

1999 in the United States

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Events from the year **1999 in the United States**.

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Incumbents

Federal Government

- President: Bill Clinton (D-Arkansas)
- Vice President: Al Gore (D-Tennessee)
- Chief Justice: William Rehnquist (Wisconsin) ^[1]
- Speaker of the House of Representatives: Newt Gingrich (R-Georgia) (until January 3), Dennis Hastert (R-Illinois) (starting January 6)
- Senate Majority Leader: Trent Lott (R-Mississippi)
- Congress: 105th (until January 3), 106th (starting January 3)

Governors and Lieutenant Governors

Governors

- Governor of Alabama: Fob James (Republican) (until January 18), Don Siegelman (Democratic) (starting January 18)
- Governor of Alaska: Tony Knowles (Democratic)
- Governor of Arizona: Jane Dee Hull (Republican)
- Governor of Arkansas: Mike Huckabee (Republican)
- Governor of California: Pete Wilson (Republican) (until January 4), Gray Davis (Democratic) (starting January 4)
- Governor of Colorado: Roy Romer (Democratic) (until January 12), Bill Owens (Republican) (starting January 12)
- Governor of Connecticut: John G. Rowland (Republican)
- Governor of Delaware: Thomas R. Carper (Democratic)
- Governor of Florida: Buddy MacKay (Democratic) (until January 5), Jeb Bush (Republican) (starting January 5)
- Governor of Georgia: Zell Miller (Democratic) (until January 11), Roy Barnes (Democratic) (starting January 11)
- Governor of Hawaii: Ben Cayetano (Democratic)
- Governor of Idaho: Phil Batt (Republican) (until January 4), Dirk Kempthorne (Republican) (starting January 4)
- Governor of Illinois: Jim Edgar (Republican) (until January 11), George Ryan (Republican) (starting January 11)
- Governor of Indiana: Frank O'Bannon (Democratic)
- Governor of Iowa: Terry E. Branstad (Republican) (until January 15), Tom Vilsack (Democratic) (starting January 15)
- Governor of Kansas: Bill Graves (Republican)
- Governor of Kentucky: Paul E. Patton (Democratic)
- Governor of Louisiana: Murphy J. Foster, Jr. (Republican)
- Governor of Maine: Angus King (Independent)
- Governor of Maryland: Parris N. Glendening (Democratic)
- Governor of Massachusetts: Paul Cellucci (Republican)
- Governor of Michigan: John Engler (Republican)
- Governor of Minnesota: Arne H. Carlson (Republican) (until January 4), Jesse Ventura (Independence) (starting January 4)
- Governor of Mississippi: Kirk Fordice (Republican)
- Governor of Missouri: Mel Carnahan (Democratic)
- Governor of Montana: Marc Racicot (Republican)
- Governor of Nebraska: Ben Nelson (Democratic) (until January 7), Mike Johanns (Republican) (starting January 7)
- Governor of Nevada: Bob Miller (Democratic) (until January 4), Kenny Guinn (Republican) (starting January 4)
- Governor of New Hampshire: Jeanne Shaheen (Democratic)
- Governor of New Jersey: Christine Todd Whitman (Republican)
- Governor of New Mexico: Gary Johnson (Republican)
- Governor of New York: George Pataki (Republican)
- Governor of North Carolina: Jim Hunt (Democratic)
- Governor of North Dakota: Ed Schafer (Republican)
- Governor of Ohio: Nancy Hollister (Republican) (until January 11), Bob Taft (Republican) (starting January 11)
- Governor of Oklahoma: Frank Keating (Republican)
- Governor of Oregon: John Kitzhaber (Democratic)
- Governor of Pennsylvania: Tom Ridge (Republican)

- Governor of Rhode Island: Lincoln C. Almond (Republican)
- Governor of South Carolina: David Beasley (Republican) (until January 13), Jim Hodges (Democratic) (starting January 13)
- Governor of South Dakota: William J. Janklow (Republican)
- Governor of Tennessee: Don Sundquist (Republican)
- Governor of Texas: George W. Bush (Republican)
- Governor of Utah: Mike Leavitt (Republican)
- Governor of Vermont: Howard Dean (Democratic)
- Governor of Virginia: Jim Gilmore (Republican)
- Governor of Washington: Gary Locke (Democratic)
- Governor of West Virginia: Cecil H. Underwood (Republican)
- Governor of Wisconsin: Tommy Thompson (Republican)
- Governor of Wyoming: Jim Geringer (Republican)

