

January Facts of the Day 2012

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Preface

Ms. Dawn Smith is a research editor in the Technology Development & Clearinghouse Management directorate (J-93) at the Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute (DEOMI). She was responsible for compiling the information contained in this report. Her main research interests involve communication within a culture and the family. Ms. Smith received her Bachelor Degree in Interpersonal/Organizational Communications from the University of Central Florida.

DATE	FACT	
1	Ellis Island Immigrant Station in New York formally opened on this date in 1892. Of the 16 million immigrants who arrived in the U.S. from 1892 to 1954, 12 million of them passed through the federal immigration station located on the island.	http://www.history.com/content/ellis-island
2	Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863, which ensured all slaves in the Confederate States of America were declared free.	http://www.butlerwebs.com/holidays/january.htm
3	On January 3, 1938, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, who was a victim of polio, founds the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis, which was later renamed the March of Dimes Foundation. The vaccine for polio was discovered by Jonas Salk in 1955. In 1958, the mission statement for March of Dimes was changed to include research for all birth defects.	http://www.thepeoplehistory.com/january3rd.html
4	The 4th of January is World Braille Day. This date was chosen because it is the birthday of Louis Braille, the young Frenchman who invented the code in 1821. Braille helps to provide equal opportunity for many blind people worldwide.	http://louisbrailleschool.org/resources/louis-braille/
5	In 1945, Congress designated January 5th as George Washington Carver Day in honor of the agricultural chemist who died on this day in 1943. Nicknamed "the Peanut Man" and the "Wizard of Tuskegee," Carver headed the agricultural department of the Tuskegee Institute in Alabama and was one of the most prominent scientists of his day.	http://www.blackfacts.com/fact/86fc655a-c19e-458c-ba3e-8530df99af86
6	In one of the closest Presidential elections in U.S. history, George W. Bush was finally declared the winner of the bitterly contested 2000 Presidential elections more than five weeks after the election due to the disputed Florida ballots on January 6, 2001.	http://www.historynet.com/today-in-history/january-06
7	On this day in 1789, America's first presidential election was held. Voters cast ballots to choose state electors; only white men who owned property were allowed to vote. As expected, George Washington won the election and was sworn into office on April 30, 1789.	http://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/first-us-presidential-election
8	On this day in 1877, Crazy Horse and his warriors, outnumbered, low on ammunition, and forced to use outdated weapons to defend themselves, fought their final losing battle against the U.S. Cavalry in Montana.	http://www.history.com/this-day-in-history.do?action=VideoArticle&id=52318
9	In January 2010, Miep Gies, the last survivor of a small group of people who helped hide a Jewish girl, Anne Frank, and her family from the Nazis during World War II, dies at age 100 in the Netherlands. After the Franks were discovered in 1944 and sent to concentration camps, Gies rescued the notebooks that Anne Frank left behind describing her two years in hiding. These writings were later published as "Anne Frank: The Diary of a Young Girl," one of the most widely read accounts of the Holocaust.	http://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/miep-gies-who-hid-anne-frank-dies-at-100
10	On January 10, 1944 the Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944 (G.I. Bill of Rights) is passed by Congress. The bill provided a number of provisions for servicemen when they returned from World War II including: Pay for a G.I.'s further education tuition plus a living allowance at colleges and vocational schools when returning home; provide former service members with \$20 a week for 52 weeks while they are looking for work; low interest, zero down payment loans for service members.	http://www.thepeoplehistory.com/january10th.html
11	Amelia Earhart became the first person, man or woman, to fly solo across the Pacific. She departed Wheeler Field on January 11, 1935, and landed in Oakland, California to a cheering crowd of thousands. President Roosevelt sent his congratulations..."You have scored again...(and) shown even the 'doubting Thomases' that aviation is a science which cannot be limited to men only."	http://timelines.com/1935/1/11/amelia-earhart-becomes-first-person-to-fly-solo-from-hawaii-to-california

