

**January Facts of the Day 2015**



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

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Day	Fact	Source
1	<p>United We Serve, President Obama’s nationwide service initiative, is built on the belief that ordinary people can come together and achieve extraordinary things when given the proper tools. This initiative aims to both expand the impact of existing organizations by engaging new volunteers in their work and encourage volunteers to develop their own do-it-yourself projects. To learn more, visit <a href="http://www.serve.gov">serve.gov</a>.</p>	<p><a href="http://www.serve.gov/?q=site-page/about-united-we-serve">http://www.serve.gov/?q=site-page/about-united-we-serve</a></p>
2	<p>Established in 1993, the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) is a federal agency that engages more than 5 million Americans in service through its core programs—Senior Corps, AmeriCorps, and the Social Innovation Fund—and leads President Obama’s national call to service initiative, United We Serve. The mission of CNCS is to improve lives, strengthen communities, and foster civic engagement through service and volunteering.</p>	<p><a href="http://www.nationalservice.gov/about/who-we-are">http://www.nationalservice.gov/about/who-we-are</a></p>
3	<p>Goodwill works to enhance the dignity and quality of life of individuals and families by strengthening communities, eliminating barriers to opportunity, and helping people in need reach their full potential through learning and the power of work. Last year, Goodwill helped more than 9.8 million people train for careers and get the supporting services they needed to be successful, including English language training, additional education, or access to transportation and child care.</p>	<p><a href="http://www.goodwill.org/about-us/">http://www.goodwill.org/about-us/</a></p>

4	<p>Disabled American Veterans is dedicated to a single purpose: empowering veterans to lead high-quality lives with respect and dignity. It accomplishes this by ensuring that veterans and their families can access the full range of benefits available to them, fighting for the interests of America's injured heroes on Capitol Hill, and educating the public about the great sacrifices and needs of veterans transitioning back to civilian life.</p>	<p><a href="http://www.dav.org/learn-more/about-dav/mission-statement/">http://www.dav.org/learn-more/about-dav/mission-statement/</a></p>
5	<p>On January 5, 1972, Richard Nixon signed a bill authorizing \$5.5 million in funding to develop a space shuttle. The space shuttle represented a giant leap forward in the technology of space travel. Designed to function more like a cost-efficient reusable airplane than a one-use-only rocket-launched capsule, the shuttle afforded NASA pilots and scientists more time in space with which to conduct space-related research. NASA launched Columbia, the first space shuttle, in 1981.</p>	<p><a href="http://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/nixon-launches-the-space-shuttle-program">http://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/nixon-launches-the-space-shuttle-program</a></p>
6	<p>AmeriCorps engages more than 75,000 Americans in intensive service each year at nonprofits, schools, public agencies, and community and faith-based groups across the country. Since the program's founding in 1994, more than 900,000 AmeriCorps members have contributed more than 1.2 billion hours in service across America while tackling pressing problems and mobilizing millions of volunteers for the organizations they serve.</p>	<p><a href="http://www.nationalservice.gov/programs/ameri-corps">http://www.nationalservice.gov/programs/ameri-corps</a></p>
7	<p>Conceived during John F. Kennedy's presidency, Senior Corps currently links more than 360,000 Americans 55 and older to service opportunities. Their contributions of skills, knowledge, and experience make a real difference to individuals, nonprofits, and faith-based and other community organizations throughout the United States. Volunteers receive guidance and training so they can make a contribution that suits their talents, interests, and availability.</p>	<p><a href="http://www.nationalservice.gov/programs/senior-corps">http://www.nationalservice.gov/programs/senior-corps</a></p>

