

1991 in the United States

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Events from the year **1991 in the United States**. The Cold War ends as the USSR dissolves by the end of the year.

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Incumbents

Federal Government

- President: George H. W. Bush (R-Texas)
- Vice President: Dan Quayle (R-Indiana)
- Chief Justice: William Rehnquist (Wisconsin)
- Speaker of the House of Representatives: Tom Foley (D-Washington)
- Senate Majority Leader: George J. Mitchell (D-Maine)
- Congress: 101st (until January 3), 102nd (starting January 3)

Governors and Lieutenant Governors

Governors

- Governor of Alabama: H. Guy Hunt (Republican)
- Governor of Alaska: Wally Hickel (Alaskan Independence)/(Republican)
- Governor of Arizona: Rose Mofford (Democratic) (until March 6), Fife Symington III (Republican) (starting March 6)
- Governor of Arkansas: Bill Clinton (Democratic)
- Governor of California: George Deukmejian (Republican) (until January 7), Pete Wilson (Republican) (starting January 7)
- Governor of Colorado: Roy Romer (Democratic)
- Governor of Connecticut: William A O'Neill (Democratic) (until January 9), Lowell P. Weicker, Jr. (A Connecticut) (starting January 9)
- Governor of Delaware: Michael Castle (Republican)
- Governor of Florida: Bob Martinez (Republican) (until January 8), Lawton Chiles (Democratic) (starting January 8)
- Governor of Georgia: Joe Frank Harris (Democratic) (until January 14), Zell Miller (Democratic) (starting January 14)
- Governor of Hawaii: John D. Waihee III (Democratic)
- Governor of Idaho: Cecil D. Andrus (Democratic)
- Governor of Illinois: James R. Thompson (Republican) (until January 14), Jim Edgar (Republican) (starting January 14)
- Governor of Indiana: Evan Bayh (Democratic)
- Governor of Iowa: Terry E. Branstad (Republican)
- Governor of Kansas: Mike Hayden (Republican) (until January 14), Joan Finney (Democratic) (starting January 14)
- Governor of Kentucky: Wallace G. Wilkinson (Democratic) (until December 10), Brereton Jones (Democratic) (starting December 10)
- Governor of Louisiana: Buddy Roemer (Democratic)/(Republican)
- Governor of Maine: John R. McKernan, Jr. (Republican)
- Governor of Maryland: William Donald Schaefer (Democratic)
- Governor of Massachusetts: Michael Dukakis (Democratic) (until January 3), William F. Weld (Republican) (starting January 3)
- Governor of Michigan: James Blanchard (Democratic) (until January 1), John Engler (Republican) (starting January 1)
- Governor of Minnesota: Rudy Perpich (Democratic) (until January 7), Arne H. Carlson (Republican) (starting January 7)
- Governor of Mississippi: Ray Mabus (Democratic)
- Governor of Missouri: John Ashcroft (Republican)
- Governor of Montana: Stan Stephens (Republican)
- Governor of Nebraska: Kay A. Orr (Republican) (until January 9), Ben Nelson (Democratic) (starting January 9)
- Governor of Nevada: Bob Miller (Democratic)
- Governor of New Hampshire: Judd Gregg (Republican)
- Governor of New Jersey: James Florio (Democratic)
- Governor of New Mexico: Garrey Carruthers (Republican) (until January 1), Bruce King (Democratic) (starting January 1)
- Governor of New York: Mario Cuomo (Democratic)
- Governor of North Carolina: James G. Martin (Republican)
- Governor of North Dakota: George A. Sinner (Democratic)
- Governor of Ohio: Dick Celeste (Democratic) (until January 14), George Voinovich (Republican) (starting January 14)
- Governor of Oklahoma: Henry Bellmon (Republican) (until January 14), David Walters (Democratic) (starting January 14)