Lieutenant Governors

- Lieutenant Governor of Alabama: Don Siegelman (Democratic) (until January 18), Steve Windom (Republican) (starting January 18)
- Lieutenant Governor of Alaska: Fran Ulmer (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Arkansas: Winthrop Paul Rockefeller (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of California: Gray Davis (Democratic) (until January 4), Cruz Bustamante (Democratic) (starting January 4)
- Lieutenant Governor of Colorado: Gail Schoettler (political party unknown) (until January 12), Joe Rogers (Republican) (starting January 12)
- Lieutenant Governor of Connecticut: Jodi Rell (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Delaware: Ruth Ann Minner (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Florida: vacant (until January 5), Frank Brogan (Republican) (starting January 5)
- Lieutenant Governor of Georgia: Pierre Howard (Democratic) (until January 11), Mark Taylor (Democratic) (starting January 11)
- Lieutenant Governor of Hawaii: Mazie Hirono (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Idaho: Butch Otter (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Illinois: vacant (until January 11), Corinne Wood (Republican) (starting January 11)
- Lieutenant Governor of Indiana: Joe E. Kernan (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Iowa: Joy Corning (Republican) (until January 15), Sally Pederson (Democratic) (starting January 15)
- Lieutenant Governor of Kansas: Gary Sherrer (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Kentucky: Steve Henry (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Louisiana: Kathleen Blanco (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Maryland: Kathleen Kennedy Townsend (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Massachusetts: Paul Cellucci (Republican) (until January 7), Jane Swift (Republican) (starting January 7)
- Lieutenant Governor of Michigan: Connie Binsfeld (Republican) (until January 1), Dick Posthumus (Republican) (starting January 1)
- Lieutenant Governor of Minnesota: Joanne E. Benson (Republican) (until January 4), Mae Schunk (Independence) (starting January 4)
- Lieutenant Governor of Mississippi: Ronnie Musgrove (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Missouri: Roger B. Wilson (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Montana: Judy Martz (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Nebraska: Kim M. Robak (Democratic) (until January 7), David I. Maurstad (Republican) (starting January 7)

- Lieutenant Governor of Nevada: Lonnie Hammargren (Republican) (until January 4), Lorraine Hunt (Republican) (starting January 4)
- Lieutenant Governor of New Mexico: Walter Dwight Bradley (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of New York: Mary Donohue (Republican) (starting January 1)
- Lieutenant Governor of North Carolina: Dennis A. Wicker (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of North Dakota: Rosemarie Myrdal (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Ohio: vacant (until January 11), Maureen O'Connor (Republican) (starting January 11)
- Lieutenant Governor of Oklahoma: Mary Fallin (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Pennsylvania: Mark S. Schweiker (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Rhode Island: Bernard Jackvony (Republican) (until January 2), Charles J. Fogarty (Democratic) (starting January 2)
- Lieutenant Governor of South Carolina: Bob Peeler (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of South Dakota: Carole Hillard (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Tennessee: John S. Wilder (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Texas: Bob Bullock (Democratic) (until January 19), Rick Perry (Republican) (starting January 19)
- Lieutenant Governor of Utah: Olene S. Walker (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Vermont: Doug Racine (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Virginia: John H. Hager (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Washington: Brad Owen (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Wisconsin: Scott McCallum (Republican)

Events

January

- January 2 – A snowstorm leaves 14 inches (36 cm) of snow in Milwaukee, Wisconsin and 21 inches (53 cm) in Chicago, Illinois, killing 68.
- January 6 – Dennis Hastert becomes Speaker of the United States House of Representatives.
- January 7 – The Senate trial in the impeachment of U.S. President Bill Clinton begins. He had been impeached by the House of Representatives on December 19.
- January 21 – In one of the largest drug busts in American history, the United States Coast Guard intercepts a ship with over 9,500 pounds (4,300 kg) of cocaine aboard, headed for Houston, Texas.

February

- February 4
 - Unarmed West African immigrant Amadou Diallo is shot dead by four plainclothes New York City police officers on an unrelated stake-out, inflaming race-relations in the city.
 - The *New Carissa* runs aground near Coos Bay, Oregon.
- February 12 – Impeachment of Bill Clinton: President Bill Clinton is acquitted by the Senate.
- February 15 – Rapper Big L is shot to death.
- February 19 – President Bill Clinton issues a posthumous pardon for U.S. Army Lt. Henry Ossian Flipper.
- February 23 – White supremacist John William King is found guilty of kidnapping and killing African American James Byrd Jr. by dragging him behind a truck for 2



February 12:
President Clinton
acquitted by the
Senate

miles (3 km).

