

# 2002 in the United States

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Events from the year **2002 in the United States**.

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## Incumbents

### Federal government

- President: George W. Bush (R-Texas)
- Vice President: Dick Cheney (R-Wyoming)
- Chief Justice: William Rehnquist (Wisconsin) <sup>[1]</sup>
- Speaker of the House of Representatives: Dennis Hastert (R-Illinois)
- Senate Majority Leader: Tom Daschle (D-South Dakota)
- Congress: 107th

## Governors and Lieutenant governors

### Governors

- Governor of Alabama: Don Siegelman (Democratic)
- Governor of Alaska: Tony Knowles (Democratic) (until December 2), Frank Murkowski (Republican) (starting December 2)
- Governor of Arizona: Jane Dee Hull (Republican)
- Governor of Arkansas: Mike Huckabee (Republican)
- Governor of California: Gray Davis (Democratic)
- Governor of Colorado: Bill Owens (Republican)
- Governor of Connecticut: John G. Rowland (Republican)
- Governor of Delaware: Ruth Ann Minner (Democratic)
- Governor of Florida: Jeb Bush (Republican)
- Governor of Georgia: Roy Barnes (Democratic)
- Governor of Hawaii: Ben Cayetano (Democratic) (until December 2), Linda Lingle (Republican) (starting December 2)
- Governor of Idaho: Dirk Kempthorne (Republican)
- Governor of Illinois: George Ryan (Republican)
- Governor of Indiana: Frank O'Bannon (Democratic)
- Governor of Iowa: Tom Vilsack (Democratic)
- 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: Jane Swift (Republican)
- Governor of Michigan: John Engler (Republican)
- Governor of Minnesota: Jesse Ventura (Independence)
- Governor of Mississippi: Ronnie Musgrove (Democratic)
- Governor of Missouri: Bob Holden (Democratic)
- Governor of Montana: Judy Martz (Republican)
- Governor of Nebraska: Mike Johanns (Republican)
- Governor of Nevada: Kenny Guinn (Republican)
- Governor of New Hampshire: Jeanne Shaheen (Democratic)
- Governor of New Jersey:
  - until January 8: Donald DiFrancesco (Republican)
  - January 8: John Farmer, Jr. (Republican)
  - January 8-January 12: John O. Bennett (Republican)
  - January 12-January 15: Richard Codey (Democratic)
  - starting January 15: Jim McGreevey (Democratic)
- Governor of New Mexico: Gary Johnson (Republican)
- Governor of New York: George Pataki (Republican)
- Governor of North Carolina: Mike Easley (Democratic)
- Governor of North Dakota: John Hoeven (Republican)
- Governor of Ohio: Bob Taft (Republican)
- Governor of Oklahoma: Frank Keating (Republican)
- Governor of Oregon: John Kitzhaber (Democratic)
- Governor of Pennsylvania: Mark S. Schweiker (Republican)
- Governor of Rhode Island: Lincoln C. Almond (Republican)
- Governor of South Carolina: Jim Hodges (Democratic)
- Governor of South Dakota: William J. Janklow (Republican)

- Governor of Tennessee: Don Sundquist (Republican)
- Governor of Texas: Rick Perry (Republican)
- Governor of Utah: Mike Leavitt (Republican)
- Governor of Vermont: Howard Dean (Democratic)
- Governor of Virginia: Jim Gilmore (Republican) (until January 12), Mark Warner (Democratic) (starting January 12)
- Governor of Washington: Gary Locke (Democratic)
- Governor of West Virginia: Bob Wise (Democratic)
- Governor of Wisconsin: Scott McCallum (Republican)
- Governor of Wyoming: Jim Geringer (Republican)

