

Key Anniversaries 2026

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1 JANUARY

It has been 250 years since the start of the American Revolutionary War. On this date, George Washington raised the first American flag, the Grand Union Flag, at Prospect Hill in Charlestown, Somerville, Massachusetts.

[See more](#)



1 JANUARY

60 years of the death of Vincent Auriol, President of France (1947-54) - the first president of the French Fourth Republic.

[See more](#)



3 JANUARY

100 years of the birth George Martin, British record producer, arranger, composer, musician and audio engineer. Best known for producing the Beatles' records, and sometimes referred to as the 'Fifth Beatle'. (Died 2016.)

[See more](#)



5 JANUARY

150 years of the birth of Konrad Adenauer, first Chancellor of West Germany (1949-63).

[See more](#)



5 JANUARY

70 years of the death of Mistinguett, French singer and entertainer. The world's highest-paid female entertainer. Noted for her beautiful legs and lively stage persona.

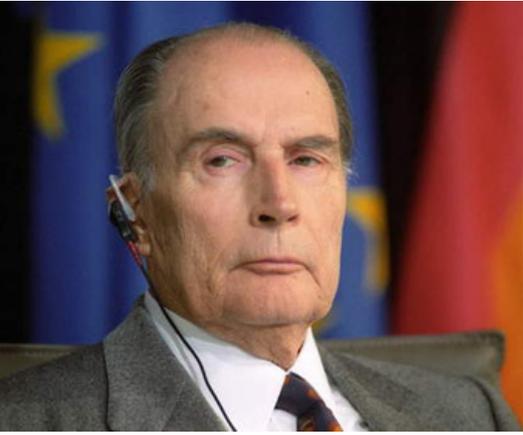
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6 JANUARY

80th years of the birth of Syd Barrett, British rock singer, guitarist and songwriter (Pink Floyd). Noted for his secluded lifestyle and drug abuse. (Died 2006.)

[See more](#)



8 JANUARY

30th years since the death of François Mitterrand, President of France (1981-95).

[See more](#)



9 JANUARY

75 years ago, the United Nations headquarters in New York City was officially opened.

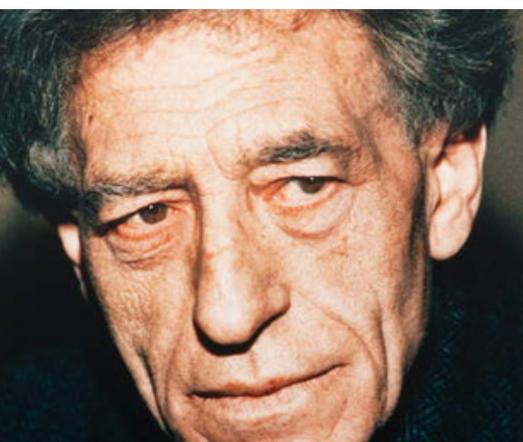
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10 JANUARY

10th years of the death of David Bowie, British pop/rock singer, songwriter and actor.

[See more](#)



11 JANUARY

60th years of the death of Alberto Giacometti, Swiss sculptor and artist. Noted for his attenuated, isolated figures.

[See more](#)



12 JANUARY

150th anniversary of Jack London, American novelist and journalist. A pioneer of commercial fiction and science fiction. Best known for his novels *The Call of the Wild* and *White Fang*.

[See more](#)



12 JANUARY

50 years since the death of Agatha Christie, English writer known for her 66 detective novels and 14 short story collections, particularly those revolving around fictional detectives Hercule Poirot and Miss Marple.

[See more](#)



14 JANUARY

The 85th anniversary of the death of the Irish writer and poet James Joyce.

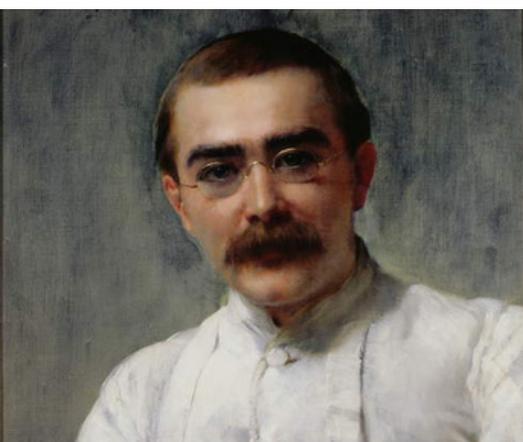
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14 JANUARY

10 years of the death of Alan Rickman, British stage, film and television actor and director.

