2006 in the United States

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Events from the year **2006** in the United States.

Contents

- 1 Incumbents
 - 1.1 Federal Government
 - 1.2 Governors
 - 1.3 Lieutenant Governors
- 2 Events
 - 2.1 January
 - 2.2 February
 - 2.3 March
 - 2.4 April
 - 2.5 May
 - 2.6 June
 - 2.7 July
 - 2.8 August
 - 2.9 September
 - 2.10 October
 - 2.11 November
 - 2.12 December
 - 2.13 Undated
 - 2.14 Ongoing
- 3 Births
- 4 Deaths
 - 4.1 February
 - 4.2 March
 - 4.3 April
 - 4.4 May
 - 4.5 June
 - 4.6 July
 - 4.7 August
 - 4.8 September
 - 4.9 October
 - 7.9 000000
 - 4.10 November
 - 4.11 December
- 5 See also
- 6 References
- 7 External links

Incumbents

Federal Government

- President: George W. Bush (R-Texas)
- Vice President: Dick Cheney (R-Wyoming)
- Chief Justice: John Roberts (New York) [1]
- Speaker of the House of Representatives: Dennis Hastert (R–Illinois)
- Senate Majority Leader: Bill Frist (R-Tennessee)
- Congress: 109th

Governors and Lieutenant Governors

Governors

- Governor of Alabama: Bob Riley (Republican)
- Governor of Alaska: Frank Murkowski (Republican) (until December 4), Sarah Palin (Republican) (starting December 4)
- 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: Jodi Rell (Republican)
- 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) (until May 26), Jim Risch (Republican) (starting May 26)
- Governor of Illinois: Rod Blagojevich (Democratic)
- Governor of Indiana: Mitch Daniels (Republican)
- Governor of Iowa: Tom Vilsack (Democratic)
- Governor of Kansas: Kathleen Sebelius (Democratic)
- Governor of Kentucky: Ernie Fletcher (Republican)
- Governor of Louisiana: Kathleen Blanco (Democratic)
- 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: Haley Barbour (Republican)
- Governor of Missouri: Matt Blunt (Republican)
- Governor of Montana: Brian Schweitzer (Democratic)
- Governor of Nebraska: Dave Heineman (Republican)
- Governor of Nevada: Kenny Guinn (Republican)
- Governor of New Hampshire: John Lynch (Democratic)
- Governor of New Jersey: Richard Codey (Democratic) (until January 17), Jon Corzine (Democratic) (starting January 17)
- Governor of New Mexico: Bill Richardson (Democratic)
- Governor of New York: George Pataki (Republican) (until end December 31)
- 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: Jon Huntsman, Jr. (Republican)
- Governor of Vermont: Jim Douglas (Republican)
- Governor of Virginia: Mark Warner (Democratic) (until January 14), Tim Kaine (Democratic) (starting January 14)

- Governor of Washington: Christine Gregoire (Democratic)
- Governor of West Virginia: Joe Manchin (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) (until December 4), Sean Parnell (Republican) (starting December 4)
- Lieutenant Governor of Arkansas: Winthrop Paul Rockefeller (Republican) (until July 16), vacant (starting July 16)
- Lieutenant Governor of California: Cruz Bustamante (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Colorado: Jane E.
 Norton (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Connecticut: Kevin
 B. Sullivan (Democratic)
- 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:
 - until May 26: Jim Risch (Republican)
 - May 26-June 15: vacant
 - starting June 15: Mark Ricks (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Illinois: Pat Quinn (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Indiana: Becky Skillman (Republican)
- 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: Mitch Landrieu (Democratic)
- 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: Peter Kinder (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Montana: John Bohlinger (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Nebraska: Rick Sheehy (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Nevada: Lorraine Hunt (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of New Mexico: Diane Denish (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of New York: Mary Donohue (Republican) (until end of December 31)
- Lieutenant Governor of North Carolina: Bev Perdue (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of North Dakota: Jack Dalrymple (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Ohio: Bruce E. Johnson (Republican) (until December 8), vacant (starting December 8)
- 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: Gary Herbert (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Vermont: Brian Dubie (Republican)
- Lieutenant Governor of Virginia: Tim Kaine (Democratic) (until January 14), Bill Bolling (Republican) (starting January 14)
- Lieutenant Governor of Washington: Brad Owen (Democratic)
- Lieutenant Governor of Wisconsin: Barbara Lawton (Democratic)

