

## **FEBRUARY 1: BLACK HISTORY MONTH**

*Profile America* — Monday, February 1st. February is Black History Month, a time to honor the many contributions to our nation's history made by people of African descent. Started as a special week in 1926 by historian Carter G. Woodson, the observance is now a full month of activities across the country. African-Americans, in counting single race or in combination with others, number nearly 48 million in America. By 2060, this figure is projected to reach nearly 61 million for Black alone. Although Texas has the largest Black population of any state or equivalent at 3.5 million, Washington, D.C., has the highest percentage at 45.5 percent. Cook County, Illinois, effectively Chicago, had the largest black population of any county in 2017, numbering 1.2 million. You can find more facts about America from the U.S. Census Bureau online at <[www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov)>.

Sources:

Population:

<https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?q=Black%20population&tid=ACSDP1Y2018.DP05&hidePreview=false>

National projected Black population:

[www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/popproj/tables/2017/2017-summary-tables/np2017-t4.xlsx](http://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/popproj/tables/2017/2017-summary-tables/np2017-t4.xlsx)

State Black populations and percent:

[data.census.gov/cedsci/table?q=Black%20population%20states&g=0100000US.04000.001&tid=ACSDP1Y2018.DP05&moe=false&tp=true&hidePreview=true](https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?q=Black%20population%20states&g=0100000US.04000.001&tid=ACSDP1Y2018.DP05&moe=false&tp=true&hidePreview=true)

Cook County population, Population Estimates:

<https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?q=Black%20population%20states&g=0500000US17031&tid=ACSDP1Y2018.DP05&moe=false&tp=false&hidePreview=true>

## **FEBRUARY 2: SPECIAL DELIVERY**

*Profile America* — Tuesday, February 2nd. On Valentine's Day 102 years ago, a Seattle-based delivery service expanded its operations to Oakland, California. With that move in 1919, the American Messenger Service, founded in 1907 by 19-year-old Jim Casey for local deliveries, changed its name to United Parcel Service, or UPS. In 1929, the company began shipping by air. UPS today commands a fleet of 268 aircraft and about 125,000 ground vehicles. While UPS is the among the world's largest delivery companies, it has plenty of competitors in America. The 4,500 local delivery, and nearly 10,000 interurban courier and shipment establishments, do a combined \$91 billion of business annually. You can find more facts about America from the U.S. Census Bureau online at <[www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov)>.

Sources:

Renaming, accessed 9/3/2020: [www.onthisday.com/events/date/1919/february](http://www.onthisday.com/events/date/1919/february)

Founding & local delivery fleet, accessed 9/3/2020:

<https://pressroom.ups.com/pressroom/ContentDetailsViewer.page?ConceptType=FactSheets&id=1426321563187-193>

History, accessed 9/3/2020:

<https://pressroom.ups.com/pressroom//about/HistoryStackList.page?>

UPS globally, accessed 9/3/2020: [www.forbes.com/companies/united-parcel-service/](http://www.forbes.com/companies/united-parcel-service/)

UPS air cargo fleet, accessed 9/3/2020: [www.planespotters.net/airline/United-Parcel-Service-%28UPS%29](http://www.planespotters.net/airline/United-Parcel-Service-%28UPS%29)

Local delivery, County Business Patterns, NAICS 492210:

<https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?q=492210&tid=CBP2018.CB1800CBP&hidePreview=false>

Couriers and express delivery, County Business Patterns, NAICS 492110:

<https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?q=492110&tid=CBP2018.CB1800CBP&hidePreview=false>

Revenues, County Business Patterns, Economic Census, NAICS 492110 and 492210:

<https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?q=492110&tid=ECNBASIC2017.EC1700BASIC&hidePreview=false>