[See more](#)



18 JANUARY

90 years of the death of Rudyard Kipling, British writer and poet (*The Jungle Book*, *Kim*, *If* and many more). Winner of the 1907 Nobel Prize in Literature.

[See more](#)



20 JANUARY

90 years of the death of King George V of the United Kingdom. Succeeded by his son Edward VIII, who abdicated in December.

[See more](#)



20 JANUARY

65 years ago, John F. Kennedy was inaugurated as the 35th President of the United States.

[See more](#)



20 JANUARY

40 years ago. Martin Luther King Day was celebrated as a federal holiday in the USA for the first time.

[See more](#)



20 JANUARY

25 years ago. George W. Bush was inaugurated as the 43rd President of the USA.

[See more](#)



22 JANUARY

80 years ago, U.S. President Harry S. Truman created the Central Intelligence Group. The interim authority was the direct predecessor of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) and was disestablished in September 1947.

[See more](#)



23 JANUARY

50 years of the death of Paul Robeson, American actor, singer and civil rights activist.

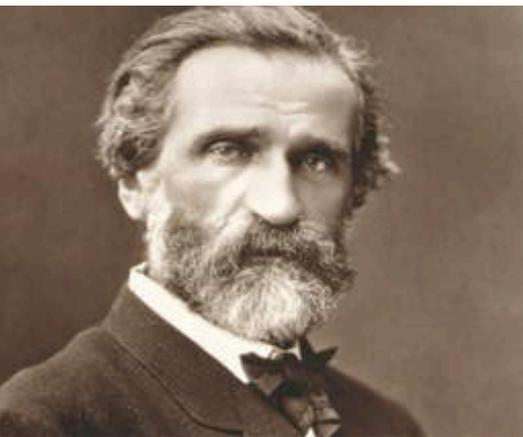
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24 JANUARY

60 years ago, Indira Gandhi became Prime Minister of India for the first time (until 1977). (She was Prime Minister again from 1980 until her assassination in 1984.)

[See more](#)



27 JANUARY

125 years of the death of Giuseppe Verdi, Italian composer. Best known for his operas, including Aida, Requiem, Otello and Falstaff.

[See more](#)



2 FEBRUARY

100 years of the birth of Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, President of France (1974-81). (Died 2020.)

[See more](#)



5 FEBRUARY

400 years of the birth of Marie de Rabutin-Chantal, marquise de Sévigné, French aristocrat and writer. Best known for the letters she wrote to her daughter. She is regarded as one of the greatest French writers of the 17th century.

[See more](#)



5 FEBRUARY

90 years ago, Charlie Chaplin's film *Modern Times* was released. It was the last major silent film. (The sound era had become well established since 1929.)

[See more](#)



8 FEBRUARY

150 years ago, the Great Sioux War in USA. Following the discovery of gold in the Black Hills of South Dakota and Wyoming, the USA announced that it would take possession of the hills, remove the Native Americans, and relocate them.

[See more](#)



11 FEBRUARY

Arab Spring: 15 years ago, the President of Egypt, Hosni Mubarak, resigned after eighteen days of protests. He was succeeded by Mohamed Morsi in June 2012.

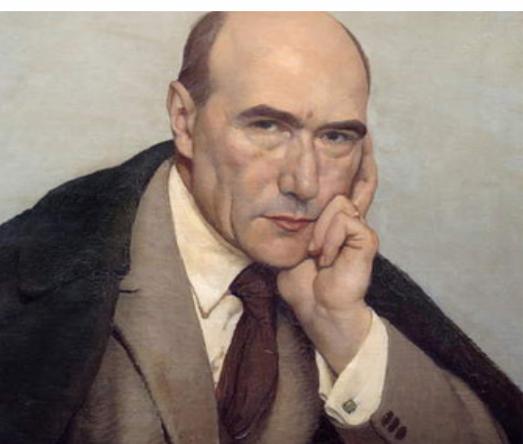
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19 FEBRUARY

150 years since the birth of Constantin Brâncuși, Romanian sculptor, artist and photographer. A pioneer of Modernism. One of the most influential sculptors of the 20th century.

