

The Vietnam War Aftermath
Written and copy written Barry Culhane September 2001

1973

January 5, 1973

At all 531 airports in the US, boarding passengers are subject to luggage examinations; a few airlines use X-ray machines to speed the process. Nixon halts all bombing of Vietnam by American warplanes.

January 22, 1973

Former President Lyndon B. Johnson, 64, dies of a heart attack.

January 27, 1973

Cease-fire agreements signed in Paris.

Secretary of Defense Laird announces that the draft in the United States has ended. At the time of the armistice, Saigon controls about 75% of South Vietnam's territory and 85% of its population. ARVN is well-equipped. 1.1 million men are under arms. LTC William B. Holde is killed by an artillery shell in An Loc, 11 hours before the ceasefire.

ôAn agreement Ending the War and Restoring Peace in Vietnam" is signed in Paris by the United States, North Vietnam, South Vietnam, and the Vietcong. The settlement includes: a cease-fire throughout Vietnam; withdrawal of all US troops and advisors (totaling about 23,700) within 60 days; the dismantling of all US bases within 60 days; release of all US and other POWs within 60 days; continuance in place of North Vietnamese troops in South Vietnam; withdrawal of all foreign troops from Laos and Cambodia, and prohibition of bases in and troop movements through these countries; agreement that the DMZ at the 17th Parallel will remain a provisional dividing line with eventual reunification of the country "through peaceful means;" establishment of an international control commission.

February, 1973

Watergate conspirators Gordon Liddy and James McCord are convicted of spying on Democratic Headquarters. Judge Sirica revives the Watergate inquiry.

February 12-27, 1973

Operation Homecoming: The return of US POWs begins with North Vietnam's release of 142 of 587 US prisoners at Hanoi's Bialam airport.

February 14, 1973

The first 20 POWs arrive at Travis Air Force Base in California.

February 28, 1973

250 American Indian Movement (AIM) activists seize the Pine Ridge Sioux Reservation at Wounded Knee and take 10 hostages.

March, 1973

Hanoi launches a huge logistical program to prepare for a major offensive.

March 6, 1973

Nixon re-imposes price controls on oil and gas.

March 17, 1973

POWs are cleared out of the "Hanoi Hilton" POW camp for the first time in 8 years. The longest-serving US POW, Major Floyd Thompson, captured in March, 1964 is released.

March 29, 1973

Last American troops leave Vietnam as the last 67 of the 587 POWs acknowledged by North Vietnam are free.

April 1, 1973

Last known American prisoners of war released in Hanoi.
The only Americans left behind are 8,500 civilians, plus embassy guards and a small number of soldiers in a defense office.

April 8, 1973

Pablo Picasso, one of the century's greatest artists has died at 92 in France.

April 27, 1973

Two White House aides convicted as Watergate conspirators had broken into the office of Daniel Ellsberg's psychiatrist. On April 30, Nixon's top aides H.R. "Bob" Haldeman, John D. Erlichman, John W. Dean, and Richard G. Kleindienst resign after the White House was alleged to have covered up what has become known as "The Watergate Affair."

May 7, 1973

The Washington Post won the Pulitzer Prize for the work of investigative reporters Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein in exposing the Watergate scandal.

May 17, 1973

Senator Sam J. Irvin, Democrat of North Carolina, opened public sessions on the Watergate affair. The next day, Archibald Cox is named Watergate special prosecutor.

June 9, 1973

Secretariat, ridden by Ron Turcotte, captures horse racing's coveted Triple Crown.

June 24, 1973

Graham Martin is sworn in as ambassador to South Vietnam, replacing Ellsworth Bunker.

July 1, 1973

Congress passes the Fulbright-Aiken Amendment, prohibiting the appropriation of funds to finance directly or indirectly combat activities by US forces in North Vietnam, South Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia.

July 15, 1973

In Detroit, Nolan Ryan pitches his second no-hitter of season. Before retiring, he will pitch 7 no-hitters.

July 30, 1973

The existence of tape-recorded conversations between Nixon and various aides are discovered, and H. R. Haldeman told a Senate committee that the secret White House tapes fail to show that either he or Nixon had any knowledge of the break-in at Democratic Headquarters in the Watergate complex.

August 15, 1973

The United States, in accordance with Congressional prohibition, ends bombing in Cambodia, marking the end of 12 years of combat activity in Indochina

August 22, 1973

President Nixon appoints Henry Kissinger Secretary of State.

August 31, 1973

John Ford, 78, famed movie director, died in Palm Desert, CA.

September 20, 1973

In New York, Willie Mays announces his retirement, after 21 years with the Giants and one year with the Mets. He scored 660 home runs, had 3283 hits, and is headed to the Hall of Fame in Cooperstown NY.

October 3, 1973

"We brought peace to Vietnam."
Statement by President Richard Nixon at a press conference.

October 10, 1973

Vice President Spiro Agnew resigns after tax-fraud charge, pleading *nolo contendere* .

October 12, 1973

Gerald Ford, the 60-year-old Republican leader of the House, was nominated by President Richard M. Nixon to be his Vice President.

October 16, 1973

Henry Kissinger and Le Duc Tho are awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for ending the war in Indochina. Tho turns down the award because, as he points out, "fighting continues."

October 20, 1973

The day after President Nixon rejects Appeals Court demand to turn over Watergate tapes, the infamous "Saturday Night Massacre" occurs when Attorney General Elliot Richardson resigned after refusing to fire Watergate special prosecutor Archibald Cox, who was then fired by President Nixon.

October 22, 1973

The heaviest fighting since 1967 erupted in the Middle East: The Yom Kippur War. The Egyptians and Syrians launched a surprise attack in the middle of Yom Kippur, the most religious holiday of the year.

October 23, 1973

President Nixon reluctantly agrees to turn over Watergate tapes.

October 26, 1973

US intelligence reports that the North Vietnamese military presence in South Vietnam is huge. President Nixon vetoes the War Powers Resolution, which would limit presidential power to commit armed forces abroad without Congressional approval.

November 7, 1973

Congress overrides President Nixon's veto of the War Powers Resolution.

November 11, 1973

Egypt and Israel sign cease-fire agreement .

November 26, 1973

Nixon's personal secretary, Rose Mary Woods, testified that through some "terrible mistake" she had caused an 18-minute "gap" in one of the Watergate tape recordings.

November 27, 1973

President Nixon signs the Emergency Petroleum Allocation Act of 1973. American oil companies initiate large gasoline price increases on the eve of widespread closing of service stations throughout the country. Nixon asked gas stations to close voluntarily on Sundays and there are long lines at gas stations. A system of getting gas is based on the odd or even number of one's license plates making one eligible to get gas the odd or even days of the month.

December 1, 1973

David Ben Gurion, 87, modern Israel's first Premier and one of its founding fathers, dies in Tel Aviv.

Top movies of 1973 include *Sleeper*, *The Sting*, *The Exorcist*, *American Graffiti*, *The Way We Were*, and *Paper Moon*.

In 1973, the National League of Cities funded 18 outreach centers. One remains: a private, not-for-profit agency that later expanded to counsel veterans of all wars and then focus on helping homeless veterans: The Veterans Outreach Center (VOC) of Rochester NY.

1974

January 2, 1974

President Nixon signs bill for a federal 55 mph ceiling on the speed limit.

January 4, 1974

After communists initiate attacks on ARVN camps, Thieu declares, "The war has restarted." In NYC, Blue Cross and Blue Shield announce merger plans.

January 31, 1974

Film producer Samuel Goldwyn, 91, died in Los Angeles.

February 4, 1974

Mao proclaims a new Cultural Revolution in Peking .

February 15, 1974

A battle rages on the Golan Heights between Israeli and Syrian forces.

The Symbionese Liberation Army, kidnappers of Patty Hearst, 19 year old daughter of millionaire publisher Randolph Hearst, demand \$4 million worth of foodstuffs be distributed to the poor in exchange for her release.

March 15, 1974

A federal grand jury concludes that President Nixon joined in a conspiracy to cover up White House involvement in the Watergate break-in of Democratic Party offices.

April 4, 1974

The House of Representatives rejected a White House proposal for more aid to South Vietnam.

April 8, 1974

Henry ôHankö Aaron, 40, hit his 715th home run and surpassed Babe Ruth as the greatest slugger in baseball history.

April 10, 1974

Golda Meir resigns as Israeli Prime Minister.

May 9, 1974

House of Representatives Judiciary Committee starts a three count impeachment proceeding against President Nixon.

May 24, 1974

"Gentlemen, by what you did and what you said on your return, you have helped turn this country around. You have helped re-instill faith where there was doubt before. This nation and the world will always be in your debt."

President Richard Nixon, reception for returned Prisoners of War.

June, 1974

Yitzak Rabin succeeds Golda Meir as Israel's Premier.

July 5, 1974

At Wimbledon, Jimmy Connors and Chris Evert are winners.

July 9, 1974

Earl Warren, 83, former Supreme Court Chief Justice of the United States, dies. Inflation has replaced the energy crisis as the chief concern of Americans.

July 24, 1974

The Supreme Court rules that Nixon must surrender tapes secretly recorded at the White House.