12	The House of Representatives, on January 12, 1915, voted down the Women's Suffrage Bill, which would allow women the right to vote. The actual vote count was 204 against and 174 for this bill. Women's Suffrage leaders such as Ann Howard Shaw and Carrie Chapman Catt stated they would continue to fight for the right to cast a ballot. The right to vote was finally granted to women in 1920.	http://www.thepeoplehistory.com/january12th.html
13	On this day in 1966, President Lyndon B. Johnson appointed the first African-American cabinet member, making Robert C. Weaver head of the Department of Housing and Urban Development—the agency that develops and implements national housing policy and enforces fair housing laws. In keeping with his vision for a Great Society, Johnson sought to improve race relations and eliminate urban blight. As many of the country's African-Americans lived in run-down inner-city areas, appointing Weaver was an attempt to show his African-American constituency that he meant business on both counts.	http://www.history.com/topics/lyndon-b-johnson
14	It took 15 years to create the federal Martin Luther King Jr. holiday. Congressman John Conyers, first introduced legislation for a commemorative holiday four days after King was assassinated in 1968. After the bill became stalled, petitions endorsing the holiday containing six million names were submitted to Congress. Public pressure for the holiday mounted during the 1982 and 1983 Civil Rights marches in Washington. Congress passed the holiday legislation in 1983, which was then signed into law by President Ronald Reagan.	http://www.archives.gov/eo/special-observances/
15	Born January 15, 1929 in Atlanta, Georgia, Martin Luther King Jr. was a Baptist minister and social activist who led the Civil Rights movement in the United States from the mid-1950s until his death by assassination in 1968. His leadership was fundamental to that movement's success in ending the legal segregation of African-Americans in the South and other parts of the United States. Martin Luther King Day is a federal holiday held on the third Monday of January. It celebrates the life and achievements of Martin Luther King Jr.	http://www.biography.com/people/martin-luther-king-jr-9365086
16	Each year on January 16, Americans celebrate Religious Freedom Day in commemoration of the passage of the Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom by the Virginia General Assembly, which occurred on this day in 1786. Drafted by Thomas Jefferson, this historic law provided the inspiration and the framework for the religious freedom clauses in the First Amendment to the United States Constitution.	www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2003/01/20030115-11.html
17	First U.S. government statement of Operation Desert-Storm made, White House Press Secretary Marlin Fitzwater announces, "The liberation of Kuwait has begun..." The air war started January 17th at 2:38 a.m. with an Apache helicopter attack. U.S. warplanes attack Baghdad, Kuwait, and other military targets in Iraq, Operation Desert Storm begun.	http://www.mahalo.com/answers/social-science/what-are-the-most-significant-historical-events-in-january
18	President William J. Clinton's Inaugural ceremony was the first one to be broadcast live on the internet on January 20, 1997.	http://inaugural.senate.gov/history/factsandfirsts/index.cfm
19	January 20, 1985 fell on Sunday, so President Ronald Reagan was privately sworn in that day at the White House. The public Inauguration on January 21st took place in the Capitol Rotunda, and due to freezing weather, it was coldest Inauguration day on record, with a noon temperature of 7°F.	http://inaugural.senate.gov/history/factsandfirsts/index.cfm
20	Inauguration Day occurs every 4 years after the election of a U.S. President from the previous November and is observed the 20th of January unless it is a Sunday, then Inauguration Day is moved to Monday, January 21st. Inauguration Day has been observed on January 20th since 1937. Prior to 1937, Inauguration Day was March 4th.	http://inaugural.senate.gov/history/daysevents/

