

2004 in the United States

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Events from the year **2004 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) ^[1]
- Speaker of the House of Representatives: Dennis Hastert (R-Illinois)
- Senate Majority Leader: Bill Frist (R-Tennessee)
- Congress: 108th

Governors and Lieutenant Governors

Governors

- Governor of Alabama: Bob Riley (Republican)
- Governor of Alaska: Frank Murkowski (Republican)
- Governor of Arizona: Janet Napolitano (Democratic)
- Governor of Arkansas: Mike Huckabee (Republican)
- Governor of California: Arnold Schwarzenegger (Republican)
- Governor of Colorado: Bill Owens (Republican)
- Governor of Connecticut: John G. Rowland (Republican) (until July 1), Jodi Rell (Republican) (starting July 1)
- Governor of Delaware: Ruth Ann Minner (Democratic)
- Governor of Florida: Jeb Bush (Republican)
- Governor of Georgia: Sonny Perdue (Republican)
- Governor of Hawaii: Linda Lingle (Republican)
- Governor of Idaho: Dirk Kempthorne (Republican)
- Governor of Illinois: Rod Blagojevich (Democratic)
- Governor of Indiana: Joe Kernan (Democratic)
- Governor of Iowa: Tom Vilsack (Democratic)
- Governor of Kansas: Kathleen Sebelius (Democratic)
- Governor of Kentucky: Ernie Fletcher (Republican)
- Governor of Louisiana: Murphy J. Foster, Jr. (Republican) (until January 12), Kathleen Blanco (Democratic) (starting January 12)
- Governor of Maine: John Baldacci (Democratic)
- Governor of Maryland: Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr. (Republican)
- Governor of Massachusetts: Mitt Romney (Republican)
- Governor of Michigan: Jennifer Granholm (Democratic)
- Governor of Minnesota: Tim Pawlenty (Republican)
- Governor of Mississippi: Ronnie Musgrove (Democratic) (until January 13), Haley Barbour (Republican) (starting January 13)
- 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: Craig Benson (Republican)
- Governor of New Jersey: Jim McGreevey (Democratic) (until November 15), Richard Codey (Democratic) (starting November 15)
- Governor of New Mexico: Bill Richardson (Democratic)
- 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: Brad Henry (Democratic)
- Governor of Oregon: Ted Kulongoski (Democratic)
- Governor of Pennsylvania: Ed Rendell (Democratic)
- Governor of Rhode Island: Donald Carcieri (Republican)
- Governor of South Carolina: Mark Sanford (Republican)
- Governor of South Dakota: Mike Rounds (Republican)
- Governor of Tennessee: Phil Bredesen (Democratic)
- Governor of Texas: Rick Perry (Republican)
- Governor of Utah: Olene S. Walker (Republican)
- Governor of Vermont: Jim Douglas (Republican)
- Governor of Virginia: Mark Warner (Democratic)

- Governor of Washington: Gary Locke (Democratic)
- Governor of West Virginia: Bob Wise (Democratic)
- Governor of Wisconsin: Jim Doyle (Democratic)
- Governor of Wyoming: Dave Freudenthal (Democratic)

Lieutenant Governors

- Lieutenant Governor of Alabama: Lucy Baxley (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Alaska: Loren Leman (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Arkansas: Winthrop Paul Rockefeller (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of California: Cruz Bustamante (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Colorado: Jane E. Norton (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Connecticut: Jodi Rell (Republican) (until July 1), Kevin B. Sullivan (Democratic) (starting July 1)
- Lieutenant Governor of Delaware: John Carney (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Florida: Toni Jennings (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Georgia: Mark Taylor (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Hawaii: Duke Aiona (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Idaho: Jim Risch (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Illinois: Pat Quinn (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Indiana: Kathy Davis (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Iowa: Sally Pederson (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Kansas: John E. Moore (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Kentucky: Steve Pence (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Louisiana: Kathleen Blanco (Democratic) (until January 12), Mitch Landrieu (Democratic) (starting January 12)
- Lieutenant Governor of Maryland: Michael Steele (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Massachusetts: Kerry Healey (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Michigan: John D. Cherry (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Minnesota: Carol Molnau (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Mississippi: Amy Tuck (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: Diane Denish (Democratic)
- 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: Jennette Bradley (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Oklahoma: Mary Fallin (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Pennsylvania: Catherine Baker Knoll (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Rhode Island: Charles J. Fogarty (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of South Carolina: André Bauer (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of South Dakota: Dennis Daugaard (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Tennessee: John S. Wilder (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Texas: David Dewhurst (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Utah: Gayle McKeachnie (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Vermont: Brian Dubie (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Virginia: Tim Kaine (Democratic)

