April 3, 2000 - The ruling in the case of the United States versus Microsoft states that the company did violate anti-trust laws by diminishing the capability of its rivals to compete.


December 13, 2000. According to the census, the nation’s population numbers more than 280 million (April 1). No clear winner is declared in the close presidential election contest between Vice President Al Gore and Texas governor George W. Bush (Nov. 7). More than a month after the presidential election, the U.S. Supreme Court rules against a manual recount of ballots in certain Florida counties, which it contends would violate the Constitution’s equal protection and due process guarantees. The decision provokes enormous controversy, with critics maintaining that the court has in effect determined the outcome of the election (Dec. 12). Bush formally accepts the presidency, having won a slim majority in the electoral college but not a majority of the popular vote (Dec. 13).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Candidate</th>
<th>Party</th>
<th>Electoral Votes</th>
<th>Popular Votes</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>George W. Bush</td>
<td>Republican</td>
<td>271</td>
<td>50,456,062</td>
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<tr>
<td>Albert Gore, Jr.</td>
<td>Democratic</td>
<td>266</td>
<td>50,996,582</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

http://www.270towin.com/2000_Election/

January 20, 2001 - George W. Bush is inaugurated as the 43rd president
September 11, 2001- Two hijacked jetliners ram twin towers of World Trade Center in worst terrorist attack against U.S.; a third hijacked plane flies into the Pentagon, and a fourth crashes in rural Pennsylvania. More than 3,000 people die in the attacks

http://www.infoplease.com/ipa/A0903598.html

http://www.infoplease.com/ipa/A0903598.html

February 1, 2003- the space shuttle Columbia broke apart while re-entering the atmosphere over Texas, killing all seven crew members on board. The disaster occurred minutes before Columbia was scheduled to land at Florida’s Kennedy Space Center

http://www.history.com/topics/columbia-disaster

The election of 2004, George W. Bush was elected as the President of the United States of America.
January 4, 2007- Nancy Pelosi, California Democrat becomes first woman Speaker of the House
(http://bildungblog.blogspot.com/2006_12_03_archive.html)

January 23, 2007- President Bush delivers State of the Union Address

February 5, 2007 - Bush Releases 2008 Budget Plan

President says the $2.9 trillion budget will eliminate the federal deficit by 2012 without increasing taxes. Provisions include beefing up the U.S. Army and Marines, cuts in Medicare and Medicaid, and $145 billion for Iraq and Afghanistan.


February 28, 2007 - Stock market plummets after a plunge in the Shanghai market provoked worries worldwide about the global economy.

THE DOW MINUTE-BY MINUTE

Position of the Dow Jones industrial average at 1-minute intervals.

Source: Bloomberg Financial Markets


April 2, 2007 - Supreme Court Rules Government Can Regulate Emissions

The U.S. Supreme Court ruled yesterday that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has the power to regulate greenhouse gas emissions from vehicles, and ordered it to explain why it has not done so. The ruling labelled carbon dioxide (CO2) as an air pollutant in a suit filed by several states to pressure the EPA to regulate vehicle emissions under the Clean Air Act. The 5-4 decision was delivered by Justice John Paul Stevens, who stated that the "EPA has offered no
reasoned explanation for its refusal to decide whether greenhouse gases cause or contribute to climate change." The decision is a setback for the auto industry, which has argued that vehicles should not be singled out for regulation when they are responsible for a mere fraction of carbon dioxide emissions, but the ruling also provides some hope that emissions and fuel economy regulations will soon be implemented at the federal level, ending the numerous local state regulations that exist, for example, in California and Vermont.

(https://www.ihs.com/country-industry-forecasting.html?ID=106598237)

April 11, 2007- Senate Passes Bill on Stem Cell Research
A stubborn Senate voted Wednesday to ease restrictions on federally funded embryonic stem cell research, ignoring President Bush's threat of a second veto on legislation designed to lead to new medical treatments.

President Bush reacted quickly to the bill's passage. "I believe this will encourage taxpayer money to be spent on the destruction or endangerment of living human embryos, raising serious moral concerns for millions of Americans," said Mr. Bush in a statement released by the White House after passage of the bill. "Research using human embryonic stem cells is still at an early stage, and it will be years before researchers know how much promise lies in therapeutic applications."


*House later passes Bill on June 7

April 25, 2007- Congress Passes Combat Spending Bill
President Bush slammed Democrats on Friday after the House narrowly approved a supplemental war spending bill that includes an August 31, 2008, deadline for combat troops to leave Iraq.

"Today, a narrow majority in the House of Representatives abdicated its responsibility by passing a war spending bill that has no chance of becoming law, and brings us no closer to getting our troops the resources they need," Bush said about an hour after the vote. The House voted 218-212 to approve the $124 billion spending bill that includes the deadline. Bush said the vote had only one outcome: "It delays the delivery of vital resources for our troops."

