

1977 in the United States

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Events from the year **1977 in the United States**.

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Incumbents

Federal Government

- President: Gerald Ford (R-Michigan) (until January 20), Jimmy Carter (D-Georgia) (starting January 20)
- Vice President: Nelson Rockefeller (R-New York) (until January 20), Walter Mondale (D-Minnesota) (starting January 20)
- Chief Justice: Warren E. Burger (Minnesota)
- Speaker of the House of Representatives: Carl Albert (D-Oklahoma) (until January 3), Tip O'Neill (D-Massachusetts) (starting January 4)
- Senate Majority Leader: Mike Mansfield (D-Montana) (until January 3), Robert Byrd (D-West Virginia) (starting January 3)
- Congress: 94th (until January 3), 95th (starting January 3)

Governors and Lieutenant Governors

Governors

- Governor of Alabama: George Wallace (Democratic)
- Governor of Alaska: Jay Hammond (Republican)
- Governor of Arizona: Raul Hector Castro (Democratic) (until October 20), Wesley Bolin (Democratic) (starting October 20)
- 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) (until January 18), Pierre S. du Pont, IV (Republican) (starting January 18)
- 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) (until January 24), John V. Evans (Democratic) (starting January 24)
- Governor of Illinois: Dan Walker (Democratic) (until January 10), James R. Thompson (Republican) (starting January 10)
- 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: Rudy Perpich (Democratic)
- Governor of Mississippi: Cliff Finch (Democratic)
- Governor of Missouri: Kit Bond (Republican) (until January 10), Joseph P. Teasdale (Democratic) (starting January 10)
- 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) (until January 8), Jim Hunt (Democratic) (starting January 8)
- 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) (until January 4), J. Joseph Garrahy (Democratic) (starting January 4)
- 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) (until January 3), Scott M. Matheson (Democratic) (starting January 3)
- Governor of Vermont: Thomas P. Salmon (Democratic) (until January 6), Richard A. Snelling (Republican) (starting January 6)
- Governor of Virginia: Mills E. Godwin, Jr. (Republican)
- Governor of Washington: Daniel J. Evans (Republican) (until January 12), Dixy Lee Ray (Democratic) (starting January 12)
- Governor of West Virginia: Arch A. Moore, Jr. (Republican) (until January 17), Jay Rockefeller (Democratic) (starting January 17)
- Governor of Wisconsin: Patrick J. Lucey (Democratic) (until July 6), Martin J. Schreiber (Democratic) (starting July 6)
- 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) (until January 18), James D. McGinnis (Democratic) (starting January 18)
- 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:
 - until January 24: John V. Evans (Democratic)
 - January 24-January 28: vacant
 - starting January 28: William J. Murphy (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Illinois: Neil Hartigan (Democratic) (until January 10), Dave O'Neal (Republican) (starting January 10)
- 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: Alec G. Olson (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Mississippi: Evelyn Gandy (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Missouri: William C. Phelps (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Montana: Bill Christiansen (Democratic) (until January 3), Ted Schwinden (Democratic) (starting January 3)
- 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) (until January 8), James C. Green (Democratic) (starting January 8)

- 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) (until January 4), Thomas R. DiLuglio (Democratic) (starting January 4)
- 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) (until January 3), David Smith Monson (Republican) (starting January 3)
- Lieutenant Governor of Vermont: Brian D. Burns (Democratic) (until January 6), T. Garry Buckley (Republican) (starting January 6)
- 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 – The world's first personal computer, the Commodore PET, is demonstrated at the winter Consumer Electronics Show in Chicago.^[1]
- January 3 – Apple Computer is incorporated.
- January 9 – Super Bowl XI: The Oakland Raiders defeat the Minnesota Vikings 32–14 at the Rose Bowl in Pasadena, California.
- January 17 – In the first execution after the reintroduction of the death penalty in the U.S., Gary Gilmore is executed by firing squad in Utah.^[2]
- January 19
 - Snow falls in Miami, Florida (despite its ordinarily tropical climate) for the only time in its history. Snowfall has occurred farther south in the United States only on the high mountains of the state of Hawaii.
 - U.S. President Gerald Ford pardons Iva Toguri D'Aquino (aka "Tokyo Rose").
- January 20 – Jimmy Carter succeeds Gerald Ford as the 39th President of the United States.
- January 21 – U.S. President Jimmy Carter pardons Vietnam War draft evaders.
- January 23 – *Roots* begins its phenomenally successful run on ABC.
- January 28 – The Great Lakes Blizzard of 1977 hits Buffalo, New York.