August 9, 1974

President Nixon, faced with impeachment by Congress, resigns as US President. Gerald R. Ford became the 38th President and the first American ever to take office without being selected in a nationwide election.

August 19, 1974

***"All of us who served in one war or another know very well that all wars are the glory and agony of the young."* President Gerald R. Ford - address to the 75th annual convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.**

August 20, 1974

Former New York Governor Nelson Rockefeller is nominated to be America's 41st vice president by President Ford .

August 26, 1974

Charles A. Lindbergh, US aviator who flew the first non-stop solo flight across the Atlantic, dies at age 72.

September 8, 1974

President Ford grants a full and unconditional pardon to President Nixon. Ford says the act will spare Nixon and the nation from additional grief in this "American tragedy." Ford also grants immunity to Vietnam-era draft evaders who agree to work two years in public service. Alexander Haig is appointed NATO commander in Europe.

September 12, 1974

Emperor Haile Salassie ends his 58 year rule of Ethiopia. Scientists report that freon gases released from aerosol spray cans are destroying the ozone layer that protects the earth from lethal ultraviolet radiation.

October 1, 1974

The Watergate trial begins.

November, 1974

US files antitrust suit to break up AT&T. H.L. Hunt, 85, the militant anti-Communist and ultraconservative oil billionaire, dies in Dallas.

December 21, 1974

Jack Benny, 80, America's favorite tightwad comedian, dies.

December 31, 1974

South Vietnamese Command reports that 80,000 persons have been killed in fighting throughout the country this year, the highest total for any year of the war.

1975

January, 1975

Haldeman, Erlichman, and Mitchell are convicted in Watergate cover-up. North Vietnam and the Vietcong have helped the Khmer Rouge in their war against the government of Prince Norodom Sihanouk and Lon Nol of Cambodia. The Khmer Rouge leader is Pol Pot, who joined Ho Chi Minh's Indochinese Communist Party in the 1940s.

January 6, 1975

The province of Phuoc Long, only 60 miles north of Saigon, is captured by the communists.

February 4, 1975

"The war in Vietnam has produced a new phenomenon in American history, not the unknown soldier of past wars, but the unwanted soldier of an unpopular war in Vietnam. Too many people from all walks of life, especially business, education, and government, seem to be confusing the soldier with the war and they are rejecting both." Post War Opportunities and the Vietnam Era Veteran, American Civil Liberties Union.

February 11, 1975

For the first time in its 300-year history, Britain's Conservative Party has a woman leader as Margaret Thatcher defeats Edward Heath.

March, 1975

North Vietnamese launch the final offensive of the Vietnam War, capturing half of Vietnam and killing or capturing one-third of the South Vietnamese army.

March 9, 1975

The Alaskan oil pipeline begins at Sheep Creek Camp, and Iraq launches offensive against rebellious Kurds.

March 14, 1975

A serious strategic error is made when South Vietnamese President Nguyen Van Thieu decides to pull his troops out of the central highlands and northern provinces. The withdrawal from Pleiku and Kontum begins. Only 20,000 of 60,000 soldiers ever reach the coast; of 400,000 refugees, only 100,000 arrive; the fate of the rest is unknown.

March 19, 1975

Quang Tri Province falls to communists. ARVN troops are routed as they retreat toward Da Nang.

March 25, 1975

The order is given to evacuate Hue, Da Nang is in trouble, and the US orders a big refugee airlift. The same day, King Faisal of Saudi Arabia is assassinated by a nephew in Riyadh. Soon Da Nang falls to the Communists. North Vietnamese forces sweep toward Saigon as South Vietnamese troops retreated in confusion before the Communist offensive. Tens of thousands of panicky refugees flee toward the coastal cities. By the end of March, the South Vietnamese army is in total disarray.

April 5, 1975

Nationalist Chinese leader Chiang Kai-Shek, 87, dies in Taiwan.

April 8, 1975

A US cargo plane, loaded with Vietnamese orphans, crashes on takeoff near Saigon. More than 100 children die.

April 12, 1975

The US ambassador to Cambodia and his staff leave Phnom Penh.

April 17, 1975

The Lon Nol Cambodian government surrenders to the Khmer Rouge, ending 5 years of war. The People's Assembly (Khmer Rouge) headed by Pol Pot, will cause 2 to 4 million brutal deaths over the next three years.

April 25, 1975

President Thieu resigns and transfers authority to Vice-President Tran Van Huong before any of the several plots against him can be implemented. Thieu flees Saigon. President Ford says the war is finished. South Vietnam's Vice President Tran Van Huong transfers authority as chief of state to General Duong Van Minh.

April 29, 1975

The NVA attack on Saigon begins. President Ford orders emergency evacuation of all Americans left in South Vietnam. The President ordered the airlift that brought 237,000 Vietnamese refugees to the US as communists closed in on Saigon. The US Navy begins Operation Frequent Wind, the evacuation of US personnel and selected South Vietnamese people from Vietnam. Option IV, the largest helicopter evacuation on record, begins removing the last Americans from Saigon. In 19 hours, 81 helicopters carry more than 1000 Americans and nearly 6000 Vietnamese to aircraft carriers riding offshore. Corporal Charles McMahan, Jr. and Lance Corporal Darwin Judge, both US Marines, are the last two Americans to be killed in the Vietnam War.

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April 30, 1975

By dawn, Communist forces are moving into Saigon. Ambassador Martin leaves Saigon. At 7:52 am the last U.S. Marine leaves the U.S. Embassy in Saigon. "Option IV" is completed. Shortly after noon, the Vietcong flag was raised over the presidential palace in Saigon. Duong Van Minh, President of South Vietnam for only days, surrendered unconditionally to the Communists. Saigon is renamed Ho Chi Minh City.

Despite signing the Paris ceasefire 2 years ago, the Saigon government had continued its efforts to eliminate Communist power in its territory and the North Vietnamese continued to try to unify Vietnam under their rule. In 1975, the last remaining troops literally fought for space on helicopters leaving Saigon, while unfortunately, the horrors of the war for countless thousands of Vietnamese and Vietnam Veterans had only begun. For many, their physical and psychological pain, and its impact on their lives and those of their friends and loved ones, continued for decades. Those without limbs, those with shrapnel forever embedded in their bodies, and those afflicted with the insidious after effects of Agent Orange, or psychological damage, continued to suffer and die. The immeasurable effects of Post Traumatic Syndrome and the loss of peace of mind haunted many veterans. There were many suicides among Vietnam Veterans after the war. Also commemorated here are the Rochester area Vietnam Veterans whose names do not appear among the fallen or missing in battle, but whose lives were taken nonetheless by a war whose consequences seemed never to end.

**"Never Again Should One Generation of Veterans Forget Another." (motto of the Vietnam Veterans of America)
(Geoffrey C. Hosmer, 1995)**

"My clothes were hopelessly out of style. My hair was unfashionably short. They asked if I had any "management experience." I had been a platoon sergeant in Vietnam in charge of forty-three Americans and numerous Thais. It counted for nothing, in fact, it counted against me. I might just as well have arrived at the interview dressed in jungle fatigues and carrying an M-16. No one knew what to say to a Vietnam Veteran, and no one wanted to meet one at the water cooler."

John Ketwig, [A Hard Rain Fell](#)

Because of the negative reaction by many Americans, Vietnam Veterans chose to remain quiet about their service, keeping their Vietnam experience in their personal closets.

May 7, 1975

President Ford issues a proclamation designating this as the last day of the Vietnam era for military personnel to qualify for wartime benefits.

May 10, 1975

The Federal District Court orders a new integration plan in Boston's racially troubled public schools. The plan calls for the busing of 21,000 students in the coming school year.

May 12, 1975

The US merchant ship *Mayaguez*, with 30 seamen aboard, is seized in the Gulf of Siam by the Cambodian Khmer Rouge government, who claim the ship is part of a spy operation. Diplomatic appeals fail.

May 15, 1975

***Mayaguez* rescue operations begin. 38 Marines die in the operation, with 50 wounded; the crewmen of the *Mayaguez* are released unharmed.**

May 16, 1975

Congress appropriates \$405 million to fund a refugee aid program and authorizes resettlement of South Vietnamese and Cambodian refugees in the US. Over 140,000 refugees are flown to the United States under the program in the next few months.

June 26, 1975

The Supreme Court rules that mental patients are free to leave psychiatric institutions if they wish, providing they are not dangerous and can survive on their own.

July 5, 1975

Arthur Ashe beats Jimmy Connors to become the first African American men's singles champion at Wimbledon.

July 19, 1975

American and Soviet astronauts end an unprecedented two-day international mission in space today as they undock their Apollo and Soyuz spacecraft and go into separate orbits.

August 3, 1975

The FBI opens investigation on disappearance of Teamster leader Jimmy Hoffa.

August 23, 1975

The Communist-led Pathet Lao take over control of Laos, culminating the Communist ascension to power in Indochina.

August 27, 1975

In Cleveland, a federal jury clears Governor Rhodes and 27 National Guardsmen in 1970 Kent State shootings.

September 5, 1975

In Sacramento, CA: Lynette Alice "Squeaky" Fromme is arrested after secret agents save President Ford by pulling a gun from her hand.