- Lieutenant Governor of Washington: Brad Owen (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Wisconsin: Barbara Lawton (Democratic)

Event

- "55% of adult internet users have broadband at home or work."^[2]

January

- January 4 – NASA's MER-A (*Spirit*) lands on Mars at 04:35 UTC.
- January 19 – U.S. Senator John Kerry (D-MA) wins the Iowa Democratic caucus. Former Vermont Governor Howard Dean's concession speech ends with a lively but controversial scream.
- January 24 – NASA's MER-B (*Opportunity*) lands on Mars at 05:05 UTC.
- January 28 – At a hearing of the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States, it is revealed that the September 11, 2001, terrorists used Mace (a brand of tear gas) or pepper spray in overpowering the flight crew of American Airlines Flight 11.



January 4 and January 24: *Spirit* and *Opportunity* land on Mars

February

- February 1 – The New England Patriots win Super Bowl XXXVIII.
- February 3 – The CIA admits that there was no imminent threat from weapons of mass destruction before the 2003 invasion of Iraq.
- February 12 – Same sex marriage in the United States: The City and County of San Francisco begins issuing marriage licenses to same-sex couples as an act of civil disobedience.
- February 26 – The United States lifts a ban on travel to Libya, ending travel restrictions to the nation that had lasted for 23 years.
- February 29 – The 76th Academy Awards, hosted by Billy Crystal, are held at the Kodak Theatre in Hollywood, California, with *The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King* directed by Peter Jackson, winning a record-tying 11 Oscars, including Best Picture and Best Director.

March

- March 2
 - NASA announces that the Mars rover MER-B (*Opportunity*) has confirmed that its landing area was once drenched in water.
 - John Kerry effectively clinches the 2004 Democratic Party presidential nomination by winning nine out of 10 "Super Tuesday" primaries and caucuses.
- March 12 – Marcus Wesson is arrested in Fresno, California after killing 9 family members. Wesson had built a cult around his family and had molested and "married" several of his daughters. In 2005 Wesson is sentenced to death.
- March 31 – Four American private military contractors working for Blackwater USA are killed, and their bodies mutilated, after being ambushed in Fallujah, Iraq.

April

- April 28 – Abu Ghraib prisoner abuse is revealed on the television show *60 Minutes II*.
- April 29 – The last Oldsmobile rolls off of the assembly line.

May

- May 4 – A WNBC helicopter crashes in the Flatbush section of Brooklyn, New York. This event is covered by rival station WABC-TV.
- May 6 – The final episode of *Friends* airs on NBC, drawing an estimated 66 million viewers in North America. Advertisers pay \$2 million for 30 second ads.
- May 8 – Would-be "Saudi Princess" "Antoinette Millard" surfaces in New York City, claiming that muggers had stolen jewels worth of \$262,000 from her (she later proves to be an impostor).
- May 12 – An American civilian contractor in Iraq, Nick Berg, is shown being decapitated by a group allegedly linked to al-Qaeda on an Internet-distributed video. They state it is retaliation for the abuse at Abu Ghraib prison.
- May 17 – Massachusetts legalizes same-sex marriage in compliance with a ruling from the state's Supreme Court ruling in the case of *Goodridge v. Department of Public Health*.
- May 26 – Terry Nichols is convicted by an Oklahoma state court on murder charges stemming from the 1995 Oklahoma City bombing.
- May 29 – Dedication of the National World War II Memorial takes place in Washington, DC.