January 20: Jimmy Carter becomes President

February

- February 4 – Fleetwood Mac's Grammy-winning album *Rumours* is released.

- February 18 – The space shuttle *Enterprise* test vehicle goes on its maiden "flight" while sitting on top of a Boeing 747, at Edwards Air Force Base in California.

March

- March 9 – Approximately a dozen armed Hanafi Muslims take over 3 buildings in Washington, D.C., killing 1 person and taking more than 130 hostages. The hostage situation ends 2 days later.
- March 15 – Tenor Luciano Pavarotti and the PBS opera series *Live from the Met* both make their American television debuts. Pavarotti stars in a complete production of Puccini's *La Boheme*.



An excursion train pulled by a classic BC Rail steam locomotive visits Oakland, California in 1977

April

- April 4 – Grundy, Virginia experienced a major flood that caused around \$15 million in damages to 228 residential and commercial structures.
- April 21 – Residents of Dover, Massachusetts report sightings of the so-called "Dover Demon".

May

- May 26 – George Willig climbs the South Tower of the World Trade Center.
- May 25 – The movie *Star Wars* was released.
- May 28 – The Beverly Hills Supper Club in Southgate, Kentucky is engulfed in fire, killing 165 inside.
- May 29 – Indianapolis 500: A.J. Foyt becomes the first driver (to date) to win a record four times.

June

- June 5 – The Portland Trail Blazers defeat the Philadelphia 76ers 109–107 to win the NBA finals 4–2. Bill Walton is named series MVP.
- June 7 – After campaigning by Anita Bryant and her anti-gay "Save Our Children" crusade, Miami-Dade County, Florida voters overwhelmingly vote to repeal the county's gay rights ordinance.
- June 10 – James Earl Ray escapes from Brushy Mountain State Prison in Petros, Tennessee (he is recaptured on June 13).
- June 16 – Oracle Corporation is incorporated in Redwood Shores, California as Software Development Laboratories (SDL) by Larry Ellison, Bob Miner and Ed Oates.
- June 20 – The Supreme Court of the United States rules that states are not required to spend Medicaid funds on elective abortions.
- June 25 – American Roy Sullivan is struck by lightning for the 7th time.
- June 26
 - Some 200,000 protesters march through the streets of San Francisco, protesting Anita Bryant's anti-gay remarks and the murder of Robert Hillsborough.
 - Elvis Presley performs his last-ever concert, in Indianapolis, Indiana's Market Square Arena.
- June 30 – Women Marines disbanded; women are integrated into regular Marine Corps.

July

- July 13 – The New York City blackout of 1977 lasts for 25 hours, resulting in looting and other disorder.
- July 19 & 20 – Flooding in Johnstown, Pennsylvania, caused by massive rainfall, kills over 75 people and causes billions in damage.
- July 24 – Led Zeppelin plays their last U.S. concert in Oakland, California at the Oakland-Alameda County Coliseum. A brawl erupts between Led Zeppelin's crew and promoter Bill Graham's staff, resulting in criminal assault charges for several of Led Zeppelin's entourage including drummer John Bonham.
- July 28 – The first oil through the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System reaches Valdez, Alaska.

August

- August 3 – United States Senate hearings on MKULTRA are held.
- August 4 – U.S. President Jimmy Carter signs legislation creating the United States Department of Energy.
- August 10 – David Berkowitz is captured in Yonkers, New York, after over a year of murders in New York City as the Son of Sam.
- August 12 – The NASA Space Shuttle, named *Enterprise*, makes its first test free-flight from the back of a Boeing 747 Shuttle Carrier Aircraft (SCA).
- August 15 – The Big Ear, a radio telescope operated by Ohio State University as part of the SETI project, receives a radio signal from deep space; the event is named the "WOW!" signal for a notation made by a volunteer on the project.
- August 16 – Elvis Presley, the king of rock and roll dies in his home in Graceland at age 42. 75,000 fans lined the streets of Memphis for this funeral.^[3]
- August 20 – Voyager program: The United States launches the *Voyager 2* spacecraft.