### **FEBRUARY 3: NATIONAL WOMEN PHYSICIAN DAY**

*Profile America* — Wednesday, February 3rd. Today is National Women Physician Day. This annual observance falls on the birthday of Dr. Elizabeth Blackwell, the first woman to obtain a medical degree in the United States in 1849. As it happens, this year's occasion falls on Dr. Blackwell's 200<sup>th</sup> birthday. Elizabeth Blackwell championed the participation of women in the medical profession, and ultimately opened her own medical college for women. Also born in February 10 years after Blackwell, Dr. Rebecca Lee Crumpler in 1864 became the first Black woman to earn a medical degree. She devoted most of her professional life to poor patients in Boston. Nationwide, some 273,000 of the nation's 960,000 physicians, surgeons and other medical practitioners are women. You can find more facts about America from the U.S. Census Bureau, online at <[www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov)>.

Sources:

Occasion, accessed 9/8/2020: [www.emed.wisc.edu/news/feb-3rd-national-women-physicians-day](http://www.emed.wisc.edu/news/feb-3rd-national-women-physicians-day)

Dr. Rebecca Crumpler, accessed 9/8/2020: [www.nps.gov/people/dr-rebecca-lee-crumpler.htm](http://www.nps.gov/people/dr-rebecca-lee-crumpler.htm)

Physicians, surgeons, radiologists and emergency medical physicians, American Community Survey:

<https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?q=ACSDT1Y2018.B24114&tid=ACSDT1Y2018.B24114&hidePreview=true>

Women physicians, surgeons, radiologists and emergency medical physicians, American Community Survey:

<https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?q=ACSDT1Y2018.B24126&tid=ACSDT1Y2018.B24126&hidePreview=true>

### **FEBRUARY 4: NATIONAL THANK A MAIL CARRIER DAY**

*Profile America* — Thursday, February 4th. Coming months after the summer's unusual demonstration of appreciation for the United States Postal Service, today is National Thank A Mail Carrier Day. This annual homage falls in the gloom of winter, when the necessary outdoor work is particularly challenging. The Constitution in 1788 gave

Congress the power to establish post offices, and a year later, the Act of September 22, 1789 made the Postmaster General subject to the direction of the President. At the beginning, a population of almost four million was served by 75 Post Offices and about 2,400 miles of post roads. Today's population of around 330 million have access to some 34,600 post office branches, served by some 690,000 carriers and postal clerks. You can find more facts about America from the U.S. Census Bureau, online at <[www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov)>.

Sources:

Occasion, accessed 9/8/2020: <https://nationaltoday.com/national-thank-a-mail-carrier-day/>

Number of post offices, accessed 9/8/2020: [www.statista.com/statistics/943334/usps-number-of-post-offices/](http://www.statista.com/statistics/943334/usps-number-of-post-offices/)

Postal workers, American Community Survey:

<https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?q=B24030&tid=ACSDT1Y2018.B24030&hidePreview=false>

## **FEBRUARY 5: SNACK FOOD MONTH**

*Profile America* — Friday, February 5th. February is American Heart Month, dedicated to the serious matter of monitoring and taking care of our beating hearts. This is important because while heart disease has claimed fewer lives in recent years, it is still the nation's number one killer — responsible for some 655,000 deaths annually. However, almost as if to prove that no good intention goes unpunished, February is also National Snack Food Month. Despite increasing health consciousness, snack foods still find a way into Americans' hearts through their stomachs. There are some 687 snack food manufacturing establishments nationwide. About 60,000 people are employed in the \$40 billion a year business of testing Americans' willpower ... or lack of it. You can find more facts about America's people, places and economy, from the American Community Survey, at <[www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov)>.