Events

January

- January 2
 - The annual Rose Parade in California is drenched in heavy rain for the first time in 51 years.
 - Pepsico announces its purchase of Star Foods for an undisclosed price saying that the purchase would strengthen its place as Poland's number one seller of potato chips.^[3]
- January 3 Twelve dead coal miners and one survivor are discovered in the Sago Mine Disaster near Buckhannon, West Virginia.
- January 5
 - The Bush administration proposes spending \$114 million on educational programs to expand the teaching of Arabic, Chinese, Persian and other languages typically not taught in public schools. [4]
 - IBM says that it would freeze pension benefits for its American employees starting in 2008 and offer them only a 401k retirement plan in future. [5]
- January 6
 - AOL agrees to pay customers as much as \$25 million to settle claims that it wrongly billed them for some online services and products.^[6]
 - NYSE says that it has picked Bear Wagner as the firm that will handle trading of its shares when it goes public.^[7]
- January 7 Embroiled in multiple scandals, former U.S. House Majority Leader Tom DeLay announces he will not seek to reassume his former post.^{[8][9]}
- January 9
 - Vice President Dick Cheney complains of shortness of breath and visits a hospital for the same. The White House says the trip was necessary because of fluid retention as a side effect of a drug Mr. Cheney had taken to treat chronic foot ailments.^[10]
 - The Dow Jones Industrial Average closes above 11,000 (11,011.90) for the first time since June 7, 2001.
- January 10 Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger proposes a \$125.6 billion budget increasing spending without raising taxes. [11]
- January 11 The Augustine Volcano in Alaska erupts twice, marking its first major eruption since 1986.
- January 13



January 19: *New Horizons* probe launched from Cape Canaveral.



January 30: Ben Bernanke 14th Chairman of the Federal Reserve

- The US Government reports that wholesale inflation in 2005 increased by highest amount since 1990. [12]
- Rick Wagoner, CEO of the loss-making General Motors says that results will improve in 2006 and 2007. [13]
- January 15 NASA's Stardust mission successfully ends, the first to return dust from a comet. [14]
- January 17 California executes Clarence Ray Allen (death by lethal injection) sentenced to death in 1982 for arranging the murders of three people. [15]
- January 18 American International Group, the world's largest insurer, says that its chief operating officer Donald P. Kanak has resigned and stepped down from the board "for personal reasons". [16]
- January 19 NASA launches the *New Horizons* spacecraft in a 9-year, 3 billion mile space mission, to flyby and observe the dwarf planetary system of Pluto/Charon and possibly other Kuiper belt objects.^[17]
- January 20 A Maryland judge strikes down a state law banning same-sex marriage saying the measure violated a state constitutional amendment prohibiting sex discrimination. [18]
- January 26 General Motors reports an \$8.6 billion loss for 2005, its biggest loss since 1992. [19]
- January 27 An inhaled form of insulin wins federal approval offering an alternative to injections for millions of people with diabetes.^[20]
- January 30
 - The White House announces that President Bush has chosen Professor Edward Lazear, a Stanford University business professor to succeed Ben Bernanke as chairman of his Council of Economic Advisors who will succeed Alan Greenspan as Chairman of the Federal Reserve. [21]
 - Jennifer San Marco kills 8 people before committing suicide at a postal facility in Goleta, California. San Marco had worked at the facility previously, but had been let go due to her erratic behavior.
- January 31
 - Samuel Alito is sworn in as an associate justice of the Supreme Court of the United States.
 - Two federal appeals courts uphold rulings that the Partial Birth Abortion Act passed by the United States Congress in 2003 is unconstitutional because it does not include an exception when the health of a pregnant woman is at risk.^[23]

February

- February 1 UAL Corporation, United Airlines' parent company, emerges from bankruptcy after being in that position since December 9, 2002, the longest such filing in history.
- February 2 After over 30 years, the Metropolitan Museum of Art says it would relinquish ownership of a 2,500-year-old Greek vase, the Euphronios krater, to Italy. [24]
- February 3 "Suspicious" fires destroy three small churches and damage two others in Bibb County, Alabama . [25]
- February 5 Super Bowl XL: The Pittsburgh Steelers defeat the Seattle Seahawks by a score of 21 10.
- February 9 AIG apologizes for deceptive business practices and reaches a \$1.64 billion settlement with federal and state securities and insurance regulators. ^[26]
- February 10 February 26 The United States compete at the Winter Olympics in Turin, Italy and win 9 gold, 9 silver, and 7 bronze medals.



February 2: Euphronios krater.