September

- September 4 – The Golden Dragon Massacre took place in San Francisco, California.
- September 5 – Voyager program: Voyager 1 is launched after a brief delay.
- September 7 – Treaties between Panama and the United States on the status of the Panama Canal are signed. The U.S. agrees to transfer control of the canal to Panama at the end of the 20th century.
- September 18 – *Courageous*, skippered by Ted Turner, sweeps *Australia* in the 24th America's Cup.
- September 19
 - Under pressure from the Carter Administration, President Anastasio Somoza Debayle lifts the state of siege in Nicaragua.
 - Closure of steelworks in Youngstown, Ohio, is announced.
- September 21 – A nuclear non-proliferation pact is signed by 15 countries, including the United States and the Soviet Union.
- September 30 – A series of partial government shutdowns occur finally ending in December.



Voyager 1 launched Sept. 5, 1977

October

- October 1
 - Energy Research and Development Administration part of Department of Energy.
 - Pelé plays his final professional football game as a member of the New York Cosmos.

- October 6 – Irish American mobster Danny Greene is murdered with a car bomb by the Cleveland crime family in Lyndhurst, Ohio.
- October 12 – The passage of the Community Reinvestment Act.
- October 14 – Anita Bryant is famously pried by four gay rights activists during a press conference in Des Moines, Iowa. This event resulted in her political fallout from anti-gay activism.
- October 18 – Reggie Jackson hits three home runs to lead the New York Yankees to World Series victory.
- October 20 – Three members of the rock band Lynyrd Skynyrd die in a charter plane crash outside Gillsburg, Mississippi, 3 days after the release of their fifth studio album *Street Survivors*.
- October 21 – Rock singer Meat Loaf (real name Marvin Lee Aday) releases the album *Bat Out of Hell*.^[4]

November

- November 6 – The Kelly Barnes Dam, located above Toccoa Falls Bible College near Toccoa, Georgia, fails, killing 39.
- November 7 birth of Chrystal Hope Ames
- November 8 – San Francisco elects City Supervisor Harvey Milk, the first openly gay elected official of any large city in the U.S.
- November 13 – The comic strip *Li'l Abner* ends a 43-year run in newspapers.
- November 22 – British Airways inaugurates regular London to New York City supersonic Concorde service.
- November 27 – The Rankin/Bass animated film *The Hobbit* premieres on NBC in the United States.



A British Airways Concorde aircraft

December

- December 1 – The Lockheed's top-secret stealth aircraft project, designated Have Blue, precursor to the U.S. F-117A Nighthawk, makes its first flight.
- December 13 – A DC-3 charter plane carrying the University of Evansville basketball team to Nashville, Tenn., crashes in rain and dense fog about 90 seconds after takeoff from Evansville Dress Regional Airport. Twenty-nine people die in the crash, including 14 members of the team and head coach Bob Watson.
- December 19–21 – The Great Bakersfield Dust Storm hits the Southern San Joaquin Valley, in California; resulting in 3 deaths and \$40 million in damages.

Undated

- Polish-American mathematician Antoni Zygmund authors his major work *Measure and Integral*.
- Feature films released in 1977 include: *Star Wars*, *Annie Hall*, *Saturday Night Fever*, *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*, *The Goodbye Girl*, *A Bridge Too Far*, *Exorcist II: The Heretic*, *The Turning Point*, *New York, New York*, *Smokey and the Bandit*
- John Travolta's role in *Saturday Night Fever* inspired young Americans to wear Flare jeans, an updated version of Bell-bottoms.
- Atari 2600, released in October, popularized the use of microprocessor based hardware and cartridges containing game code.
- Mormon sex in chains case with the alleged abduction in England of an American Mormon missionary by a former Miss Wyoming.

- The coldest winter for fifty-nine years in the Ohio Valley region^[5] and a record dry year throughout the West,^[6] especially the Pacific Northwest,^[7] creates heating fuel and water shortages plus extended freezing of the Great Lakes^[8] and freezing of the Mississippi River as far as Cairo, Illinois.

