

1983 in the United States

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Events from the year **1983 in the United States**.

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Incumbents

Federal Government

- President: Ronald Reagan (R-California)
- Vice President: George H. W. Bush (R-Texas)
- Chief Justice: Warren E. Burger (Minnesota)
- Speaker of the House of Representatives: Tip O'Neill (D-Massachusetts)
- Senate Majority Leader: Howard Baker (R-Tennessee)
- Congress: 97th (until January 3), 98th (starting January 3)

Governors and Lieutenant Governors

Governors

- Governor of Alabama: Fob James (Democratic) (until January 17), George Wallace (Democratic) (starting January 17)
- Governor of Alaska: Bill Sheffield (Democratic)
- Governor of Arizona: Bruce Babbitt (Democratic)
- Governor of Arkansas: Frank D. White (Republican) (until January 11), Bill Clinton (Democratic) (starting January 11)
- Governor of California: Jerry Brown (Democratic) (until January 3), George Deukmejian (Republican) (starting January 3)
- Governor of Colorado: Richard Lamm (Democratic)
- Governor of Connecticut: William A O'Neill (Democratic)
- Governor of Delaware: Pierre S. du Pont, IV (Republican)
- Governor of Florida: Bob Graham (Democratic)
- Governor of Georgia: George Busbee (Democratic) (until January 11), Joe Frank Harris (Democratic) (starting January 11)
- Governor of Hawaii: George Ariyoshi (Democratic)
- Governor of Idaho: John V. Evans (Democratic)
- Governor of Illinois: James R. Thompson (Republican)
- Governor of Indiana: Robert D. Orr (Republican)
- Governor of Iowa: Robert D. Ray (Republican) (until January 14), Terry E. Branstad (Republican) (starting January 14)
- Governor of Kansas: John W. Carlin (Democratic)
- Governor of Kentucky: John Y. Brown, Jr. (Democratic) (until December 13), Martha Layne Collins (Democratic) (starting December 13)
- Governor of Louisiana: David C. Treen (Republican)
- Governor of Maine: Joseph E. Brennan (Democratic)
- Governor of Maryland: Harry R. Hughes (Democratic)
- Governor of Massachusetts: Edward J. King (Democratic) (until January 6), Michael Dukakis (Democratic) (starting January 6)
- Governor of Michigan: William Milliken (Republican) (until January 1), James Blanchard (Democratic) (starting January 1)
- Governor of Minnesota: Al Quie (Republican) (until January 3), Rudy Perpich (Democratic) (starting January 3)
- Governor of Mississippi: William Winter (Democratic)
- Governor of Missouri: Kit Bond (Republican)
- Governor of Montana: Ted Schwinden (Democratic)
- Governor of Nebraska: Charles Thone (Republican) (until January 6), Bob Kerrey (Democratic) (starting January 6)
- Governor of Nevada: Robert List (Republican) (until January 3), Richard Bryan (Democratic) (starting January 3)
- Governor of New Hampshire: Vesta M. Roy (Republican) (until January 6), John H. Sununu (Republican) (starting January 6)
- Governor of New Jersey: Thomas Kean (Republican)
- Governor of New Mexico: Bruce King (Democratic) (until January 1), Toney Anaya (Democratic) (starting January 1)
- Governor of New York: Mario Cuomo (Democratic) (starting January 1)
- Governor of North Carolina: Jim Hunt (Democratic)
- Governor of North Dakota: Allen I. Olson (Republican)
- Governor of Ohio: Jim Rhodes (Republican) (until January 10), Dick Celeste (Democratic) (starting January 10)
- Governor of Oklahoma: George Nigh (Democratic)
- Governor of Oregon: Victor G. Atiyeh (Republican)
- Governor of Pennsylvania: Dick Thornburgh (Republican)

- Governor of Rhode Island: J. Joseph Garrahy (Democratic)
- Governor of South Carolina: Richard Riley (Democratic)
- Governor of South Dakota: William J. Janklow (Republican)
- Governor of Tennessee: Lamar Alexander (Republican)
- Governor of Texas: Bill Clements (Republican) (until January 18), Mark White (Democratic) (starting January 18)
- Governor of Utah: Scott M. Matheson (Democratic)
- Governor of Vermont: Richard A. Snelling (Republican)
- Governor of Virginia: Chuck Robb (Democratic)
- Governor of Washington: John Spellman (Republican)
- Governor of West Virginia: Jay Rockefeller (Democratic)
- Governor of Wisconsin: Lee S. Dreyfus (Republican) (until January 3), Tony Earl (Democratic) (starting January 3)
- Governor of Wyoming: Edgar J. Herschler (Democratic)