[See more](#)



19 FEBRUARY

75 years of the death of André Gide, French writer. Winner of the 1947 Nobel Prize in Literature.

[See more](#)



19 FEBRUARY

25 years since the death of Charles Trenet, French jazz/easy listening singer and songwriter.

[See more](#)



6 MARCH

10 years of the death of Nancy Reagan, American film actress and First Lady of the United States (1981-89). Wife of U.S. President Ronald Reagan.

[See more](#)



10 MARCH

150 years ago, the world's first telephone call. Alexander Graham Bell used his telephone to call his assistant, Thomas Watson, after spilling acid in his laboratory. The first words spoken by telephone were: 'Mr Watson, come here. I want you.'

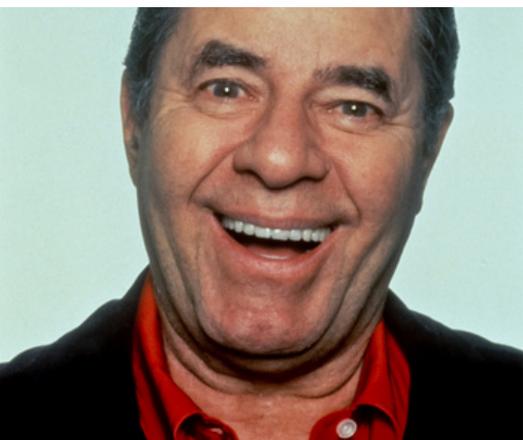
[See more](#)



13 MARCH

40 years ago, Microsoft went public, holding its Initial Public Offering (IPO), ten years after it was founded. Bill Gates became the world's youngest billionaire.

[See more](#)



16 MARCH

100 years of the birth of Jerry Lewis, American comedian and film actor. He began his career with a ten-year comedy partnership with Dean Martin.

[See more](#)



4 APRIL

150 years of the birth of Maurice de Vlaminck, French artist. One of the principle members of the Fauve movement.

[See more](#)



9 APRIL

100 years of the birth of Hugh Hefner, American magazine publisher and entrepreneur. Founder of Playboy magazine and Playboy Clubs. (Died 2017.)

[See more](#)



21 APRIL

10 years of the death of Prince, American pop/funk/hip hop singer, songwriter, musician and record producer. A pioneer of the Minneapolis sound. His hit songs include Purple Rain, When Doves Cry, 1999, Little Red Corvette, and many more.

[See more](#)



26 APRIL

40 year since the Chernobyl disaster, Ukraine, Soviet Union. The world's worst nuclear power plant accident. 31 people were killed in the explosion and fire, and leaked radiation spread across the western Soviet Union and Europe.

[See more](#)



1 MAY

60 years ago, british rock band the Beatles played their last concert in the UK, at the Empire Pool (now Wembley Arena) in London. (Their last performance in the UK was on the roof of Apple Corps' headquarters in January 1969.)

[See more](#)



13 MAY

65 years of the death of Gary Cooper, American film actor (High Noon, The Virginian, For Whom the Bell Tolls, and more).

[See more](#)



24 MAY

70 years ago, the first Eurovision Song Contest was held in Lugano, Switzerland. It was won by Switzerland.

[See more](#)



26 MAY

100 years of the birth of Miles Davis, American jazz trumpeter, bandleader and composer. (Died 1991.)