April 28: Abu Ghraib prisoner abuse revealed

June

- June 3 – Director of Central Intelligence George Tenet tenders his resignation, citing "personal reasons". John E. McLaughlin, CIA Deputy Director, becomes the acting director until a permanent director is chosen and confirmed by Congress.
- June 4 – Marvin Heemeyer destroys many local buildings with a home-made tank in Granby, Colorado.
- June 5 – Ronald Reagan, the 40th President of the United States, dies at his home in Bel-Air, California at the age of 93. A six-day state funeral follows after his death.
- June 8 – The G8 Summit takes place over the next 2 days on Sea Island, in Georgia, United States.
- June 11
 - The national funeral service for former U.S. president Ronald Reagan is held at the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C.
 - Terry Nichols is spared the death penalty by an Oklahoma state court on murder charges stemming from the 1995 Oklahoma City bombing, exactly three years after his co-defendant, Timothy McVeigh, was executed for his role in the bombing.
- June 16 – The National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States (or "9/11 Commission") issues an initial report of its findings.
- June 21 – In Mojave, California, SpaceShipOne becomes the first privately funded spaceplane to achieve spaceflight.
- June 28
 - The U.S.-led coalition occupying Iraq transfers sovereignty to an interim Iraqi government.
 - Union Pacific and Burlington Northern Santa Fe trains collide in a rural area outside of San Antonio, Texas; 40 cars are derailed, including one chlorine car. Three people die, another 50 people are hospitalized because of exposure to the gas.



June 5: Former President Ronald Reagan dies at 93. A six day state funeral follows.

July

- July 4 – Construction of the Freedom Tower in New York City begins.

- July 25 – Lance Armstrong wins a record 6th consecutive Tour de France cycling title.
- July 26 – July 29 – The Democratic National Convention in Boston, Massachusetts nominates John Kerry for U.S. President and John Edwards for vice president. Future President Barack Obama delivers the keynote address.
- July 31 – "The Last Dispatch" concert is played as a reunion concert with the band Dispatch on the Hatch Shell in Boston; 110,000 people attend, making it the single largest gathering in independent music industry history.



July 29: John Kerry, Democratic Presidential nominee

August

- August 3
 - The Statue of Liberty reopens after security improvements.
 - NASA's MESSENGER is launched (it was captured into Mercury's orbit on March 18, 2011).
- August 12 – New Jersey Governor James McGreevey announces that he is "a gay American" and will resign effective November 15, 2004.
- August 13 – Hurricane Charley kills 27 people in Florida, after killing four in Cuba and one in Jamaica. Charley makes landfall near Cayo Costa, Florida as a Category 4 hurricane. Charley is the most intense hurricane to strike the United States since Hurricane Andrew in 1992.
- August 13 – August 29 – The United States compete at the Summer Olympics in Athens, Greece, and win 36 gold, 39 silver and 27 bronze medals.
- August 29 – Around 200,000 protesters demonstrate in New York City against President George W. Bush and his government, ahead of the Republican National Convention.
- August 30 – September 2 – U.S. President George W. Bush and Vice President Dick Cheney are renominated at the Republican National Convention in New York City.

September

- September 3 – Hurricane Frances makes landfall in Florida. After killing two people in the Bahamas, Hurricane Frances killed ten people in Florida, two in Georgia and one in South Carolina.
- September 8 – In the "Rathergate" affair, the first Internet posts appear, pointing out that documents claimed by CBS News to be typewritten memos from the early 1970s appear instead to have been produced using modern word processing systems.
- September 13 – The U.S. Federal Assault Weapons Ban expires.
- September 16 – Hurricane Ivan strikes Gulf Shores, Alabama, as a Category 3 storm, killing 25 in Alabama and Florida, becoming the third-costliest hurricane in American history at the time.
- September 23
 - Tropical Storm Ivan, having come around and reformed in the Gulf of Mexico, makes its final landfall near Cameron, Louisiana, to little effect. In total, the storm kills 92 people.
 - Mount St. Helens became active again.
- September 24 – Major League Baseball announces that the Montreal Expos will move to Washington D.C. in 2005.
- September 25 – Hurricane Jeanne makes landfall near Port Saint Lucie, Florida, near the location Hurricane Frances hit two weeks earlier. Jeanne kills over 3,030, mostly in Haiti.
- September 28 – The redesigned \$50 bill is released, containing many of the same features as on its \$20 counterpart.
- September 29 – In Mojave, California, the first Ansari X-Prize flight takes place of SpaceShipOne, which is competing with a number of spacecraft (including Canada's Da Vinci Project, claimed to

be its closest rival) and goes on to win the prize on October 4.