Lieutenant Governors

- Lieutenant Governor of Alabama: George McMillan (Democratic) (until January 17), Bill Baxley (Democratic) (starting January 17)
- Lieutenant Governor of Alaska: Stephen McAlpine (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Arkansas: Winston Bryant (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of California: Mike Curb (Republican) (until January 3), Leo T. McCarthy (Democratic) (starting January 3)
- Lieutenant Governor of Colorado: Nancy E. Dick (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Connecticut: Joseph J. Fauliso (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Delaware: Michael N. Castle (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Florida: Wayne Mixson (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Georgia: Zell Miller (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Hawaii: John D. Waihee III (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Idaho: Phil Batt (Democratic) (until January 3), David H. Leroy (Republican) (starting January 3)
- Lieutenant Governor of Illinois: vacant (until January 10), George H. Ryan (Republican) (starting January 10)
- Lieutenant Governor of Indiana: John Mutz (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Iowa: Terry E. Branstad (Republican) (until month and day unknown), Robert T. Anderson (Democratic) (starting month and day unknown)
- Lieutenant Governor of Kansas: Paul V. Dugan (Democratic) (until January 10), Thomas R. Docking (Democratic) (starting January 10)
- Lieutenant Governor of Kentucky: Martha Layne Collins (Democratic) (until December 13), Steve Beshear (Democratic) (starting December 13)
- Lieutenant Governor of Louisiana: Robert "Bobby" Freeman (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Maryland: vacant (until January 19), J. Joseph Curran (Democratic) (starting January 19)
- Lieutenant Governor of Massachusetts: Thomas P. O'Neill III (Democratic) (until March 6), John Kerry (Democratic) (starting March 6)
- Lieutenant Governor of Michigan: James H. Brickley (Republican) (until January 1), Martha W. Griffiths (Democratic) (starting January 1)
- Lieutenant Governor of Minnesota: Lou Wangberg (Republican) (until January 3), Marlene Johnson (Democratic) (starting January 3)
- Lieutenant Governor of Mississippi: Brad Dye (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Missouri: Kenneth Rothman (Democratic)

- Lieutenant Governor of Montana: George Turman (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Nebraska: Roland A. Luedtke (Republican) (until month and day unknown), Donald F. McGinley (Democratic) (starting month and day unknown)
- Lieutenant Governor of Nevada: Myron E. Leavitt (Democratic) (until January 3), Bob Cashell (Democratic) (starting January 3)
- Lieutenant Governor of New Mexico: Roberto Mondragón (Democratic) (until January 1), Mike Runnels (Democratic) (starting January 1)
- Lieutenant Governor of New York: Alfred DelBello (Democratic) (starting January 1)
- Lieutenant Governor of North Carolina: James C. Green (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of North Dakota: Ernest Sands (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Ohio: vacant (until January 10), Myrl H. Shoemaker (Democratic) (starting January 10)
- Lieutenant Governor of Oklahoma: Spencer Bernard (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Pennsylvania: William Scranton, III (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Rhode Island: Thomas R. DiLuglio (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of South Carolina: Nancy Stevenson (Democratic) (until January 12), Michael R. Daniel (Democratic) (starting January 12)
- Lieutenant Governor of South Dakota: Lowell C. Hansen II (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Tennessee: John S. Wilder (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Texas: William P. Hobby, Jr. (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Utah: David Smith Monson (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Vermont: Madeleine M. Kunin (Democratic) (until January 10), Peter Plympton Smith (Republican) (starting January 10)
- Lieutenant Governor of Virginia: Richard Joseph Davis (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Washington: John Cherberg (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Wisconsin: Russell A. Olson (Republican) (until January 3), James T. Flynn (Democratic) (starting January 3)

Events

January

- January 1 – The New Jersey Transit Police Department is created in the state of New Jersey.
- January 2 – The musical *Annie* is performed for the last time after 2,377 shows at the Alvin Theatre on Broadway, New York City.
- January 3 – Kilauea begins slowly erupting on the Big Island of Hawaii and is still flowing as of 2016.
- January 19 – Apple Inc. releases the Apple Lisa personal computer.
- January 26 – Lotus 1-2-3 is released for IBM-PC compatible computers.
- January 30 – The Washington Redskins defeat the Miami Dolphins by a score of 27 – 17 in Super Bowl XVII.