September 22, 1975

For the second time, President Ford escapes possible assassination when a woman fires a gun at him as he steps out of a hotel in San Francisco. Ford's assailant is Sara Jane Moore, a 45-year-old activist.

September 24, 1975

The first all-British team reaches the summit of Mount Everest.

September 15, 1975

Mother Elizabeth Ann Seton becomes first US-born saint.

September 27, 1975

Parents of Karen Anne Quinlan, a 21-year-old New Jersey woman who has been in a coma for five months, go to court for permission to have her life-sustaining respirator turned off.

October, 1975

At a news conference organized by the National Geographic Society in Washington, Dr. Mary Leakey announces the discovery of human remains dating back 3.75 million years.

November 1975

Justice William O. Douglas retires from the Supreme Court, after serving over 36 years on the bench.

December 30, 1975

A tragic explosion kills 14 and wounds more than 70 at New York's LaGuardia Airport when a bomb that had been planted in the baggage claim area exploded in the main terminal.

1976

January 6, 1976

Millionaire recluse Howard Hughes dies in a plane while being flown to the hospital, leaving a fortune of \$2 billion.

June 16, 1976

US ambassador in Beirut is kidnapped and murdered.

June 25, 1976

Idi Amin declares himself president for life in Uganda.

July 2, 1976

North and South Vietnam are reunified.

July 4, 1976

Two hundred years ago, the following was written: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness."
(*American Declaration of Independence, 1776*). The United States of America celebrates its Bicentennial.

July 4, 1976

Israeli commandos free 103 hostages at Uganda's Entebbe Airport from an Air France plane hijacked by Palestinian terrorists.

August 4, 1976

In Philadelphia 29 American Legion members at a convention die from a mysterious disease "Legionnaires disease."

October 11, 1976

The third wife and widow of Mao Tse-Tung, Qiang Qing, is arrested in Berlin with three associates: the "Gang of Four" had attempted to seize power after Mao's death.

November 2, 1976

James Earl Carter is elected 39th President of the United States.

1977

January 21, 1977

In his first major presidential act, President Carter pardons almost all of the draft evaders -- about 10,000 -- of the Vietnam War Era. Carter says he will immediately address the problem of upgrading the discharges of the nearly 100,000 deserters. Throughout the year more and more refugees ("boat people") leave Vietnam by any means available. Many are ethnic Chinese who fear persecution from Vietnamese victors.

March 27, 1977

The worst accident in flying history shocked the world when two jumbo jets collide, claiming 574 lives. The two Boeing 747s, belonging to KLM and Pam Am, crashed on the runway at Tenerife on the Canary Islands.

July 7, 1977

First test of US neutron (enhanced radiation) bomb.

August 16, 1977

Elvis Presley, the 42-year-old singer and King of rock and roll, dies in Memphis, Tennessee.

September 20, 1977

Sponsored by a record number of countries, Vietnam is admitted to the United Nations at the 32nd General Assembly.

December 3, 1977

The US State Department proposes that 10,000 Vietnamese "boat people" be admitted on an emergency basis. Since the fall of Vietnam 2 years ago, the United States has approved admission of 165,000 Indochinese refugees.

November, 1977

"We Vietnamese are the newest refugees in your history. We know your country is a land of immigrants. Your sons and daughters fought to keep Vietnam free, and we Vietnamese wish to earn your respect and friendship. We wish not to be hawks or doves, but eagles."
Nguyen Cao Ky, exiled president of South Vietnam

December 25, 1977

Vietnam invades Cambodia.
Sir Charles Chaplin, 88, star of films, dies in Switzerland.

December 31, 1977

The Cambodian government announces that it is breaking diplomatic relations with Vietnam.

1978

January, 1978

Maude DeVictor, a Chicago Veterans Administration employee begins to gather information on the issue of Agent Orange and is instrumental opening the problem to public scrutiny.

May 9, 1978

Former Italian Premier Aldo Moro, kidnapped March 16 by leftist terrorists, is found dead

April 18, 1978

US Senate approves Panama Canal treaty turning over control of canal to Panama in 2000.

June 6, 1978

In a tax revolt, Californians approve Proposition 13 slashing 60% in property tax revenues.

July 3, 1978

Citing Vietnam's treatment of ethnic Chinese, China announces the termination of all economic assistance to Vietnam. The cut-off is perceived in diplomatic circles as China's reaction to Vietnam's growing friendship with the Soviet Union.

July 26, 1978

The world's first test-tube baby was born by Caesarean section in a British hospital.

August 6, 1978

Pope Paul VI dies at 80.

August 22, 1978

Sandinista rebels seize the presidential palace in Nicaragua.

September 28, 1978

After only 34 days in office, Pope John Paul I, age 65, dies.

October 16, 1978

Karol Cardinal Wojtyla becomes the next Pope: John Paul II.

December 15, 1978

President Carter announces full-scale diplomatic relations between the United States and China, beginning January 1, 1979. Formal US-Taiwan ties are broken the same day.

1979

January 4, 1979

Ohio pays \$675,000 to families of dead and injured at Kent State University shootings.

January 7, 1979

The Cambodian government of Pol Pot is overthrown when Phnom Penh, the capital of Cambodia, falls to Vietnamese forces.

January 16, 1979

The Shah of Iran flees his country.

February 17, 1979

Refugees flee Vietnam as China invades Vietnam and stays for three weeks. China had backed North Vietnam during the Vietnam War, but since Hanoi's victory in 1975, Vietnam has turned to the Soviet Union, causing tensions with China. Vietnam had invaded Cambodia and drove out Pol Pot's murderous Khmer Rouge regime, which China supported. There is panic among Vietnam's ethnic Chinese population as rumors of anti-Chinese purges spread, and thousands of refugees are fleeing to China or taking to small, crowded boats for a perilous voyage to freedom.

March 16, 1979

The Chinese withdraws from Vietnam. China later claims that 20,000 Chinese and 50,000 Vietnamese troops were killed or wounded in the fighting.

March 26, 1979

Israel and Egypt sign an historic peace treaty in the presence of President Jimmy Carter. The agreement between Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin and Egyptian President Anwar Sadat to restore diplomatic relations opens a new era.

March 28, 1979

With Margaret Thatcher as their new Prime Minister, Britain's Conservative Party wins. A meltdown in the nuclear reactor core of the Three Mile Island power station in Harrisburg, PA, causes panic in the eastern United States.

June 11, 1979

John Wayne, veteran Hollywood star, dies. Nicknamed "The Duke," he maintained his on-screen persona off screen by being a staunch supporter of law, order, and traditional American values. He was an anti-Communist who supported the Vietnam War.

June 16, 1979

The SALT II treaty is signed in Vienna by President Carter and Premier Brezhnev.

July 1, 1979

After a long a persistent struggle by Vietnam Veteran Jan Scruggs, President Jimmy Carter signs legislation to build the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, D.C.

August 27, 1979

Earl Mountbatten, a 79 year old WW II hero, was murdered with three others by an Irish Republican Army bomb on his fishing boat off the Irish coast.

November 2, 1979

Demonstrators burn the US embassy in Tripoli, Libya .

November 4, 1979

Iranian "revolutionary guards" seize the US embassy in Tehran.

November 24, 1979

The US reports that thousands of US troops deployed in South Vietnam were exposed to the Agent Orange herbicide, despite previous Defense Department denials of such assertions. About 4800 former Vietnam servicemen ask the Veterans' Administration for treatment of disorders.

December 2, 1979

Ayatollah Khomeini becomes absolute ruler for life in Iran.

December 10, 1979

Calcutta's Mother Teresa is awarded this year's Nobel Peace Prize.

December 25, 1979

Soviet forces invade Afghanistan.

1980

January 29, 1980

Canadians help six U.S. Embassy aides escape Iran.

April 24, 1980

An attempt by crack forces to rescue the 534 American hostages, held captive in the US Embassy in the Iranian capital Teheran since last November, ends in humiliating failure. The failed attempt and death of 8 US servicemen are a bitter blow to President Jimmy Carter.

July 27, 1980

The deposed Shah of Iran, 60, dies in Cairo. Vietnamese forces pursue Cambodians into Thailand.

September 8, 1980

The National Confederation of Independent Trade Unions ("Solidarity") is formed in Poland.

September 22, 1980

Iraqis invade Iran.

November 4, 1980

Republican Ronald Reagan, with Vice Presidential candidate George Bush defeats incumbent President Jimmy Carter, and is elected the 40th President of the United States of America.

December 8, 1980

Ex-Beatle John Lennon, 40, is murdered in New York City by Mark Chapman, age 25, who had stalked Lennon for months.

December 18, 1980

Soviet statesman Alexi Kosygin, Prime Minister of the USSR since 1964 dies.

1981

January 20, 1981

52 US Teheran hostages are released.

January 20, 1981

The Peking "Gang of Four" sentenced to life imprisonment.

March 30, 1981

President Ronald Reagan is seriously wounded as he walked out of a Washington hotel. His assailant, John Hinckley, Jr., fired six shots. Presidential Press Secretary Jim Brady received a severe, disabling head wound, and he and his wife Sarah became national leaders in hand gun legislation.

July 7, 1981

President Reagan nominates Sandra Day O'Connor who becomes the first woman Supreme Court Justice of America.

