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The Supreme Court of the United States in Washington, D.C. is the highest court in the nation. It is also the only federal court named specifically in the Constitution, which states that, "The judicial power of the United States shall be vested in one Supreme Court." Beyond that, however, the Constitution tells us little about the make-up or organization of the court; it gives no qualifications for holding seats on the court, and doesn't establish how many justices will be on the court. The Judiciary Act of 1789 set the size of the court at six; one Chief Justice and five Associate Justices. Over time, the court grew to as large as ten Justices. With the Judiciary Act of 1869, Congress decreased the number to nine, a number which has remained constant to this day. ► You are here : About-the-USA.com > The United States Supreme Court About-the-USA.com A learner's guide to discovering the United States The nature and functions of the Supreme Court are specified in Article 3 of the US Constitution. The Supreme Court is the third point in the triangle of power of federal government of the United States. While the President and his Administration have executive power, and Congress has legislative power, the Supreme Court has judicial power. This means that its principal role is to judge, when asked to do so, about the legality of institutional decisions with regard to federal law (the law of the United States) and the rights of the people. The Court may be asked to give judgment on the constitutionality of executive or legislative decisions disagreements between states or their residents decisions made by a lower court that seem to go against an earlier judgment of the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court building, in Washington. Any citizen of the United States of America can petition the Supreme Court, but the process is usually long, and a petition must first be approved by a lower court, either the lower levels in the federal court system (a federal district court and a federal court of appeals) or by a supreme court of a state, for example by the Supreme Court of Oklahoma or the Supreme Court of New Jersey. On average the Supreme Court receives about 7000 petitions a year, but only about 1% of these are granted. It is important to note that the United States Supreme Court does not make up the law \*, it interprets the law, meaning that its rulings are, up to a point, subjective (see Roe vs. Wade below). \* There are some very marginal situations, not relating to everyday life, in which the Supreme Court can create the law. The Supreme Court is made up of nine senior judges, these being the Chief Justice and eight Associate Justices. The court is named for the Chief Justice, and in 2023 is known as the "Roberts Court" after Chief Justice John Roberts. The appointment of judges to the Supreme Court is the prerogative of the President. However since Supreme Court Judges are appointed for life, and remain in place until they die or decide to retire, not all presidents get the opportunity to appoint a judge to the Supreme Court, while others get the opportunity to appoint two or three new Supreme Court judges. Appointing judges to the Supreme Court is thus the way for a President of the United States to ensure that his political family remains able to influence policy in the United States long after the end of his presidency. In this respect the appointment of judges to the Supreme court is an eminent political act; Democratic presidents tend to appoint judges known for their liberal interpretation of the law, while Republicans will appoint judges known for their conservative tendencies. Donald Trump ensured that the Supreme Court would remain dominated by conservative judges for several years to come, by appointing three relatively young and more conservative judges, and as of 2023 the Supreme Court was made up of six judges appointed by Republican presidents, and only three appointed by Democratic presidents. The function and nature of judgments by the Supreme Court are most vividly exemplified by the historic Roe vs. Wade (Roe versus Wade) case. In 1973 a pregnant Texas woman, known as Jane Roe, filed a suit against Henry Wade, Dallas County District Attorney, in a Texas federal court, claiming that Texas did not have the constitutional right to prevent her from getting an abortion. The case was referred to the Supreme Court, which ruled in favor of Jane Roe. Abortion was thus legal throughout the USA for 49 years, until 2022 when a conservative Supreme Court overruled the 1973 ruling, and determined that individual states did have the right to decide whether abortion was legal in their jurisdiction. The Roberts Court's 2022 ruling did not make abortion illegal throughout the USA; it just meant that some states, those with very conservative state