21	On January 23, 1964 the Poll Tax became illegal in all U.S. states. The Poll Tax was a tax of a fixed amount per adult person that was a potent prerequisite, and sometimes outright barrier, to voting in national elections, and used as a blunt tool for barring poverty-stricken African Americans and Whites from participating in the electoral process.	http://www.thepeoplehistory.com/january23rd.html
22	After 28 years of hiding in the jungles of Guam, local farmers discover Shoichi Yokoi, a Japanese sergeant who was unaware that World War II had ended. In 1941, the Japanese attacked and captured Guam, and in 1944, after 3 years of Japanese occupation, U.S. forces retook Guam. It was at this time that Yokoi, left behind by the retreating Japanese forces, went into hiding rather than surrender to the Americans. In the jungles, he carved survival tools and for the next three decades waited for the return of the Japanese and his next orders. After he was discovered in 1972, he was finally discharged and sent home to Japan, where he was hailed as a national hero.	http://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/japanese-soldier-found-hiding-on-guam
23	On January 23, 1997, the day after her unanimous confirmation by the U.S. Senate, Madeline Albright was sworn in as America's first female secretary of state by Vice President Al Gore at the White House. As head of the U.S. State Department, Albright was the highest ranking female official in U.S. history, a distinction that led some to declare that the "glass ceiling" preventing the ascension of women in government had been lifted.	http://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/albright-sworn-in-as-secretary-of-state
24	U.S. Navy Lieutenant Everett Alvarez Jr. spent his 2,000th day in captivity in Southeast Asia on January 26, 1970. First taken prisoner when his plane was shot down on August 5, 1964, he became the longest-held POW in U.S. history. Alvarez was released in 1973 after spending over 8 years in captivity.	http://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/pow-spends-2000th-day-in-captivity
25	In 1907, Julia Ward Howe, a prominent American abolitionist, social activist, and poet most famous as the author of "The Battle Hymn of the Republic," was the first woman elected to National Institute of Art and Letters.	http://womenshistory.about.com/od/howejuliaward/a/about_julia_ward_howe.htm
26	On this day in 1945, Soviet troops enter Auschwitz, Poland, freeing 7,000 starving camp survivors from the network of concentration camps revealing to the world the depth of the horrors perpetrated there.	http://www.thepeoplehistory.com/january26th.html
27	Colonel William B. Nolde, was killed January 27, 1973 in Vietnam. He was not the last American to die in Vietnam, but his death was the last recorded before the cease fire, and thus earned the dubious honor of being the last of 45,941 Americans killed during the conflict. Vietnam Day is observed annually on January 27th to commemorate the signing of the Vietnam Peace Accord in 1973 which ended the Vietnam War.	http://www.arlingtoncemetery.net/wbnolde.htm
28	The United States Coast Guard was established on this day in 1915. Today's U.S. Coast Guard, with nearly 42,000 men and women on active duty, is a unique force that carries out an array of civil and military responsibilities touching almost every facet of the U.S. maritime environment.	http://www.uscg.mil/top/about/
29	In January 1967, a launch pad fire during Apollo program tests at Cape Canaveral, Florida, kills astronauts Virgil "Gus" Grissom, Edward H. White II, and Roger B. Chafee. An investigation indicated that a faulty electrical wire inside the Apollo 1 command module was the probable cause of the fire. The astronauts, the first Americans to die in a spacecraft, were participating in a simulation of the Apollo 1 launch scheduled for the next month.	http://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/astronauts-die-in-launch-pad-fire
30	Mohandas Gandhi, the world's chief advocate of non-violence, was assassinated in New Delhi by a terrorist sponsored by a right-wing Hindu militia group. The murder came only 10 days after a failed attempt on Gandhi's life. Thirty-nine-year-old Nathuram Godse shot the great Indian leader as he made his way through a small crowd to lead a prayer session.	http://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/gandhi-ssassinated-in-new-delhi

31	The 13th Amendment to the Constitution declared, "Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction." Formally abolishing slavery in the United States, the 13th Amendment was passed by Congress on January 31, 1865.	http://www.loc.gov/rr/program/bib/ourdocs/13thamendment.html
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