

January Facts of the Day 2013



**DEFENSE EQUAL OPPORTUNITY MANAGEMENT INSTITUTE
DIRECTORATE OF RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT AND STRATEGIC INITIATIVES**

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Observance Report No. 21-12

| DATE | FACT | |
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| 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 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, founded 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. The 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 | On January 6, 2001, in one of the closest presidential elections in U.S. history, George W. Bush was declared the winner of the bitterly contested 2000 election more than five weeks after election day due to the disputed Florida ballots. | 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. 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 Anne Frank and her family from the Nazis during World War II, died at the age of 100. After the Franks were discovered in 1944 and sent to concentration camps, Gies rescued the notebooks that Frank left behind describing her two years in hiding and returned them to Otto Frank, Anne's father, the only survivor of the family. 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) was passed by Congress. The bill included a number of provisions for servicemen when they returned from World War II: payment for tuition at colleges and vocational schools plus a living allowance; \$20 a week for 52 weeks while former service members looked for work; and 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 in Oahu, Hawaii, on January 11, 1935, and landed in Oakland, California, to a cheering crowd of thousands. President Roosevelt sent his congratulations, saying, "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 |

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| 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 vote count was 204 against and 174 for this bill. 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, Robert C. Weaver, head of the Department of Housing and Urban Development. The agency 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 strife. 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 | In January 1964, the Poll Tax became illegal in all U.S. states. The Poll Tax was a tax of a fixed amount per person that was a potent prerequisite, and sometimes outright barrier, to voting in national elections. It was 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 |
| 15 | Born January 15, 1929, 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 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 Jr. holiday 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 | In the U.S. government's first statement of Operation Desert Storm, White House Press Secretary Marlin Fitzwater announced, "The liberation of Kuwait has begun..." The air war started January 17, 1991, at 2:38 a.m. with an Apache helicopter attack. U.S. warplanes attacked Kuwait, Baghdad, and other military targets in Iraq. | http://www.mahalo.com/answers/social-science/what-are-the-most-significant-historical-events-in-january |
| 18 | President William J. Clinton's inaugural ceremony on January 20, 1997, was the first one to be broadcast live on the internet. | http://inaugural.senate.gov/history/factsandfirsts/index.cfm |
| 19 | 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 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, and it was signed into law by President Ronald Reagan. | http://www.archives.gov/eo/special-observances/ |
| 20 | Inauguration Day occurs every 4 years after the election of a U.S. president in the previous November. It is observed on the 20th of January unless it is a Sunday, in which case Inauguration Day is moved to Monday, January 21st. Inauguration Day has been observed on January 20th or 21st since 1937. Prior to 1937, Inauguration Day was March 4th. | http://inaugural.senate.gov/history/daysevents/ |
| 21 | 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. It was the coldest Inauguration Day on record, with a noon temperature of 7°F. | http://inaugural.senate.gov/history/factsandfirsts/index.cfm |

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| 22 | On January 22, 1973, in a historic decision, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in Roe v. Wade. It determined that women, as part of their constitutional right to privacy, can terminate a pregnancy during its first two trimesters. The controversial ruling, reversing a century of anti-abortion legislation in the U.S., was the result of women fighting for control over their own reproductive processes. Although defended by the Supreme Court on several occasions, the legalization of abortion became a divisive and intensely emotional public issue. Roe v. Wade remains one of the most intensely debated Supreme Court decisions today. | http://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/supreme-court-legalizes-abortion |
| 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 | On January 24, 1956, <i>Look</i> magazine published the confessions of J.W. Milam and Roy Bryant, two White men who were acquitted in the 1955 kidnapping and murder of Emmett Louis Till, a Black 14-year-old from Chicago. In the article, "The Shocking Story of Approved Killing in Mississippi," the men detailed how they beat Till with a gun, shot him, and threw his body in the Tallahatchie River with a cotton-gin fan attached with barbed wire to his neck to weigh him down. The two killers reportedly were paid \$4,000 for their participation in the article. | http://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/emmett-till-murderers-make-magazine-confession |
| 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," became the first woman elected to the 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 entered Auschwitz, Poland, revealing to the world the depth of the horrors perpetrated there. Soviet soldiers encountered 648 corpses and more than 7,000 starving survivors. There were also six storehouses filled with hundreds of thousands of women's dresses, men's suits, and shoes that the Germans did not have time to burn. | 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 the Vietnam War, but his death was the last recorded before the cease fire, and it earned him 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 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 includes nearly 42,000 men and women on active duty, 7,000 reservists, and 7,800 civilian (civil service) employees. Additionally, there are approximately 30,000 civilian volunteers in the Coast Guard Auxiliary. The United States Coast Guard 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, during Apollo program tests at Cape Canaveral, Florida, a launch pad fire killed 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 (also known as Mahatma Gandhi), an advocate of non-violence, was assassinated in New Delhi by a terrorist sponsored by a right-wing Hindu militia group. The murder came only ten days after a failed attempt on Gandhi's life. Thirty-nine-year-old Nathuram Godse shot the Indian leader as Gandhi 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 |

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| 31 | The 13th Amendment to the U.S. 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." This amendment formally abolishing slavery in the United States was passed by Congress on January 31, 1865. | http://www.loc.gov/rr/program/bib/ourdocs/13thamendment.html |
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