administrations, could ban abortion in their state. However the overturning of Roe vs. Wade was a polarizing decision, that pointed out the increasing politicization of the Supreme Court, as well as the growing fractures in post-Trumpian America between "pro-life" conservatives on the one hand, and "pro-choice" liberals on the other. So also: How united are the states? The powers of states to govern themselves within the federal framework. The US Supreme Court is in the news around the world. The reason: a series of decisions which are already having - and will continue to have - a massive impact on the lives of ordinary Americans. The Dobbs v Jackson Women's Health Organization ruling gathered the most coverage, hardly surprising for a decision which overturned Roe vs Wade and ended national protection for accessing abortion services after 49 years. But the day before, on June 23, the court also expanded the right to publicly carry weapons (in the aftermath of two mass shooting events and the passage of the first federal gun control legislation since the 1990s). It has also fundamentally reinterpreted the relationship between church and state, by lowering what has for decades been described as the "wall of separation" between the institutions of government and those of the church. Holding that excluding religion from government consideration discriminates against people of faith. The ruling makes even more religion in public life possible. And the court also restricted the power of federal agencies to take actions not explicitly handed to them by Congress. It held that the Environmental Protection Agency, a national government body, cannot regulate carbon emissions from coal-fired power plants. This could severely restrict US president Joe Biden's climate change agenda if states are no longer bound by strict carbon emissions limits. In all of these cases the three conservative justices appointed by former president Donald Trump (Neil Gorsuch, Brett Kavanaugh, Amy Coney Barrett) were in the majority, with the court's three liberals (Stephen Breyer, Sonia Sotomayor, Elena Kagan) in the minority. The court sits at the top of the nation's legal system. On the lower level are the trial courts, those that initially hear cases, often with a jury. Then there are a level of appeals courts which hear challenges to the result or the procedure followed by the trial court. Each state then has its own supreme court responsible for interpreting state laws and constitutions. If, however, a case involves federal law or the US constitution, the document which created and governs the system of government, the parties may appeal to the supreme court. The chances of cases reaching the supreme court are small. It is asked to review more than 8,000 cases every year and only generally accepts around 60-70 of those. The cases that do make it, though, are usually important. Since 1925 the nine justices who make up the court have held the power to decide which cases they hear. Since then, cases must meet certain criteria to be heard by the court. They must pose a substantial question of federal (national) law; there must be a genuine dispute; and there must be a legal remedy that falls within the power of the court. Understanding the court often means understanding why it took a particular case at a particular moment in time. Holding Congress to account judicial review is the term given to the court's power to review legislation that potentially conflicts with either federal law or the constitution, including any of the 27 amendments made since it was originally written. Among the most significant of these are the rights to freedom of religion, speech, and press (first amendment), the right to bear arms (second amendment), and the right to silence (fifth amendment). Article III of the constitution implies the power of judicial review, since it states the powers of a supreme court shall extend to disputes under the constitution and the laws of the nation. Those who wrote the constitution hoped to ensure the court could act as a check and a balance on the other government branches. They were fearful of creating an overly powerful central government similar to that of Britain, against which they had just fought a revolution. Read more: The Supreme Court has curtailed EPA's power to regulate carbon pollution - and sent a warning to other regulators Judicial review was firmly established in an 1803 case, Marbury v Madison. There, the then chief justice, John Marshall, declared that not only was the constitution superior to all other ordinary legislation, but that when there was doubt about whether laws were in conflict with constitutional provisions it was the court's role to adjudicate. "It is emphatically the province and duty of the judicial department to say what the law is," Marshall wrote. The modern power of the court dates from this decision. And, although