(http://www.cnn.com/2007/POLITICS/03/23/iraq.funding/)

Bush vetoes this bill on May 1, 2007

May 8, 2007 - Six men arrested in a terror plot against Fort Dix
May 30, 2007 - President Bush Seeks $30 Billion to Fight AIDS (May 30)

President Bush urged Congress on Wednesday to authorize an additional $30 billion to fight AIDS in Africa over five years, doubling the current U.S. commitment. The money would provide treatment for 2.5 million people under the President's Emergency Program for AIDS Relief, Bush said.

http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/05/30/AR2007053000206_pf.html


"In recent years, science has deepened our understanding of climate change and opened new possibilities for confronting it," Bush said. "The United States takes this issue seriously. The new initiative I am outlining today will contribute to the important dialogue that will take place in Germany next week."

(http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/05/31/AR2007053100934.html)

June 5, 2007 - Libby Is Sentenced

Vice President Dick Cheney's former chief of staff, I. Lewis "Scooter" Libby, was convicted Tuesday of lying and obstructing a leak investigation that reached into the highest levels of the Bush administration.
Former aide to Vice President Dick Cheney Lewis Libby is sentenced for his federal convictions on charges of lying to a grand jury and FBI investigators regarding his role in the leak of Valerie Plame Wilson's CIA identity. Libby was sentenced to 30 months in prison and a fine of $250,000.

June 11, 2007 - Federal Court Rules Against Bush's Enemy Combatant Policy

The case involves an immigrant named Ali al-Marri, who has been in a military prison for four years. Now, the court says, he must be charged as a criminal suspect, deported or released. A federal appeals court says President Bush does not have the constitutional authority to imprison a U.S. resident indefinitely and without charge, as in the case of Ali al-Marri. Al-Marri is a citizen of Qatar who was attending graduate school in Illinois when he was arrested in 2001. Judges rule, 2–1, that President Bush cannot have the military hold a civilian detainee indefinitely who is deemed to be an enemy combatant. Instead, the court says, the detainee must be charged with a crime, used as a material witness, or deported. "To sanction such presidential authority to order the military to seize and indefinitely detain civilians, even if the president calls them 'enemy combatants,' would have disastrous consequences for the Constitution—and the country," wrote Judge Diana Gribbon Motz.

June 28, 2007 - Supreme Court Rules Against Considering Race to Integrate Schools

A bitterly divided U.S. Supreme Court on Thursday issued what is likely to be a landmark opinion -- ruling that race cannot be a factor in the assignment of children to public schools. The court struck down public school choice plans in Seattle, Washington, and Louisville, Kentucky, concluding they relied on an unconstitutional use of racial criteria, with the 5-4 vote reflecting the deep legal and social divide over the issue of race and education.

July 11, 2007 - House Passes Bill to Cut Government Subsidies to Student Lenders

The House on Wednesday approved far-reaching changes in student aid programs, voting to cut $19 billion in federal subsidies to student lenders over five years, while increasing grants for needy students and halving interest rates on federally backed loans with the savings. The bill passed 273 to 149 in a sometimes raucous debate, with 47 Republicans joining Democrats, who
took control of Congress this year on promises to help the middle class with the escalating costs of higher education.

**July 24, 2007 - Minimum Wage Increases**
The minimum wage increases to $5.85, up from $5.15. It's the first increase in 10 years. The wage will increase 70 cents each year through 2009, when it will be $7.25 an hour.

![U.S. Federal Minimum Wage](http://example.com/minimum-wage-graph.png)

**July 26, 2007 - Congress Passes Antiterrorism Bill**
*Senate and House vote, 85 to 8 and 371 to 40, respectively, in favor of legislation that enhances screening of air and sea cargo and revises how antiterrorism grants are distributed to states, allocating more money to states deemed at risk for a terrorist attack. “Today, we take an essential step in defeating terrorism, while protecting the constitutional rights of all Americans. With my signature, this law will give intelligence and law enforcement officials important new tools to fight a present danger.”*

http://www.pbs.org/newshour/updates/terrorism-july-dec01-bush_terrorismbill/

**August 1, 2007 - House Passes Bill to Expand Healthcare for Children**
*Lefislation, which passed 225 to 204, would provide healthcare to more than four million children and increase Medicare payments to doctors by .5%. The bill, which would cost $25 billion over five years, would be financed by an increase in the federal cigarette tax.*

August 4, 2007 - House Passes Energy Bill

Legislation, passed 241 to 172, calls on most utilities to produce 15% of their electricity from renewable energy sources, such as wind or solar power, sets new efficiency requirements for buildings and appliances, and allots money for research into capturing emissions of carbon dioxide.

http://westernfarmpress.com/house-passes-energy-bill-boosts-alternative-energy-use

August 5, 2007 - Bush Signs Law to Expand Wiretapping

Law legalizes government eavesdropping of telephone conversations and emails of American citizens and people overseas without a warrant as long as there is a "reasonable belief" that one party is not in the United States. Both the House and Senate approved the legislation before leaving for August recess. The law expires in six months.