Sources:

Occasion, accessed 8/27/2020: [www.theteacherscorner.net/calendars/february.php](http://www.theteacherscorner.net/calendars/february.php)

Heart disease, accessed 8/27/2020: [www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/databriefs/db355\\_tables-508.pdf#page=2](http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/databriefs/db355_tables-508.pdf#page=2)

Snack food manufacturers and employment, County Business Patterns, NAICS 31191:

<https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?q=31191&tid=CBP2018.CB1800CBP&hidePreview=false>

Revenues, Annual Survey of Manufactures, NAICS 31191:

<https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?q=31191&tid=ASMAREA2017.AM1831BASIC01&hidePreview=false>

## **FEBRUARY 6: IMMIGRATION RESTRICTION**

*Profile America* — Saturday, February 6th. On yesterday's date 104 years ago, the most restrictive immigration measure to that time was passed into law. The Immigration Act of

1917—also known as the Literacy Act—was the first bill aimed at restricting, as opposed to regulating, immigration. Congress overrode President Woodrow Wilson's veto, even though the House and Senate were controlled by the President's party. For the first time, an immigration law affected European migrants via the literacy provisions. But the main thrust was to ban immigration from an enormous swath of Asia, and the Pacific islands. This law remained in effect until softened in 1952. In 1917, the national population was 103 million, with something like 160,000 Asians among them. Today, the Asian-American population is over 18 million. *Profile America* is in its 24th year as a public service of the U.S. Census Bureau.

Sources:

Immigration Act, accessed 9/3/2020:

<http://encyclopedia.densho.org/Immigration%20Act%20of%201917>/U.S. population in 1917, Historical Statistics of the United States: Colonial Times to 1970, p. 8:

[www2.census.gov/library/publications/1975/compendia/hist\\_stats\\_colonial-1970/hist\\_stats\\_colonial-1970p1-chA.pdf](http://www2.census.gov/library/publications/1975/compendia/hist_stats_colonial-1970/hist_stats_colonial-1970p1-chA.pdf)

Asian population in U.S. in 1917, accessed 9/3/2020: [www.us-immigration.com/asian-american-history-timeline/](http://www.us-immigration.com/asian-american-history-timeline/)

Current Asian population in U.S., American Community Survey:

<https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?q=Asian%20population&tid=ACSDP1Y2018.DP05&hidePreview=false>

## **FEBRUARY 7: GAS LIGHTING**

*Profile America* — Sunday, February 7th. It's better to light a candle than to curse the darkness. Two-hundred four years ago, it was even better to light a newfangled gas lamp. On this date in 1817, America's first gas streetlamp glowed in Baltimore, Maryland. The coal gas was supplied by the nation's first incorporated gas company. Just like today, startups have their struggles, but by 1850, about 50 urban areas had gasworks for mostly municipal and business illumination, along with some private residences. While gas lamps today are mostly confined to elegant accent lighting, natural gas itself is a huge energy source in America, heating over 52 percent of the nation's households. There are 2,500 natural gas distribution establishments, with annual revenues of over \$100 billion. You can find more facts about America from the U.S. Census Bureau, online at <[www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov)>.

Sources:

First streetlight, accessed 9/3/2020: <https://thedailyrecord.com/2017/02/07/maryland-baltimore-first-gas-streetlamp/>

Gas light history, accessed 9/3/2020:

<http://eh.net/?s=gas+lighting>

Households and heating fuels, American Community Survey:

<https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?q=B25040&tid=ACSDT1Y2018.B25040&hidePreview=false>

Natural gas industry establishments and revenues, County Business Patterns, NAICS 2212:

<https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?q=2212&tid=CBP2018.CB1800CBP&hidePreview=false>

Natural gas industry revenues, Economic Census, NAICS 2212:

<https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?q=2212&tid=ECNBASIC2017.EC1700BASIC&hidePreview=false>

## **FEBRUARY 8: FIRST PRESIDENTIAL PHOTOGRAPH**

*Profile America* — Monday, February 8th. In an age of ubiquitous selfies, pet portraits and images of prepared foods, it's easy to overlook what a big, bothersome and tricky deal photography used to be in the 1840s. Naturally, Presidents were among the first subjects. The earliest surviving photograph of a sitting American President was taken this month 172 years ago. James K. Polk, America's 11th president, posed for his picture just before the end of his term in office in 1849. The photographer was Matthew Brady, whose extensive coverage of the Civil War would later make him famous. Even with the near universality of phone cameras, over 90,000 Americans still make their living as photographers, with median annual earnings of \$44,000. You can find more facts about America from the U.S. Census Bureau online at <[www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov)>.

