars, taking the first close-up color photos of the planet's surface.
- July 26 – In Los Angeles, Ronald Reagan announces his choice of liberal U.S. Senator Richard Schweiker as his vice presidential running mate, in an effort to woo moderate Republican delegates away from President Gerald Ford.
- July 29 – In New York City, the "Son of Sam" pulls a gun from a paper bag, killing 1 and seriously wounding another, in the first of a series of attacks that terrorize the city for the next year.
- July 31
 - NASA releases the famous Face on Mars photo, taken by Viking 1.



- The Big Thompson River in northern Colorado floods, destroying more than 400 cars and houses.

August

- August 1 – The Seattle Seahawks and Tampa Bay Buccaneers play their first football game.
- August 2 – A gunman murders Andrea Wilborn and Stan Farr and injures Priscilla Davis and Gus Gavrel, in an incident at Priscilla's mansion in Fort Worth, Texas. T. Cullen Davis, Priscilla's estranged husband and one of the richest men in Texas, is tried and found not guilty in 1977.
- August 4 – The first recognized outbreak of Legionnaires' disease kills 29 at the American Legion convention in Philadelphia.
- August 7 – Viking program: Viking 2 enters into orbit around Mars.
- August 18 – At Panmunjom, North Korea, 2 United States soldiers are killed while trying to chop down part of a tree in the Korean Demilitarized Zone which had obscured their view.
- August 19 – U.S. President Gerald Ford edges out challenger Ronald Reagan to win the Republican Party presidential nomination in Kansas City.



August 18: Axe murder incident

September

- September 3 – Viking program: The Viking 2 spacecraft lands at Utopia Planitia on Mars
- September 6
 - Cold War: Soviet Air Force pilot Lt. Viktor Belenko lands a MiG-25 jet fighter at Hakodate, on the island of Hokkaidō in Japan, and requests political asylum from the United States.
 - Frank Sinatra brings Jerry Lewis's former partner Dean Martin onstage, unannounced, at the 1976 Jerry Lewis MDA Telethon in Las Vegas, Nevada, reuniting the comedy team for the first (and only) time in over 20 years.
- September 17 – The space shuttle *Enterprise* is rolled out of a Palmdale, California hangar.
- September 21 – Orlando Letelier is assassinated in Washington, D.C. by agents of Chilean dictator Augusto Pinochet.
- September 24 – Patricia Hearst is sentenced to 7 years in prison for her role in a 1974 bank robbery (an executive clemency order from U.S. President Jimmy Carter will set her free after only 22 months).



September 3:
Viking 2 lands on Mars

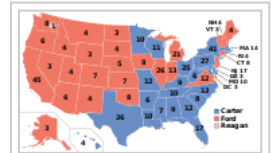
October

- October 6 – In San Francisco, during his second televised debate with Jimmy Carter, U.S. President Gerald Ford stumbles when he declares that "there is no Soviet domination of Eastern Europe" (there is at the time).
- October 13 – The United States Commission on Civil Rights releases the report, *Puerto Ricans in the Continental United States: An Uncertain Future*, that documents that Puerto Ricans in the United States have a poverty rate of 33 percent in 1974 (up from 29 percent in 1970), the highest of all major racial-ethnic groups in the country (not including Puerto Rico, a U.S. territory).
- October 18 – Ford officially launches volume production of Fiesta car at its Valencia plant.
- October 19 – The Copyright Act of 1976 extends copyright duration for an additional 20 years in the United States.
- October 20 – The Mississippi River ferry *MV George Prince* is struck by a ship while crossing from Destrehan, Louisiana to Luling, Louisiana, killing 78 passengers and crew.

- October 21 – The Cincinnati Reds sweep the New York Yankees in four games to win the 1976 World Series.