August 6, 2007 - Coal Miners Are Trapped Inside Shaft

Six miners are trapped 1,500 feet below ground after a shaft collapses at the Crandall Canyon Mine in Utah.


August 15, 2007 - Quake Near Lima, Peru, Kills Hundreds

A 8.0-magnitude earthquake occurs 90 miles southeast of Lima, Peru, killing at least 500 people and injuring hundreds more. The cities of Pisco, Chincha, and Ica are among those reporting the most damage.
September 13, 2007 - President Addresses Nation on Iraq
Outlining a plan for withdrawing troops from Iraq, Bush says by July 2008 troop levels would drop from the current high of 169,000 to 130,000. Calling the move a "return on success," Bush said the progress from the surge of troops would be diminished if more troops returned from Iraq too quickly.


September 18, 2007 - Fed Cuts Interest Rate
In an attempt to bring stability to the economy, which has been rocked by turbulence in the housing and financial markets, the Federal Reserve cuts benchmark interest rate to 4.75% from 5.25%.

(http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/09/18/AR2007091800251.html)

September 24-26, 2007 - United Auto Workers Strike Against General Motors
Some 73,000 workers take to the picket lines when contract negotiations over wages and benefits reach a stalemate. The UAW and GM reach a deal two days later that has the auto maker creating a $38.5 billion trust, called a voluntary employee benefit association (VEBA), that will administer health benefits for retirees.

November 7, 2007 - House Passes Bill Protecting Gays

Votes, 235 to 184, in favor of legislation that would make it illegal for employers to "refuse to hire or to discharge any individual, or otherwise discriminate against any individual with respect to the compensation, terms, conditions or privileges of employment of the individual, because of such individual’s actual or perceived sexual orientation."


January 15, 2008 - Jindal becomes Governor of Louisiana

Republican Bobby Jindal takes office as governor of Louisiana, becoming the first elected Indian-American governor of the United States. At age 36, he's also the youngest governor in the nation.

(http://www.indoamerican-news.com/?p=40582)

January 28, 2008 - Bush delivers last State of the Union

February 1, 2008 - Economy loses jobs for the first time in 52 months; fear of imminent recession

Annual US job growth

![Graph showing annual US job growth from 1995 to 2015.

SOURCE: Labor Department

May 15, 2008 - California Supreme Court Rules in Favor of Gay Marriage

In the 4 to 3 ruling, state's highest court says that same-sex couples have a constitutional right to marry. When the ruling goes into effect in June 2008, California will be the second state, behind Massachusetts, to legalize same-sex marriages. It was later publicized that on May 14, New York governor David Paterson issued a directive ordering all state agencies to recognize same-sex marriages performed in other states.

June 26, 2008 - Supreme Court rules for Gun Rights

The Supreme Court rules, 5 to 4, that the Constitution protects an individual's right to possess a gun, but insists that the ruling "is not a right to keep and carry any weapon whatsoever in any manner whatsoever and for whatever purpose."

**November 4, 2008**- Barack Obama becomes the first African-American to be elected President, with 52.8% of the vote. In Congress, Democrats retain majorities in both the House and the Senate, with 57 Senators and 178 Representatives.

http://www.history.com/topics/us-presidents/presidential-elections

**January 4, 2008**- President Obama signs executive orders closing all secret prisons and detention camps run by the CIA, including the infamous Guantanamo Bay prison in Cuba, and banning coercive interrogation methods.


**August 6, 2009** - Sotomayor confirmed to US Supreme Court

The Senate approves, 68 to 31, the nomination of Sonia Sotomayor to the U.S. Supreme Court. She's the first Hispanic Supreme Court justice and the third woman to serve on the Court. President Barack Obama praised the confirmation as “breaking yet another barrier and moving us yet another step closer to a more perfect union.” *(Aug. 8)*: Sotomayor becomes the country’s 111th Supreme Court justice as she’s sworn in by Chief Justice John Roberts.

October 30, 2009 - Obama Announces End of Policy Banning HIV-Positive Patients from Entering U.S.

President Obama announces that he is ending the policy banning patients who are HIV positive from entering the United States. He calls the law outdated and misguided, "rooted in fear rather than fact."


December 24, 2009 - Senate Passes Health-Care Reform Bill

After months of drafts, debate, and revisions, the U.S. Senate passes a health-care reform bill with a partisan vote of 60–39. The bill guarantees access to health insurance for tens of millions of Americans, and formulates a plan for reducing health-care costs. The House of Representatives passed a similar bill in November, with a vote of 220–215; only one Republican voted for the Democrat-created bill. The two versions of the bill must be reconciled before any law can be passed, however.