## Lieutenant Governors

- Lieutenant Governor of Alabama: Steve Windom (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Alaska: Fran Ulmer (Democratic) (until December 2), Loren Lemam (Republican) (starting December 2)
- Lieutenant Governor of Arkansas: Winthrop Paul Rockefeller (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of California: Cruz Bustamante (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Colorado: Joe Rogers (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Connecticut: Jodi Rell (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Delaware: John Carney (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Florida: Frank Brogan (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Georgia: Mark Taylor (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Hawaii:
  - until December 2: Mazie Hirono (Democratic)
  - December 2-December 4: vacant
  - starting December 4: Duke Aiona (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Idaho: Jack Riggs (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Illinois: Corinne Wood (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Indiana: Joe E. Kernan (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Iowa: Sally Pederson (Democratic)
- 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: Jane Swift (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Michigan: Dick Posthumus (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Minnesota: Mae Schunk (Independence)
- Lieutenant Governor of Mississippi: Amy Tuck (Democratic)/(Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Missouri: Joe Maxwell (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Montana: Karl Ohs (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Nebraska: Dave Heineman (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Nevada: Lorraine Hunt (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of New Mexico: Walter Dwight Bradley (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of New York: Mary Donohue (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of North Carolina: Bev Perdue (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of North Dakota: Jack Dalrymple (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Ohio: Maureen O'Connor (Republican) (until December 31), vacant (starting December 31)
- Lieutenant Governor of Oklahoma: Mary Fallin (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Pennsylvania: Robert Jubelirer (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Rhode Island: Charles J. Fogarty (Democratic)
- 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: Bill Ratliff (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Utah: Olene S. Walker (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Vermont: Doug Racine (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Virginia: John H. Hager (Republican) (until January 12), Tim Kaine (Democratic) (starting January 12)
- Lieutenant Governor of Washington: Brad Owen (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Wisconsin: Margaret A. Farrow (Republican)

## Events

### January

- January 5 – Charles Bishop, a 15-year-old student pilot, crashes a light aircraft into a Tampa, Florida building, evoking fear of a copycat 9/11 terrorist attack.
- January 8 – The No Child Left Behind Act is signed into law by U.S. President George W. Bush.
- January 9 – The United States Department of Justice announces it will pursue a criminal investigation of Enron.
- January 11 – The first detainees arrive at Camp X-Ray (Guantanamo).
- January 14 – The asylum case of Adelaide Abankwah is heard in New York.
- January 16
  - The United Nations Security Council unanimously establishes an arms embargo and the freezing of assets of Osama bin Laden, al-Qaeda and the remaining members of the Taliban
  - A student shoots six at the Appalachian School of Law in Grundy, Virginia, killing 3.
- January 18 – A Canadian Pacific Railway train carrying anhydrous ammonia derailes outside of Minot, North Dakota, killing one.
- January 23 – *Wall Street Journal* reporter Daniel Pearl is kidnapped in Pakistan, accused of being a CIA agent by his captors.
- January 29 – In his State of the Union Address, President Bush describes North Korea, Iran and Iraq as an "axis of evil".<sup>[2]</sup>
- January 31 – US special forces deployed in the Philippines in Operation Enduring Freedom - Philippines, part of the War on Terrorism.<sup>[2]</sup>



January 11: Camp X-Ray (Guantanamo)

### February

- February 1 – Kidnapped *Wall Street Journal* reporter Daniel Pearl is murdered in Karachi, Pakistan.
- February 3 – Super Bowl XXXVI: The New England Patriots beat the St. Louis Rams 20–17 in New Orleans.
- February 8 – February 24 – The Winter Olympics are held in Salt Lake City, Utah. The U.S. wins 10 gold, 13 silver and 11 bronze medals.
- February 12 – The U.S. Secretary of Energy makes the decision that Yucca Mountain is suitable to be the United States' nuclear repository.
- February 13 – Queen Elizabeth II gives former New York City mayor Rudolph Giuliani an honorary knighthood.
- February 19 – NASA's Mars Odyssey space probe begins to map the surface of Mars using its thermal emission imaging system.

## March

- March 1
  - STS-109: Space Shuttle *Columbia* flies the Hubble Space Telescope service mission, its last before the disastrous STS-107.
  - U.S. invasion of Afghanistan: In eastern Afghanistan, Operation Anaconda begins.
- March 12 – In Houston, Texas, Andrea Yates is found guilty of drowning her five children on June 20, 2001. She is later sentenced to life in prison.
- March 14 – 125 vehicles are involved in a massive pile up on Interstate 75 in Ringgold, Georgia.
- March 19 – US war in Afghanistan: Operation Anaconda ends (started on March 1) after killing 500 Taliban and al Qaeda fighters, with 11 allied troop fatalities.
- March 21 – In Pakistan, Ahmed Omar Saeed Sheikh and three others are charged with the kidnapping and killing of *Wall Street Journal* reporter Daniel Pearl.
- March 24 – The 74th Academy Awards, hosted by Whoopi Goldberg, are held at the Kodak Theatre in Hollywood, California with the film *A Beautiful Mind* winning Best Picture.