- Governor of Oregon: Neil Goldschmidt (Democratic) (until January 14), Barbara Roberts (Democratic) (starting January 14)
- Governor of Pennsylvania: Robert P. Casey (Democratic)
- Governor of Rhode Island: Edward D. DiPrete (Republican) (until January 1), Bruce Sundlun (Democratic) (starting January 1)
- Governor of South Carolina: Carroll A. Campbell, Jr. (Republican)
- Governor of South Dakota: George S. Mickelson (Republican)
- Governor of Tennessee: Ned McWherter (Democratic)
- Governor of Texas: Bill Clements (Republican) (until January 15), Ann Richards (Democratic) (starting January 15)
- Governor of Utah: Norman H. Bangerter (Republican)
- Governor of Vermont:
 - until January 10: Madeleine M. Kunin (Democratic)
 - January 10–August 13: Richard A. Snelling (Republican)
 - starting August 13: Howard Dean (Democratic)
- Governor of Virginia: Douglas Wilder (Democratic)
- Governor of Washington: Booth Gardner (Democratic)
- Governor of West Virginia: Gaston Caperton (Democratic)
- Governor of Wisconsin: Tommy Thompson (Republican)
- Governor of Wyoming: Mike Sullivan (Democratic)

Lieutenant Governors

- Lieutenant Governor of Alabama: Jim Folsom, Jr. (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Alaska: Jack Coghill (Alaskan Independence)
- Lieutenant Governor of Arkansas: Winston Bryant (Democratic) (until January 15), Jim Guy Tucker (Democratic) (starting January 15)
- Lieutenant Governor of California: Leo T. McCarthy (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Colorado: Mike Callihan (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Connecticut: Joseph J. Fauliso (Democratic) (until January 9), Eunice Groark (A Connecticut) (starting January 9)
- Lieutenant Governor of Delaware: Dale E. Wolf (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Florida: Bobby Brantley (Republican) (until January 8), Buddy MacKay (Democratic) (starting January 8)
- Lieutenant Governor of Georgia: Zell Miller (Democratic) (until January 13), Pierre Howard (Democratic) (starting January 13)
- Lieutenant Governor of Hawaii: Ben Cayetano (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Idaho: Butch Otter (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Illinois: George H. Ryan (Republican) (until January 14), Bob Kustra (Republican) (starting January 14)
- Lieutenant Governor of Indiana: Frank O'Bannon (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Iowa: Jo Ann Zimmerman (Democratic) (until January), Joy Corning (Republican) (starting January)
- Lieutenant Governor of Kansas: Jack D. Walker (Republican) (until January 14), Jim Francisco (Democratic) (starting January 14)
- Lieutenant Governor of Kentucky: Brereton Jones (Democratic) (until December 10), Paul E. Patton (Democratic) (starting December 10)
- Lieutenant Governor of Louisiana: Paul Hardy (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Maryland: Melvin A. Steinberg (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Massachusetts: Evelyn Murphy (Democratic) (until January 3), Paul Cellucci (Republican) (starting January 3)

- Lieutenant Governor of Michigan: Martha W. Griffiths (Democratic) (until January 1), Connie Binsfeld (Republican) (starting January 1)
- Lieutenant Governor of Minnesota: Marlene Johnson (Democratic) (until January 7), Joannell Dyrstad (Democratic) (starting January 7)
- Lieutenant Governor of Mississippi: Brad Dye (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Missouri: Mel Carnahan (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Montana: Allen Kolstad (Republican) (until January 20), Denny Rehberg (Republican) (starting January 20)
- Lieutenant Governor of Nebraska: William E. Nichol (Republican) (until month and day unknown), Maxine Moul (Democratic) (starting month and day unknown)
- Lieutenant Governor of Nevada: vacant (until January 7), Sue Wagner (Republican) (starting January 7)
- Lieutenant Governor of New Mexico: Jack L. Stahl (Republican) (until January 1), Casey Luna (Democratic) (starting January 1)
- Lieutenant Governor of New York: Stan Lundine (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of North Carolina: James Carson Gardner (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of North Dakota: Lloyd Omdahl (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Ohio: Paul R. Leonard (Democratic) (until January 14), Mike DeWine (Democratic) (starting January 14)
- Lieutenant Governor of Oklahoma: Robert S. Kerr III (Democratic) (until month and day unknown), Jack Mildren (Democratic) (starting month and day unknown)
- Lieutenant Governor of Pennsylvania: Mark Singel (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Rhode Island: Roger N. Begin (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of South Carolina: Nick Theodore (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of South Dakota: Walter Dale Miller (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Tennessee: John S. Wilder (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Texas: William P. Hobby, Jr. (Democratic) (until January 15), Bob Bullock (Democratic) (starting January 15)
- Lieutenant Governor of Utah: W. Val Oveson (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Vermont: Howard Dean (Democratic) (until month and day unknown), vacant (starting month and day unknown)
- Lieutenant Governor of Virginia: Don Beyer (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Washington: Joel Pritchard (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Wisconsin: Scott McCallum (Republican)