- February 11 Vice President Dick Cheney accidentally shoots and wounds a lawyer while quail hunting in southern Texas. [27]
- February 14 The Coca Cola Company says that Warren Buffett, the soft drink maker's largest shareholder would leave the board in April after 19 years in order to spend more time managing Berkshire Hathaway. [28]
- February 15 A group of institutional investors already involved in a lawsuit with the company sue Tyco International to stop its proposed breakup plan.^[29]
- February 16
 - The state of Minnesota sues AIG for underreporting premiums to reduce its tax bill refusing a settlement of \$1.2 million. [30]
 - The chairman of the Federal Reserve, Ben Bernanke testifies to the US Senate that Chinese ownership of US assets is not large enough to put the country at risk economically.^[31]
 - The Department of Commerce reports that housing starts jumped 14.5% to a 33-year high in January. [32]



February 10 – February 26: Gold medalist Apolo Ohno at the Men's 500 meters medal ceremony.

March

- March 2 The colorized \$10 bill is released, with the same color-shifting ink and security features of the \$20 and \$50 bills that preceded it.
- March 4 The final contact attempt with Pioneer 10 receives no response. [33]
- March 6 March 20 The first World Baseball Classic is held in San Diego, California, U.S.A..
- March 9 NASA's Cassini-Huygens spacecraft discovers geysers of a liquid substance shooting from Saturn's moon Enceladus, signaling a possible presence of water. [34]
- March 10 NASA's Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter enters Mars orbit. [35][36]
- March 16 The Blu-ray Disc format is released in the United States.
- March 17 The United States strikes its 2 remaining *Iowa*-class battleships from the Naval Vessel Register, ending the age of the battleship.
- March 22 The Federal Reserve stops the publishing of M3 money supply data.
- March 25 Seven die in the Capitol Hill Massacre in Seattle, Washington. Perpetrator Kyle Huff's rampage is fueled by his hatred of "rave scene" gatherings.

April

- April 4 first material action in Minor League Baseball umpire strike
- April 29 Massive anti-war demonstrations and a march down Broadway in New York City mark the third year of war in Iraq.

May

- May 1 The Great American Boycott takes place across the United States as marchers protest for immigration rights.
- May 5 Fiat chairman Sergio Marchionne announces that the Alfa Romeo automobile brand will return to the United States in 2008, after a 13–year hiatus. [37]





March 17: *Iowa*-class battleship

- June 7 Al-Qaeda in Iraq leader Abu Musab al-Zarqawi and seven of his aides are killed in a U.S. air raid just north of the town of Baqouba, Iraq. [38][39][40]
- June 23 In Miami, the Federal Bureau of Investigation arrests 7 men, accusing them of planning to bomb the Sears Tower and other attacks in Miami.
- June 25 Warren Buffett donates over \$30 billion to the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

July

- July 4 STS–121: Space Shuttle *Discovery* is launched to the International Space Station. ^[41] It returns safely on July 17. It is the second "return to flight" mission after the Space Shuttle *Columbia* disaster. ^[42]
- July 5 North Korea test fires missiles, timed with the liftoff of Space Shuttle *Discovery*, preceding the fireworks celebrations that night in America. The long range Taepodong–2 reportedly fails shortly after takeoff.^[43]
- July 10 Henry Paulson is sworn in as the new Secretary of Treasury, succeeding John W. Snow.

August

■ August 10 – London Metropolitan Police make 21 arrests in connection to an apparent terrorist plot that involved aircraft traveling from the United Kingdom to the United States. Liquids and gels are banned from checked and carry-on baggage. [44][45] As of September 26, the Transportation Security Administration adjusts its ban on liquids, aerosols and gels. Travellers are permitted to carry liquids through security checkpoints in containers of 3.4 ounces (100 mL) or less that fit comfortably in one quart-size clear plastic zip-top bag. This procedure came to be known as "3-1-1 for carry-ons" (3.4 ounce containers in a 1 quart bag, 1 bag per passenger). Items purchased in the airside zone after clearing security could be brought on board without restriction. Other exemptions to this restriction include medications and breast milk. [46]



August 10: A United States TSA agent inspects a service monkey before a flight.

- August 27 Comair Flight 5191, carrying 50 people, crashes shortly after take off from Blue Grass Airport in Lexington, Kentucky.^[47]
- August 28 A Greyhound Lines bus from New York City to Montreal, carrying 52 people, crashes at mile 115 on I-87 near Elizabethtown, killing 5 people (including the driver) and seriously injuring others.