January 29, 2010 - U.S. economy grows 5.7% in Fourth Quarter

The United States' gross national product grows at an annual rate of 5.7% in the fourth quarter of 2009, the fastest growth the economy has seen in six years.
Real Economic Growth
Annual rate of change in the gross domestic product, based on quarterly figures adjusted for inflation and seasonal fluctuations.

4th quarter estimate +5.7%
Change at annual rate

[Graph showing economic growth rates from 2006 to 2009]
Source: Commerce Department

(http://www.nytimes.com/2010/01/30/business/economy/30econ.html?_r=0)

February 1, 2010 - Obama Unveils $3.8 Trillion Budget
President Obama presents to Congress his 2011 budget of $3.8 trillion and his 10-year budget plan. The budget includes a $1.6 trillion deficit in the next fiscal year, which begins in October, and then steadily declines over the following 10 years. Included in the budget are cuts to domestic programs and spending; some programs, including NASA's return trips to the moon, will be eliminated altogether.

(http://www.cnn.com/2012/02/13/politics/obama-congress-budget/)

February 5, 2010 - Jobless Rate Drops to 9.7%; 20,000 Jobs Lost in January
The unemployment rate drops to 9.7% in January 2010, down from 10% in December, reports the Labor Department. An additional 20,000 jobs were lost. Both numbers show that the economy is beginning to improve, as they demonstrate a decline in joblessness in the United States following the recession.


March 23, 2010- Affordable Care Act, that was signed into law on March 23, 2010 to reform health care in America. “The new health care law includes reforms to the affordability, quality, and availability of health insurance and new cost cutting measures, rules, and regulations for both public and private health insurance companies and the healthcare industry.”

http://obamacarefacts.com/affordable-care-act-facts/
May 17, 2010 - Supreme Court Bans Life Sentences for Juveniles in Non-Murder Cases

The U.S. Supreme Court votes 5–4 against life sentences for juveniles who commit crimes other than murder. To give an offender under the age of 18 a sentence of life without parole is unconstitutional, they say, breaking the Eighth Amendment's ban on "cruel and unusual punishment."

(http://www.nytimes.com/2010/05/18/us/politics/18court.html)

August 5, 2010 - Senate Confirms Supreme Court Nominee, Elena Kagan

The United States Senate votes 63 to 37 to confirm President Obama's most recent nominee to the U.S. Supreme Court, Elena Kagan, as the newest Justice. Kagan is only the fourth woman to ever hold this position, and she'll be the third female member of the current bench, joining Ruth Bader Ginsburg and Sonia Sotomayor. Kagan is the former dean of Harvard Law School; she'll be the only member of the current Supreme Court to have no previous experience as a judge.


February 14, 2011 - President Obama Proposes 2012 Federal Budget

The $3.7 trillion plan proposes to trim or terminate more than 200 federal programs, striking areas long favored by Democrats to make room for increases aimed at boosting the economy. The new priorities include spending on education, energy and medical research, and a push to bring high-speed Internet to virtually every American.

(http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2011/02/14/AR2011021406234.html)

February 23, 2011 - Obama Administration Determines Defense of Marriage Act Unconstitutional

In a major policy reversal, the Obama administration said Wednesday it will no longer defend the constitutionality of a federal law banning recognition of same-sex marriage. Attorney General Eric Holder said President Barack Obama has concluded that the administration
cannot defend the federal law that defines marriage as only between a man and a woman. He noted that the congressional debate during passage of the Defense of Marriage Act “contains numerous expressions reflecting moral disapproval of gays and lesbians and their intimate and family relationships - precisely the kind of stereotype-based thinking and animus the (Constitution’s) Equal Protection Clause is designed to guard against.”

June 24, 2011 - New York Legalizes Same-Sex Marriage

New York made history last night by becoming the sixth and largest state to legalize gay marriage. The state Senate passed the bill by a 33-29 margin and Gov. Cuomo quickly signed it five minutes before midnight.

September 8, 2011 - Obama Calls for Congress to Vote for New Jobs Plan

In a speech to a joint session of Congress, Obama told the legislators to "stop the political circus and actually do something to help the economy" by quickly approving the $447 billion package of measures so he can sign it into law.

"The people of this country work hard to meet their responsibilities. The question tonight is whether we'll meet ours," Obama said to applause. "The question is whether, in the face of an ongoing national crisis, we can stop the political circus and actually do something to help the economy. The question is whether we can restore some of the fairness and security that has defined this nation since our beginning."

Obama also told legislators that they should quickly pass his plan, called the American Jobs Act. Obama said he will ask Congress to increase the $1.5 trillion target in deficit reduction being pursued by a special joint congressional committee to cover the cost of the American Jobs Act. He said he will propose his own deficit-reduction plan on September 19 that would reform entitlement programs such as Medicare while changing the tax system to end loopholes, lower the corporate tax rate and increase taxes for the wealthy.
(http://www.cnn.com/2011/ POLITICS/09/08/obama.jobs.plan/)

January 24, 2012 - President Obama Provides Economic Blueprint in State of the Union Address
In his third State of the Union address, President Obama outlined a handful economic proposals, as well as an "economic blueprint" for the country grounded in giving all Americans a "fair shot."