Events

January

- January 2 – Sharon Pratt Dixon is sworn in as mayor of the District of Columbia, thus becoming the first African American woman to lead a major U.S. city.
- January 7 – United States Secretary of Defense Dick Cheney cancels the \$57-billion order for the McDonnell Douglas A-12 Avenger II.
- January 8 – Pan American World Airways files for bankruptcy protection.
- January 9 – United States Secretary of State James Baker meets with Iraqi foreign minister Tariq Aziz, but fails to produce a plan for Iraq to withdraw its troops from Kuwait.



January 17: First air strikes on Iraq in the Gulf War

- January 12 – Gulf War: The Congress of the United States passes a resolution authorizing the use of military force to liberate Kuwait.
- January 16 – U.S. serial killer Aileen Wuornos confesses to the murders of six men.
- January 17 – Gulf War: Operation Desert Storm begins with air strikes against Iraq.
- January 18 – Eastern Air Lines ceases operations after flying for two years under bankruptcy protection.
- January 25 – President George H. W. Bush names Rep. Edward Rell Madigan as United States Secretary of Agriculture, replacing Clayton Keith Yeutter, who had been elected Chairman of the Republican National Committee.
- January 26 – In Washington, D.C., tens of thousands of people rally against the Persian Gulf War.
- January 27 – Super Bowl XXV: The New York Giants defeat the Buffalo Bills 20–19 at Tampa Stadium in Tampa, Florida.
- January 29 – The first attempt to cure cancer by gene therapy takes place at the National Cancer Institute in Bethesda, Maryland.

February

- February – The early 1990s recession ends.
- February 1 – A USAir Boeing 737-300, Flight 1493 collides with a SkyWest Airlines Fairchild Metroliner, Flight 5569 at Los Angeles International Airport, killing 34.
- February 5 – A Michigan court bars Dr. Jack Kevorkian from assisting in suicides.
- February 7 – Gulf War: Ground troops cross the Saudi Arabian border and enter Kuwait, thus starting the ground phase of the war.
- February 13 – Gulf War: Two laser-guided bombs destroy an underground bunker in Baghdad, killing 314 Iraqis including 130 children. United States military intelligence claims the structure was transmitting military signals but Iraqi officials identify it as a bomb shelter.^[1]
- February 22 – Gulf War: Iraq accepts a Russian-proposed cease fire agreement. The U.S. rejects the agreement, but says that retreating Iraqi forces will not be attacked if they leave Kuwait within 24 hours.
- February 23 – The One Meridian Plaza fire in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania kills 3 firefighters and destroys 8 floors of the building.
- February 25 – Gulf War: Part of an Iraqi Scud missile hits an American military barracks in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, killing 29 and injuring 99 U.S. soldiers. It is the single, most devastating attack on U.S. forces during that war.
- February 26 – Gulf War: On Baghdad radio, Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein announces the withdrawal of Iraqi troops from Kuwait. Iraqi soldiers set fire to Kuwaiti oil fields as they retreat.
- February 27 – Gulf War: U.S. President George H. W. Bush announces that "Kuwait is liberated".^[2]
- February 28 – Impostor James Hogue is exposed at Princeton University.



c. February: Gulf War: Retreating Iraqi forces set the Kuwaiti oil fires

March

- March 1 – Clayton Keith Yeutter finishes as the United States Secretary of Agriculture.
- March 3
 - An amateur video captures the beating of Rodney King by Los Angeles, California police officers.
 - United Airlines Flight 585 crashes in Colorado Springs, Colorado, killing all 25 people on board.