deciding the meaning of the constitution makes up a small proportion of the court's work, the principles involved are often so crucial and so divisive that these are the cases which most often make the headlines. Protests have happened across the US, after the supreme court's decision on the national right to abortion. Rena Schild/Shutterstock Inside politics The court has never been far from the major political issues of the day. Marshall pushed the court towards support of greater federal power at the expense of the states, one of the fundamental questions shaping the new nation. In the middle of the 19th century, when the nation was riven by the question of slavery, a court dominated by southern slave-holding justices ruled in Dred Scott v Sandford that the constitution never intended to extend citizenship to people of African descent. The ruling deepened the tensions that led to the American Civil War. Half a century later, in another decision widely condemned today, the court ruled that it did not violate the constitution to have "separate but equal" public services based on race, in this instance railroad carriages. This effectively gave legal sanction to the "Jim Crow laws" that would keep the southern states segregated until the court reversed itself in Brown v Board of Education in 1954. And, in the mid-1930s, as Congress and the then president, Franklin Roosevelt, sought to address the economic crisis of the Great Depression with a legislative programme known as the New Deal, a conservative court repeatedly struck down core programmes until a shift in 1936 saw the justices reverse this course. Shortly afterwards a series of retirements allowed Roosevelt to make a series of new appointments who were more sympathetic to his legislative program. But especially in the period known as the "rights revolution" from the late 1950s through to the early 1970s, the court extended constitutional protections to unpopular and marginalized minorities otherwise ignored or hurt by legislatures. Jehovah's Witnesses, Seventh-Day Adventists and other religious minorities benefited from the court's broad readings of the first amendment's protections for "free exercise" of religion. The court also expanded protections for those in the criminal justice system, including the right to silence and the right to a lawyer, both considered basic in today's society. It ensured access to contraception for married and then single women, protected many of the gains won by the civil rights movement, and ensured fair practices in voting. In more recent years the court has also found a constitutional right to same-sex marriage and held that the 1964 Civil Rights Act protects LGBTQ+ workers from discrimination. As an appeals court it can only respond to the cases brought before it, and those reflect the politics, culture and temperament of the times. The court is the product of the times and the people who constitute it at any given moment. It is shaped by individuals, usually lawyers, appointed by the sitting president when a justice retires, or dies. As such, it is never entirely removed from the political process. It has been both benefit and hindrance to the US. 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circuit pantomime and sketched by Marguerite Martyn of the St. Louis Post-Dispatch in April 1918 April 1 - The Royal Flying Corps and the Royal Naval Air Service in Britain are merged to form the Royal Air Force, the first autonomous Air Force in the world. April 5 - Sâlote succeeds as Queen of Tonga; she will remain on the throne until her death in 1965. April 6 - Finnish Civil War: The battle of Tampera ends.[6] April 8 - Operations against the Marri and Khetran tribes in Balochistan end with surrender to the British authorities. April 9 - Union of Bessarabia with Romania: Bessarabia votes to become part of the Kingdom of Romania. April 21 - WWI: Manfred von Richthofen, "The Red Baron", the war's most successful fighter pilot, dies in combat at Morlancourt Ridge near the Somme River. April 22 - Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Georgia declare their independence from Russia as the Transcaucasian Democratic Federative Republic. April 23 - WWI: Conscription Crisis of 1918 in Ireland: A general strike is held here against conscription. Zeebrugge Raid: The British Royal Navy attempts to seal off the German U-boat base here.