May 8, 2012 - North Carolina Bans Same Sex Marriage
A majority of North Carolina voters on Tuesday approved a controversial amendment that will write a ban on same-sex marriage as well as civil unions for both gay and straight couples into the state Constitution, according to the Associated Press.

With most precincts reporting, the amendment was passing by a 61 percent to 39 percent margin.

The amendment mandates that "marriage between one man and one woman is the only domestic legal union that shall be valid or recognized."

June 28, 2012 - Supreme Court Upholds Obama's Individual Health Care Mandate
The Supreme Court upholds the individual mandate in President Obama's healthcare law. The ruling is a victory for President Obama and a loss for the twenty six states that sued over the
individual mandate, which requires that individuals buy health insurance by 2014 or face a fine. The Supreme Court rules to uphold the individual mandate as a tax.

July 20, 2012 - Twelve Killed in Colorado Theater Shooting
During a midnight screening of The Dark Knight Rises, a gunman opens fire on the crowded theater in a Denver suburb. Twelve people are killed and 58 others are wounded. James Holmes set off a smoke device in the front of the theater before opening fire. Directly after the incident, Holmes, age 24, is arrested in a parking lot behind the theater. (July 30): Holmes is arraigned by Colorado prosecutors and charged with 142 counts, including first degree murder, attempted murder, and possession of explosives.

November 6, 2012 - Obama Wins Re-Election against opponent, Republican, Mitt Romney
(http://wnga.com/president-barack-obama-wins-re-election/)

December 14, 2012 - Gunman Kills 26 at Elementary School
Adam Lanza, age 20, forces his way into Sandy Hook Elementary School, in Newtown, Connecticut, and kills 26 people. The victims include 20 children between the ages of six and
seven. Then Lanza takes his own life while still inside the school. Before going to the school, Lanza shoots and kills his mother, Nancy Lanza, in the home they shared. (http://www.cnn.com/interactive/2012/12/us/sandy-hook-timeline/)

January 1, 2013 - The Senate and House Approve Last Minute Budget Deal to Avoid Fiscal Cliff
Senate approve a deal to raise tax rates from 35 to 39.6 percent for those earning more than $400,000. The deal also temporarily suspends across-the-board spending cuts.  
(http://www.npr.org/sections/thetwo-way/2013/01/01/168400575/ball-in-boehners-court-after-senate-approves-fiscal-cliff-deal)

January 16, 2013 - President Obama Proposes Changes to Gun Control
Among the initiatives outlined in Mr. Obama's plan include universal background checks for gun sales; the reinstatement and strengthening of the assault weapons ban; capping ammunition magazines to a 10-round limit; banning armor-piercing ammunition; providing schools with resource officers and school counselors; putting more police officers on the streets; creating serious punishments for gun trafficking, and ensuring that health insurance plans cover mental health benefits.  

April 15, 2013 - Boston Marathon Bombing
On April 15, 2013, two bombs went off near the finish line of the Boston Marathon, killing three spectators and wounding more than 260 other people. Four days later, after an intense manhunt that shut down the Boston area, police captured one of the bombing suspects, 19-year-old Dzhokhar Tsarnaev, whose older brother and fellow suspect, 26-year-old Tamerlan Tsarnaev, died following a shootout with law enforcement earlier that same day. Investigators later concluded that the Tsarnaevs, who spent part of their childhoods in the former Soviet republic of Kyrgyzstan but lived in the United States for about a decade prior to the bombings, planned and carried out the attack on their own and were not connected to any terrorist organizations.  
(http://www.history.com/topics/boston-marathon-bombings)

June 26, 2013 - Supreme Court Strikes Down DOMA
The Supreme Court rules that the 1996 Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) is unconstitutional. In a 5 to 4 vote, the court rules that DOMA violates the rights of gays and lesbians.  

August 21, 2013 - Manning Sentenced to 35 Years for Leaking U.S. Files
Private Bradley Manning, age 25, is sentenced to 35 years in prison for leaking over 700,000 U.S. government files to WikiLeaks, files that contained classified U.S. military activities. It is the longest sentence ever given in the U.S. involving leaked government data to the public. Private Manning can be up for parole in seven years, according to his attorney.

October 1, 2013 - Standoff over Obamacare Results in Government Shutdown
The first shutdown of the U.S. government in 17 years began early Tuesday as Congress bickered and bungled an effort to fund federal agencies due to a bitter ideological standoff over Obamacare.