- March 10 – Gulf War – Operation Phase Echo: 540,000 American troops begin to leave the Persian Gulf.
- March 13 – The United States Department of Justice announces that Exxon has agreed to pay \$1 billion for the clean-up of the Exxon Valdez oil spill in Alaska.
- March 15
 - Four Los Angeles, California police officers are indicted for the videotaped March 3 beating of motorist Rodney King during an arrest.
 - Germany formally regains complete independence after the four post-World War II occupying powers (France, the United Kingdom, the United States and the Soviet Union) relinquish all remaining rights.
- March 30 – Northern Michigan University wins the NCAA Division I title in hockey, 8–7 in the third overtime against Boston University.

April

- April 4
 - Senator John Heinz of Pennsylvania and 6 others are killed when a helicopter collides with their plane over Merion, Pennsylvania.
 - William Kennedy Smith, a nephew of U.S. Senator Ted Kennedy, is identified as a suspect in an alleged Palm Beach, Florida sexual assault.
- April 5 – Former Senator John Tower and 22 others are killed in an airplane crash in Brunswick, Georgia, United States.
- April 17 – The Dow Jones Industrial Average closes above 3,000 for the first time ever, at 3,004.46.
- April 26 – 70 tornadoes break out in the central United States, killing 17. The most notable tornado of the day strikes Andover, Kansas.

May

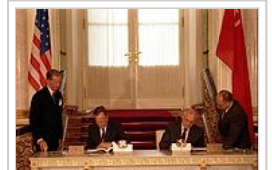
- May 5 – 1991 Washington, D.C. riot: A riot breaks out in the Mt. Pleasant section of Washington, D.C. after police shoot a Salvadoran man.
- May 6 – *Time* magazine publishes "The Thriving Cult of Greed and Power", an article highly critical of the Scientology organization.
- May 16 – Elizabeth II becomes the first British monarch to address the United States Congress.
- May 25 – The Pittsburgh Penguins defeat the Minnesota North Stars 8–0 in Game 6 to win their first Stanley Cup in franchise history.

June

- June 5 – STS-40: Space Shuttle *Columbia* carries the Spacelab Spacelab Life Sciences 1 module into orbit.
- June 10 – As she was finishing her school during the day, Jaycee Lee Dugard, a girl of 11 years was missing and kidnapped. She will not be found for 18 years.^[3]
- June 12 – The Chicago Bulls win their first NBA championship by defeating the Los Angeles Lakers.
- June 13 – A spectator is killed by lightning at the U.S. Open.
- June 17 – U.S. President Zachary Taylor is exhumed to discover whether or not his death was caused by arsenic poisoning, instead of acute gastrointestinal illness; no trace of arsenic is found.

July

- July 11 – A solar Eclipse of record totality occurs, seen first in Hawaii then enters Mexico with the path directly crosses Cabo San Lucas and Mexico City seen by 20 million inhabitants, and finally ends in Colombia in South America.
- July 22
 - Boxer Mike Tyson is arrested and charged with raping Miss Black America contestant Desiree Washington 3 days earlier, in Indianapolis, Indiana.
 - Serial killer Jeffrey Dahmer is arrested after the remains of 11 men and boys are found in his Milwaukee, Wisconsin apartment. Police soon find out that he is involved in six more murders.
- July 31 – The United States and the Soviet Union sign the START I treaty limiting strategic nuclear weapons.