[7] First Ostend Raid: The British Royal Navy unsuccessfully attempts to seal off the German U-boat base here. April 28 - WWI: Gavrilo Princip, assassin of Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria, dies in Terezin, Austria-Hungary, after three years in prison. April 30 - WWI: The Second Transjordan attack on Shunet Nimrin and Es Salt, launched by units of the Egyptian Expeditionary Force, ends on May 4, with their withdrawal back to the Jordan Valley. Main article: May 1918 May 1 - WWI: German troops enter Don Host Oblast; they capture Rostov-on-Don on May 8. May 2 - General Motors acquires the Chevrolet Motor Company of Detroit. May 7 - WWI: The British Royal Navy sinks the German U-boat base here, at a second time, to Mayor of Town, Mayor Sir Harry Handels. It will inspire the introduction of the two-minute Republic of the Northern Caucasus is officially established. May 12 - The United States Post Office Department begins the "Postal Telegraph" service, between New York City and Philadelphia, via cable. May 13 - US Congress approves the参战 (参战) resolution, authorizing the president to use the military and naval forces of the United States to support the Allies in the war. The US Navy sends the first aircraft carrier, the USS *Langley*, to the Pacific. May 14 - The British Royal Navy sinks the German U-boat base here. May 15 - The Mountainous Republic of the Northern Caucasus is officially established. May 16 - The United States Post Office Department begins the "Postal Telegraph" service, between New York City and Philadelphia, via cable. May 17 - The British Royal Navy sinks the German U-boat base here. May 18 - The British Royal Navy sinks the German U-boat base here. May 19 - The British Royal Navy sinks the German U-boat base here. May 20 - The British Royal Navy sinks the German U-boat base here. May 21 - The British Royal Navy sinks the German U-boat base here. May 22 - The British Royal Navy sinks the German U-boat base here. May 23 - The British Royal Navy sinks the German U-boat base here. May 24 - Women in Canada, excluding residents of Quebec, are granted the right to vote in federal elections. May 25 - WWI: The Transcaucasian Democratic Federative Republic is abolished. Georgia declares its independence as the Democratic Republic of Georgia. May 27 - WWI: The Battle of the Aisne commences. May 28 - Armenia and Azerbaijan declare their independence as the First Republic of Armenia and the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic respectively. May 29 - WWI: The week-long Battle of Sardarabad concludes with defending Armenian forces victorious over the Ottomans. June 1 - WWI: Battle of Skra di Legen: The Greek National Defence Army Corps defeats the Bulgarian. June 10 - Austro-Hungarian battleship Szent István sunk by Italian torpedo boats HMS Rival while trying to avoid her escort, the cruiser HMS Kent. June 8 - V603 Aquilas, the brightest nova observed since Kepler's 1604, is discovered. June 10 - WWI: The Austro-Hungarian dreadnought battleship SMS Szent István is sunk by two Italian MAS motor torpedo boats off the Dalmatian coast. June 12 Grand Duke Michael of Russia is murdered, thereby becoming the first of the Romanovs to be killed by the Bolsheviks. WWI: The first airplane bombing raid by an American unit in France is carried out. June 16 - The Declaration to the Seven, a British government response to a memorandum issued anonymously by seven Syrian notables, is published. June 22 - Suspects in the Chicago Restaurant Poisonings are arrested, and more than 100 waiters are taken into custody for poisoning restaurant customers with a lethal powder called Mickey Finn. June 29 - Broome International Exposition of Science, Arts and Industries opens in New York. Brazil is the only international exhibitor and the exposition closes at the end of the season.[12] Main article: July 1918 July 3 - Allied intervention in the Russian Civil War: The Siberian Intervention is launched by the Allies, to extract the Czechoslovak Legion from the Russian Civil War. July 4 - Mehmed VI succeeds as Sultan of the Ottoman Empire on the death of his half-brother Mehmed V (Reşid), who has reigned since 1909; himself reigning until the Sultanate is abolished in 1922. July 12 - The Imperial Japanese Navy battleship Kawachi blows up off Tokuyama, Yamaguchi, western Honshu, Japan, killing at least 621. July 13 - The National Czechoslovak Committee is established. July 14 - The film *The Glorious Adventure* is released in the United States, featuring Mammy Lou, who becomes one of the oldest people ever to star in a film, at a claimed age of 114. July 14 - WWI: Second Battle of the Marne: The battle begins near the River Marne, with a German attack. July 14 - Quentin Roosevelt, Theodore Roosevelt's youngest son, is killed in action during the Second Battle of the Marne. July 17: Execution of the Romanov family July 17 WWI: RMS Carpathia (famed for rescuing survivors of the RMS *Titanic*) is torpedoed and sunk off the east coast of Ireland, by Imperial German submarine U-55; 218 of the 223 on board are rescued.[13] Execution of the Romanov family: By order of the Bolshevik Party, and carried out by the Cheka, former emperor Nicholas II, his wife Alexandra Feodorovna, their children, Olga, Tatiana, Maria, Anastasia, Alexei and retainers are shot at the Ipatiev House, in Ekaterinburg, Russia. July 21 - WWI: Attack on Orleans - Imperial German submarine SM U-156 surfaces and fires on a small convoy of barges and defending flying boats off the Capo Cod town of Orleans, Massachusetts.