Sources:

Polk photograph, accessed 2/3/2021: [www.historybyzim.com/2013/02/first-president-photograph/](http://www.historybyzim.com/2013/02/first-president-photograph/)

Photographers, American Community Survey:

<https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?q=photographers&tid=ACSDT1Y2019.B24124&hidePreview=false>

Median earnings, American Community Survey:

<https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?q=photographers&tid=ACSDT1Y2019.B24121&hidePreview=false>

## **FEBRUARY 9: MEDICARE**

*Profile America* — Tuesday, February 9th. Today marks the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the date when newly inaugurated President John Kennedy asked Congress to approve a health insurance program for 14.2 million Americans age 65 or older. It would be financed by an increase in Social Security taxes. The 1961 proposal went nowhere until after Kennedy's assassination. What we know as Medicare passed through the House and Senate by July 27, 1965, and President Lyndon Johnson signed it into law on the 30th in the presence of former President Harry Truman. Now, nearly 63 million people are enrolled — 32 percent, or nearly 20 million of them — have impaired health. Population estimates by the Census Bureau find 52 million Americans age 65 and older. You can find more facts about America's people, places and economy, from the American Community Survey, at <[www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov)>.

Sources:

Kennedy proposal, accessed 9/1/2020: [www.thepeoplehistory.com/february9th.html](http://www.thepeoplehistory.com/february9th.html)

Medicare passes, accessed 9/1/2020: [www.ssa.gov/history/tally65.html](http://www.ssa.gov/history/tally65.html)

Current Medicare enrollment, accessed 9/1/2020: [www.cms.gov/Research-Statistics-Data-and-Systems/Statistics-Trends-and-Reports/Dashboard/Medicare-Enrollment/Enrollment%20Dashboard.html](http://www.cms.gov/Research-Statistics-Data-and-Systems/Statistics-Trends-and-Reports/Dashboard/Medicare-Enrollment/Enrollment%20Dashboard.html)

Disabled, accessed 9/1/2020: [www.kff.org/medicare/issue-brief/an-overview-of-medicare/](http://www.kff.org/medicare/issue-brief/an-overview-of-medicare/)

Older population:

<https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?t=Older%20Population&q=Older%20Population&table=S0103&tid=ACSST1Y2018.S0103&hidePreview=false&lastDisplayedRow=23>

## **FEBRUARY 10: AGRICULTURE RISES**

*Profile America* — Wednesday, February 10th. The federal Department of Agriculture was raised to the Cabinet level on tomorrow's date in 1889. President Grover Cleveland signed the legislation elevating the agency to the Cabinet. Although America had been primarily an agricultural nation since colonial times, it wasn't until May 1862 that an independent Department of Agriculture was established, headed by a sub-cabinet commissioner. President Abraham Lincoln called the new agency the "people's department." Not so much anymore. In 1890, there were 4.5 million farms in America, on which over 42 percent of the country's population lived and worked. Today, there are 2 million farms nationwide, home to just under 2 percent of the population. You can find more facts about America's people, places and economy, from the American Community Survey, at <[www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov)>.