- February 24 – LaGrand case: The State of Arizona executes Karl LaGrand, a German national involved in an armed robbery that led to a death. Karl's brother Walter is executed a week later, in spite of Germany's legal action in the International Court of Justice to attempt to save him.

March

- March 2 – The brand new Mandalay Bay hotel and casino opens on the Las Vegas Strip.
- March 3 – Walter LaGrand is executed in the gas chamber in Arizona.
- March 4 – In a military court, United States Marine Corps Captain Richard J. Ashby is acquitted of the charge of reckless flying which resulted in the deaths of 20 skiers in the Italian Alps, when his low-flying jet hit a gondola cable.
- March 8 – The Supreme Court of the United States upholds the murder convictions of Timothy McVeigh for the Oklahoma City bombing.
- March 11 – Infosys becomes the first Indian company listed on the NASDAQ stock exchange.
- March 17 – The Roth IRA is introduced by U.S. Senator William V. Roth, Jr.
- March 20 – Legoland California, the only Legoland outside of Europe, opens in Carlsbad, California.
- March 21 – The 71st Academy Awards are held at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion in Los Angeles, California with *Shakespeare in Love* winning Best Picture.
- March 25 – Enron energy traders allegedly route 2,900 megawatts of electricity destined for California to the town of Silver Peak, Nevada, population 200.
- March 26 – A Michigan jury finds Dr. Jack Kevorkian guilty of second-degree murder for administering a lethal injection to a terminally ill man.
- March 27 – Kosovo War: A U.S. F-117 Nighthawk is shot down by Serbian forces.
- March 29 – For the first time, the Dow Jones Industrial Average closes above the 10,000 mark, at 10,006.78.

April

- April 5 – In Laramie, Wyoming, Russell Henderson pleads guilty to kidnapping and felony murder, in order to avoid a possible death penalty conviction for the hate crime killing of Matthew Shepard.
- April 7 – The World Trade Organisation rules in favor of the United States in its long-running trade dispute with the European Union over bananas.^[2]
- April 8 – Bill Gates personal fortune exceeds US\$100 billion, due to the increased value of Microsoft stock.
- April 12 – US President Bill Clinton is cited for contempt of court for giving "intentionally false statements" in a sexual harassment civil lawsuit.
- April 20 – Columbine High School massacre: Two Littleton, Colorado teenagers, Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold, open fire on their teachers and classmates, killing 12 students and 1 teacher, and then themselves. It would be the deadliest shooting at a high school in U.S. history. The shooting sparks debate on school bullying, gun control and violence in the media.

May

- May 1
 - The animated children's TV series *SpongeBob SquarePants* debuts on the cable network Nickelodeon.
- May 3
 - Norman J. Sirnic and Karen Sirnic are murdered by serial killer Angel Maturino Resendiz in Weimar, Texas.

- The Dow Jones Industrial Average closes above 11,000 for the first time, at 11,014.70.
- May 3–6 – 1999 Oklahoma tornado outbreak spawns 140 tornadoes, including an F5 in Moore, Oklahoma that kills 38 people with the highest wind speeds ever recorded.
- May 5 – Microsoft releases Windows 98 (Second Edition) (from 1998).
- May 8 – Nancy Mace becomes the first female cadet to graduate from The Military College of South Carolina.
- May 19 – *Star Wars: Episode I – The Phantom Menace* is released in theaters. It becomes the highest grossing Star Wars film.
- May 25 – The United States House of Representatives releases the *Cox Report* which details the People's Republic of China's nuclear espionage against the U.S. over the prior two decades.
- May 29 – Space Shuttle *Discovery* completes the first docking with the International Space Station.
- May 31 – Sean Elliott of the San Antonio Spurs hits the Memorial Day Miracle against the Portland Trail Blazers in the 1999 NBA Playoffs.



May 3 – 6: 1999 Oklahoma tornado outbreak

June

- June 1 – American Airlines Flight 1420 overruns the runway in Little Rock, Arkansas killing 11 people.
- June 8 – The government of Colombia announces it will include the estimated value of the country's illegal drug crops, exceeding half a billion US dollars, in its gross national product.
- June 12 – Texas Governor George W. Bush announces he will seek the Republican Party nomination for President of the United States.
- June 19 – Horror author Stephen King is hit in a car accident on Route 5 in North Lovell, Maine by Bryan Smith.
- June 23 – The Phillips explosion of 1999 kills 2 and injures 3 in Pasadena, Texas.