February

- February 18 – Wah Mee massacre: 13 people are killed in an attempted robbery in Seattle, Washington.
- February 23
 - The United States Environmental Protection Agency announces its intention to buy out and evacuate the dioxin-contaminated community of Times Beach, Missouri.
 - Failure of automatic shut-down at Salem Nuclear Power Plant, New Jersey, USA.

- February 24 – A special commission of the Congress of the United States releases a report critical of the practice of Japanese internment during World War II.
- February 28 – The final episode of *M*A*S*H* airs, setting a new record for most-watched television broadcast in American history.

March

- March 8 – IBM releases the IBM PC XT.
- March 9 – Anne Burford resigns as head of the United States Environmental Protection Agency amid scandal.
- March 23 – Strategic Defense Initiative: U.S. President Ronald Reagan makes his initial proposal to develop technology to intercept enemy missiles. The media dub this plan "Star Wars".
- March 25 – Michael Jackson performs the dance move that will forever be known as the "moonwalk" at Motown 25.



March 23: Ronald Reagan announces the Strategic Defense Initiative

April

- April 18 – The April 1983 U.S. Embassy bombing in Beirut kills 63 people.
- April 25 – Manchester, Maine schoolgirl Samantha Smith is invited to visit the Soviet Union by its leader Yuri Andropov, after he read her letter in which she expressed fears about nuclear war.

May

- May 17 – Lebanon, Israel, and the United States sign an agreement on Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon.
- May 22 - 31: The **1983 NBA Finals**, also known as **Showdown '83**, was the championship round of the 1982–83 NBA season. The Philadelphia 76ers' defeated the Los Angeles Lakers 4 - 0. It was the last NBA Championship Series completed before June 1. Finals MVP - Moses Malone (Philadelphia 76ers)
- May 25 – National Missing Children's Day is proclaimed by President Ronald Reagan, exactly four years after Etan Patz's disappearance.
- May 28 – The 9th G7 summit begins at Williamsburg, Virginia.

June

- June 13 – *Pioneer 10* becomes the first man-made object to leave the solar system.
- June 18 – STS-7: Sally Ride becomes the first American woman in space, on the *Space Shuttle Challenger*.

July

- July 7 – Samantha Smith flies to the Soviet Union (see April 25).

August

- August 1 – America West Airlines begins operations out of Phoenix, Arizona and Las Vegas, Nevada.
- August 18 – Hurricane Alicia hits the Texas coast, killing 22 and causing over US\$3.8 billion (2005 dollars) in damage.
- August 24 – The Old Philadelphia Arena is destroyed by arson.

- August 30 – STS-8: *Space Shuttle Challenger* carries Guion S. Bluford, the first African-American astronaut, into space.

September

- September 1 – Cold War: Korean Air Lines Flight 007 is shot down by a Soviet Union jet fighter when the commercial aircraft enters Soviet airspace. All 269 on board are killed including U.S. Congressman Larry McDonald.
- September 5 – Tom Brokaw becomes lead anchor for *NBC Nightly News*.
- September 17 – Vanessa Lynn Williams becomes the first African-American to be crowned Miss America, in Atlantic City, New Jersey.

October

- October 4 – Richard Noble sets a new land speed record of 633.468 mph, driving Thrust 2 at the Black Rock Desert, Nevada.
- October 16 – World Series: The Baltimore Orioles defeat the Philadelphia Phillies 5–0 in Game 5, to win the series 4 games to 1 for their 3rd World Championship.
- October 23 – Simultaneous suicide truck-bombings destroy both the French and the United States Marine Corps barracks in Beirut, killing 241 U.S. servicemen, 58 French paratroopers and 6 Lebanese civilians.
- October 25
 - United States troops invade Grenada at the behest of Eugenia Charles of Dominica, a member of the Organization of American States.
 - Microsoft Word is first released.