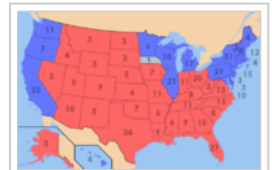
- September 30 – First debate of the U.S. presidential election, 2004.

October

- October 5 – Vice Presidential debate of the U.S. presidential election, 2004 between the candidates, Dick Cheney and John Edwards.
- October 8 – Second debate of the U.S. presidential election, 2004.
- October 13 – Third debate of the U.S. presidential election, 2004.
- October 16 – The New York Yankees defeat the Boston Red Sox by a score of 19 – 8 in Game 3 of Major League Baseball's American League Championship Series. The game, which pushes the Yankees to a 3 – 0 series lead, sets a record for longest nine-inning baseball game.
- October 20 – Corporate Airlines Flight 5966 crashes in Missouri, killing 13 people, and injuring two.
- October 25 – Martin Luther King, Jr. and Coretta Scott King receive the Congressional Gold Medal.
- October 27 – The Boston Red Sox win the World Series for the first time since 1918, breaking the Curse of the Bambino.
- October 29 – A videotape of Osama Bin Laden speaking airs on Arabic TV, in which he threatens terrorist attacks on the US, and taunts the President, George W. Bush, over the September 11 Terrorist attacks.

November

- November 2
 - The United States re-elects George W. Bush of the Republican Party to a second term as President of the United States, defeating John Kerry.
 - Eleven American states ban gay marriage.
- November 7 – Second Battle of Fallujah: U.S. Forces launch a major assault on the Iraqi town of Fallujah, in an effort to rid the area of insurgents before the Iraqi elections in January.
- November 14 – United States Secretary of State Colin Powell submits his resignation. He is replaced by Condoleezza Rice after her confirmation by the United States Congress.
- November 16 – NASA's hypersonic *Scramjet* breaks a record by reaching a velocity of about 7,000 mph in an unmanned experimental flight. It obtains a speed of Mach 9.6, almost 10 times the speed of sound.
- November 19 – The NBA's Indiana Pacers and Detroit Pistons engage in a brawl that involves fans and players. The incident gets (then) Pacer Ron Artest suspended for the remainder of the season.



November 2:
George W. Bush
re-elected
president

December

- December 2 – Brian Williams replaces Tom Brokaw as weeknight anchor for *NBC Nightly News*.
- December 3 – The Colombian government extradites Gilberto Rodríguez Orejuela, one of the most powerful drug dealers in the world, arrested in 1995 and 2003, to the United States.
- December 6 – Terrorists attack the U.S. Consulate in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, killing several people.
- December 8
 - The biggest Chinese PC producer Lenovo announces its plan to purchase IBM's global PC business, making it the third largest world PC maker after Dell and Hewlett-Packard.
 - Former Pantera guitarist "Dimebag" Darrell Abbott is murdered on stage by gunman Nathan Gale in Columbus, Ohio. Gale also kills 3 others before being shot dead by police.

- December 21 – Iraqi insurgents attack a U.S. military base in the city of Mosul, killing 22 people.
- December 23 – Second Battle of Fallujah: US-UK-Iraqi forces defeat the remaining Iraqi insurgents in Fallujah.
- December 31 – Simón Trinidad, high-profile FARC leader, is extradited to the United States, following the second extradition of a high drug dealer in a month and in 2004.