September

- September 3 Gordon B. Hinckley dedicates the Sacramento California Temple, the LDS Church's seventh temple in California. [48]
- September 8 The world's tallest living tree, a 115.61 metres (379.3 ft) tall coast redwood (sequoia) now named "Hyperion", is discovered in Redwood National Park.
- September 15 Spinach contaminated with E. coli kills 2 and poisons over 100 others in 20 states
 of the United States.

October

October – The Unemployment Rate drops to 4.4%, the lowest since May 2001.

- October 2 Charles Carl Roberts IV, a 32-yr-old milk-truck driver, kills 5 girls at an Amish schoolhouse in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania before shooting himself.
- October 3 The Dow Jones Industrial Average gains 56.99 points, or 0.49 percent, with a close of 11,727.34, its first all-time high in more than 6 years after it last hit in a record high of 11,722.98 on January 20, 2000.
- October 6 A hazardous waste plant near Apex, North Carolina explodes, releasing chlorine gas, and resulting in the evacuation of thousands and the hospitalization of over 200 residents.
- October 10 Google buys YouTube for \$1.65 billion.
- October 11 A plane crashes into a highrise building New York City, killing 2.
- October 12 Lake Storm "Aphid": A freak snowstorm blows into Buffalo, New York leaving over 400,000 without power and killing 13. [49]
- October 16 The last American MASH is decommissioned. [50]
- October 19 The Dow Jones Industrial Average closes 12,000 for the first time, 12,011.73.
- October 24 NASA's MESSENGER spacecraft makes its first flyby of Venus (it will be captured into Mercury's orbit on March 18, 2011). [51]
- October 27 The St. Louis Cardinals defeat the Detroit Tigers to win their 10th world series.

November

- November 6 Mid-term elections result in the Democrats gaining control of both houses of Congress.
- November 19 Nintendo's Wii released in America. [52]

December

- December 7 Smoking is banned in all Ohio bars, restaurants, workplaces, and other public places.^[53]
- December 10 Space Shuttle Mission STS–116: Space Shuttle *Discovery* lifts off from the Kennedy Space Center on the first night launch since the 2003 loss of *Columbia*.
- December 13 U.S. Senator Tim Johnson (D–South Dakota) suffers a brain hemorrhage during a conference call with reporters.^[54]
- December 14 The U.S. spy satellite USA-193, also known as NRO Launch 21 (NROL-21 or simply L-21), is launched but malfunctions. [55]
- December 15 Lockheed Martin's F-35 Lightning II Joint Strike Fighter successfully flies for the first time. [56]
- December 18 Robert Gates is sworn in as the new Secretary of Defense, succeeding Donald Rumsfeld.^[57]
- December 22 The Space Shuttle *Discovery* lands at the Kennedy Space Center, concluding a 2– week mission to the International Space Station.^[58]

Undated

- United States housing bubble: A total of 1,259,118 foreclosures are filed during 2006, up 42 percent from 2005. [59]
- Subprime mortgage crisis: The housing bubble burst in the summer of 2006, starting a chain of
 events that would eventually develop into a full-blown market meltdown.

Ongoing

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

Births

- March 20 Barron Trump, son of 45th President Donald Trump and Melania Trump
- April 8 Moses Bruce Anthony Martin, son of Chris Martin and Gwyneth Paltrow
- April 18 Suri Cruise, daughter of Tom Cruise and Katie Holmes
- May 6 Sadie Sandler, actress and daughter of Adam Sandler
- September 7 Dannielynn Marshall Birkhead, notable paternity case subject and daughter of Anna Nicole Smith

Deaths

- Harry Magdoff, economist, (b. 1913)
 - Gideon Rodan, Romanian-born American physician (b. 1934)
 - Hubert Schoemaker, Dutch-born American biochemist and executive (b. 1950)
- January 4 William Haxby, geophysicist (b. 1950)^[60]
- January 8 David Rosenbaum, journalist (b. 1942)
- January 9
 - Elliot Forbes, conductor and musicologist (b. 1917)
 - David Kruidenier, publisher (b. 1921)^[61]
- January 10 Ira Black, physician and neuroscientist (b. 1941)
- January 11
 - Nixzmary Brown, murder victim (b. 1998)
 - Eric Namesnik, swimmer (b. 1970)
- January 12
 - Eldon Dedini, cartoonist (b. 1921)
 - Anne Meacham, actress (b. 1925)
- January 15 Edward Hall, aeronautical engineer and brother of Theodore Hall (b. 1914)
- January 16 Stanley Biber, surgeon (b. 1923)
- January 18 Thomas Murphy, executive (b. 1915)