8	<p>On January 8, 1790, President George Washington delivered the first State of the Union address to the assembled Congress in New York City. Washington's address gave a brief outline of his administration's policies as designed by Alexander Hamilton. The former commander in chief of the Continental Army argued in favor of securing the common defense by creating a standing army, as he believed preparedness for war to be one of the most effectual means of preserving peace.</p>	<p><a href="http://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/president-george-washington-delivers-first-state-of-the-union">http://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/president-george-washington-delivers-first-state-of-the-union</a></p>
9	<p>The Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal was established by Executive Order 12830 on January 9, 1993. It may be awarded to members of the U.S. Armed Forces and their Reserve Components who perform outstanding volunteer community service of a sustained, direct, and consequential nature. This award honors service members who make a profound impact on their communities through years of volunteering their own time to serve others.</p>	<p><a href="http://www.ofm.va.gov/servewa/about/movsm.pdf">http://www.ofm.va.gov/servewa/about/movsm.pdf</a></p>
10	<p>When he was born on January 15, 1929, Martin Luther King Jr.'s name was Michael King. A few years later, his father, also Michael King, changed his name to Martin Luther King Sr., in honor of the great protestant reformer. At that time, his son's name was changed to Martin Luther King Jr.</p>	<p><a href="http://www.thekingcenter.org/faqs">http://www.thekingcenter.org/faqs</a></p>
11	<p>Fisher House Foundation operates a network of comfort homes near major military and VA medical centers nationwide where military and veterans' families can stay free while a loved one is receiving treatment. It also operates the Hero Miles program, using donated frequent flyer miles to bring family members to the bedside of injured service members and the Hotels for Heroes program using donated hotel points to allow family members to stay free at hotels near medical centers.</p>	<p><a href="http://www.fisherhouse.org/about/">http://www.fisherhouse.org/about/</a></p>

12	<p>The Wounded Warrior Project’s mission is to honor and empower wounded warriors. The organization exists to raise awareness and enlist the public’s aid for the needs of injured service members; to help injured service members aid and assist each other; and to provide unique, direct programs and services to meet the needs of injured service members.</p>	<p><a href="http://www.woundedwarriorproject.org/mission.aspx">http://www.woundedwarriorproject.org/mission.aspx</a></p>
13	<p>The Intrepid Fallen Heroes Fund serves U.S. military personnel wounded or injured in service to our nation, and their families. Supporting these heroes helps repay the debt all Americans owe them for the sacrifices they have made in service to our nation. They are, in the words of IFHF founder, the late Zachary Fisher, “our nation’s greatest national resource,” and they deserve all the help that our nation can provide. The IFHF is a leader in meeting this important national mission.</p>	<p><a href="http://fallenheroesfund.org/About-IFHF/Mission-I.aspx">http://fallenheroesfund.org/About-IFHF/Mission-I.aspx</a></p>
14	<p>The Social Innovation Fund transforms lives and communities and positions the federal government to be a catalyst for impact—mobilizing public and private resources to find and grow community solutions with evidence of strong results. By fostering collaborations that identify, evaluate, and expand promising nonprofits, SIF increases access to effective programs that enable people and communities in need to overcome challenges in the areas of economic opportunity, youth development, and health.</p>	<p><a href="http://www.nationalservice.gov/programs/social-innovation-fund">http://www.nationalservice.gov/programs/social-innovation-fund</a></p>
15	<p>Martin Luther King Jr. was born on January 15, 1929, in Atlanta, Georgia. He became a prominent leader in the American Civil Rights Movement in 1955 when he served as spokesman for the Montgomery Bus Boycott, a campaign by the African-American population of Montgomery, Alabama, to force integration of the city’s busses. He is widely regarded as America’s pre-eminent advocate of nonviolence and one of the greatest nonviolent leaders in world history.</p>	<p><a href="http://www.thekingcenter.org/about-dr-king">http://www.thekingcenter.org/about-dr-king</a></p>