February 8 –  
February 24: The Winter Olympics are held in Salt Lake City

## April

- April 1 – Maryland defeats Indiana 64–52 to win the NCAA Men's Basketball Championship at the Georgia Dome in Atlanta, Georgia.
- April 17 – Four Canadian infantrymen are killed in Afghanistan by friendly fire from two US F-16s.
- April 19 – The Senate defeats President Bush's plan to authorize oil exploration in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.<sup>[2]</sup>
- April 27 – The Laughlin, Nevada River Run Riot kills three.

## May

- May 10 – FBI agent Robert Hanssen is sentenced to life imprisonment without the possibility of parole for selling American secrets to Moscow for \$1.4 million in cash and diamonds.
- May 12 – Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter arrives in Cuba for a five-day visit with Fidel Castro, becoming the first U.S. President, in or out of office, to visit the island since Castro's 1959 revolution.
- May 21 – The US State Department releases a report naming seven state sponsors of terrorism: Iran, Iraq, Cuba, Libya, North Korea, Sudan, and Syria.
- May 22 – 16th Street Baptist Church bombing: A jury in Birmingham, Alabama convicts Ku Klux Klan member Bobby Frank Cherry of the 1963 murders of four girls.
- May 26 – A barge collides with the Interstate 40 bridge across the Arkansas River in eastern Oklahoma, killing 14.



May 26: I-40 bridge disaster

## June

- June 5 - 14 year-old Elizabeth Smart is kidnapped from her bedroom in Salt Lake City, Utah. She is found nine months later.

- June 11 – Antonio Meucci is recognized as the first inventor of the telephone by the United States Congress.
- June 14 – In Karachi, Pakistan, a car bomb in front of the U.S. Consulate kills 12 Pakistanis and injures 50.
- June 29 – Vice President Dick Cheney served as Acting President for a few hours, while President George W. Bush underwent a colonoscopy

## July

- July 4 – 2002 Los Angeles International Airport shooting: Egyptian immigrant Hesham Mohamed Hadayet murders 2 and injures 6 before being killed by a security officer. The incident is called an act of terrorism.
- July 13 – A lightning strike sets off the Sour Biscuit Fire in Oregon and northern California, which burns 499,570 acres (2,022 km<sup>2</sup>).
- July 15 – In Washington, D.C., "American Taliban" John Walker Lindh pleads guilty to aiding the enemy and possession of explosives during the commission of a felony; Lindh agrees to serve 10 years in prison for each charge.
- July 21 – Telecommunications giant WorldCom files for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection, the largest such filing in United States history.

## August

- August 12 – In Arlington, Virginia, US Airways declares bankruptcy.

## September

- September 5 – The Sour Biscuit Fire in Oregon and northern California, which burned 499,570 acres (2,022 km<sup>2</sup>), is contained.
- September 12 – Iraq disarmament crisis: U.S. President George W. Bush addresses the U.N., and challenges its members to confront the "grave and gathering danger" of Iraq, or stand aside as the United States and likeminded nations act.<sup>[2]</sup>

## October

- October 2
  - The Beltway sniper attacks begin with five shootings taking place in Montgomery County, Maryland.
  - The Congress of the United States passes a joint resolution, which authorizes the President to use the United States Armed Forces as he deems necessary and appropriate, against Iraq.
- October 9 – The Dot-com bubble bear market reaches bottom, when the Dow Jones Industrial Average slips below 7,200.
- October 9 – 10 – Congress passes the Iraq Resolution authorizing the Iraq War.<sup>[2]</sup>
- October 16 – Iraq War Resolution is authorized by a majority of the U.S. Congress.
- October 24 – The Beltway sniper attacks, having killed 10 and wounded 3 others, end with the arrest of John Allen Muhammad and Lee Boyd Malvo.
- October 25 – U.S. Senator Paul Wellstone, his family, and his staff are killed in a plane accident at Eveleth, Minnesota.
- October 27 – The Anaheim Angels defeat the San Francisco Giants in Game 7 of the 2002 World Series to win the title.