July 31: START I

August

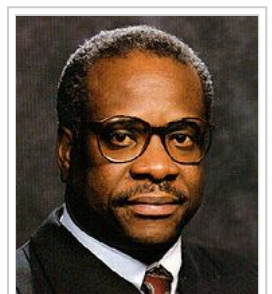
- August 19 – Hurricane Bob hits the Northeastern United States.
- August 23 – The Super Nintendo Entertainment System (or "Super Nintendo") is released in the United States.

September

- September 2 – Dissolution of the Soviet Union: The United States recognizes the independence of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania.
- September 3 – In Hamlet, North Carolina, a grease fire breaks out at the Imperial Foods chicken processing plant, killing 25 people.
- September 8–12 – Tailhook scandal: At the 35th Annual Tailhook Symposium in Las Vegas, 83 women and seven men are assaulted.
- September 11 – Continental Express Flight 2574 crashes in Texas.
- September 16 – The trial of the deposed Panamanian dictator Manuel Noriega begins in the United States.
- September 20–21 – In Sandy, Utah, several patients are held hostage and a nurse is killed in the Alta View Hospital hostage incident.

October

- October 2 – Arkansas Governor Bill Clinton announces he will seek the 1992 Democratic nomination for President of the United States.
- October 11–13 – The U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee interviews both Supreme Court candidate Clarence Thomas and former aide Anita Hill, who alleges that Thomas sexually harassed her while she worked for him.
- October 15 – United States Senate votes 52–48 to confirm Judge Clarence Thomas to the Supreme Court of the United States.
- October 16 – George Hennard guns down 24 people in a restaurant in Killeen, Texas before killing himself. It would be the largest mass shooting by a single person in the U.S. until 2007.
- October 20 – The Oakland Hills firestorm kills 25 and destroys 3,469 homes and apartments.
- October 27 – The Minnesota Twins win the World Series against the Atlanta Braves.



October 15: The Senate confirms Clarence Thomas to the Supreme Court

- October 29 – The American Galileo spacecraft makes its closest approach to 951 Gaspra, becoming the first probe to visit an asteroid.

November

- November 1 – University of Iowa shooting. Former graduate student Gang Lu kills 5 before killing himself.
- November 5 – David Duke, a white separatist running as a Republican, loses the Louisiana Governor's race to Democratic candidate Edwin Edwards, by an overwhelming margin despite winning the majority of the white vote.
- November 7 – Los Angeles Lakers point guard Magic Johnson announces that he has HIV, effectively ending his NBA career.
- November 14
 - American and British authorities announce indictments against two Libyan intelligence officials in connection with the downing of the Pan Am Flight 103.
 - In Royal Oak, Michigan, a fired United States Postal Service employee goes on a shooting rampage, killing four and wounding five before committing suicide.

December

- December 4 – Journalist Terry A. Anderson is released after 7 years' captivity as a hostage in Beirut (the last and longest-held American hostage in Lebanon).
- December 10 – Eric Reid, American football player is born
- December 20 – A Missouri court passes the death sentence on Palestinian militant Zein Isa and his wife Maria, for the honor killing of their daughter Palestina.
- December 25–26 – The Cold War ends as President of the Soviet Union Mikhail Gorbachev resigns and the Soviet Union dissolves.



December 25: The resignation of Mikhail Gorbachev marked one of the final acts in the Dissolution of the Soviet Union

Ongoing

- Cold War (1945–1991)
- Gulf War (1990–1991)
- Iraqi no-fly zones (1991–2003)

Births

- January 19 – Erin Sanders, actress
- January 20 – Ciara Hanna, actress and model
- February 10 – Emma Roberts, actress
- March 6 – Tyler, the Creator, rapper
- March 8 – Devon Werkheiser, actor
- March 16 – Reggie Bullock, basketball player
- March 19 – Garrett Clayton, actor, dancer and singer
- April 4
 - Jamie Lynn Spears, actress, singer
 - Jacquelyn Jablonski, model
- April 10 – AJ Michalka, singer and actress
- April 20 – Allie Will, American tennis player