August 3, 1981

Air traffic controllers strike, disrupting air traffic. A week later, all were dismissed by the federal government.

October 6, 1981

In Egypt, President Anwar Sadat is assassinated in his own country.

1982

April 2, 1982

Argentine military forces occupy Falkland Islands.

June 14, 1982

The Argentines surrender to Great Britain in the Falklands.

June 30, 1982

The Equal Rights Amendments fails ratification.

September 14, 1982

Princess Grace of Monaco, former American film star, dies at age 51 after her car plunges over a mountain road.

October 22, 1982

President Reagan signs legislation to make it easier for thousands of Asian-born children of US servicemen to enter the United States.

November 10, 1982

Leonid Brezhnev, Soviet leader, dies at age 75.

November 13, 1982

A memorial to America's 2.7 million veterans of the Vietnam War, and to the memory of the 58,174 US soldiers killed or missing in the Vietnam War, is dedicated in Washington, DC. The memorial was designed by Yale architectural student Maya Ying Li, after she won the design competition. Jan Scruggs led the way to having the memorial, privately funded, and located near the Lincoln Memorial in Washington. Some Vietnam veterans begin a round-the-clock candlelight vigil at the site of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, DC to call attention to the 1421 US servicemen still Prisoners of War (POWs) or Missing in Action (MIAs) (12/24).

1983

February 25, 1983

In New York City, American playwright Tennessee Williams, 71, dies.

March 10, 1983

President Reagan asks for an additional \$110 million for aid to El Salvador; Congress had authorized \$26 million in aid.

March 23, 1983

In the US, President Reagan dubs the Soviet Union "an evil empire" and proposes a "Star Wars" defense system of anti-ballistic missiles controlled by satellites in space capable of destroying Soviet missiles before they reach their targets.

April 11, 1983

The annual "Day of Remembrance of Victims of the Holocaust" occurs in Washington, D.C. with more than 15,000 holocaust survivors and relatives.

April 18, 1983

In Beirut, Lebanon, the U.S. embassy is leveled by a Iranian car bomb explosion leaving more than 20 people dead and over 100 injured.

April 20, 1983

President Reagan tries to ensure the long-term solvency of the Social Security system by signing a bill into law.

May 17, 1983

The New York Islanders hockey team wins their fourth consecutive Stanley Cup championship.

May 25, 1983

The first American military advisor killed in El Salvador by leftist is Navy Lt. Cmdr. Albert Schaufelberger.

June 18, 1983

Sally K. Ride, the first U.S. woman astronaut is part of the *Challenger* space shuttle launch.

August 21, 1983

Benigno Aquino Jr., Philippine opposition leader to the Marcos government, is assassinated at Manila airport minutes after returning from the USA.

August 30, 1983

A Soviet fighter plane sends 269 civilians, including 61 Americans, to their death in the Sea of Japan after gunning down KAL flight 007.

September 11, 1983

Jimmy Connors beats Ivan Lendl for his fifth U.S. Open singles tennis title the day after Martina Navratilova took her first singles championship beating Chris Evert Lloyd.

October 5, 1983

The Nobel Peace Prize awarded to Poland's outlawed trade union Solidarity leader, Lech Walesa.

October 10, 1983

Yitzhak Shamir is sworn in as Prime Minister of Israeli

October 17, 1983

Robert McFarlane is named national security advisor by President Reagan.

October 23, 1983

At dawn, a truck approached the residential quarters of the US Peace-keeping forces in Beirut. In a suicide attack, it crashed through several barriers and into the lobby of the building, where it exploded, killing 241 Marines and 58 French troops. Marine Commandant P.X. Kelley is enraged and saddened.

October 25, 1983

At dawn, 1900 US Marines and Army Rangers with 300 troops from six other Caribbean nations invade the island of Grenada. President Reagan described the invasion as "a joint effort to restore order and democracy." Of the 110,000 people on the island, 1000 are Americans most at St. George's Medical College. By November 2, the revolt is crushed and troop withdrawals are announced. The Reagan administration's sharp curb on press coverage of the Grenada invasion are rooted in the deep military resentment of Vietnam War reporting, when journalists had virtually free movement in Vietnam war zones. The last U.S. troops leave December 15.

November 3, 1983

Announcing his candidacy for the 1984 Democratic presidential nomination, Reverend Jesse Jackson becomes the first black American to run for president.

December 18, 1983

President Gerald Ford makes an appearance in the soap opera "Dynasty."

1984

January 1, 1984

One of America's largest corporations, Bell Company, telephone giant, is divided into separate companies after a federal directive to end the monopoly on telephone service.

January 10, 1984

The Vatican and the United States establish complete diplomatic relations.

May 7, 1984

Seven US chemical companies agree to an out-of-court settlement with 15,000 Vietnam veterans over damage the veterans suffered from the herbicide Agent Orange. The settlement is for \$180 million.

May 28, 1984

The only American Unknown Soldier from the Vietnam War is laid to rest at ceremonies attended by 250,000 at Arlington National Cemetery in Washington, DC.

July 15, 1984

Major fighting breaks out along the Vietnam-China border.

October 31, 1984

Indian prime minister Indira Gandhi is assassinated.

November 5, 1984

Daniel Ortega becomes Nicaraguan president.

November 11, 1984

The statue of the "Three Soldiers" by artist/sculptor Frederick Hart is dedicated, in Washington, D.C. on the site of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

December 16, 1984

Clashes between Polish workers and police in Gdansk .

1985

January 8, 1985

Thousands of Cambodians flee to Thailand as Vietnamese attack.

March 11, 1985

The youngest leader in the history of Soviet communism has taken office as Soviet party leader -- 54-year-old Mikhail Sergeevich Gorbachev.

March 24, 1985

US Army Major Arthur D. Nicholson, Jr. is gunned down by Soviets in East Germany.

June 23, 1985

325 die as Air India jumbo jet from Toronto is destroyed by Sikh bomb.

October 7, 1985

An Italian cruise liner, the "Achille Lauro," is taken by Palestinian terrorists, endangering more than 400 passengers on board.

November 6, 1985

Eleven judges and 50 others are killed in siege of Bogota, Columbia justice building; this is related to the cocaine cartels wanting to traffic drugs without interference.

November 19, 1985

Reagan-Gorbachev summit in Geneva.

1986

January 7, 1986

President Reagan announces the US will sever ties to Libya and orders all Americans living in Libya home.

January 28, 1986

Soon after the space shuttle Challenger is launched it explodes killing all seven astronauts aboard in the worst disaster in U.S. space history. Astronauts killed include Francis R. Scobee and Christa McAuliffe- a New Hampshire high school teacher and first regular civilian in space

February 7, 1986

Ferdinand Marcos and Corazon Aquino both claim victory in the presidential elections in the Philippines. Later, Marcos would flee to Hawaii, ending his 20 years of rule. Haiti's "Baby Doc" Duvalier ended a 28 year dictatorship by the Duvalier family as he leaves Haiti.

March, 1986

America loses three great people: Georgia O'Keefe, age 98, American painter; Bernard Malamud, 71, American author; and James Cagney, 86 year old actor who appeared in 60 movies including Yankee Doodle Dandy.

April 5, 1986

An American soldier and one other person die after a bomb explodes in a West Berlin discotheque. Libyan terrorists are suspected.

April 10, 1986

Halley's comet circled the sun past the Earth; next visit in 76 years: 2061.

April 14, 1986

US warplanes from the US 6th Fleet stationed in the Mediterranean and F-111s flying from bases in England raid Libya on President Reagan's orders. Targets included bases in the region of Tripoli and Benghazi as well as Libyan leader Muammar el-Qaddafi's headquarters, where one of his children was killed. America lost one plane and two crew members. French author Simone de Beauvoir dies at age 78.

April 26, 1986

The Soviet Union's Chernobyl nuclear plant explodes in the worst nuclear power disaster in history.

May 25, 1986

Over 5 million people from New York to California joined hands in Hands Across America to raise money for the hungry and homeless.

June, 1986

Benny Goodman, American clarinetist and the bandleader known as the King of Swing dies at age 77. Kate Smith, age 79, the American singer best known for her rendition of "God Bless America" dies.

July 4, 1986

America celebrates the 100th anniversary of the Statue of Liberty: America's symbol for hope and freedom.

July, 1986

The Southeastern United States experiences the worst drought in 100 years.

August 31, 1986

British Henry Moore, age 88, one of the world's greatest sculptors dies.

September 5, 1986

Harvard University celebrates its 350th anniversary. In Karachi, Pakistan, terrorists seize a Pan Am jumbo jet and eventually open fire on them killing 21, including 2 Americans and injuring 100.

September 23, 1986

Congress makes the rose America's national flower.

October 2, 1986

The USA imposes serious economic sanctions on South Africa to protest their racial policy of apartheid.

1987

January 20, 1987

Hostage negotiator Terry Waite, trying to get the release of hostage reporter and area Vietnam veteran Terry Anderson is kidnapped in Beirut.

February, 1987

Famed American pianist, Liberace dies at age 67. Pop Art founder, Andy Warhol, 58, dies.

February 26, 1987

US "Irangate" commission report criticizes senior White House aides.