March 25, 2014 - NSA Reform Plan is Introduced
President Obama introduces a NSA reform plan, developed by the Justice Department and intelligence agencies, which will be presented to Congress for approval. The plan reflects many of the proposals he made in January. He goes further, however, saying the NSA will no longer collect phone data from Americans. Instead, the phone companies will collect and store that information for 18 months, as it currently does, and make it available in a standard format. The NSA will have to seek a court order to access the phone records. On the same day, the House Select Committee on Intelligence releases its own reform bill. That bill will not require the NSA to obtain a court order to access phone records. Instead, the government analysts can subpoena the records and get judicial approval later. The records will be expunged if the judge does not approve the request. It is the only major difference between the committee and Obama's proposals.

July 31, 2014 - CIA Admits to Spying Allegations
The CIA announces that an internal report found that agents did in fact hack into the Senate Intelligence Committee's computer network and used a false identity when doing so. In addition, the CIA's inspector general says that agents read the emails of the committee members. CIA Director John Brennan apologized to the Senate Intelligence Committee and admitted the agency spied on computers used by its staffers who prepared an investigation of the controversial post 9/11 CIA interrogation and detention program.

August 9, 2014 - Police Shooting of Teenager Sparks Outrage
A police officer shoots and kills Michael Brown, an unarmed 18-year-old teenager in Ferguson, Mo. Details of the shooting are under dispute. Police say that Brown is shot during a fight with the officer. However, a friend who was with Brown at the time says that the officer shot Brown when Brown refused to move from the middle of the street to the sidewalk and that Brown's hands were over his head at the moment of the shooting. This led to many protests.

(http://www.cnn.com/2015/08/11/us/ferguson-protests/)

November 20, 2014 - Obama Takes Executive Action on Immigration

In a prime-time, televised speech, President Barack Obama announces he is taking executive action to delay the deportation of some 5 million illegal immigrants. During the speech, Obama challenges those in Congress who oppose the policy to pass new immigration legislation. Under the new policy about 4 million people who are parents of U.S. citizens or legal residents will receive deportation deferrals and authorization to work legally if they have been in the U.S. for more than five years and pass background checks. The deferrals are renewable. Obama's action also amends the 2012 Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, which allows people under age 31 who were brought to the U.S. as children to apply for two-year deportation deferrals and work permits. Obama's policy change lifts the age ceiling and adds a year to the deferral period. However, neither program offers the immigrants a path to citizenship. However, this action is blocked on February 16, 2015.


December 20, 2014 - Two New York City Police Officers Killed

Two uniformed NYPD officers were shot dead Saturday afternoon as they sat in their marked police car on a Brooklyn street corner — in what investigators believe was a crazed gunman’s assassination-style mission to avenge Eric Garner and Michael Brown.

(http://nypost.com/2014/12/20/2-nypd-cops-shot-execution-style-in-brooklyn/)

March 4, 2015 - Secret Service Agents Crash Car at White House

The Department of Homeland Security is investigating another incident of misconduct by senior Secret Service agents, White House officials said Wednesday night.

Two senior Secret Service agents, including a top member of President Barack Obama's protective detail, crashed a car into a White House barricade following a late-night party for
retiring spokesman Ed Donovan and it's suspected they had been drinking, sources confirmed to CNN.

(http://www.cnn.com/2015/03/11/politics/drunk-secret-service-agents-white-house/)

June 26, 2015- Gay Marriage was proved by the Supreme Court to be a Constitutional Right.

On Apr. 28, 2015, the US Supreme Court heard oral arguments in Obergefell v. Hodges over whether or not gay marriage is a right guaranteed by the US Constitution, and whether or not gay marriages performed in states where it has been legalized must be recognized in states which ban the practice. On June 26, 2015, the Court ruled 5-4 that gay marriage is a constitutional right, meaning that all 50 states must allow it and that all existing bans are invalid. The decision concluded a decades-long battle over whether gay marriage should be legalized.


July 10, 2015 - South Carolina Removes the Confederate Flag After 54 Years
September 25, 2015 - Speaker of the House John Boehner Resigns

October 29, 2015 - Paul Ryan is Elected Speaker of the House

In 2016, the new election for Presidential Race has begun, these are the candidates.
April 18, 2016 - The reported nominees for President are left to Hillary Clinton and Bernie Sanders, for the Democratic nominees and Donald Trump, John Kasich, and Ted Cruz, for the Republican nominees. Officially, Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump are leading in their party.
Republican nominees that dropped out: Bush, Carson, Christie, Fiorina, Gilmore, Graham, Huckabee, Jindal, Pataki, Paul, Perry, Rubio, Santorum, Walker

Democratic nominees that dropped out: Chafee, Lessig, O'Malley, Webb

http://ap.org/products-services/elections/FAQs

Global Packet

February 15, 2003- Millions of people came together and marched in more than 800 cities to protest the invasion of Iraq. People from all over came together to call for peace.