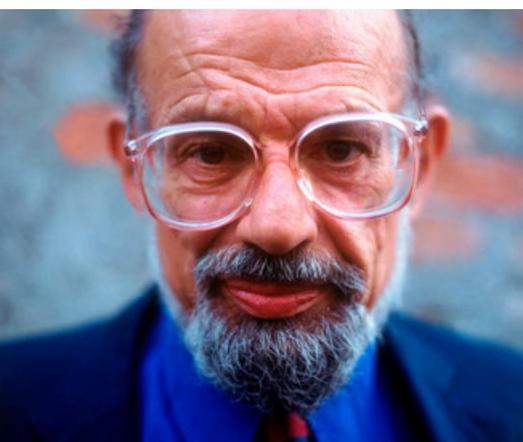
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1 JUNE

100 years anniversary of Marilyn Monroe, American film actress, model, singer and sex symbol (Gentlemen Prefer Blondes, How to Marry a Millionaire, There's No Business Like Show Business, The Seven Year Itch etc.)

[See more](#)



3 JUNE

100 years anniversary of of Allen Ginsberg, American poet. One of the leading figures of the Beat movement. Best known for his poem Howl. (Died 1997.)

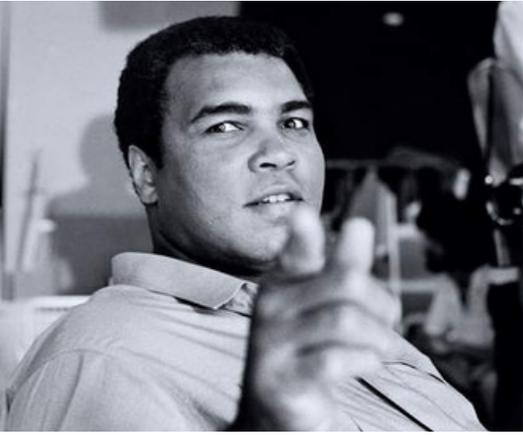
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3 JUNE

25 years of the death of Anthony Quinn, Mexican-born American actor (Zorba the Greek, Lust for Life, The Guns of Navarone, Lawrence of Arabia).

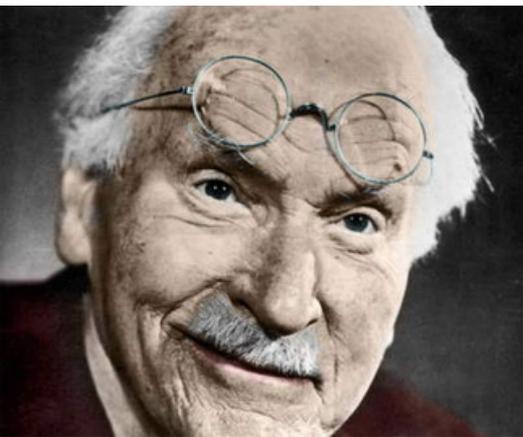
[See more](#)



3 JUNE

10 years of the death of Muhammad Ali, American world heavyweight boxing champion. Regarded as the greatest heavyweight boxer of all time.

[See more](#)



6 JUNE

65 years of the death of Carl Jung, Swiss psychiatrist and psychologist. Founder of analytical psychology.

[See more](#)



7 JUNE

60 years of the death of Jean Arp, German/French avant-garde sculptor, artist and poet.

[See more](#)



8 JUNE

150 years of the death of George Sand, French novelist. One of the most popular writers in Europe during her lifetime.

[See more](#)



10 JUNE

100 years since the death of Antoni Gaudí, Spanish architect. Known for his unique Modernist style. His most famous works include the Basílica de la Sagrada Família in Barcelona.

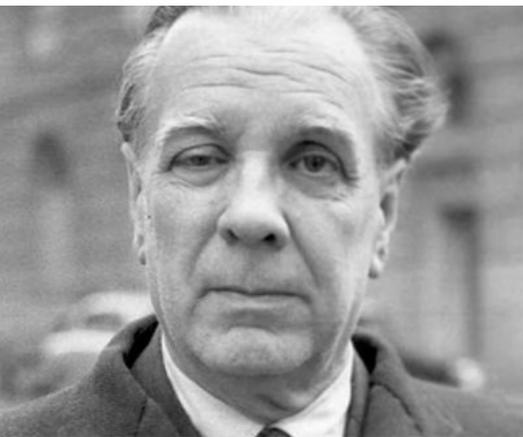
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11 JUNE

250 years of the birth of John Constable, British landscape artist.

[See more](#)



14 JUNE

40 years of the death of Jorge Luis Borges, Argentine poet and writer.