Sources:

Anniversary and founding, accessed 9/1/2020: [www.politico.com/story/2011/02/dept-of-agriculture-gets-cabinet-status-feb-11-1889-049243](http://www.politico.com/story/2011/02/dept-of-agriculture-gets-cabinet-status-feb-11-1889-049243)

1890 farms and population, Historical Statistics of the United States: Colonial Times to 1970, p. 457: [www2.census.gov/library/publications/1975/compendia/hist\\_stats\\_colonial-1970/hist\\_stats\\_colonial-1970p1-chK.pdf](http://www2.census.gov/library/publications/1975/compendia/hist_stats_colonial-1970/hist_stats_colonial-1970p1-chK.pdf)

Farms and population, accessed 9/1/2020: [www.fb.org/newsroom/fast-facts](http://www.fb.org/newsroom/fast-facts)

## **FEBRUARY 11: AMERICA'S FIRST HOSPITAL**

*Profile America* — Thursday, February 11th. Among his very many achievements, Benjamin Franklin played a leading role in the founding of America's first hospital, decades before the Declaration of Independence. Together with Dr. Thomas Bond, he obtained a charter for a hospital to serve the poor, sick and insane in Philadelphia. The Pennsylvania Hospital opened on this date in 1752 in a converted house. The hospital later developed at a location where a modern medical complex still serves the city. During its long history, the hospital's doctors have made advances in many fields, becoming known as "the father" of both American psychiatry and of surgery. Today, there are 6,900 hospitals nationwide, employing over 6 million people in the \$1 trillion per year business of healing. You can find more facts about America's people, places and economy, from the American Community Survey, at <[www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov)>.

Sources:

Joseph Nathan Kane, Kane's Famous First Facts, Fifth Edition, H.W. Wilson Co., New York, NY 1997, 4868

Hospitals and employment, Economic Census, NAICS 622:

<https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?q=622&tid=CBP2018.CB1800CBP&hidePreview=false>

Revenue, Economic Census, NAICS 622:

<https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?q=622&tid=ECNBASIC2017.EC1700BASIC&hidePreview=false>

## **FEBRUARY 12: FIRST PUBLIC SCHOOL**

*Profile America* — Friday, February 12th. Tomorrow marks the anniversary in 1635 of the organizing of America's first public school — the Boston Latin School — long before there was a United States. Established in April that year, among its later students were Benjamin Franklin and Samuel Adams. And this month in 1897, Phoebe Hearst and Alice Birney founded what is today known as the Parent Teacher Association, or PTA. Originally called the National Congress of Mothers, the organization now encourages both parents to take part in school activities to improve the quality of their children's education. Today, 386 years on, there are over 49 million youngsters enrolled in elementary through high school, with an additional 8.7 million attending nursery school or kindergarten. You can find more facts about America's people, places and economy, from the American Community Survey, at <[www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov)>.

Sources:

Joseph Nathan Kane, Kane's Famous First Facts, Fifth Edition, H.W. Wilson Co., New York, NY 1997, #3040

School history, accessed 9/1/2020:

[www.bls.org/apps/pages/index.jsp?uREC\\_ID=206116&type=d](http://www.bls.org/apps/pages/index.jsp?uREC_ID=206116&type=d)

PTA, accessed 9/1/2020: [www.papta.org/domain/3](http://www.papta.org/domain/3)

Student enrollment, Current Population Survey School Enrollment t. 1, All Races:

[www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/demo/tables/school-enrollment/2018/2018-cps/tab01-01.xlsx](http://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/demo/tables/school-enrollment/2018/2018-cps/tab01-01.xlsx)

## **FEBRUARY 13: FIRST AMERICAN COMPUTER**

*Profile America* — Saturday, February 13th. For many Americans nowadays, it's hard to conceive of life without computers. But such a life is within the living memory of America's oldest seniors. The first electronic computer was demonstrated to the public on Valentine's Day 75 years ago at the University of Pennsylvania. Inventors J. Presper Eckert and John Mauchly developed the 1946 computer to help calculate the proper ballistic trajectory for artillery shells. Eckert and Mauchly went on to create the first commercial computer — UNIVAC I — used to process the 1950 Census. Today, America is one of the most computerized nations in the world. Nearly 92 percent of America's 122 million households have a computer, and about 85 percent access the Internet. You can find more facts about

America's people, places and economy, from the American Community Survey, at <[www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov)>.