- January 19
 - Wilson Pickett, singer and songwriter (b. 1941)
 - Basil Worgul, radiation biologist (b. 1948)^[62]
- January 23
 - David Weber, Lithuanian-born
 American musician (b. 1913)
 - Samuel Koster, general and murderer (b. 1919)
- January 24
 - William B. Graham, lawyer and executive (b. 1911)^[63]
 - Chris Penn, actor and brother of Sean Penn (b. 1965)
- January 25 Herbert Schilder, dental surgeon (b. 1929)
- January 28
 - Arthur Bloom, television director (b. 1942)^[64]
 - Helmut W. Schulz, German physicist and chemical engineer, died in White Plains, New York (b. 1912)
- January 30 Wendy Wasserstein, writer (b. 1950)

February

- February 1 Dick Brooks, auto racer (b. 1942)
- February 3 Lou Jones, track and field athlete (b. 1932)
- February 4 William Jones, minister and civil rights activist (b. 1934)

- February 8 Barry Martin, dancer, choreographer, and murder victim (b. 1962)^[65]
- February 10
 - Norman Shumway, surgeon (b. 1923)
 - John Belluso, writer (b. 1969)
- February 12 Peter Benchley, writer (b. 1940)
- February 20 Curt Gowdy, sports announcer (b. 1919)
- February 24 Dennis Weaver, actor (b. 1924)

March

- March 1 Harry Browne, politician and author (b. 1933)
- March 28
 - Jerry Brudos, murderer (b. 1939)
 - Charles Schepens, Belgium-born American ophthalmologist, surgeon, and insurgent (b. 1912)
 - Caspar Weinberger, 10th United States Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare from 1973 till 1975 and 15th United States Secretary of Defense from 1981 till 1987. (b. 1917)
- March 29 Don Alias, musician (b. 1939)

April

- April 5 Gene Pitney, singer (b. 1941)
- April 6 Francis L. Kellogg, diplomat and prominent socialite (b. 1917)

May

- May 11 Floyd Patterson, boxer (b. 1935)
- May 12 Gillespie V. Montgomery, general and politician (b. 1920)
- May 13
 - Jaroslav Pelikan, American historian (b. 1923)
 - Johnnie Wilder, Jr., American R&B singer (b. 1949)

June

■ June 6 – Hilton Ruiz, American jazz pianist (b. 1952)

- June 13
 - Freddie Gorman, songwriter (b. 1939)
 - Luis Jiménez, sculptor (b. 1940)

July

July 16 – Destiny Norton, murder victim (b. 2000)

August

- August 6 Marcus Fiesel, murder victim (b. 2003)
- August 16 Herschel Green, fighter pilot (b. 1920)

September

- September 10 Daniel Wayne Smith, son of Anna Nicole Smith (b. 1986)
- September 13 Ann Richards, 45th
 Governor of Texas from 1991 till 1995. (b. 1933)

October

October 17 – Megan Meier, notable victim (b. 1992)

November

- November 1
 - Adrienne Shelly, actress & director (b. 1966)
 - William Styron, writer (b. 1925)
- November 5 Samuel Bowers, American Ku Klux Klansman and convicted killer (b. 1924)
- November 8 Basil Poledour, composer (b. 1945)
- November 9 Ed Bradley, journalist (b. 1941)
- November 14 Sumner Shapiro, American admiral (b.1926)
- November 23
 - Anita O'Day, American singer (b. 1919)
 - Willie Pep, American boxer (b. 1922)
- November 24 Walter Booker, American jazz bassist (b. 1933)
- November 25 Kenneth M. Taylor, American pilot (b. 1919)

 November 30 – Shirley Walker, composer and conductor for film and television (b. 1945)

December

- December 12
 - Paul Arizin, American basketball player (b. 1928)
 - Peter Boyle, American actor (b. 1935)
 - Raymond P. Shafer, American politician (b. 1917)

- December 13
 - Lamar Hunt, American sports executive (b. 1932)
 - "Homesick" James Williamson, American blues musician (b. 1910)
 - Rebecca Riley, murder victim (b. 2002)
- December 26 Gerald Ford, 38th President of the United States from 1974 till 1977, 40th Vice President of the United States from 1973 till 1974 (b. 1913)

See also

- 2006 in American television
- List of American films of 2006

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