Ongoing

- War in Afghanistan (2001–present)
- Iraq War (2003–2011)

Births

- January 10 – Kaitlyn Maher, singer and actress
- February 26 – The Hanselman sextuplets, notable multiple birth
- May 6 – Sterling Jerins, actress
- June 8 – Francesca Capaldi, actress
- July 2 – Caitlin Carmichael, actress
- August 1 – Neveah Gallegos, murder victim (d. 2007)

Full date unknown

- Apple Blythe Alison Martin, daughter of Gwyneth Paltrow and Chris Martin

Deaths

January

- January 3 – David Lipschultz, journalist. (b. 1970)
- January 5 – Tug McGraw, baseball player (b. 1944)
- January 23 – Bob Keeshan, actor, clown, and television producer (b. 1927)
- January 27 – Jack Paar, comedian and television host (b. 1918)
- January 29 – Ed Sciaky, Philadelphia broadcaster and disk jockey. (b. 1948)
- January 30 – Scott Walker, professional boxer (b. 1969)

February

- February 15 – Jan Miner, actress (b. 1917)
- February 22 – Andy Seminick, baseball player, coach, and manager (b. 1920)

February 24

- John Randolph, American actor (b. 1915)
- Ernest Burke, baseball player (b. 1924)

February 28 – Daniel J. Boorstin, American historian and Librarian of Congress (b. 1914)

March

- March 2 – Mercedes McCambridge, American actress (b. 1916)
- March 7 – Paul Winfield, American television, film and stage actor (b. 1939)

April

- April 22 – Pat Tillman, American football player and soldier killed in action, died in Sperah, Afghanistan (b. 1976)
- April 24 – Estée Lauder, businesswoman (b. 1906)

May

- May 9 – Alan King, comedian and actor (b. 1927)
- May 17 – Tony Randall, actor, comedian, producer, director (b. 1920)
- May 29 – Archibald Cox, 31st United States Solicitor General from 1961 till 1965. (b. 1912)

June

- June 5 – Ronald Reagan, actor, 33rd Governor of California from 1967 till 1975, 40th President of the United States from 1981 till 1989 (b. 1911)
- June 6 – Riley Fox, murder victim (b. 2001)
- June 10 – Ray Charles, singer, composer, and musician (b. 1930)

July

- July 1 – Marlon Brando, actor (b. 1924)
- July 8 – Albert Francis Capone, son of Al Capone (b. 1918)
- July 2 – Eugene Roche, actor (b. 1928)

August

- August 1 – Alex Scott, notable victim and philanthropist (b. 1996)
- August 6 – Rick James, singer, songwriter, musician, and record producer (b. 1948)
- August 8 – Fay Wray, Canadian-born American actress (b. 1907)
- August 13 – Julia Child, chef, author, and television host (b. 1912)
- August 26 – Laura Branigan, singer, songwriter, and musician (b. 1952)
- August 30 – Fred Lawrence Whipple, astronomer (b. 1906)

September

- September 2 – Bob O. Evans, IBM computer scientist. (b. 1927)

See also

- 2004 in American television
- List of American films of 2004

- September 5 – Steve Wayne, American actor. (b. 1920)

October

- October 4 – Gordon Cooper, aeronautical engineer, test pilot, and astronaut (b. 1927)
- October 5 – Rodney Dangerfield, comedian and actor (b. 1921)
- October 10 – Christopher Reeve, actor, film director, producer, screenwriter, writer, and activist (b. 1952)
- October 16 – Pierre Salinger, United States Senator from California in 1964, 11th White House Press Secretary from 1961 till 1964, and television journalist, died in Cavaillon, France (b. 1925)

November

- November 7 – Howard Keel, actor and singer (b. 1919)
- November 13
 - Thomas M. Foglietta, lawyer and politician, United States Ambassador to Italy (b. 1928)
 - Ol' Dirty Bastard, rapper (b. 1968)
- November 19 – Jesse Koochin, notable euthanasia victim (b. 1998)
- November 29 – John Drew Barrymore, actor, son of John Barrymore and Dolores Costello, and father of Drew Barrymore (b. 1932)

December

- December 8 – Darrell Lance Abbott, musician, songwriter, and murder victim (b. 1966)
- December 26 – Reggie White, American football player (b. 1961)
- December 28 – Jerry Orbach, actor and singer (b. 1935)

References

1. "William Rehnquist Biography". *biography.com*. A&E Television Networks. Retrieved 28 February 2016.
2. Pew Research Center cited by: Cornell University Library (2003). "Digital Preservation and Technology Timeline". *Digital Preservation Management*. USA. Retrieved 25 August 2016.

External links

-  Media related to 2004 in the United States at Wikimedia Commons

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