



JANUARY

JAN. 23: North Korea captures the USS Pueblo, claiming the ship deliberately entered its territorial waters while spying. The U.S. military maintains that the ship was in international waters. One of the 83 crew members onboard is killed in the attack, which occurs a week before the start of the Tet Offensive. The crewmembers wouldn't gain their freedom until Dec. 22.



▲ JAN. 30: The North Vietnamese People's Army of Vietnam and the Viet Cong launch the Tet Offensive. The surprise campaign against military and civilian command and control areas was named after the Vietnamese New Year. During phase I of the offensive, which would last until March 28, 4,124 Americans, 4,954 South Vietnamese and an estimated 17,000 enemy troops are killed.

FEBRUARY

► FEB. 1: General Nguyen Ngoc Loan, chief of the South Vietnamese National Police, is captured on film executing Nguyen Van Lem, a handcuffed prisoner and Viet Cong member who had killed the wife and six children of a South Vietnamese military officer. American photographer Eddie Adams' Pulitzer Prize-winning photograph becomes a rallying point for anti-war protestors.

FEB. 2: Richard M. Nixon declares his presidential candidacy.

FEB. 7: International reporters arrive at Ben Tre in South Vietnam. Associated Press reporter Peter Arnett writes a story quoting an

THE YEAR THAT
1968
CHANGED AMERICA

FIRST OF FOUR PARTS: It was perhaps the most turbulent year in modern history — the deadliest year of the Vietnam War; the year many cities erupted in violence after the assassination of Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.; the year in which Sen. Robert Kennedy was killed en route to securing the Democratic nomination for president. It was also the year in which President John F. Kennedy's dream of reaching the moon was realized, as Apollo 8 astronauts gave us our first glimpse of Earth from space. On the 50th anniversary of that pivotal year, CNHI presents a quarterly look back at 1968 — the year that changed America.



unnamed U.S. major as saying, "It became necessary to destroy the town to save it."

FEB. 27: Walter Cronkite's report, "Who, What, When, Where, Why?" about his recent trip to Vietnam during the Tet Offensive airs. The report is highly critical and contradicts statements by U.S. officials on the progress of the war.

MARCH

MARCH 16: Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, former Attorney General and brother of slain former president John F. Kennedy enters the 1968 Presidential race.

MARCH 16: U.S. ground troops from Charlie Company kill more than 500 Vietnamese civilians in

My Lai including men, women, children and infants. Some of the women were gang-raped and their bodies mutilated. Twenty-six soldiers would ultimately be charged with criminal offenses, but only platoon leader Lt. William Calley Jr. would be convicted. He would be found guilty of killing 22 villagers and sentenced to life in prison, but would serve only three and a half years under house arrest.

▲ MARCH 28: Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. leads the Memphis sanitation strike. After years of low pay and dangerous working conditions, more than 700 of the 1,300 black sanitation workers agreed to strike on Feb. 11. The demonstration on March 28 turns violent when some protesters start breaking windows. Police respond with batons and tear gas, killing 16-year-old Larry Payne with a shotgun. Another 60 people are injured, and more than 150 are arrested.



◀ MARCH 31: In a live, televised address to the nation, president Lyndon Johnson says, "I shall not seek, and I will not accept, the nomination of my party for another term as your President."

IN POP CULTURE



▲ JAN. 4: Mattel's Hot Wheels toy cars are introduced.

JAN. 22: Rowan & Martin's "Laugh-In" debuts on NBC.

FEB. 11: Figure skater Peggy Fleming wins America's only gold medal in the Grenoble Winter Olympic Games, renewing interest in the sport.

▼ FEB. 19: "Mister Rogers' Neighborhood," starring Fred Rogers, debuts.



Graphic by Kevin Burkett, (Logansport, Indiana) Pharos-Tribune

Celebrating 70 Years Of

1948

1952

1967

1988

70 years of service!

CHESSIE

1948 ~ 2018

FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

chessiefcu.org

301-777-1781

Serving Our Membership!

2013

Find us on: facebook.

CUMBERLAND • LAVALE • KEYSER • GRAFTON

NCUA