[14] Main article: August 1918 August 2 - North Russia Intervention: Anti-Bolshevik forces stage a coup at Arkhangelsk, and an occupation by Allied forces follows.[15] August 3 - WWI: Australian hospital ship HMAT *Wardilla* is torpedoed and sunk in the English Channel on passage from Le Havre to Southampton by German submarine SM UC-49 with the loss of 123 of the 801 people on board.[16] August 8 - WWI: Battle of Amiens - British, Canadian and Australian troops begin a string of almost continuous victories, 'The Hundred Days Offensive', with an 8-mile push through the German front lines, taking 12,000 prisoners. German General Erich Ludendorff later calls this the "black day of the German Army".[17] August 10 - Russian Revolution: The British commander in Archangel is told to help the White Russians. August 16 - The Battle of Lake Baikal is fought by the Czechoslovak legion, against the Red Army. August 21 - WWI: The Second Battle of the Somme begins. August 23 - The Bessarabian Peasants' Party is created. August 27 - Battle of Ambos Nogales: U.S. Army forces skirmish against Mexican Carrancistas and their German advisors at Nogales, Arizona, in the only battle of WWI fought on United States soil. August 30 - In response to the October Revolution, Russia, Vladimir Lenin is shot and wounded by Fanny Kaplan in Moscow, but survives.[18] Moisés Uriarte, the Petrograd head of the Nogales, is assassinated. August 30 - Attempted assassination of Lenin, depicted by Vladimir Chelmin Main article: September 1918 September 4 - WWI: British armies and their Arab allies roll into Syria. September 3 - The Bolshevik government of Russia publishes the first official announcement of the Red Terror, a period of repression against political opponents, as an "Appeal to the Working Class" in the newspaper *Izvestia*.[19] September 4 - WWI: Battle of Mont Saint-Quentin concludes with the Australian Corps breaking the German line. September 5 - Russian Civil War: The Kazan Operation begins. The event continues for 5 days, and solidifies the Red Army's power in Russia over the White Army. September 12 - WWI: Battle of Havrincourt - The British take a German salient. September 12 - WWI: Battle of Saint-Mihiel - Americans take a German salient. September 14 - WWI: The Balkan front offensive by the Serbian Army begins. September 15 - WWI: Battle of Dobro Pole in the Vardar Offensive of the Balkans Campaign: The Allied Army of the Orient defeats Bulgarian defenders. September 18 - WWI: Battle of Epêche - British approach the Hindenburg Line along the St Quentin Canal. September 19 - WWI: The British Army's Egyptian Expeditionary Force launches the Battle of Megiddo, incorporating the Battle of Sharon, and the Battle of Nablus, an attack in the Judean Mountains. This day are fought the Battle of Tulkarm, and the Battle of Arara, which break the Ottoman front line stretching from the Mediterranean coast to the Judean Mountains, while the Battle of Tabas extends into September 20. The Third Transjordan attack in the Jordan Valley begins. September 20 - WWI: The British Army's Desert Mounted Corps launches the Battle of Nazareth by 5th Cavalry Division (British Indian Army); Capture of Afulah and Beisan by the 4th Cavalry Division (British Indian Army); Capture of Jenin by the Australian Mounted Division, almost encircling the Yildirim Army Group still in the Judean Mountains. September 25 - WWI: The Battle of Megiddo ends with the Battle of Hattieh, Battle of Samakh, and Capture of Tiberias. The Third Transjordan attack ends with ANZAC Mounted Division victory at the Second Battle of Amman, with the subsequent capture at Zizza of the Ottoman II Corps, and more than 10,000 Ottoman and German prisoners. September 26 - WWI: The Meuse-Argonne Offensive begins, the largest and bloodiest operation of the war for the American Expeditionary Forces. The Capture of Damascus begins, with the Charge at Iribid by the 4th Cavalry Division. September 27 - WWI: The Battle of the Canal du Nord, launched by British and Empire forces, continues the advance towards the Hindenburg Line. The Battle of Jisr Ben Yakub, launched by the Australian Mounted Division, continues its advance towards Damascus. September 28 - WWI: Battle of St Quentin Canal begins; Allied forces advance towards the Hindenburg Line. Bulgaria requests an armistice, with the Armistice of Smederevo being signed and coming into force the next day. September 30 - WWI: The Charge at Katakub is begun by 4th Cavalry Division, commanding the Desert Mounted Corps' advance to Damascus. Main article: October 1918 October 1 - WWI: The Desert Mounted Corps captures Damacus. October 2 - WWI: The Charge at Katakub is begun by 4th Cavalry Division, commanding the Desert Mounted Corps' advance to Damascus. Main article: October 1918 October 1 - WWI: The Desert Mounted Corps captures Damacus. October 3 - WWI: The Charge at Katakub is begun by 4th Cavalry Division, commanding the Desert Mounted Corps' advance to Damascus. Main article: October 1918 October 1 - WWI: The Desert Mounted Corps captures Damacus. October 4 - WWI: The Charge at Katakub is begun by 4th Cavalry Division, commanding the Desert Mounted Corps' advance to Damascus. Main article: October 1918 October 1 - WWI: The Desert Mounted Corps captures Damacus. 