November

- November 2 – U.S. presidential election, 1976: Jimmy Carter defeats incumbent Gerald Ford, becoming the first candidate from the Deep South to win since the Civil War.
- November 15 – The first megamouth shark is discovered off Oahu in Hawaii.
- November 25 – In San Francisco, The Band holds its farewell concert, *The Last Waltz*.
- November 26 – Microsoft is officially registered with the Office of the Secretary of the State of New Mexico.



November 2:
Jimmy Carter
elected President

December

- December 8
 - The Congressional Hispanic Caucus is established by the five Latinos in the United States Congress: Herman Badillo of New York, E. de la Garza and Henry B. Gonzalez of Texas, Edward R. Roybal of California, and the nonvoting Resident Commissioner of Puerto Rico, Baltasar Corrada del Rio.
 - Hotel California* by The Eagles is released.
- December 20 – Richard J. Daley, Mayor of Chicago for 21 years, dies while in office.

Undated

- California's sodomy law is repealed.
- The New Jersey State Legislature passes legislation legalizing casinos in the shore town of Atlantic City commencing in 1978. After signing the bill into law, Governor Brendan Byrne declares "The mob is not welcome in New Jersey!" referring to the Mafia's influence at casinos in Nevada.

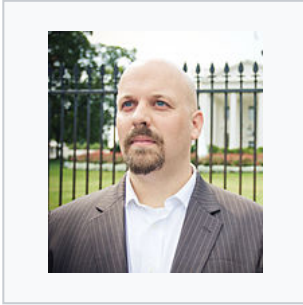
Ongoing

- Cold War (1945–1991)
- Détente (c. 1969–1979)
- Capital punishment suspended by *Furman v. Georgia* (1972–1976)
- 1970s energy crisis (1973–1980)

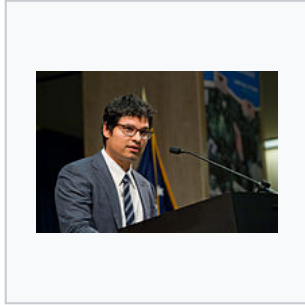
Births

- January 4 - Ted Lilly, baseball player
- January 2 - Phil Radford, environmental, clean energy, and democracy leader
- January 10 - Adam Kennedy, baseball player
- January 13 - Michael Peña, actor and musician
- January 20 - Michael Myers, American football player
- January 27
 - Clint Ford, voice actor
 - Fred Taylor, American football player
- January 29 - Chris Castle, singer-songwriter and guitarist
- February 17 - Scott Williamson, American baseball player and coach

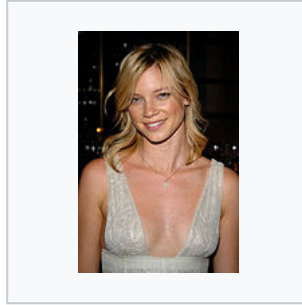
- March 20 - Chester Bennington, lead singer of Linkin Park
- March 22 - Reese Witherspoon, actress
- March 24 - Peyton Manning, American football player
- March 26 - Amy Smart, actress and former fashion model
- June 8 – Eion Bailey, actor
- June 19 – Scott Avett, American singer-songwriter, banjo player, guitarist, and pianist
- July 15 - Gabriel Iglesias, comedian, actor, producer
- August 26 - Glen Ramsey, entomologist



Phil Radford, environmental, clean energy, democracy leader



Michael Peña, actor and musician



Amy Smart, actress and former fashion model

Deaths

- 19 March — Josef Albers, German-American Modernist painter (born 1888)
- April 9 — Phil Ochs American protest singer and songwriter (born 1940)
- August 26 — Lotte Lehmann, German-born American soprano (b. 1888)

See also

- 1976 in American television
- List of American films of 1976

References

1. "Partridge, KY Double Mine Disaster, Mar 1976". *GenDisasters*. Retrieved September 14, 2010.
2. Mitchell K. Hall (2008). "Chronology". *Historical Dictionary of the Nixon-Ford Era*. Scarecrow Press. ISBN 978-0-8108-6410-8.

External links

- Media related to 1976 in the United States at Wikimedia Commons
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