- May 1
 - Creagen Dow, actor, producer, and screenwriter
 - Marcus Stroman, baseball player
- May 16 – Joey Graceffa, Internet personality, actor and author
- May 26 – Julianna Rose Mauriello, stage actress
- June 19 – Jake Heaps, footballer quarterback
- July 5 – Jason Dolley, actor
- July 9 – Mitchel Musso, actor
- July 12 – Erik Per Sullivan, actor
- August 17 – Austin Butler, actor
- August 28 – Kyle Massey, actor, rapper and singer
- September 9 – Kelsey Chow, actress
- September 23 – Melanie Oudin, tennis player
- October 6 – Roshon Fegan, actor
- October 31 – Kenny Hilliard, American football player
- November 8 – Riker Lynch, singer and actor
- November 13 – Matt Bennett, actor
- November 15 – Shailene Woodley, actress
- December 1 – Rakeem Christmas, basketball player
- December 13 – Jay Greenberg, composer
- December 26 – Jackson Jeffcoat, American football player

Deaths

January to June

- January 11 – Carl David Anderson, physicist (born 1905)
- January 28 – Red Grange, American football player (born 1903)
- January 29 – John McIntire, actor (born 1907)
- January 30 – John Bardeen, physicist (born 1908)
- February 3 – Nancy Kulp, actress (born 1921)
- February 5 – Dean Jagger, actor (born 1903)
- February 14 – John A. McCone, politician (born 1902)
- February 21 – John Sherman Cooper, politician (born 1901)
- February 24 – Jean Rogers, actress (born 1916)
- March 7 – Cool Papa Bell, baseball player (born 1903)
- March 14 – Howard Ashman, lyricist (born 1950)
- March 27 – Aldo Ray, actor (born 1926)
- March 29 – Lee Atwater, Presidential advisor (born 1951)
- April 1 – Martha Graham, dancer and choreographer (born 1894)
- April 4 – H. John Heinz III, politician (born 1938)
- April 20 – Don Siegel, film director (born 1912)
- May 1 – Richard Thorpe, film director (born 1896)
- June 6 – Stan Getz, jazz saxophonist (born 1927)
- June 18 – Joan Caulfield, actress (born 1922)

July to December

- July 1 – Michael Landon, actor (born 1936)
- August 8 – James Irwin, astronaut (born 1930)
- August 11 – J.D. McDuffie, NASCAR driver (born 1938)
- August 13 – Richard A. Snelling, politician (born 1927)
- September 3
 - Dottie West, singer (born 1932)
 - Frank Capra, film director (born 1897)
- September 7 – Edwin McMillan, chemist (born 1917)
- September 8 – Alex North, film composer (born 1910)
- September 15 – John Hoyt, actor (born 1905)
- September 24 – Dr. Seuss, author (born 1904)
- September 28 – Miles Davis, jazz trumpeter (born 1926)
- October 24 – Gene Roddenberry, television producer (born 1921)
- November 6 – Gene Tierney, actress (born 1920)
- November 26 – Carl G. Fenner, botanist (born 1899)
- December 1 – George Stigler, economist (born 1911)
- December 9 – Berenice Abbott, photographer (born 1898)
- December 12 – Eleanor Boardman, actress (born 1898)
- December 12 – Sheldon Mayer, author and illustrator (b. 1917)

See also

- 1991 in American television
- List of American films of 1991

References

1. "US bombers strike civilians in Baghdad". *On This Day*. BBC. 1991-02-13. Retrieved 2010-03-04.
2. Rosenthal, Andrew (February 28, 1991). "WAR IN THE GULF: The President; BUSH HALTS OFFENSIVE COMBAT; KUWAIT FREED, IRAQIS CRUSHED". *The New York Times*.
3. In 2009 in the United States

External links

-  Media related to 1991 in the United States at Wikimedia Commons

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Categories: 1991 in the United States

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