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historian, photographer, and academic (died 1908) 1826 - Frederic Edwin Church, American painter (died 1900) 1827 - John Hanning Speke, English soldier and explorer (died 1864) 1843 - Bianka Blume, German opera singer (died 1896)[29] 1851 - Thomas Dewing, American painter (died 1938) 1852 - Alice Liddell, English model (died 1934) 1883 - Wang Jingwei, Chinese politician (died 1944) 1884 - Richard Baggallay, English army officer and cricketer (died 1975)[30] 1887 - Andrew Dasburg, French-American painter (died 1979) 1889 - Francis Spellman, American cardinal (died 1967)[31] 1890 - Franklin Carmichael, Canadian painter (died 1945) 1902 - Ronnie Aird, English cricketer and administrator (died 1986) 1903 - Luther Adler, American actor (died 1984) 1905 - Al Dexter, American country singer-songwriter and guitarist (died 1984) 1907 - Lincoln Kirstein, American soldier and playwright, co-founded the New York City Ballet (died 1996) 1907 - Walter Walsh, American target shooter and FBI agent (died 2014) 1913 - Princess Katherine of Greece and Denmark (died 2007) 1914 - Maedayama Eigorō, Japanese sumo wrestler, the 39th Yokozuna (died 1971) 1916 - Jane Jacobs, American-Canadian journalist, author, and activist (died 2006) 1916 - Richard Proenneke, American soldier, carpenter, and meteorologist (died 2003) 1917 - Nick Joaquin, Filipino writer, journalist and historian (died 2004) 1918 - Kakuei Tanaka, Japanese soldier and politician, 64th Prime Minister of Japan (died 1993) 1921 - Edo Murtić, Croatian painter, sculptor, and illustrator (died 2005) 1922 - Eugenie Clark, American biologist and academic (died 2015) 1923 - Eric Sykes, British actor and comedian (died 2012) 1925 - Maurice R. Greenberg, American businessman and philanthropist 1928 - Maynard Ferguson, Canadian trumpet player and bandleader (died 2006) 1928 - Hosni Mubarak, Egyptian air marshal and politician, 4th President of Egypt (died 2020) 1928 - Betsy Rawls, American golfer (died 2023) 1929 - Manuel Contreras, Chilean general (died 2015) 1929 - Audrey Hepburn, Belgian-British actress and humanitarian (died 1993) 1930 - Katherine Jackson, matriarch of the Jackson family 1932 - Harlon Hill, American football player and coach (died 2013) 1937 - Ron Carter, American bassist and educator 1937 - Dick Dale, American surf-rock guitarist, singer, and songwriter (died 2019) 1938 - Carlos Monsiváis, Mexican journalist, author, and critic (died 2010) 1939 - Amos Oz, Israeli journalist and author (died 2018) 1940 - Robin Cook, American physician and author 1941 - George Will, American journalist and author 1943 - Georgi Asparuhov, Bulgarian footballer (died 1971) 1944 - Russi Taylor, American voice actress (died 2019) 1945 - Robert Machray, American actor (died 2025)[32][33] 1946 - John Barnard, English car designer 1946 - Gary Bauer, American political activist 1946 - John Watson, British race car driver 1948 - King George Tupou V of Tonga, (died 2012) 1951 - Colin Bass, English bass player, songwriter, and producer 1951 - Colleen Hanabusa, American lawyer and politician 1951 - Jackie Jackson, American singer-songwriter and dancer[34] 1952 - Belinda Green, Australian beauty queen and 1972 Miss World 1953 - Pia Zadora, American actress and singer 1954 - Ryan Cayabyab, Filipino pianist, composer, and conductor 1956 - Ken Oberfell, American baseball player and coach 1957 - Kathy Kreiner, Canadian skier 1958 - Keith Haring, American painter (died 1990) 1958 - Caroline Spelman, English politician, Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs 1959 - Randy Travis, American singer-songwriter, guitarist, and actor 1960 - Werner Faymann, Austrian politician, 28th Chancellor of Austria 1961 - Jay Aston, English singer-songwriter and dancer 1967 - Kate Garraway, English journalist 1967 - Ana Gasteyer, American actress and singer 1970 - Will Arnett, Canadian actor and producer 1970 - Dawn Staley, American basketball player 1972 - Mike Dirnt, American bass player and songwriter 1972 - Chris Tomlin, American singer-songwriter[35] 1973 - Guillermo Barros Schelotto, Argentinian footballer and coach 1973 - John Madden, Canadian ice hockey player and coach 1974 - Tony McCoy, Northern Irish jockey and sportscaster 1975 - Kimora Lee Simmons, American model[36] 1978 - Erin