## November

- November 2 – The Godless Americans March on Washington brings together 2,000 atheists, freethinkers, and humanists in a mile-long parade down the National Mall.
- November 5 – Republicans gain a majority in the Senate and a larger majority in the House of Representatives following congressional elections.<sup>[2]</sup>
- November 6 – The U.S. Federal Reserve System drops its primary discount rate by 25 basis points to 0.75%, putting the real interest rate solidly below the inflation rate.
- November 7 – Iran bans the advertising of United States products.
- November 8 – The United Nations passes Resolution 1441 giving Iraqi President Saddam Hussein a final opportunity to cooperate with international weapons inspectors.<sup>[2]</sup>
- November 16 – A Campaign against Climate Change march takes place in London from Lincoln's Inn Fields, past Esso offices to the United States Embassy.
- November 25 – U.S. President George W. Bush signs the Homeland Security Act into law, establishing the Department of Homeland Security, in the largest U.S. government reorganization since the creation of the Department of Defense in 1947.



November 25: The Department of Homeland Security is established

## December

- December 9 – United Airlines, the second largest airline in the world, files for bankruptcy.

## Ongoing

- Iraqi no-fly zones (1991–2003)
- War in Afghanistan (2001–present)

## Births

## January

- January 29 – Kortney Nash, actress and model

## February

- February 5 – Davis Cleveland, actor
- February 21 – Prince Michael Jackson II, son of Michael Jackson.
- February 26 – Kendra and Maliyah Herrin, conjoined twins

## March

- March 1 - C. Farris Bryant, lawyer and politician, 34th Governor of Florida (b. 1914)

## April

- April 5 – Somer Thompson, murder victim (d. 2009)
- April 8 – Skai Jackson, actress



- April 11
  - Alexa Gerasimovich, actress
  - Rebecca Riley, murder victim (d. 2006)

## May

- May 6 – Emily Alyn Lind, actress

## June

- June 25 – Mason Vale Cotton, actor

## July

- July 13 Caleb Logan
- July 20 – Aiyana Jones, murder victim (d. 2010)
- July 29 – Leiby Kletzky, murder victim (d. 2011)

## August

## September

- September 9 – Kyron Horman, missing person
- September 10 – Chloe Noelle, actress
- September 12 – Maggie Elizabeth Jones, actor
- September 15 – Rhema Marvanne, singer
- September 19 – Jason and Kristopher Simmons actor identical twins
- September 21 – Isabella Blake-Thomas, actress

## October

- October 25 – Johnny Sequoyah, actress
- October 26 – Emma Tiger Schweiger, actress
- October 26 – Harold Stanis, student

## November

- November 13 – Nikki Hahn, actress
- November 14 – Ben Bowen, notable victim (d. 2005)

## December

- December 28 – Kelsey Smith-Briggs, murder victim (d. 2005)

## Full date unknown

- Thomas Robinson, actor

## Deaths

## January

- January 8 – Dave Thomas, businessman (b. 1932)
- January 13 – Ted Demme, film and television director and producer (b. 1963)
- January 16
  - Bobo Olson, boxer (b. 1928)
  - Ron Taylor, actor (b. 1952)
- January 20 – Carrie Hamilton, actress and daughter of Carol Burnett (b. 1963)
- January 22 – Peggy Lee, singer and actress (b. 1920)
- January 23 – Robert Nozick, philosopher (b. 1938)
- January 28 – Dick "Night Train" Lane, American football player (b. 1928)

## February

- February 1
  - Irish McCalla, actress (b. 1928)
  - Daniel Pearl, journalist and murder victim, died in Karachi, Pakistan (b. 1963)
- February 2 – Danielle van Dam, murder victim (b. 1994)
- February 4 – Helen Dodson Prince, astronomer (b. 1905)
- February 13 – Waylon Jennings, American country singer (b. 1937)
- February 15 – Howard K. Smith, television journalist (b. 1914)
- February 19 – Virginia Hamilton, writer (b. 1936)
- February 20 – Willie Thrower, American football player (b. 1930)
- February 22 – Chuck Jones, animator (b. 1912)
- February 24 – Leo Ornstein, Russian-born American composer and pianist (b. 1892)
- February 26 – Lawrence Tierney, actor (b. 1919)
- February 27 – Mary Stuart, actress (b. 1926)

## March

- March 11 – James Tobin, Nobel economist (b. 1918)