November

- November 2 – Martin Luther King, Jr. Day: At the White House Rose Garden, U.S. President Ronald Reagan signs a bill creating a federal holiday on the third Monday of every January to honor American civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. It is first observed in 1986.
- November 3 – The Reverend Jesse Jackson announces his candidacy for the 1984 Democratic Party presidential nomination.
- November 10
 - The anticancer drug etoposide is approved by the FDA, leading to a curative treatment regime in the field of combination chemotherapy of testicular carcinoma.
 - *Star 80* is a film about the true story of *Playboy* Playmate of the Year Dorothy Stratten, who was murdered by her estranged husband Paul Snider on August 14, 1980.
- November 11 – Ronald Reagan becomes the first U.S. President to address the Diet, Japan's national legislature.
- November 13 – The first United States cruise missiles arrive at Greenham Common Airbase in England amid protests from peace campaigners.
- November 14 – The immunosuppressant cyclosporine is approved by the FDA, leading to a revolution in the field of transplantation.
- November 16 – A jury in Gretna, Louisiana acquits Ginny Foat of the murder of Argentine businessman Moses Chaiyo.

December

- December 2 – Michael Jackson's music video for "Thriller" is broadcast for the first time. It becomes the most often repeated and famous music video of all time, increasing his own popularity

and record sales of the album "Thriller".

- December 4 – Lt. Bobby Goodman of the United States Navy is shot down over Lebanon and captured by the Syrians.
- December 13 – The Denver Nuggets and the visiting Detroit Pistons combine for an NBA record 370 points, with Detroit winning in triple overtime, 186–184.
- December 24 – Miles City, Montana sets the record for the highest mean sea level pressure in the contiguous US with a reading of 31.42 inHg (1064 mb).^[1]
- December 27 – A propane explosion in Buffalo, New York kills 5 firefighters and 2 civilians.
- December 29 – The Reverend Jesse Jackson travels to Syria to secure the release of U.S. Navy Lieutenant Robert Goodman, who has been in Syrian captivity since being shot down over the country during a reconnaissance mission.
- December 31 – Apple Macintosh advertisement is released.

Undated

- McDonald's introduces the *McNugget*.
- The Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE) program is launched in the U.S.
- The economy begins a robust recovery following the early 1980s recession.
- *Flashdance* and *Return of the Jedi* are box-office hits.
- Kellogg's introduces *Crispix* cereal.
- Kary Mullis discovers polymerase chain reaction while working for Cetus.
- Chrysler starts production on the first minivans: the Dodge Caravan and Plymouth Voyager.
- The Cabbage Patch Kids dolls make their national debut, their popularity leads to The Cabbage Patch riots

Ongoing

- Cold War (1945–1991)

Births

- January 2 – Kate Bosworth, actress
- January 4 – Spencer Chamberlain, singer-songwriter
- January 5 – Sean Dockery, basketball player
- February 27 – Kate Mara, actress
- March 10 – Carrie Underwood, country singer
- April 4 – Amanda Righetti, film producer and actress
- April 10
 - Jamie Chung, actress
 - Ryan Merriman, actor
- April 24 – Will Champlin, American singer-songwriter
- May 9 – Tyler Lumsden, baseball player
- May 12 – Brett Wiesner, soccer player (d. 2014)
- May 23 – Josh Pace, basketball player
- June 5 – Bill Bray, baseball player
- June 6 – Kellen Clemens, American football player
- June 19 – Jason Capizzi, American football player
- June 21 – Edward Snowden, government whistleblower
- July 21 – Kellen Winslow II, American football player
- August 16 – Colt Brennan, American football player

- August 24 – Brett Gardner, baseball player
- November 24 – DJ Skee, American DJ and producer

Deaths

- February 4 – Karen Carpenter, singer and drummer (b. 1950)
- June 30 – Leonard B. Jordan, United States Senator from Idaho from 1962 till 1973. (b. 1899)
- July 1 – Buckminster Fuller, architect (b. 1895)
- August 27 – Bobby Griffith (b. 1963)
- September 1
 - Henry M. Jackson, United States Senator from Washington from 1953 till 1983. (b. 1912)
 - Larry McDonald, United States Representative from Georgia from 1975 till 1983. (b. 1935)
- October 23 – Jessica Savitch, news journalist (b. 1947)

See also

- 1983 in American television
- List of American films of 1983

References

1. World and US High Barometric Pressure records (<http://www.wunderground.com/blog/weatherhistorian/world-and-us-anticyclonic-high-barometric-pressure-records>)

External links

-  Media related to 1983 in the United States at Wikimedia Commons

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