Andrews, American sportscaster and journalist 1978 - Igor Biscan, Croatian footballer and manager 1978 - James Harrison, American football player[37] 1979 - Lance Bass, American singer, dancer, and producer 1979 - Lesley Vainikolo, Tongan rugby player 1980 - Andrew Raycroft, Canadian ice hockey player 1981 - Eric Djemba-Djemba, Cameroonian footballer 1981 - Ruth Negga, Ethiopian-Irish actress[38][39] 1981 - Dallon Weekes, American singer-songwriter and musician 1983 - Derek Roy, Canadian ice hockey player 1984 - Brad Maddox, American wrestler and referee 1985 - Ravi Bopara, English cricketer 1985 - Fernandinho, Brazilian footballer 1985 - Jamie Adenuga, English MC and rapper 1986 - Devan Dubnyk, Canadian ice hockey player 1986 - George Hill, American basketball player 1987 - Cesc Fàbregas, Spanish footballer and manager 1987 - Jorge Lorenzo, Spanish motorcycle racer 1988 - Radja Nainggolan, Belgian footballer 1989 - Rory McIlroy, Northern Irish golfer 1989 - James van Riemsdyk, American ice hockey player 1991 - Brianna Jenner, Canadian women's ice hockey player 1992 - Victor Oladipo, American basketball player 1994 - Abi Masatora, Japanese sumo wrestler 1994 - Joseph Tapine, New Zealand rugby player 1998 - Alexander O'Connor, English musician[40] 408 - Venerius, archbishop of Milan 784 - Arbeo, bishop of Freising 1003 - Herman II, duke of Swabia 1038 - Gotthard of Hildesheim, German bishop (born 960) 1048 - Coluccio Salutati, chancellor of Florence (born 1331) 1436 - Engelbrekt Engelbrektsson, Swedish rebel leader (27 April O.S.),(41) 1471 - Edward of Westminster, Prince of Wales, son and heir of Henry VI of England (born 1453) 1483 - George Neville, Duke of Bedford (born 1457) 1506 - Husayn Mirza Bayqara, Timurid ruler of Herat (born 1438) 1519 - Lorenzo de' Medici, duke of Urbino (born 1492)[42] 1535 - John Houghton, Carthusian monk and saint 1562 - Lelio Sozzini, Italian Protestant theologian (born 1525) 1566 - Luca Ghini, Italian physician and botanist (born 1490) 1571 - Pierre Viret, Swiss theologian and reformer (born 1511) 1604 - Claudio Merulo, Italian organist and composer (born 1533) 1605 - Ulisse Aldrovandi, Italian naturalist (born 1522) 1615 - Adriana van Roomen, Flemish priest and mathematician (born 1561) 1626 - Arthur Lake, English bishop and scholar (born 1569) 1677 - Isaac Barrow, English mathematician and theologian (born 1630) 1684 - John Neivison, English criminal (born 1639) 1729 - Louis Antoine de Noailles, French cardinal (born 1651) 1734 - James Thornhill, English painter and politician (born 1675) 1737 - Eustace Budgell, English journalist and politician (born 1686) 1774 - Anthony Ulrich of Brunswick, Prussian nobleman (born 1714) 1776 - Jacques Saly, French painter and sculptor (born 1717) 1790 - Matthew Tilghman, American politician (born 1718) 1799 - Tipu, ruler of Mysore (born 1750) 1811 - Nikolay Kamensky, Russian general (born 1776) 1816 - Samuel Dexter, American lawyer and politician, 4th United States Secretary of War, 3rd United States Secretary of the Treasury (born 1761) 1824 - Joseph Joubert, French author (born 1754) 1826 - Sebastián Kindelán y O'Regan, colonial governor of East Florida, Santo Domingo and Cuba (born 1757)[43] 1839 - Denis Davydov, Russian general and poet (born 1784) 1859 - Joseph Diaz Gergonne, French mathematician and philosopher (born 1771) 1880 - Edward Clark, American lawyer and politician, 8th Governor of Texas (born 1815) 1901 - John Jones Ross, Canadian lawyer and politician, 7th Premier of Quebec (born 1831) 1903 - Gotse Delchev, Macedonian Bulgarian revolutionary IMRO (born 1872) 1912 - Nettie Stevens, American geneticist credited with discovering sex chromosomes (born 1861)[44] 1916 - Ned Daly, Irish rebel commander (Easter Rising) (born 1891) 1916 - John Murray, Australian politician, 23rd Premier of Victoria (born 1851) 1916 - Willie Pearse, Irish rebel (born 1881) 1916 - Joseph Plunkett, Irish rebel and writer (born 1887) 1919 - Milan Rastislav Štefánik, Slovak general and politician (born 1880) 1922 - Viktor Kingissepp, Estonian politician (born 1888) 1923 - Ralph McKittrick, American golfer and tennis player (born 1877) 1924 - E. Nesbit, English author and poet (born 1858) 1937 - Gina Oselio, Norwegian opera singer (born 1858)[45] 1938 - Kanō Jigorō, Japanese founder of judo (born 1860) 1938 - Carl von Ossietzky, German journalist and activist, Nobel Prize laureate (born 1889) 1941 - Chris McKivat, Australian rugby player and coach (born 1880) 1945 - Fedor von Bock, German field marshal (born 1880) 1953 - Alexandre Pharamond, French rugby player (born 1876)[46] 1955 - George Enescu, Romanian pianist, composer, and conductor (born 1881) 1964 - Karl Robert Pusta, Estonian politician, 4th Estonian Minister of Foreign Affairs (born 1883) 1969 - Osbert Sitwell, English-Italian author and poet (born 1892) 1971 - William Brown Meloney, writer and theatrical producer (born 