[See more](#)



15 JUNE

30 years of the death of Ella Fitzgerald, American jazz singer.

[See more](#)



18 JUNE

30 years ago, Benjamin Netanyahu became Prime Minister of Israel (until 1999). He was also Prime Minister from 2009 to 2021.

[See more](#)



19 JUNE

40 years of the death of Coluche, French comedian and actor. He also founded the charity Les Restaurants du Coeur (Restaurants of Love) that distributes food to people in need.

[See more](#)



27 JUNE

25 years of the death of Jack Lemmon, American actor (Some Like it Hot, The Odd Couple, Days of Wine and Roses, and many more).

[See more](#)



30 JUNE

90 years ago, Margaret Mitchell's novel *Gone with the Wind* was published.

[See more](#)



1 JULY

65 years of the birth of Diana, Princess of Wales. (Killed in a car crash in 1997.)

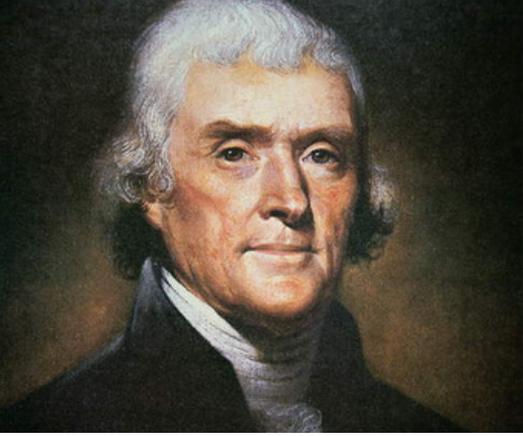
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1 JULY

50 years ago, the first Apple computer, the Apple I, went on sale (for \$666.66). About 200 were built, of which about 175 were sold.

[See more](#)



4 JULY

200 years of the death of Thomas Jefferson, 3rd President of the United States (1801-09), 2nd Vice President of the United States (1797-1801).

[See more](#)



8 JULY

Revolutionary wars: 250 years ago, the first public reading of the Declaration of Independence took place, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

[See more](#)



10 JULY

175 years of the death of Louis Daguerre, French photographer and artist who invented the daguerreotype photography process. He is regarded as one of the fathers of photography.

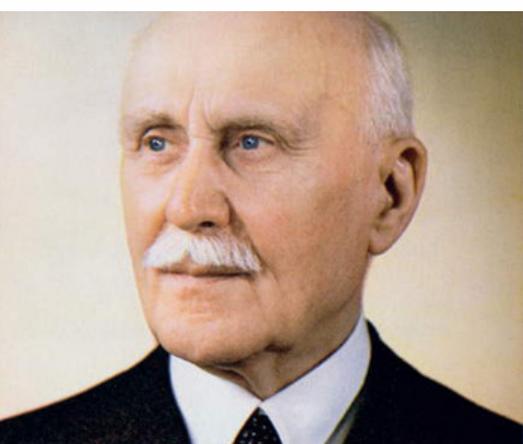
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12 JULY

250 years ago, British explorer Captain James Cook's third and final voyage. He travelled to New Zealand and Hawaii, where he was killed in a violent exchange with the local people.

[See more](#)



23 JULY

75 years of the death of Philippe Pétain, Prime Minister of Vichy France during WWII. He was sentenced to death for treason in 1945, but it was commuted to life imprisonment because of his age and WWI service.

[See more](#)



25 JULY

40 years of the death of Vincente Minnelli, American film director. Best known for his musicals. Husband of the actress Judy Garland. Father of Liza Minnelli.

[See more](#)



26 JULY

10 years ago, Hillary Clinton became the first woman to be nominated for President of the United States by a major political party (Democrats). She lost to Donald Trump in the election in November.

[See more](#)



27 JULY

80 years of the death of Gertrude Stein, American Modernist/avant-garde novelist, poet and playwright. A noted eccentric. She proclaimed herself 'the creative literary mind of the century'.

[See more](#)



1 AUGUST

90 years of the birth of Yves Saint-Laurent, Algerian-born French fashion designer. (Died 2008.)