Ongoing

- Cold War (1945–1991)
- Détente (c. 1969–1979)
- 1970s energy crisis (1973–1980)

Births

- January 3 – A. J. Burnett, professional baseball player
- January 4 – Ozell Wells, Dominican-American basketball player, coach, and scout
- January 7 – Dustin Diamond, actor
- January 8 – Amber Benson, actress
- January 13 – Orlando Bloom, actor
- January 23 Mother-in-Law turns 23 Years Old
- January 26 – Vince Carter, professional basketball player
- January 28
 - Daunte Culpepper, professional football player
 - Joey Fatone, singer ('N Sync)
 - Lyle Overbay, professional baseball player
- February 4 – Gavin DeGraw, musician and singer-songwriter
- February 5 – Ahmad Merritt, professional football player
- February 8 – Barry Hall, footballer
- February 11 – Mike Shinoda, musician
- February 13 – Randy Moss, professional football player
- February 18 – Sean Watkins, guitarist, vocalist and songwriter
- February 20 – Stephon Marbury, professional basketball player
- February 21 – Kevin Rose, former internet entrepreneur
- March 8 – James Van Der Beek, actor
- March 10 – Bree Turner, actress
- March 11 – Becky Hammon, professional basketball player
- April 9 – Gerard Way, musician
- April 14
 - Sarah Michelle Gellar, actress
 - Chandra Levy, intern (d. 2001)
- April 16 – Hayes MacArthur, actor, producer, and screenwriter
- April 23
 - John Cena, professional wrestler
 - John Oliver, comedian
- April 26
 - Jason Earles, actor
 - Tom Welling, actor
- May 9 – Maggie Dixon, basketball player and coach (d. 2006)
- May 12 – Rebecca Herbst, actress
- June 2 – Zachary Quinto, actor
- June 5

- Kristin Gore, author and screenwriter
- Christian Martucci, singer-songwriter and guitarist (Black President, The Strychnine Babies, and The Chelsea Smiles)
- June 7 – Joe Horgan, baseball player
- June 19 – Peter Warrick, American football player
- June 20 – Stephanie White, basketball player
- July 1 – Liv Tyler, actress
- July 15 – Lana Parrilla, actress
- July 22 Father-in-Law turns 22 Years Old
- July 28
 - Dexter Jackson, American football player and sportscaster
 - Chris Samuels, American football player and coach
- August 2 – Eugenia Marie Jennings, offender (d. 2103)
- November 6 In Laws 1st Year Anniversary
- November 10 – Brittany Murphy, actress (d. 2009)
- November 15
 - Robaire Smith, American football player
 - Logan Whitehurst, singer-songwriter and drummer (The Velvet Teen) (d. 2006)
- November 16 – Maggie Gyllenhaal, actress
- November 22 – David Clinger, professional road racing cyclist
- December 12 – Orlando Hudson, baseball player
- December 21 – A. J. Bowen, actor and producer
- December 24 – Michael Raymond-James, actor

Deaths

- January 2 – Erroll Garner, jazz pianist (b. 1921)
- January 17 – Gary Gilmore, criminal (b. 1940)
- January 23 – Toots Shor, proprietor (b. 1903)
- January 29 – Freddie Prinze, actor and comedian (b. 1954)
- February 4 – Brett Halliday, mystery writer (b. 1904)
- February 27 – Allison Hayes, actress (b. 1930)
- April 21 – Gummo Marx, vaudeville performer (b. 1893)
- May 9 – James Jones, author (b. 1921)
- May 10 – Joan Crawford, actress (b. 1904)
- July 9 – Alice Paul, suffragist (b. 1885)
- August 14 – Ron Haydock, actor (b. 1940)
- August 16 – Elvis Presley, singer (b. 1935)
- August 19 – Groucho Marx, comedian (b. 1890)
- September 1 – Ethel Waters, actress (b. 1896)
- September 16 – Maria Callas, soprano (b. 1923)
- October 6 – Danny Greene, Irish American mobster (b. 1933)
- October 14 – Bing Crosby, (b. 1903)
- October 27 – Tony Hulman, (b. 1901)
- December 15 – Wilfred Kitching, 7th General of the Salvation Army (b. 1893)
- December 19 – Nellie Tayloe Ross, 14th Governor of Wyoming from 1925 to 1927 and director of the United States Mint from 1933 to 1953; first female state governor in the U.S. (b. 1876)
- December 25 – Charlie Chaplin, actor (b. 1889)

See also

- 1977 in American television
- List of American films of 1977

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4. [1] (<http://www.superseventies.com/spmeatloaf.html>)
5. October to February Mean Temperature: Ohio Valley (http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/cag/time-series/us/103/00/tavg/5/02/1895-2014?base_prd=true&firstbaseyear=1896&lastbaseyear=1967&trend=true&trend_base=10&firsttrendyear=1967&lasttrendyear=2015&filter=true&filterType=binomial); National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
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External links

- Media related to 1977 in the United States at Wikimedia Commons

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Categories: 1977 in the United States

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