1902)[47] 1972 - Father Chrysanthus, Dutch arachnologist (born 1905)[48] 1972 - Edward Calvin Kendall, American chemist and academic, Nobel Prize laureate (born 1886) 1973 - Jane Bowles, American author and playwright (born 1917) 1975 - Moe Howard, American actor, singer, and screenwriter (born 1897) 1976 - Frank Strahan, Australian public servant (born 1886) 1980 - Josip Broz Tito, Yugoslav field marshal and politician, 1st President of Yugoslavia (born 1892) 1981 - C. Loganathan, Sri Lankan banker (born 1913) 1983 - Nino Sanzogno, Italian conductor and composer (born 1911) 1984 - Diana Dors, English actress (born 1931) 1985 - Clarence Wiseman, English-Canadian 10th General of The Salvation Army (born 1907) 1987 - Paul Butterfield, American singer and harmonica player (born 1942)[49] 1987 - Cathryn Damon, American actress (born 1930) 1988 - Lillian Estelle Fisher, American historian of Spanish America (born 1891) 1990 - Emily Remler, American guitarist (born 1957) 1991 - Mohammed Abdal Wahab, Egyptian singer-songwriter and mandolin player (born 1902) 1992 - Gregor Mackenzie, Scottish politician (born 1927) 1993 - France Stiglic, Slovenian film director and screenwriter (born 1919) 1995 - Connie Wisniewski, American baseball player (born 1922)[50] 2000 - Hendrik Casimir, Dutch physicist and academic (born 1909) 2001 - Bonnie Lee Bakley, American model, wife of Robert Blake (born 1956) 2004 - David Reimer, Canadian man, born male but reassigned female and raised as a girl after a botched circumcision (born 1965)[51] 2005 - David Hackworth, American colonel and journalist (born 1930) 2008 - Fred Baur, American chemist and founder of Pringles (born 1918)[52] 2009 - Dom DeLuise, American actor, director, and producer (born 1933) 2011 - Sammey McCrory, Northern Irish footballer (born 1924) 2012 - Mort Lindsey, American pianist, composer, and conductor (born 1923) 2012 - Bob Stewart, American television producer, founded Stewart Tele Enterprises (born 1920) 2012 - Adam Yauch, American rapper and director (born 1964) 2012 - Rashidi Yekini, Nigerian footballer (born 1963) 2013 - Otis Bowen, American physician and politician, 44th Governor of Indiana (born 1918) 2013 - Christian de Duve, English-Belgian cytologist and biochemist, Nobel Prize laureate (born 1917) 2013 - Javier Diez Canseco, Peruvian sociologist and politician (born 1948) 2013 - Mario Machado, Chinese-American journalist and actor (born 1935) 2013 - Morgan Morgan-Giles, English admiral and politician (born 1914) 2013 - César Portillo de la Luz, Cuban guitarist and composer (born 1922) 2014 - Dick Ayers, American author and illustrator (born 1924) 2014 - Elena Baltacha, Ukrainian-Scottish tennis player (born 1983) 2014 - Edgar Cortright, American scientist and engineer (born 1923) 2014 - Helga Königsdorff, German physicist and author (born 1938) 2014 - Ross Lonsberry, Canadian-American ice hockey player (born 1947) 2014 - Jean-Paul Ngoupandé, Central African politician, Prime Minister of the Central African Republic (born 1948) 2015 - William Bast, American screenwriter and author (born 1931) 2015 - Ellen Albertini Dow, American actress (born 1913) 2015 - Marv Hubbard, American football player (born 1946)[53] 2016 - Jean-Baptiste Bagaza, Burundian politician (born 1946) 2020 - Don Shula, American football player and coach (born 1930)[54] 2020 - Greg Zanis, American carpenter and activist (born 1950)[55] 2021 - Nick Kamen, English model, songwriter (born 1962)[56] 2024 - Ron Kavana, Irish singer, songwriter, guitarist and band leader (born 1950)[57] 2024 - Frank Stella, American painter (born 1936)[58] 2024 - Anti-Bullying Day (United Nations) Bird Day (United States) Cassinga Day (Namibia) Christian feast day: Blessed Ceferino Giménez Malla Blessed Michał Giedroyć English Saints and Martyrs of the Reformation Era (Church of England) F. C. D. Wynneken (Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod) Florian José María Rubio Judas Cyriacus Monica of Hippo (1960 Roman Catholic Calendar) Sacerdos of Limoges Venerius of Milan May 4 (Eastern Orthodox liturgics) Coal Miners Day (India)[59] Death of Milan Rastislav Štefánik Day (Slovakia) Greenery Day (Japan) International Firefighters Day May Fourth Movement commemorations: Literary Day (Republic of China) Youth Day (China) Remembrance Day for Martyrs and Disabled (Afghanistan) Remembrance of the Dead (Netherlands) Restoration of Independence Day (Latvia) Star Wars Day (International observance) World Give Day Youth Day (Fiji) ^ Flannery, John M. (2013). The Mission of the Portuguese Augustinians to Persia and Beyond (1602-1747). Lieden: Brill. p. 40. ISBN 9789004243828. ^ Bray, Gerald (2018). "On the Truth of Holy Scripture (1377-1378) John Wycliffe (c. 1328-1384)". In Kapic, Kelly M.; Madueme, Hans (eds.). Reading Christian Theology in the Protestant Tradition. 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