April 5, 1987

Near Albany, a bridge on the New York State Thruway collapses killing ten motorists.

May 17, 1987

On patrol in the Persian Gulf, the U.S.S. Stark is hit by Iraqi warplane missiles and 37 American sailors are killed.

June, 1987

American deaths include dancer Fred Astaire at age 88, Spanish classical guitarist Andres Segovia at age 94, and 71 year old comedian Jackie Gleason from the 1950Æs television series: The Honeymooners.

June 11, 1987

Prime Minister and Conservative Party leader Margaret Thatcher becomes the first to be to be elected to a third consecutive term in Great Britain in 160 years.

July 25, 1987

Malcolm Baldrige, U.S. Secretary of Commerce since 1980, dies at age 64 in a horseback riding accident.

August 16, 1987

A Northwest Airlines plane leaving Detroit crashes killing 156 people.

August 17, 1987

After being held in Spandau Prison in West Berlin for 40 years for Nazi war crimes, Rudolf Hess dies at age 93.

September 16, 1987

The USA and Canada are part of 24 nations who sign a treaty to protect the ozone layer of the Earth's atmosphere.

September 17, 1987

Americans celebrate the 200th anniversary of the signing of the U.S. Constitution.

October 1, 1987

A severe earthquake hits Los Angeles killing 7 people.

October 3, 1987

The U.S. and Canada sign a comprehensive trade agreement eliminating all tariffs before 1999.

October 9, 1987

Clare Booth Luce, American journalist, member of the House of Representatives from 1943 to 1947 and the first woman to hold a major diplomatic post as Ambassador to Italy, dies at age 84.

October 19, 1987

Wall Street has experiences "Black Monday" the worst day in its history since the crash in 1929, with the Dow Jones Industrial Average plummeting a record 508 points, reducing the value of stock shares by \$500 billion. Large investor institutions with computer triggered block selling programs fueled the losses.

November 11, 1987

Irises, a Van Gogh painting, is sold for the highest amount ever paid for a painting: \$53.9 million.

December 1, 1987

Famed author and civil rights leader, James Baldwin, dies at age 63.

December 8, 1987

President Reagan and USSR Premier Gorbachev sign treaty removing intermediate-range nuclear missiles from Europe.

1988

January 13, 1988

Chiang Ching-kuo, son of Chiang Kai-Shek and leader of Taiwan since 1978, dies at age 77.

March 23, 1988

Nicaraguan government and contra rebels sign a cease-fire pact after a civil war in progress since 1981.

May 15, 1988

Soviet troops begin withdraw from Afghanistan .

June 2, 1988

President Reagan completes a visit to Moscow, the first in 14 years by an American president, exchanging papers for the Treaty on Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) and signing 9 minor agreements as part of a new era of cooperation between America and the Soviet Union.

June, 1988

Vietnamese troops begin to withdraw from Cambodia.

July 3, 1988

Navy ship U.S.S. Vincennes accidentally shoots down an Iranian passenger plane killing 290 people.

July 7, 1988

Explosions in North Sea oil rigging platforms kill 165 workers.

July 18, 1988

Iran accepts a United Nations resolution ending the war against Iraq begun in 1980.

October 25, 1988

President Reagan signs a law elevating the Veterans Administration to the nation's 14th Cabinet department.

November 8, 1988

Republican Vice President George Herbert Walker Bush, with his Vice Presidential running mate, Dan Quayle, defeats Michael Dukakis and is elected the 41st President of the United States.

December 7, 1988

Soviet leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev reduces Soviet military forces by half a million. In Armenia, a devastating earthquake kills 25,000 people, leaving half a million homeless.

December 21, 1988

A bomb destroys a Pan Am jumbo jet headed to New York from London, England over Lockerbie, Scotland. All 259 passengers die, including people from upstate New York, and 11 people on the ground die. Middle East terrorists are responsible.

1989

March 24, 1989

Congress agrees to renew a \$40 million aid program for the right-wing Contra rebels fighting Nicaragua's Sandinista government. In Prince William Sound, Alaska, 11 million gallons of crude oil poured from the 987-ft. supertanker *Exxon Valdez* when it ran aground and became the worst oil spill in US history.

May 4, 1989

50,000 Chinese students demonstrate in Beijing.

May 9, 1989

Martial law was declared in Peking as thousands of demonstrations calling for reform continue to shake China. Students are on a hunger strike.

June 3, 1989

Chinese troops attack protesters in Tiananmen Square, Beijing where 2600 people were killed and 10,000 injured as the soldiers opened fire. In Iran, the Ayatollah Khomeini died.

June 5, 1989

Solidarity beats the Communists in the first free Polish elections since World War I.

June 27, 1989

Another wave of refugee boats from Vietnam has hit Hong Kong, whose closed refugee camps are already bulging with 45,000 "boat people."

August 9, 1989

Army General Colin R. Powell becomes the first black American as Chairman of the Joint Chief of Staffs.

October 17, 1989

An earthquake measuring 7.1 on the Richter scale yesterday claimed 67 lives and caused billions of dollars in damage in the Bay area of San Francisco.

October 18, 1989

East German Communist leader Erich Honecker resigns.

November 10, 1989

Two million East Germans enter West Berlin after lifting of restrictions.

December 3, 1989

The Cold War ends after 25 years of superpower rivalry between the US and USSR. With Communist rule crumbling in Eastern Europe, Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev and US President George Bush ended their shipboard summit meeting off Malta and hailed the start of a new era of peace and cooperation.

December 20, 1989

US invasion of Panama.

December 25, 1989

President Ceausescu and his wife are executed.

December 29, 1989

Havel elected president of Czechoslovakia. By the end of the year, the dominoes are falling the other way, and the Soviet Union and communism are beginning to collapse.

1990

January 3, 1990

General Manuel Noriega surrenders in Panama.

Estonia claims independence,

February 11, 1990

In South Africa, Nelson Mandela is released after 27.5 years in prison and ANC ban is lifted in South Africa.

March 10, 1990

A coup occurs in Haiti .

June 11, 1990

The Supreme Court upset the law banning the burning of the American flag

May 4, 1990

Latvia proclaims independence.

May 29, 1990

Boris Yeltsin is elected Russian president.

May30, 1990

Nicaragua Contra rebels agree to disarm.

August 2, 1990

Saddam Hussein today made good Iraq's claim to the oil-rich state of Kuwait by invading and occupying it.

December 6, 1990

Iraq releases western hostages.

December 21, 1990

The new Croatian constitution claims right of secession.

December 23, 1990

Slovenia referendum favors independence.

1991

January 16, 1991

Start of Gulf War. Throughout this time veterans are met at the airport by dedicated citizens of "Operation Welcome Home" who welcome them home and thank them for their service to America.

February 1, 1991

De Klerk promises abolition of all apartheid laws in South Africa.

February 23, 1991

Military coup in Thailand.

February 26, 1991

An international force led by the US and Generals Powell and Schwarzkopf, Vietnam Veterans, crush Iraqi forces. Saddam Hussein orders Iraqi troops to retreat from Kuwait, meanwhile declaring a great victory.

February 27, 1991

Kuwait City is liberated, and the Gulf War ended. Saudi forces entered Kuwait City at first light as the Iraqi army fled northward, only to be cut off by allied forces. US President George Bush announced that the war is over. The US lost 184 men in the war. The allies have taken 80,000 Iraqi prisoners, and allied leaders calculate that 85,000 to 100,000 Iraqis have been killed. Initial estimates are that Iraq's destroyed infrastructure will take \$200 billion and a generation to repair, and that Kuwait's reconstruction will cost \$50 billion. In April, in the former Soviet Union, the Republic of Georgia declares independence.

May 1, 1991

There is a ceasefire in Cambodia.

May 21, 1991

Rajiv Gandhi is assassinated in India.

June 5, 1991

South African Parliament repeals apartheid laws.

August 24, 1991

Gorbachev resigns as Communist party secretary.

The Russian Parliament today voted overwhelmingly in favor of replacing the Soviet Union with a loose Commonwealth of Independent States on 12/12. A week later, Mikhail Gorbachev resigned as President of the United Soviet Socialist Republics, and the USSR ends.

1992

February 1, 1991

President Bush and Russian leader Boris Yeltsin announce a formal end to The Cold War.

November, 1992

Bill Clinton, who avoided the draft during the Vietnam War, became the 42nd President of the United States and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces.

1993

January 26, 1993

Vaclav Havel is elected Czech President.

April 19, 1993

In Waco Texas, 72 die as federal officials storm a compound occupied by cult members.

France and Britain open the new "Chunnel," an underwater rail tunnel 30 miles long connecting the two countries.

July 22, 1993

Senior White House lawyer and friend of the Clintons, Vincent Foster is found dead from an apparent suicide.

November 11, 1993

The Vietnam Women's Memorial is dedicated on the site of the Vietnam memorial in Washington, D.C. when a statue of three nurses and a soldier, designed by Glenna Goodacre, was installed.

"You can't ask American men to go off to war and then blame them." (General Norman Schwarzkopf on CBS with Dan Rather, 1993)

1994

February 9, 1994

President Clinton lifts the trade embargo of Vietnam.

1995

January 4, 1995

The Republicans take control of Congress.