And across the globe, the call came in scores of languages, “the world says no to war!” The cry “Not in Our Name” echoed from millions of voices. The Guinness Book of World Records said between 12 and 14 million people came out that day, the largest protest in the history of the world. It was, as the great British labor and peace activist and former MP Tony Benn described it to the million Londoners in the streets that day, “the first global demonstration, and its first cause is to prevent a war against Iraq.” What a concept — a global protest against a war that had not yet begun — the goal, to try to stop it.

http://www.ips-dc.org/february_15_2003_the_day_the_world_said_no_to_war/
Dec. 26, 2004 – An earthquake with a 9.1 magnitude sent a terrible tsunami crashing into the countries bordering the Indian Ocean and claimed almost 230,000 lives.

A powerful earthquake off the coast of Sumatra, Indonesia, on this day in 2004 sets off a tsunami that wreaked death and devastation across the Indian Ocean coastline. The quake was the second strongest ever recorded and the estimated 230,000 dead made this disaster one of the 10 worst of all time. It was 7:58 a.m. when the tremendous quake struck beneath the Indian Ocean 160 miles west of Sumatra. Not only did it register at approximately a 9.3 magnitude (only the 1960 Chile earthquake measured higher at 9.5, though there may have been stronger tremors prior to the invention of seismographic equipment) and last nearly 10 minutes, the quake moved a full 750 miles of underwater fault line earth up to 40 feet. The movement of the earth—there is evidence that huge boulders weighing thousands of tons were pushed several miles along the ocean floor—caused a massive displacement of water. It is estimated that the resulting tsunami had two times the energy of all the bombs used during World War II.

http://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/tsunami-devastates-indian-ocean-coast

February 28, 2008 - Kosovo Declares Its Independence From Serbia

The province of Kosovo declared independence from Serbia on Sunday, sending tens of thousands of ethnic Albanians streaming through the streets to celebrate what they hoped was the end of a long and bloody struggle for national self-determination.
Kosovo’s bid to be recognized as Europe’s newest country — after a civil war that killed 10,000 people a decade ago and then years of limbo under United Nations rule — was the latest episode in the dismemberment of the former Yugoslavia, 17 years after its dissolution began. It brings to a climax a showdown between the West, which argues that Serbia’s brutal subjugation of Kosovo’s ethnic Albanian majority cost it any right to rule the territory, and the Serbian government and its allies in the Kremlin. They counter that Kosovo’s independence is a reckless breach of international law that will spur other secessionist movements across the world.

http://www.nytimes.com/2008/02/18/world/europe/18kosovo.html

People signed the back of a sculpture, reading “Newborn” in English, at its unveiling on Sunday in Pristina, the capital of Kosovo. Credit Andrew Testa for The New York Times

August 19, 2010- Iraq War: The last U.S. combat troops left Iraq.

The last American combat troops left Iraq today, seven-and-a-half years after the US-led invasion, and two weeks ahead of President Barack Obama's 31 August deadline for withdrawal from the country. The final troops to leave, 4th Stryker Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division, rolled in convoy across the border and into Kuwait this morning, officially ending combat operations, which began in March 2003. Former president George Bush launched the invasion, saying: "This will not be a campaign of half measures and we will accept no outcome but victory."
The war saw the toppling of Saddam Hussein, but became increasingly unpopular against a backdrop of heavy civilian and troop casualties, arguments over the legality of the conflict and a growing sectarian battle in Iraq.


October 26, 2011- Europe Agrees to Basics of Plan to Resolve Euro Crisis

European leaders, in a significant step toward resolving the eurozone financial crisis. They obtained an agreement from banks to take a 50 percent loss on the face value of their Greek debt. The agreement on Greek debt was crucial to assembling a comprehensive package to protect the euro, which has been keeping jittery markets on edge.
The accord was reached just before 4 a.m. after difficult bargaining. The severe reduction would bring Greek debt down by 2020 to 120 percent of that nation's gross domestic product, a figure still enormous but more sustainable for an economy driven into recession by austerity measures.

May 2, 2011- Former al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden is killed in Pakistan during a raid by US Navy SEALs.

On this day in 2011, Osama bin Laden, the mastermind behind the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks in the United States, is killed by U.S. forces during a raid on his compound hideout in Pakistan. The notorious, 54-year-old leader of Al Qaeda, the terrorist network of Islamic extremists, had been the target of a nearly decade-long international manhunt.

http://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/osama-bin-laden-killed-by-u-s-forces

May 17, 2011- Queen Elizabeth II becomes the first British monarch to visit the Republic of Ireland.

It is the first time a British monarch has visited Ireland since 1911 and the city centre will be turned into a car free zone to prevent terrorist car bombs.
Mary McAleese, the Irish president, said the trip was emblematic of the progress that has been made between the two countries.
“(It is) a phenomenal sign and signal of the success of the peace process and absolutely the right moment for us to welcome onto Irish soil, Her Majesty the Queen, the head of state of our immediate next-door neighbours.”
Mrs McAleese said Ireland and Britain were forging a “new future, a future very, very different from the past, on very different terms from the past”.