July

- July 2
 - Benjamin Nathaniel Smith begins a 3-day killing spree targeting racial and ethnic minorities in Illinois and Indiana.
 - Lawrence Summers is sworn in as the new Secretary of Treasury, succeeding Robert Rubin.
- July 5 – July 6 – U.S. Army Pfc. Barry Winchell is bludgeoned in his sleep at Fort Campbell, Kentucky by fellow soldiers; he dies the next day from his injuries.
- July 8 – A major flash flood in Las Vegas swamps hundreds of cars, smashes mobile homes and kills 2 people.
- July 10 – USA soccer player Brandi Chastain scores the game winning penalty kick against China in the FIFA Women's World Cup.
- July 16 – Off the coast of Martha's Vineyard, a plane piloted by John F. Kennedy, Jr. crashes, killing him and his wife Carolyn Bessette Kennedy and her sister Lauren Bessette.
- July 20 – Mercury program: Liberty Bell 7 is raised from the Atlantic Ocean.
- July 22 – The first version of MSN Messenger is released by Microsoft.
- July 23–25 – The Woodstock 99 festival is held in New York
- July 25 – Lance Armstrong wins his first Tour de France.
- July 26 – The last Checker taxi cab is retired in New York City and auctioned off for approximately \$135,000.



July 25: Lance Armstrong wins his first Tour de France (picture from 2002)

July 31

- Mark O. Barton kills his family. He then went on a murder spree at the trading firm he worked at, killing a total of 12 people in Atlanta, Georgia. He later committed suicide at a gas station when cornered by police.
- NASA intentionally crashes the Lunar Prospector spacecraft into the Moon, thus ending its mission to detect frozen water on the lunar surface.

August

- August 10 – Buford O. Furrow, Jr. wounds 5 and kills 1 during the Los Angeles Jewish Community Center shooting.

September

- September 7 – Viacom and CBS merge.
- September 15 – Larry Gene Ashbrook murders 7 people and then commits suicide at Wedgwood Baptist Church in Fort Worth, Texas.
- September 23 – NASA announces that it has lost contact with the Mars Climate Orbiter.

October

- October 9 – The last flight of the SR-71.
- October 13 – The United States Senate rejects ratification of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT).
- October 27 – The New York Yankees sweep the Atlanta Braves to win their 25th world championship.
- October 31 – EgyptAir Flight 990, travelling from New York City to Cairo, crashes off the coast of Nantucket, Massachusetts, killing all 217 on board. The NTSB later reports that the co-pilot, Gameel Al-Batouti, deliberately crashed the plane, however Egyptian authorities dispute this claim.

November

- November 2 – Byran Uyesugi kills 7 people at a Xerox building in Honolulu, Hawaii.
- November 18 – The Aggie Bonfire collapses in College Station, Texas, killing 12.
- November 30 – In Seattle, Washington, protests against the WTO meeting by anti-globalization protesters catch police unprepared and force the cancellation of opening ceremonies.



November 18:
Aggie Bonfire
collapse

December

- December – The Unemployment Rate drops to 4%, the lowest level since January 1970.
- December 3 – NASA loses radio contact with the Mars Polar Lander, moments before the spacecraft enters the Martian atmosphere.
- December 7 – The Recording Industry Association of America files a lawsuit against the Napster file-sharing client alleging copyright infringement.
- December 18 – NASA launches into orbit the Terra platform, carrying 5 Earth Observation instruments, including ASTER, CERES, MISR, MODIS



November 30:
WTO protests in
Seattle

and MOPITT.

- December 31 – The U.S. turns over complete administration of the Panama Canal to the Panamanian government, as stipulated in the Torrijos–Carter Treaties of 1977.

Ongoing

- Iraqi no-fly zones (1991–2003)
- Dot-com bubble (c. 1995–c. 2000)
- Lewinsky scandal (1998–1999)

Births

January

- January 5
 - Miguel Morales, rapper
 - Marc Yu, musician
- January 13 – Nicholas Art, actor
- January 18 – Karan Brar, actor
- January 20 – Shannon Tavaréz, actress (d. 2010)
- January 28 – Preston Strother, actor

February

- February 1 – Lola Forsberg, actress
- February 10 – Tiffany Espensen, Chinese-born actress
- February 18 – Lorraine McNamara, ice dancer
- February 19
 - Joseph Ryan Harrington, actor and dancer
 - Jackson Pace, actor