[See more](#)



2 AUGUST

50 years of the death of Fritz Lang, Austrian-born American film director. Best known for Metropolis, M, The Big Heat and the Dr. Mabuse series.

[See more](#)



4 AUGUST

125 years of the birth of Louis Armstrong, ('Satchmo'), American jazz trumpeter and singer.

[See more](#)



7 AUGUST

150 years of the birth of Mata Hari, Dutch exotic dancer and courtesan. She was convicted of spying for Germany during WWI and executed by the French in 1917.

[See more](#)



11 AUGUST

70 years of the death of Jackson Pollock, American abstract expressionist artist. Known for his drip paintings. (Car crash, aged 44.)

[See more](#)



13 AUGUST

80 years of the death of H. G. Wells, British science fiction novelist (The War of the Worlds, The Time Machine, The Invisible Man, The Island of Doctor Moreau).

[See more](#)



27 AUGUST

450 years of the death of the painter Titian

[See more](#)



29 AUGUST

10 years of the death of Gene Wilder, American film actor, comedian, screenwriter and film director (*Willy Wonka & the Chocolate Factory*, *Everything You Always Wanted to Know About Sex (But Were Afraid to Ask)*),

[See more](#)



31 AUGUST

40 years of the death of Henry Moore, British sculptor.

[See more](#)



1 SEPTEMBER

100 years of the Lebanese Republic (now Lebanon) was established by France. Lebanon declared its independence from France in 1943.

[See more](#)



2 SEPTEMBER

25 years of the death of Christiaan Barnard, South African surgeon who performed the first human heart transplant.

[See more](#)



5 SEPTEMBER

80 years of the birth of Freddie Mercury, Zanzibar-born British rock singer and songwriter (Queen). (Died 1991.)

[See more](#)



7 SEPTEMBER

90 years of the birth of Buddy Holly, American rock and roll singer and songwriter (Peggy Sue, That'll be the Day, Oh Boy!). (Killed in a plane crash in 1959.)

[See more](#)



9 SEPTEMBER

50 years since the death of Mao Zedong, (Chairman Mao), Chinese communist leader. The founding father and head of state of the People's Republic of China.

[See more](#)



13 SEPTEMBER

30 years of the death of Tupac Shakur (also known as 2Pac), American rapper and actor. (Died from injuries suffered in a drive-by shooting in Las Vegas, Nevada on 7th September, aged 25.)

[See more](#)



23 SEPTEMBER

100 years of the birth of John Coltrane, American jazz saxophonist, bandleader and composer. (Died 1967.)

[See more](#)



28 SEPTEMBER

60 years of the death of André Breton, French writer and poet. One of the key founders of Surrealism.

[See more](#)



1 OCTOBER

90 years ago, General Francisco Franco was proclaimed head of state of Spain (until 1975).

[See more](#)



3 OCTOBER

800 years of the death of Saint Francis of Assisi, Italian friar, deacon and mystic. One of the most venerated religious figures in Christianity. Founder of the Franciscan Order.

[See more](#)



18 OCTOBER

100 years of the birth of Chuck Berry, American rock and roll singer, songwriter and guitarist. He pioneered the development of rock and roll and was a major influence on rock music. His hit songs include Roll Over Beethoven and Johnny B. Goode.

[See more](#)



31 OCTOBER

100 years of the death of Harry Houdini, Hungarian-born American magician and escape artist. (Peritonitis, aged 52.)

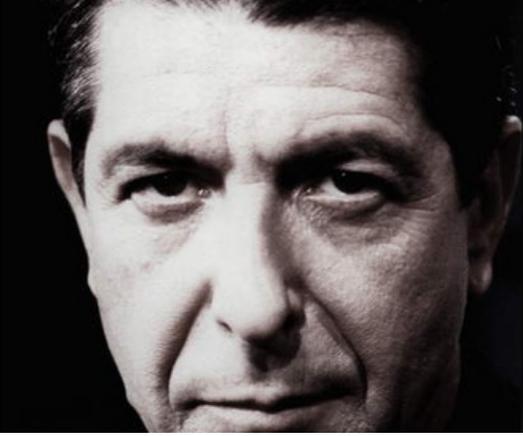
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1 NOVEMBER

50 years ago, Jimmy Carter was elected as the 39th President of the United States. (Inaugurated 20th January 1977.)