March 4, 2012- Putin Wins Presidential Election in Russia

Russian voters overwhelmingly granted Vladimir V. Putin a six-year term as president on Sunday, a widely expected outcome that set the stage for a far more suspenseful post-election confrontation between the freshly emboldened leader and an opposition movement that has repeatedly rallied tens of thousands of protesters.
With 80 percent of ballots counted, Mr. Putin had won 64.7 percent of the vote, the Central Election Commission said, comfortably above the 50 percent needed to avoid a runoff and extending his claim on power to 18 years, which would equal the rule of Leonid Brezhnev, the Soviet leader for much of the cold war. “We have won!” Mr. Putin, tears streaming down his right cheek, told a throng of tens of thousands of his supporters on Manezh Square, just outside the Kremlin walls.
“We have gained a clean victory!” he said, standing next to Dmitri A. Medvedev, the protégé he chose to succeed him as president just over four years ago, and who now, in a job swap, has been promised the post of prime minister. “We won!” Mr. Putin said. “Glory to Russia
http://www.nytimes.com/2012/03/05/world/europe/russia-votes-in-presidential-election.html
December 5, 2013- Nelson Mandela the president of South Africa dies.

In his lifetime, he was a man of complexities. He went from a militant freedom fighter, to a prisoner, to a unifying figure, to an elder statesman. Years after his 1999 retirement from the presidency, Mandela was considered the ideal head of state. He became a yardstick for African leaders, who consistently fell short when measured against him.

http://www.cnn.com/2013/12/05/world/africa/nelson-mandela/

April, 2013-ISIS a terrorist organization declares its absorption of an al Qaeda-backed militant group in Syria.
ISIS was started as an al Qaeda splinter group.  
Also known as Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) and Islamic State (IS), 
ISIS aims to create an Islamic state called a caliphate across Iraq, Syria and beyond. 
The group is implementing Sharia Law, rooted in eighth century Islam, to establish a society that mirrors the region's ancient past. 
ISIS is known for killing dozens of people at a time and carrying out public executions, crucifixions and other acts.

http://www.cnn.com/2014/08/08/world/isis-fast-facts/

December 17, 2014- Raul Castro and Barack Obama announced that the United States and Cuba would restore full diplomatic ties for the first time in more than fifty years.

The announcement followed a prisoner swap: The three still-jailed members of the Cuban Five (one had been released in 2011 and another earlier in 2014) were released in exchange for a U.S. intelligence asset, Rolando Sarraff Trujillo, who had been imprisoned in Havana for nearly twenty years. Gross was also released that morning on humanitarian grounds. The agreement came after eighteen months of secret talks between U.S. and Cuban officials that were encouraged and brokered by Pope Francis.
In addition to the prisoner releases, the United States agreed to further ease restrictions on remittances, travel, and banking (see accompanying graphic). Cuba also agreed to release fifty-three prisoners that the United States had classified as political dissidents. U.S. officials confirmed in January 2015 that all fifty-three were released. The United States and Cuba
reopened their embassies in each other's capitals on July 20, 2015, effectively restoring full diplomatic ties. As of early 2016, the White House had not yet named an ambassador to Cuba.

http://www.cfr.org/cuba/us-cuba-relations/p11113

March 8, 2014- Malaysian Airliner MH370 Vanishes Without a Trace

The missing Malaysian Airlines plane, flight MH370, had 239 people onboard and was en route from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing on 8 March 2014 when air traffic control staff lost contact with it. Despite an extensive search of the southern Indian Ocean, no trace of the aircraft was found until the discovery of the barnacle-encrusted flaperon on Reunion Island, more than 3,700km (2,300 miles) away from the main search site, in July 2015.

French investigators confirmed the aircraft wing part came from the missing Malaysian Airlines Boeing 777, after one of three numbers found on the flaperon was formally identified by a technician from Airbus Defense and Space (ADS-SA) in Spain, which made the part for Boeing.

Investigators are continuing to search for the rest of the plane.

November 13, 2015 - Isis launches terrorist attacks in Paris

The attacks in Paris on the night of Friday 13 November by gunmen and suicide bombers hit a concert hall, a major stadium, restaurants and bars, almost simultaneously - and left 130 people dead and hundreds wounded.

The attacks were described by President Francois Hollande as an "act of war" organised by the Islamic State (IS) militant group.

Shootings and bomb blasts left 130 people dead and hundreds wounded, with more than 100 in a critical condition.

"Three co-ordinated teams" were believed to have been behind the attacks, according to Paris chief prosecutor Francois Molins.

In the days immediately after the attacks, French police carried out hundreds of raids across the country, as the search for suspects continued. Raids also took place in the Belgian city of Brussels.