January 31, 1995

President Clinton offers \$20 billion in aid to rescue Mexico's economy.

March 14, 1995

A Russian space station cosmonauts greet American visitors.

March 20, 1995

In Tokyo, Japan, terrorists fill a subway station with nerve gas, killing 8 people and injuring thousands.

March 31, 1995

Selena, a popular Spanish language singer is murdered in Texas.

April 2, 1995

The baseball strike ends.

April 19, 1995

The Oklahoma City federal Building is blown up; 165 die.

May 8, 1995

Fiftieth anniversary of VE Day (WWII Allied Victory over Europe) is celebrated.

October 3, 1995

In Los Angeles, O.J. Simpson is found not guilty of the murders of his ex-wife Nichole Brown and her friend Ron

October 5, 1995

Thousands of black American men are drawn to Washington D.C. for the Million Man March.

October 22-24, 1995

World leaders meet in New York to celebrate the United Nation's 50th birthday.

October 5, 1995

Warring groups in Bosnia agree to a ceasefire.

October 30, 1995

Quebec rejects independence from Canada by a narrow margin.

December 18, 1995

The Us and Mexico delay trade agreements completed under NAFTA (North American Fair Trade Agreement)

1996

September 8, 1996

The Greater Rochester Vietnam Veterans Memorial is dedicated. Rochester's medal of Honor recipient , Gary Beikirch, delivers the invocation with guest speakers Col. Roger Donlon, first Medal of Honor recipient from the Vietnam War and MSG Roy Benavidez. Also speaking were Mayor William Johnson, County Executive and veteran Jack Doyle and Vietnam Veterans Jerry Carr from Frontier Corporation and Bob Dobies from ExxonMobil Corp. Thousands of friends and family members watched as shrouds were removed from the bollards as names of the dead and missing 280 men were read.

1996

September 8, 1996

The Greater Rochester Vietnam Veterans Memorial is dedicated. Rochester's medal of Honor recipient , Gary Beikirch, delivers the invocation with guest speakers Col. Roger Donlon, first Medal of Honor recipient from the Vietnam War and MSG Roy Benavidez. Also speaking were Mayor William Johnson, County Executive and veteran Jack Doyle and Vietnam Veterans Jerry Carr from Frontier Corporation and Bob Dobies from ExxonMobil Corp. Thousands of friends and family members watched as shrouds were removed from the bollards as names of the dead and missing 280 men were read.

(Draft 7/31/01
The Timeline Completion)

GRANITE BLOCK ONE:

The only Americans left behind are 8,500 civilians, plus embassy guards and a small number of soldiers in a defense office.

April 8, 1973

Pablo Picasso, one of the century's greatest artists, dies at age 92 in France.

May 7, 1973

The Washington Post wins the Pulitzer Prize for the work of investigative reporters Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein in exposing the Watergate scandal.

-----*Stone 1, Block 1*

June 9, 1973

Secretariat, ridden by jockey Ron Turcotte, captures horse racing's coveted Triple Crown.

June 24, 1973

Graham Martin is sworn in as ambassador to South Vietnam, replacing Ellsworth Bunker.

July 1, 1973

Congress passes the Fulbright-Aiken Amendment, to stop "financing directly or indirectly" combat activities by US forces in North Vietnam, South Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia.

-----*Stone 1, Block 2*

July 15, 1973

In Detroit, Nolan Ryan pitches his second no-hitter of season. Before retiring, he will pitch 7 no-hitters, and enter The Hall of Fame in Cooperstown NY in 1999.

August 15, 1973

The United States, in accordance with Congressional action, ends bombing in Cambodia, marking the end of 12 years of combat activity in Indochina

August 22, 1973

President Nixon appoints Henry Kissinger Secretary of State.

-----*Stone 1, Block 3*

September 20, 1973

In New York, Willie Mays retires, after 21 years with the Giants and one year with the Mets. He hit 660 home runs, had 3283 hits, and is headed to the Hall of Fame.

October 3, 1973

"We brought peace to Vietnam."

Statement by President Richard M. Nixon at a press conference.

October 10, 1973

Vice President Spiro Agnew resigns after tax-fraud charges, pleading *nolo contendere*.

October 12, 1973

Gerald Ford, the 60-year-old Republican leader of the House, was nominated by President Richard M. Nixon to be his Vice President.

October 16, 1973

Henry Kissinger and Le Duc Tho are awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for ending the war in Indochina. Tho turns down the award because, as he points out: "fighting continues."

October 20, 1973

The day after President Nixon rejects Appeals Court demand to turn over Watergate tapes, the infamous

-----*Stone 2, Block 1*

"Saturday Night Massacre" occurs when Attorney General Elliot Richardson resigned after refusing to fire Watergate special prosecutor Archibald Cox, who was then fired by President Nixon.

October 22, 1973

The heaviest fighting since 1967 erupts in the Middle East: The Yom Kippur War. The Egyptians and Syrians launched a surprise attack in the middle of Yom Kippur, the most religious Jewish holiday of the year.

October 23, 1973

President Nixon reluctantly agrees to turn over Watergate tapes.

-----*Stone 2, Block 2*

October 26, 1973

US intelligence reports that the North Vietnamese military presence in South Vietnam is huge. President Nixon vetoes the War Powers Resolution, which would limit presidential power to commit armed forces abroad without Congressional approval.

November 7, 1973

Congress overrides President Nixon's veto of the War Powers Resolution.

-----*Stone 3, Block 1*

November 11, 1973

Egypt and Israel sign cease-fire agreement.

November 27, 1973

President Nixon signs the Emergency Petroleum Allocation Act of 1973. American oil companies initiate large gasoline price increases on the eve of widespread closing of service stations throughout the country. Nixon asked gas stations to close voluntarily on Sundays and there are long lines at gas stations. A system of getting gas is based on the odd or even number of one's license plates, making one eligible to get gas the odd or even days of the month.

-----*Stone 3, Block 2*

December 1, 1973

David Ben Gurion, 87, modern Israel's first Premier and one of its founding fathers, dies in Tel Aviv.

Top movies of 1973 include *Sleeper*, *The Sting*, *The Exorcist*, *American Graffiti*, *The Way We Were*, and *Paper Moon*.

In 1973, the National League of Cities funded 18 outreach centers. One that remains is The Veterans Outreach Center (VOC) of Rochester, NY.

-----*Stone 3, Block 3*

January 4, 1974

After communists initiate attacks on ARVN camps, South Vietnam's President Thieu declares, "The war has restarted." In NYC, Blue Cross and Blue Shield announce merger plans.

February 4, 1974

Mao proclaims a new Cultural Revolution in Peking.

February 15, 1974
A battle rages on the Golan Heights between

-----*Stone 4, Block 1*

Israeli and Syrian forces. The Symbionese Liberation Army, kidnapers of Patty Hearst, 19 year old daughter of millionaire publisher Randolph Hearst, demand \$4 million worth of foodstuffs be distributed to the poor in exchange for her release.

March 15, 1974

A federal grand jury concludes that President Nixon joined in a conspiracy to cover up White House involvement in the Watergate break-in of Democratic Party offices.

-----*Stone 4, Block 2*

April 4, 1974

The House of Representatives rejected a White House proposal for more aid to South Vietnam.

April 8, 1974

Henry "Hank" Aaron, 40, hits his 715th home run and surpasses Babe Ruth as the greatest slugger in baseball history.

April 10, 1974

Golda Meir resigns as Israeli Prime Minister.

May 9, 1974

House of Representatives Judiciary Committee

-----*Stone 4, Block 3*

starts a three-count impeachment proceeding against President Nixon.

GRANITE BLOCK FIVE:

May 24, 1974

"Gentlemen, by what you did and what you said on your return, you have helped turn this country around. You have helped re-instill faith where there was doubt before. This nation and the world will always be in your debt." President Richard Nixon at a reception for returned Prisoners of War.

July 5, 1974

At Wimbledon, Jimmy Connors and Chris Evert are tennis champions.

-----*Stone 5, Block 1*

July 9, 1974

Earl Warren, 83, former Supreme Court Chief Justice of the United States, dies. Inflation has replaced the energy crisis as the chief concern of Americans.

July 24, 1974

The Supreme Court rules that Nixon must surrender tapes secretly recorded at the White House.

August 9, 1974

President Nixon, faced with impeachment by Congress, resigns as US President. Gerald R. Ford

-----*Stone 5, Block 2*

becomes the 38th President and the first American ever to take office without being selected in a nationwide election.

August 19, 1974

"All of us who served in one war or another know very well that all wars are the glory and agony of the young." President Gerald R. Ford - address to the 75th annual convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

August 20, 1974

Former New York Governor Nelson Rockefeller is the USA's 41st Vice President under President Ford.

-----Stone 5, Block 3

August 26, 1974

Charles A. Lindbergh, US aviator who flew the first non-stop solo flight over the Atlantic, dies at age 72.

September 8, 1974

President Ford grants a full and unconditional pardon to President Nixon. Ford says the act will spare Nixon and the nation from additional grief in this "American tragedy." Ford also grants immunity to Vietnam-era draft evaders who agree to work two years in public service.