- March 27 – Milton Berle, comedian and actor (b. 1908)

## April

- April 5 – Layne Staley, singer and songwriter (b. 1967)
- April 15 – Byron White, athlete and Supreme Court Justice (b. 1917)
- April 16 – Robert Urich, actor (b. 1946)
- April 18 – Wahoo McDaniel, American football player and wrestler (b. 1938)
- April 25 – Lisa "Left Eye" Lopes, rapper, died in La Ceiba, Atlántida, Honduras (b. 1971)
- April 27 – George Alec Effinger, writer (b. 1947)
- April 28 – Ruth Handler, businesswoman (b. 1916)

## May

- May 9 – Dan Devine, American football player and coach (b. 1924)
- May 17 – Dave Berg, cartoonist (b. 1920)
- May 20 – Stephen Jay Gould, paleontologist and writer (b. 1941)
- May 23 – Sam Snead, golfer (b. 1912)
- May 24 – Wallace Markfield, writer (b. 1926)

## June

- June 5 – Dee Dee Ramone, songwriter and musician (b. 1951)
- June 10 – John Gotti, murderer and leader of organized crime (b. 1940)
- June 11 – Robbin Crosby, musician (b. 1959)
- June 12 – Bill Blass, fashion designer (b. 1922)
- June 17 – Willie Davenport, track and field athlete (b. 1943)
- June 23 – Logan Tucker, murder victim (b. 1996)
- June 26 – Jay Berwanger, American football player (b. 1914)
- June 29 – Rosemary Clooney, singer and actress, and wife of José Ferrer and mother of Miguel Ferrer (b. 1928)

## July

- July 4 – Benjamin O. Davis Jr., general (b. 1912)
- July 6 – John Frankenheimer, film director (b. 1930)
- July 8 – Ward Kimball, animator (b. 1913)
- July 9 – Rod Steiger, actor and husband of Claire Bloom (b. 1925)
- July 10 – Laurence Janifer, writer (b. 1933)
- July 16 – John Cocke, computer scientist (b. 1925)
- July 19 – Alan Lomax, folklorist and musicologist (b. 1915)
- July 23 – Chaim Potok, writer and rabbi (b. 1929)

## August

- August 5 – Chick Hearn, American basketball announcer (b. 1916)
- August 11 – Galen Rowell, photographer, writer, and climber (b. 1940)
- August 14 – Dave Williams, singer (b. 1972)
- August 15 – Kyle Rote, American football player (b. 1928)
- August 31 – Lionel Hampton, musician (b. 1908)

## September

- September 11 – Johnny Unitas, American football player (b. 1933)
- September 14 – LaWanda Page, comedian and actress (b. 1920)
- September 18 – Bob Hayes, American football player and track and field athlete (b. 1942)
- September 21 – Robert Lull Forward, writer, inventor, and physicist (b. 1932)

## October

## See also

- 2002 in American television
- List of American films of 2002

## References

1. "William Rehnquist Biography". *biography.com*. A&E Television Networks. Retrieved 28 February 2016.
2. Williams, Hywel (2005). *Cassell's Chronology of World History*. Weidenfeld & Nicolson. pp. 650–652.

- October 9 – Aileen Wuornos, murderer (b. 1956)
- October 10 – Teresa Graves, actress (b. 1948)
- October 12 – Ray Conniff, musician and bandleader (b. 1916)
- October 13 – Stephen Ambrose, historian and biographer (b. 1936)
- October 24 – Harry Hay, British-born American activist (b. 1912)
- October 25 – Paul Wellstone, Senator for Minnesota (b. 1944)

## November

- November 3 – Jonathan Harris, actor (b. 1914)
- November 17 – Milivi Adams, Puerto Rican murder victim (b. 1997)
- November 21 – Hadda Brooks, jazz singer, pianist, and composer (b. 1916)
- November 24 – John Rawls, philosopher (b. 1921)
- November 26 – Verne Winchell, businessman (b. 1915)

## December

- December 6
  - Father Philip Berrigan, priest, member of the Plowshares Movement and political activist (b. 1923)
  - Charles Rosen, pioneer in artificial intelligence (b. 1927)
- December 9 – Stan Rice, painter and poet (b. 1942)
- December 26 – Herb Ritts, photographer (b. 1952)

## External links

-  Media related to 2002 in the United States at Wikimedia Commons

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