

# JUNE 1776-2026 AMERICA 250

## THIS MONTH IN AMERICAN HISTORY

- June 10, 1752**  
Benjamin Franklin's kite experiment establishes him as a leading scientific mind, elevating the American colonies intellectually.
- June 17, 1775**  
The colonists lose the Battle of Bunker Hill but inflict heavy losses, proving they can challenge the might of the British.
- June 21, 1788**  
New Hampshire ratifies the Constitution. As the ninth state to do so it officially puts the document into effect.
- June 18, 1812**  
The War of 1812 begins, a conflict that strengthened U.S. nationalism and confirms its independence against Britain.
- June 3-4, 1864**  
The bloodiest moments of the Battle for Cold Harbor during the American Civil War. An estimated 170,000 Americans fought for Cold Harbor.
- June 19, 1865**  
Union Troops arrive in Galveston, Texas, to announce the emancipation of enslaved people, an event that eventually became a national holiday.
- June 25-26, 1876**  
U.S. forces led by Lt. Col. George Custer are outnumbered and overwhelmed by Native American forces at the Battle of Little Bighorn.
- June 26, 1917**  
The first American troops arrive in France during World War I.
- June 4, 1919**  
U.S. Congress passes the 19th Amendment, guaranteeing women's suffrage.
- June 4-7, 1942**  
About six months after Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor, U.S. forces cripple Japan's carrier fleet in the Battle of Midway.
- June 12, 1963**  
Civil Rights leader Medgar Evers is murdered in Mississippi by a Ku Klux Klan member.
- June 10, 1964**  
A successful cloture vote breaks one of the longest filibusters in Senate history, clearing the way of the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.
- June 3, 1965**  
Astronaut Ed White takes the first American spacewalk, using an oxygen-jet gun. The spacwalk lasts 23 minutes.
- June 17, 1972**  
Burglars connected to President Richard Nixon's reelection campaign are caught breaking in at the Watergate complex, triggering a scandal that altered public trust in government.
- June 18, 1983**  
Sally Ride becomes the first American woman in space.
- June 26, 2015**  
The Supreme Court legalizes same-sex marriage nationwide in its ruling on Obergefell vs. Hodges.

## AMERICA, ALLIES INVADE NORMANDY

### WWII's D-Day among history's most important military operations

#### CNHI News

The Allies' D-Day invasion of Normandy, France, on June 6, 1944, has been captured and recreated by historians and filmmakers and taught by teachers around the world. Operation Overlord, a planned assault across the English Channel on German forces, was first discussed by U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt and British Prime Minister Winston Churchill almost immediately after the Nazis captured France in 1940. By May 1944, hundreds of thousands of Allied troops from the U.S., the U.K., France, Canada and other nations were amassed in Southern England and trained for the complicated amphibious assault. An estimated 10,000 Allies were killed — including 6,000 Americans — but at day's end the operation was a military success. Eighty square miles of the French coast was controlled by 155,000 troops. The Allies now had a stronghold in Europe. Germany surrendered less than a year later.



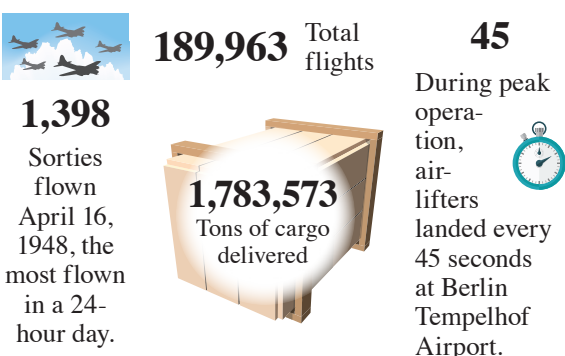
This photograph shows General Dwight D. Eisenhower giving the order of the day — “Full victory-nothing else” — to paratroopers of the 101st Airborne Division in England. Eisenhower visited them on the eve of the Normandy invasion, moments before they boarded airplanes to participate in the first assault of occupied France on D-Day. The paratrooper with the number 23 around his neck, 1st Lt. Wallace Strobel, recalled that the two discussed fishing.

### BY THE NUMBERS: BERLIN AIRLIFT



Photo By: Air Force Historical Support Division

A Soviet Union blockade of Berlin — an attempt to humiliate Western powers helping Germany rebuild after World War II — led to a mission that set the groundwork for future humanitarian airlifts, according to U.S. Air Forces in Europe — Air Forces Africa. After the blockade started on June 24, 1948, the newly independent U.S. Air Force proved it could airlift supplies into Berlin with test flights. Two days later, U.S. and British planes began the Berlin Airlift. It was the first major test of resolve during the Cold War. Here are some of the numbers representing the U.S. Air Force's workload during the 15-month mission it named Operation Vittles:



15,000 Air Force airmen who contributed



### DONALD TRUMP ANNOUNCES PRESIDENTIAL BID

On June 16, 2015, President Donald Trump announced his presidential campaign featuring his signature slogan, “Make America Great Again.” Trump's bid was successful, becoming America's 45 president, changing politics in a

divided America. He won a second term in 2024 to become the 47th president.