September 12, 1974

Emperor Haile Salassie ends his 58 year rule of

-----Stone 6, Block 1

Ethiopia. Scientists report that freon gases released from aerosol spray cans are destroying the ozone layer that protects the earth from lethal ultraviolet radiation.

October 1, 1974

The Watergate trial begins.

December 21, 1974

Jack Benny, 80, America's favorite "tightwad" comedian dies.

December 31, 1974

South Vietnamese Command reports that 80,000 persons

-----Stone 6, Block 2

have been killed in fighting throughout the country this year, the highest total for any year of the war.

January, 1975

North Vietnam helps the Khmer Rouge in their war against the government of Cambodia. The Khmer Rouge leader is Pol Pot, who will conduct genocide in the "Killing Fields" of Cambodia causing 2 to 4 million brutal deaths over the next three years. The Watergate Scandal convictions occur.

January 6, 1975

Phuoc Long province, only 60 miles north of Saigon, is captured by the communists.

-----Stone 6, Block 3

February 4, 1975

"The war in Vietnam has produced a new phenomenon in American history, not the unknown soldier of past wars, but the unwanted soldier of an unpopular war in Vietnam. Too many people from all walks of life, especially business, education, and government, seem to be confusing the soldier with the war, and they are rejecting both." Post War Opportunities and the Vietnam Era Veteran, American Civil Liberties Union.

February 11, 1975

For the first time in its 300-year history, Britain has a woman leader: Margaret Thatcher

-----*Stone 7, Block 1*

March, 1975

North Vietnam launches the final offensive of the Vietnam War, capturing half of Vietnam and killing or capturing one-third of the South Vietnamese army.

March 9, 1975

The Alaskan oil pipeline begins at Sheep Creek Camp. Iraq launches an offensive against rebellious Kurds.

March 14, 1975

A major strategic error is made when South

-----*Stone 7, Block 2*

Vietnamese President Nguyen Van Thieu decides to pull his troops out of the central highlands and northern provinces. The withdrawal from Pleiku and Kontum begins. Only 20,000 of 60,000 soldiers ever reach the coast; of 400,000 refugees, only 100,000 arrive; the fate of the rest is unknown.

March 19, 1975

Quang Tri Province falls to communists. ARVN troops are routed as they retreat toward Da Nang.

March 25, 1975

King Faisal of Saudi Arabia is assassinated by a nephew in Riyadh. The order is given to evacuate

-----*Stone 7, Block 3*

Hue, and the US orders a big refugee airlift. Da Nang falls to the communists. North Vietnamese forces sweep toward Saigon as South Vietnamese troops retreat in confusion before the offensive. Tens of thousands of refugees panic and flee toward the coastal cities. The South Vietnamese army is in total disarray.

April 5, 1975

Nationalist Chinese leader Chiang Kai-Shek, 87, dies in Taiwan.

April 8, 1975

A US cargo plane, loaded with Vietnamese

-----*Stone 8, Block 1*

orphans, crashes on takeoff near Saigon. More than 100 children die.

April 12, 1975

The US ambassador to Cambodia and his staff leave Phnom Penh.

April 17, 1975

The Cambodian government surrenders to the Khmer Rouge.

April 25, 1975

President Thieu resigns and transfers authority to Vice-President Tran Van Huong before any of the

-----*Stone 8, Block 2*

several plots against him can occur. Thieu flees Saigon. President Ford says the war is finished.

April 29, 1975

The NVA attack on Saigon begins. President Ford orders emergency evacuation of all Americans left in South Vietnam. The President ordered the airlift that brought 237,000 Vietnamese refugees to the US as communists closed in on Saigon. The US Navy begins Operation Frequent Wind, the evacuation of US personnel and selected South Vietnamese people from Vietnam. Option IV, the largest helicopter evacuation on record, begins removing the last Americans from Saigon.

-----Stone 8, Block 3

In 19 hours, 81 helicopters carry more than 1000 Americans and nearly 6000 Vietnamese to aircraft carriers riding offshore. Corporal Charles McMahon, Jr. and Lance Corporal Darwin Judge, both US Marines, are the last two Americans killed in the Vietnam War.

April 30, 1975

By dawn, Communist forces are moving into Saigon. Ambassador Martin leaves Saigon. At 7:52 am the last U.S. Marines leave the U.S. Embassy in Saigon. Shortly after noon, the Vietcong flag is raised over the presidential palace in Saigon. Duong Van Minh, President of South Vietnam for

-----Stone 9, Block 1

only days, surrenders unconditionally. Saigon is renamed Ho Chi Minh City.

May 7, 1975

President Ford issues a proclamation designating this as the last day of the "Vietnam Era" for military personnel to qualify for wartime benefits.

May 12, 1975

The US merchant ship Mayaguez, with 30 seamen aboard, is seized in the Gulf of Siam by the Cambodian Khmer Rouge government, who claim the ship is part of a spy operation. Diplomatic appeals fail.

-----Stone 9, Block 2

May 15, 1975

The Mayaguez rescue operations begin. 38 Marines die in the operation, with 50 wounded; the crewmen of the Mayaguez are released unharmed.

May 16, 1975

Congress appropriates \$405 million to fund a refugee aid program and authorizes resettlement of South Vietnamese and Cambodian refugees in the US. Over 140,000 refugees are flown to the United States under the program in the next few months.

-----Stone 9, Block 3

June 26, 1975

The Supreme Court rules that mental patients are free to leave psychiatric institutions if they wish, providing they are not dangerous and can survive on their own.

July 5, 1975

Arthur Ashe beats Jimmy Connors to become the first African-American men's singles champion at Wimbledon.

July 19, 1975

American and Soviet astronauts end an unprecedented two-day international mission

-----Stone 10, Block 1

in space as they undock their Apollo and Soyuz spacecraft and go into separate orbits.

August 3, 1975

The FBI opens investigation on disappearance of Teamster leader Jimmy Hoffa.

August 23, 1975

The Communist-led Pathet Lao take control of Laos.

August 27, 1975

In Cleveland, a federal jury clears Governor Rhodes and 27 National Guardsmen in 1970 Kent State shootings.

-----Stone 10, Block 2

September 22, 1975

In San Francisco, President Ford escapes the second assassination attempt in 17 days.

September 27, 1975

Parents of Karen Anne Quinlan, a 21-year-old New Jersey woman who has been in a coma for five months, go to court for permission to have her life-sustaining respirator turned off.

November, 1975

Justice William O. Douglas retires from the

-----Stone 10, Block 3

Supreme Court, after serving over 36 years on the bench.

Thirty years ago in 1945, Byron Nelson sets an incredible golf record by winning 11 tournaments in a row.

GRANITE BLOCK ELEVEN:

July 2, 1976

North and South Vietnam are formally reunified.

July 4, 1976

The United States of America celebrates its Bicentennial. Two hundred years ago, the following was written: "We hold these truths to

-----Stone 11, Block 1

**be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness."
(American Declaration of Independence, 1776)**

January 21, 1977

In his first major Presidential act, President Carter pardons almost all of the draft evaders -- about 10,000 -- of the Vietnam War Era. Carter immediately upgrades the discharges of the nearly 100,000 deserters.

-----Stone 11, Block 2

August 16, 1977

Elvis Presley, the 42-year-old singer and King of rock and roll, dies in Memphis, Tennessee.

September 20, 1977

Vietnam is admitted to the United Nations.

November, 1977

**"We Vietnamese are the newest refugees in your history. We know your country is a land of immigrants. Your sons and daughters fought to keep Vietnam free, and we Vietnamese wish to earn your respect and friendship. We wish not to be hawks or doves, but eagles."
(Nguyen Cao Ky, exiled president of South Vietnam)**

-----Stone 11, Block 3

December 3, 1977

The US admits 10,000 Vietnamese "boat people." Since the fall of Vietnam 165,000 Indochinese refugees have come to the USA. Many are ethnic Chinese who fear persecution from Vietnamese victors.

December 25, 1977

Vietnam invades Cambodia.

Sir Charles Chaplin, 88, star of films, dies in Switzerland.

-----Stone 12, Block 1

December 31, 1977

The Cambodian government announces that it is breaking diplomatic relations with Vietnam.

January, 1978

Maude DeVictor, a Chicago Veterans Administration employee begins to gather information on the issue of Agent Orange and is instrumental opening the problem to public scrutiny.

May 9, 1978

Former Italian Premier Aldo Moro, kidnapped March 16 by leftist terrorists, is found dead.

-----Stone 12, Block 2

April 18, 1978

US Senate approves Panama Canal treaty turning over control of canal to Panama in 2000.

July 3, 1978

Citing Vietnam's treatment of ethnic Chinese, China announces the termination of all economic assistance to Vietnam. The cut-off is perceived in diplomatic circles as China's reaction to Vietnam's growing friendship with the Soviet Union.

July 26, 1978

The world's first test-tube baby was born by Caesarean section in a British hospital.

-----Stone 12, Block 3

August 6, 1978

Pope Paul VI dies at 80.

September 28, 1978

With 34 days in office, Pope John Paul I, age 65, dies. Eighteen days later, Karol Cardinal Wojtyla is the next Pope: John Paul II.

January 4, 1979

Ohio pays \$675,000 to families of dead and injured at Kent State University shootings.