16	<p>For more than 100 years, Big Brothers Big Sisters has operated under the belief that inherent in every child is the ability to succeed and thrive in life. As the nation's largest donor and volunteer supported mentoring network, the organization makes meaningful, monitored matches between adult volunteers and children, ages 6 through 18, in communities across the country. It develops positive relationships that have a direct and lasting effect on the lives of young people.</p>	<p><a href="http://www.bbbs.org/site/c.9iILI3NGKhK6F/b.5962351/k.42EB/We_are_here_to_start_something.htm">http://www.bbbs.org/site/c.9iILI3NGKhK6F/b.5962351/k.42EB/We_are_here_to_start_something.htm</a></p>
17	<p>At the core of the Easter Seals organization is a common passion for caring, shared by its 23,000 staff members, thousands of volunteers, and those who support its mission. This heartfelt commitment to helping people with disabilities and their families is what Easter Seals is all about. Services and support are provided through a network of more than 550 sites in the U.S. Each center provides exceptional services that are individualized, innovative, and family-focused.</p>	<p><a href="http://www.easterseals.com/who-we-are/history/">http://www.easterseals.com/who-we-are/history/</a></p>
18	<p>A national nonprofit, Operation Homefront leads more than 2,500 volunteers nationwide who provide emergency and other financial assistance to the families of service members and wounded warriors. Operation Homefront has provided assistance to thousands of military families since its inception in 2002. Nationally, 93 percent of total donations to Operation Homefront go directly to programs that provide support to military families.</p>	<p><a href="http://www.operationhomefront.net/aboutus">http://www.operationhomefront.net/aboutus</a></p>

19	<p>In 1994, Congress designated the Martin Luther King Jr. Federal Holiday as a national day of service and charged the Corporation for National and Community Service with leading this effort. Taking place each year on the third Monday in January, the MLK Day of Service is the only federal holiday observed as a national day of service—a “day on, not a day off.” This year, the holiday falls on January 19.</p>	<p><a href="http://mlkday.gov/about/serveonkingday.php">http://mlkday.gov/about/serveonkingday.php</a></p>
20	<p>On August 28, 1963, more than 250,000 people participated in the “March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom.” It was the largest demonstration for human rights in United States history, as well as a rare display of unity among the various civil rights organizations. The event began with a rally at the Washington Monument. Participants then marched the mile-long National Mall to the Lincoln Memorial, where Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. gave his “I Have a Dream” speech.</p>	<p><a href="http://www.ourdocuments.gov/doc.php?flash=true&amp;doc=96">http://www.ourdocuments.gov/doc.php?flash=true&amp;doc=96</a></p>
21	<p>Founded in 1969, the National Military Family Association focuses on issues important to military families. Based on the belief that all military families deserve comprehensive child care, accessible health care, spouse employment options, great schools, caring communities, a secure retirement, and support for widows and widowers, its mission is to fight for benefits and programs that strengthen and protect military families and reflect the nation’s respect for their service.</p>	<p><a href="http://www.militaryfamily.org/about-us/">http://www.militaryfamily.org/about-us/</a></p>

22	<p>Supporting America’s troops was the first mission of the United Service Organizations. In 1941, as it became clear that the nation was heading into World War II, several organizations mobilized to support the growing U.S. military. President Franklin D. Roosevelt created synergy among these agencies by forming the USO, with the objective of providing the emotional support the troops needed. Today, the USO continues to lift the spirits of America’s troops and their families.</p>	<p><a href="http://www.uso.org/history.aspx">http://www.uso.org/history.aspx</a></p>
23	<p>Planting seeds of inspiration in our nation’s most vulnerable children is what Reading Is Fundamental and a network of more than 400,000 volunteers do. Whether in schools, homeless shelters, or community centers—wherever you find children—RIF volunteers spend countless hours distributing books, staging reading motivation activities, and promoting the importance of literacy in their communities. RIF’s highest priority is reaching underserved children from birth to age 8.</p>	<p><a href="http://www.rif.org/us/about-rif.htm">http://www.rif.org/us/about-rif.htm</a></p>
24	<p>Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s less than 13 years of nonviolent leadership ended abruptly and tragically on April 4, 1968, when he was assassinated at the Lorraine Motel in Memphis, Tennessee. Later in 1968, Dr. King’s wife, Mrs. Coretta Scott King, officially founded the Martin Luther King Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change, which she dedicated to being a “living memorial” aimed at continuing Dr. King’s work on important social ills around the world.</p>	<p><a href="http://www.thekingcenter.org/about-dr-king">http://www.thekingcenter.org/about-dr-king</a></p>