AP file photo



Wikimedia/Public domain

Detail from John Trumbull's 1818 painting of the Committee of Five presenting their draft of the Declaration of Independence to the Second Continental Congress in Philadelphia. From left to right: John Adams, Roger Sherman, Robert Livingston, Thomas Jefferson and Benjamin Franklin.

### COMMITTEE OF FIVE

Virginia delegate Richard Henry Lee introduced a resolution officially declaring the 13 colonies independent from Britain on June 7, 1776. Four days later, on June 11, with the writing on the wall that Congress would adopt the resolution, the governing body chose a committee of five to draft the official Declaration of Independence, a statement to the world. John Adams of Massachusetts and Roger Sherman of Connecticut, two New England men; Benjamin Franklin of Pennsylvania and Robert R. Livingston of New York, two men from the middle colonies; and Thomas Jefferson of Virginia, one southerner, made up the committee. According to Jefferson, members of the committee “unanimously pressed” him to draft the document. He gave his final

draft to Franklin and Adams requesting their corrections before presenting it to the full committee, who sent the unaltered copy to Congress. Jefferson's rough draft, with changes made by Franklin and Adams, as well as Jefferson's own notes of changes by the Congress, is housed at the Library of Congress. On July 2, 1776, a day after reconvening, 12 of 13 colonies (New York did not vote) in Congress adopted the Lee Resolution for independence and began to consider the Declaration. Congress' discussion led to some alterations and deletions, but the core of the document remained Jefferson's. The revision process continued through all of July 3 and into the morning of July 4 when it was officially adopted.

— THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

### AMERICANS BORN THIS MONTH

- Nathan Hale, June 6, 1755
- Jefferson Davis, June 3, 1808
- Harriet Beecher Stowe, June 14, 1811
- Helen Keller, June 27, 1880
- Jack Dempsey, June 24, 1895
- John Dillinger, June 22, 1903
- Judy Garland, June 10, 1922
- George H. W. Bush, June 12, 1924
- Barbara Bush, June 8, 1925
- Marilyn Monroe, June 1, 1926
- Maurice Sendak, June 10, 1928
- Morgan Freeman, June 1, 1937
- Donald J. Trump, June 14, 1946
- Lionel Richie, June 20, 1949
- Meryl Streep, June 22, 1949
- Prince, June 7, 1958
- Johnny Depp, June 9, 1963
- Tupac Shakur, June 16, 1971
- Angelina Jolie, June 4, 1975
- Kanye West, June 8, 1977
- Chris Pratt, June 21, 1979
- Venus Williams, June 17, 1980
- Lana Del Rey, June 21, 1985
- Shia LaBeouf, June 11, 1986
- Kendrick Lamar, June 17, 1987
- Ariana Grande, June 26, 1993

### 19TH AMENDMENT

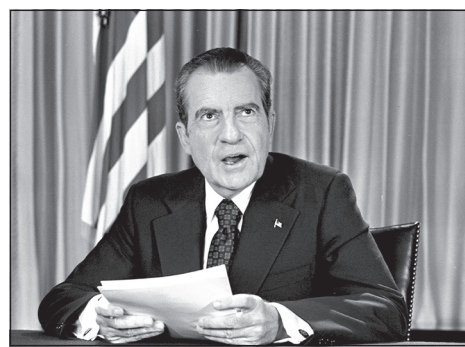


National Archives

Exactly one month from America's 143rd anniversary, on June 4, 1919, Congress passed the 19th Amendment which legally granted women the right to vote. It was ratified on Aug. 26, 1920.

### WATERGATE BREAK-IN

Frank Wills a security guard at Watergate Office Building in Washington, D.C. discovered five burglars on June 17, 1972, a moment that set off America's greatest presidential scandal. The burglars were attempting to bug the Democratic National Committee headquarters under the direction of President Richard Nixon, who won the November election that year in a landslide, setting him up to become the only acting president to resign from office to avoid almost certain impeachment and removal. The scandal eroded America's trust in the government and the president.



Associated Press file photo

President Richard Nixon sits in his White House office, Aug. 16, 1973, as he poses for pictures after delivering a nationwide television address dealing with Watergate.

### LGBTQ RIGHTS

June has been an important month for the LGBTQ community. On June 28, 1969, members of the community rioted after a police raid at the Stonewall Inn in New York. Homosexuality was illegal in the state until 1980. Gilbert Baker's rainbow flag, a global symbol of LGBTQ rights, debuted in San Francisco on June 25, 1978. Almost 37 years to the day later, on June 26, 2015, the U.S. Supreme Court's ruling in Obergefell vs. Hodges legalizes same-sex marriage in America.