March

- March 5
 - Matthew Richard Carter, Philosopher
- March 26
 - Scarlett Stitt, actress
 - Quinn Sullivan, songwriter and musician

April

- April 3 – Naila Wise
- April 6 – Kwesi Boakye, actor
- April 7 – Conner Rayburn, actor
- April 8 – Ty Panitz, actor
- April 20 – Carly Rose Sonenclar, actress, singer and songwriter

May

- May 3 – Rory Staunton, notable victim (d. 2012)
- May 5
 - Nathan Chen, figure skater
 - Bobby Coleman, actor
- May 16 – Cameron Boyce, actor
- May 31 – Emily Evan Rae, actress

June

- June 2 – Madison Leisle, actress
- June 13 – Alexis Roland, snowboarder
- June 27 – Chandler Riggs, actor

July

- July 14 – Camryn Magness, singer
- July 30 – Joey King, actress
- July 30 – Tamiera Tveit, computer tech

August

- August 4 – Shiloh Pepin, notable victim of rare congenital deformity (d. 2009)
- August 9 – Ariana Guido, actress
- August 14 – Garrett Ryan, actor
- August 21 – Maxim Knight, actor

September

- September 4 – Kali Majors, actor
- September 14 – Tom Schaar, skateboarder
- September 21 – Brennan LaBrie, journalist
- September 22 – Tallan Latz, guitarist

October

- October 3 – Aramis Knight, actor
- October 6 – Will Shadley, actor
- October 15 – Bailee Madison, actress
- October 22 – Alex Bergevine, competitive dancer

November

- November 1 – Buddy Handleson, actor
- November 10 – Kiernan Shipka, actress

December

- December 2
 - River Alexander, actor
 - Samuel Armas, notable fetal patient

- December 6 – Ryan Wynnott, actor
- December 14 – Karley Scott Collins, actress
- December 10 – Valarie Marie Aucoin

Full date unknown

- Lex, notable canine (d. 2012)
- Brisenia Flores, murder victim (d. 2009)
- Will Phillips, activist

Deaths

January

- January 18 – Sarah Louise Delany, American author and educator (b. 1889)

February

- February 18 – Andreas Feininger, French-born American photographer (b. 1906)
- February 20 – Gene Siskel, film critic (b. 1946)
- February 25 – Glenn T. Seaborg, nuclear chemist, recipient of Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 1951 (b. 1912)

March

- March 7 – Stanley Kubrick, film director, screenwriter, producer, cinematographer and editor, died in Harpenden, Hertfordshire, United Kingdom (b. 1928)
- March 8 – Joe DiMaggio, American baseball player, advertising spokesman, and husband of Marilyn Monroe (b. 1914)

April

- April 20
 - Eric Harris, murderer (b. 1981)
 - Dylan Klebold, murderer (b. 1981)

May

- May 8 – Dana Plato, actress (b. 1964)

- May 10 – Shel Silverstein, American poet, singer-songwriter, cartoonist, screenwriter, and author of children's books (b. 1930)
- May 18 – Betty Robinson, American athlete (b. 1911)

June

- June 11 – DeForest Kelley, actor (b. 1920)

July

- July 1 – Edward Dmytryk, Canadian born American film director (b. 1908)
- July 6 – Carl Gunter, Jr., American farmer and politician (b. 1938)
- July 8 – Pete Conrad, astronaut, naval aviator, and aeronautical engineer (b. 1930)
- July 16 – John F. Kennedy, Jr., journalist and lawyer, son of John F. Kennedy, 35th President of the United States. (b. 1960)

August

- August 4 – Victor Mature, actor (b. 1913)

September

- September 5 – Allen Funt, American television personality (b. 1914)

October

- October 12 – Wilt Chamberlain, American basketball player (b. 1936)

November

- November 16 – Daniel Nathans, American microbiologist, recipient of the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine (b. 1928)
- November 29 – Gene Rayburn, American television personality (b. 1917)
- December 3
 - Scatman John, musician, singer, and songwriter (b. 1942)
 - John Archer, actor (b. 1915)
- December 27 – Leonard Goldenson, American television executive (b. 1905)
- December 30 – Sarah Knauss, American supercentenarian, verified oldest person in the world (b. 1880)

December

See also

- 1999 in American television
- List of American films of 1999

References

1. "William Rehnquist Biography". *biography.com*. A&E Television Networks. Retrieved 28 February 2016.
2. "Europe will 'comply' with banana ruling". *BBC News*. April 7, 1999.

External links

-  Media related to 1999 in the United States at Wikimedia Commons

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Categories: 1999 in the United States

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