February 17, 1979

Refugees flee Vietnam as China invades Vietnam.

-----*Stone 13, Block 1*

March 16, 1979

The Chinese withdraws from Vietnam. China later claims 20,000 Chinese and 50,000 Vietnamese troops were killed or wounded in the fighting.

March 26, 1979

Israel and Egypt sign an historic peace treaty in the presence of President Jimmy Carter. The agreement between Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin and Egyptian President Anwar Sadat to restore diplomatic relations opens a new era.

March 28, 1979

A meltdown in the nuclear reactor core of the

-----*Stone 13, Block 2*

Three Mile Island power station in Harrisburg, PA, causes panic in the eastern United States.

June 11, 1979

John Wayne, "The Duke," veteran Hollywood actor, dies.

June 16, 1979

The SALT II treaty is signed in Vienna, by President Carter and Premier Brezhnev.

July 1, 1979

President Jimmy Carter signs legislation to build the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, D.C.

-----*Stone 13, Block 3*

December 10, 1979

Calcutta's Mother Teresa is awarded this year's Nobel Peace Prize.

December 25, 1979

Soviet forces invade Afghanistan.

April 24, 1980

The USA tries to rescue the 534 American hostages, held in the US Embassy in Iran.

July 27, 1980

The deposed Shah of Iran, 60, dies in Cairo. Vietnamese forces pursue Cambodians into Thailand.

-----*Stone 14, Block 1*

September 22, 1980

Iraq invades Iran.

November 4, 1980

Republican Ronald Reagan, with Vice Presidential candidate George H. Bush is elected the 40th President of the United States of America.

December 8, 1980

Ex-Beatle John Lennon, 40, is murdered in New York City by Mark Chapman, age 25, who had stalked Lennon for months.

-----*Stone 14, Block 2*

1981

Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 20 begins.

January 20, 1981

US hostages in Iran are released.

March 30, 1981

President Ronald Reagan is seriously wounded as he walked out of a Washington hotel. His assailant, John Hinckley, Jr., also wounds Presidential Press Secretary Jim Brady in the head. He and his wife, Sarah, became national leaders in hand gun legislation.

-----Stone 14, Block 3

July 7, 1981

President Reagan nominates Sandra Day O'Connor as the first woman Supreme Court Justice of America.

October 6, 1981

In Egypt, President Anwar Sadat is assassinated.

June 14, 1982

The Argentines who occupied The Falklands on April 2, surrender to Great Britain.

September 14, 1982

Princess Grace of Monaco, former American film star, dies at age 51 in a car accident.

-----Stone 15, Block 1

November 13, 1982

Jan Scruggs led the drive for the privately funded Memorial to America's 2.7 million veterans of the Vietnam War, to the total 8 million Era Americans who served, and to the memory of the 58,174 US soldiers killed or missing in the Vietnam War, is dedicated in Washington, DC. "The Wall," one of the most visited sites in our capital, is designed by Yale architectural student Maya Lin.

-----Stone 15, Block 2

March 23, 1983

In the US, President Reagan dubs the Soviet Union "an evil empire" and proposes a "Star Wars" defense system.

October 23, 1983

At dawn, a suicide attack truck hit residential quarters of the US Peace-keeping forces in Beirut, killing 241 Marines and 58 French troops. President Reagan and Marine Commandant P.X. Kelley are enraged and saddened.

-----Stone 15, Block 3

October 25, 1983

At dawn, the USA and other troops invade the island of Grenada. By November 2, the revolt is crushed.

May 28, 1984

The only American Unknown Soldier from the Vietnam War is laid to rest at ceremonies attended by 250,000 at Arlington National Cemetery in Washington, DC. The remains were later exhumed and identified.

November 11, 1984

The "Three Soldiers" statue by sculptor

-----Stone 16, Block 1

Frederick Hart is dedicated on the site of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

March 24, 1985

US Army Major Arthur D. Nicholson, Jr. is gunned down by Soviets in East Germany at The Berlin Wall.

January 28, 1986

Soon after the space shuttle Challenger is launched it explodes killing all seven astronauts aboard in the worst disaster in U.S. space history. Astronauts killed include Francis R. Scobee and Christa McAuliffe: a New Hampshire high school teacher- first civilian in space.

-----Stone 16, Block 2

April 14, 1986

US warplanes raid Libya on President Reagan's orders.

April 26, 1986

The Soviet Union's Chernobyl nuclear plant explodes in the worst nuclear power disaster in history.

May 15, 1988

Soviet troops begin withdraw from Afghanistan.

October 25, 1988

President Reagan signs a law elevating the Veterans Administration to the nation's 14th Cabinet department.

-----Stone 16, Block 3

November 8, 1988

Republican Vice President George Herbert Walker Bush is elected the 41st President of the USA.

December 21, 1988

A bomb destroys a Pan Am jumbo jet headed to New York from London, England over Lockerbie, Scotland. All 259 passengers die, including people from upstate New York, and 11 people on the ground die. Middle East terrorists are responsible.

-----Stone 17, Block 1

June 3, 1989

Chinese troops attack protesters in Tiananmen Square, Beijing –2600 people were killed and 10,000 injured.

August 9, 1989

Army General Colin R. Powell becomes the first black American as Chairman of the Joint Chief of Staffs.

November 10, 1989

The Berlin Wall falls: Two million East Germans enter West Berlin after lifting of restrictions.

-----Stone 17, Block 2

December 20, 1989

US invasion of Panama.

February 11, 1990

In South Africa, Nelson Mandela is released after 27.5 years in prison and ANC ban is lifted in South Africa.

August 2, 1990

Saddam Hussein today made good Iraq's claim to the oil-rich state of Kuwait by invading and occupying it.

January 16, 1991
Start of the Gulf War. Throughout this time,

-----*Stone 17, Block 3*

veterans are met at the airport by dedicated citizens of "Operation Welcome Home" who thank them for their service to America.

February 27, 1991

Kuwait City is liberated, and the Gulf War ended. Saudi forces entered Kuwait City at first light as the Iraqi army fled northward, only to be cut off by allied forces. US President George H.

Bush announced that the war is over. The US lost 184 men in the war. Dick Cheney and General Colin Powell calculate that 85,000 to 100,000 Iraqis have been killed. Initial estimates are that Iraq's destroyed infrastructure will take \$200 billion

-----*Stone 18, Block 1*

and a generation to repair, and that Kuwait's reconstruction will cost \$50 billion. In April, in the former Soviet Union, the Republic of Georgia declares independence.

June 5, 1991

South African Parliament repeals apartheid laws.

February 1, 1991

President Bush and Russian leader Boris Yeltsin bring a formal end to The Cold War.

November 11, 1993

Founder Diane Carlson Evans, RN, sees The

-----*Stone 18, Block 2*

Vietnam Women's Memorial, a statue of three nurses and a soldier, designed by Glenna Goodacre, dedicated across from "The Wall."

"You can't ask American men to go off to war and then blame them." (General Norman Schwarzkopf on CBS with Dan Rather, 1993)

September 8, 1996

The Greater Rochester Vietnam Veterans Memorial is dedicated. Speakers include NYS Senator Jim Alesi, County Executive Jack Doyle, Mayor Bill Johnson, Jerry Carr, President of Rochester Telephone, Bob Dobies of ExxonMobil, Bob King of NYS Administration,

-----*Stone 18, Block 3*

J. Max Lill, Vice Chair of the VVM Board. A unique presence of three Medal of Honor recipients includes: The first Medal of Honor recipient, Colonel Roger Donlon, the last Medal of Honor recipient, MSG Roy Benavidez and Rochester's only living Medal of Honor recipient, Gary Beikirch speak. Benavidez says of the 280 men who gave their lives in Vietnam from the Greater Rochester area: "They gave all their tomorrows for our today's!"

This memorial is for veterans and their loved ones and all of our citizens affected by Vietnam. To Commemorate those who served their country and those who died. To Educate future generations about this important and controversial time in our history ...and to Heal the heartaches of decades. Military men and women went to Vietnam to fight an unpopular war to return, often alone, to fight a second war at home, choosing the silence of the maligned and misunderstood. Many veterans buried their rage, guilt, horror, and sadness along with their great sense of pride for doing their best. All sacrificed something of themselves. Most went on with their lives as productive Americans. Those who never served, but could have, remember the time well.

Even though every battle in Vietnam was won by America, Vietnam is the war Americans know we lost. Vietnam became a war associated with The Forgotten War in Korea.

September 11, 2001

America is at war again, this time with Terrorism. At 8:45 and 9:03 a.m. hijacked planes crash into the north and then south towers of the World Trade Center in NYC. Both towers collapse killing thousands. A plane hits The Pentagon, and another goes down outside of Pittsburgh. President George W. Bush declares war on terrorism worldwide.

Many of the freedoms we experience today have not been "free." They have been borne on the backs of young Americans from the time of the Revolutionary War who made the commitment, and often, the ultimate sacrifice. Collectively, we fought the good fight, we kept the faith, and we finished the race. God Bless America!

(All written materials in this Memorial composed by Dr. Barry R. Culhane. Followed by COPYRIGHT SYMBOL @ 1996 and engraved in top edge of stone)