[See more](#)



7 NOVEMBER

10 years of the death of Leonard Cohen, Canadian folk/soft rock singer, songwriter and poet.

[See more](#)



8 NOVEMBER

10 years ago, Donald Trump was elected as the 45th President of the USA. (Inaugurated 20th January 2017.)

[See more](#)



15 NOVEMBER

50 years since the death of Jean Gabin, French film actor. A key figure in French cinema.

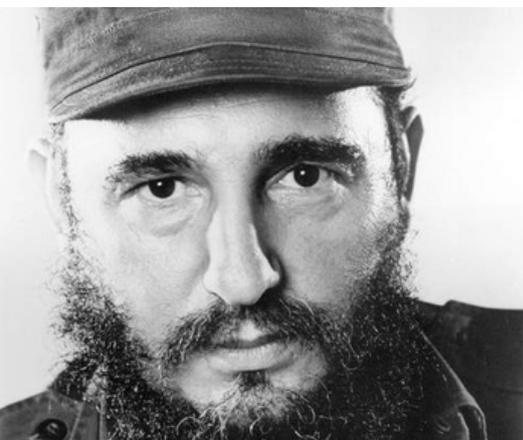
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17 NOVEMBER

230 years since the death of Catherine the Great, Russian wife of Peter III of Russia.

[See more](#)



25 NOVEMBER

10 years of the death of Fidel Castro, President of Cuba (1976-2008), Prime Minister of Cuba (1959-76).

[See more](#)



26 NOVEMBER

50 years ago, British punk rock band the Sex Pistols' debut single Anarchy in the UK was released.

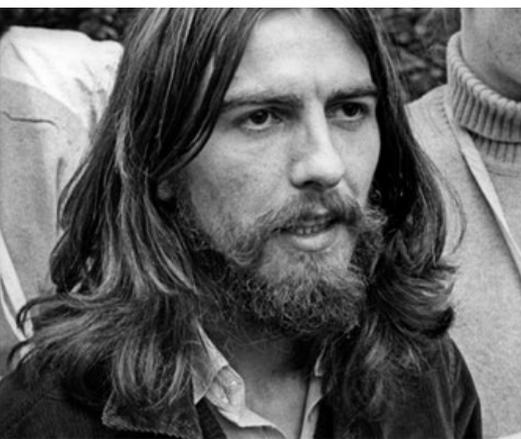
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29 NOVEMBER

40 years of the death of Cary Grant, British-born American film actor (Bringing Up Baby, Gunga Din, His Girl Friday, The Philadelphia Story, To Catch A Thief, North by Northwest, and more).

[See more](#)



29 NOVEMBER

25 years of the death of George Harrison, British rock guitarist, singer and songwriter (the Beatles).

[See more](#)



5 DECEMBER

100 years of the death of Claude Monet, French artist. The leader of the Impressionist movement.

[See more](#)



15 DECEMBER

60 years of the death of Walt Disney, co-founder (with his brother Roy) of the Walt Disney Company. Creator of popular cartoon characters including Mickey Mouse and Donald Duck. Creator of Disneyland.

[See more](#)



25 DECEMBER

25 years of the death of James Brown, ('the Godfather of Soul'), American singer, songwriter, musician and record producer. One of the founding fathers of funk.

[See more](#)



25 DECEMBER

10 years of the death of George Michael, British pop singer, songwriter, record producer and philanthropist. One of the best-selling recording artists of all time. A member of Wham!, he then had a successful solo career.

[See more](#)



27 DECEMBER

125 years of the birth of Marlene Dietrich, German-born American stage and film actress, singer, entertainer, and humanitarian. One of the greatest Hollywood actresses of all time.

[See more](#)



28 DECEMBER

10 years of the death of Debbie Reynolds, American stage, film and television actress, singer, dancer, and businesswoman. Mother of the actress Carrie Fisher.

[See more](#)



30 DECEMBER

20 years of death of Saddam Hussein, President/dictator of Iraq (1979-2003). (Executed for war crimes.)

[See more](#)