25	<p>Since 1877, the American Humane Association has been at the forefront of protecting children, pets, and farm animals from abuse and neglect. Today, it is also leading the way in understanding human-animal interaction and its role in society. As the nation's voice for the protection of children and animals, AHA reaches millions of people every day through groundbreaking research, education, training, and services that span a wide network of organizations, agencies, and businesses.</p>	<p><a href="http://www.americanhumane.org/about-us/licensing/">http://www.americanhumane.org/about-us/licensing/</a></p>
26	<p>The American Red Cross exists to provide compassionate care to those in need. Its network of generous donors, volunteers, and employees share a mission of preventing and relieving suffering, in the U.S. and around the world, through five key service areas: disaster relief, supporting America's military families, lifesaving blood, health and safety services, and international services. Volunteers constitute 90 percent of the total Red Cross workforce.</p>	<p><a href="http://www.redcross.org/what-we-do">http://www.redcross.org/what-we-do</a></p>
27	<p>On January 27, 1888, the National Geographic Society was founded for "the increase and diffusion of geographical knowledge." Today, it is one of the world's largest non-profit scientific and educational institutions, and it publishes a monthly magazine with a circulation of around 9 million. The society also sees itself as a guardian of the planet's natural resources and focuses on ways to broaden its reach and educate readers about the unique relationship humans have with Earth.</p>	<p><a href="http://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/national-geographic-society-founded">http://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/national-geographic-society-founded</a></p>
28	<p>On January 28, 1915, President Woodrow Wilson signed into law the "Act to Create the Coast Guard." The act had been passed by Congress on January 20, 1915, and it combined the Life-Saving Service and Revenue Cutter Service to form the Coast Guard.</p>	<p><a href="http://www.uscg.mil/history/faqs/when.asp">http://www.uscg.mil/history/faqs/when.asp</a></p>

29	<p>On January 28, 1986, the space shuttle Challenger lifted off from Cape Canaveral, Florida, and Christa McAuliffe was set to become the first ordinary U.S. civilian to travel into space. McAuliffe, a 37-year-old high school teacher, won a competition to join the seven-member crew. The launch was scheduled for January 22 but was repeatedly delayed because of weather and technical problems. The shuttle lifted off six days later, but after 73 seconds, it exploded. There were no survivors.</p>	<p><a href="http://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/challenger-explodes">http://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/challenger-explodes</a></p>
30	<p>On January 30, 1948, Mohandas Gandhi, the political and spiritual leader of the Indian independence movement, was assassinated. During a vigil in New Delhi—part of Gandhi’s effort to end India’s religious strife—a Hindu extremist who objected to his tolerance for Muslims fatally shot him. Known as Mahatma, or “the great soul,” Gandhi’s persuasive methods of civil disobedience influenced leaders of civil rights movements around the world, especially Martin Luther King Jr. in the United States.</p>	<p><a href="http://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/gandhi-assassinated">http://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/gandhi-assassinated</a></p>
31	<p>The Salvation Army’s motto “Doing the Most Good” conveys its mission to feed, clothe, comfort, care, and rebuild broken homes and broken lives. It operates 7,546 centers in communities across the U.S. These include food distribution, disaster relief, rehabilitation centers, anti-human trafficking efforts, and children’s programs. This work is funded through kettle donations, corporate contributions, and the sale of goods donated to Salvation Army Family Stores.</p>	<p><a href="http://www.salvationarmyusa.org/usn/about">http://www.salvationarmyusa.org/usn/about</a></p>