Sources:

Joseph Nathan Kane, Kane's Famous First Facts, Fifth Edition, H.W. Wilson Co., New York, NY 1997, #2528

Computer development and testing, accessed 8/27/2020:

[www.upenn.edu/almanac/v42/n18/eniac.html](http://www.upenn.edu/almanac/v42/n18/eniac.html)

Households, computers and internet access, American Community Survey:

<https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?q=B28003&tid=ACSDT1Y2018.B28003&hidePreview=false>

## **FEBRUARY 14: VALENTINES AND WEDDINGS**

*Profile America* — Sunday, February 14th. While today may not be an official holiday, Valentine's Day is one of the most popular in the year's calendar. Its origins are a mix of legends involving two Christian martyrs, a Roman fertility rite, and the old notion that this is the time of year when the birds choose their mates. What is sure is that Esther Howland of Massachusetts began selling the first mass-produced valentines in the 1840s. The observance also falls in the middle of National Weddings Month. There are 2.1 million weddings annually countrywide — that's more than 5,800 per day. Over 52 percent of the population above age 15 is currently married. The median ages for first marriages is 29.8 years for men and 28 years for women. You can find more facts about America's people, places and economy, from the American Community Survey, at <[www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov)>.

Sources:

Valentines card, accessed 8/28/2020: [www.mtholyoke.edu/175/gallery/esther-howland](http://www.mtholyoke.edu/175/gallery/esther-howland)

Weddings month, accessed 8/28/2020: <https://nationaldaycalendar.com/national-weddings-month-february/>

Weddings per year, accessed 8/28/2020: [www.cdc.gov/nchs/fastats/marriage-divorce.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/fastats/marriage-divorce.htm)

Married percent (calculated), all races, Historical Marital Status:

[www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/demo/tables/families/time-series/marital/ms1.xls](http://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/demo/tables/families/time-series/marital/ms1.xls)

Median age at first marriage, Historical Marital Status: [www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/demo/tables/families/time-series/marital/ms2.xls](http://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/demo/tables/families/time-series/marital/ms2.xls)

## **FEBRUARY 15: NATIONAL SINGLES AWARENESS DAY**

*Profile America* — Monday, February 15th. It is no accident that the day after Valentine's Day is lately observed as Singles Awareness Day. Part of the motivation is disdain for the great commercialism surrounding Valentine's Day. But the greater part is to recognize and celebrate individual worth without formal attachment to others. While there are some 138 million married adults in America, the number of singles is close behind at around 126 million. This gap is far narrower than was the case in 1950, when there were 74.4 million married Americans, and just 37.3 singles. Today, Over 36 million Americans live by themselves — 28.3 percent of all households, a figure which in 1970 was just 17 percent.

You can find more facts about America from the U.S. Census Bureau online at <[www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov)>.

Sources:

Occasion, accessed 9/8/2020:

[www.singlesawareness.com/index.html](http://www.singlesawareness.com/index.html)

Married and unmarried timeline:

<https://www.census.gov/library/visualizations/2020/comm/the-single-life.html>

Unmarried households: [www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/demo/tables/families/time-series/households/hh4.xls](http://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/demo/tables/families/time-series/households/hh4.xls)

### **FEBRUARY 16: WISE HEALTH CONSUMER MONTH**

*Profile America* — Tuesday, February 16th. The nation's first college of pharmacy was founded in Philadelphia early this month in 1821. At 200, it's an appropriate anniversary to note that many health care organizations prescribe February as Wise Health Care Consumer Month. The "Rx" for Americans is to invest at least as much research in their health care options as they do for a smart phone. While medication is one aspect of health care consumption, all levels of services and insurance are the elements of being a wise health care consumer. Nationally, there are over 44,000 pharmacies and drugstores to serve the 294 million people with health insurance from private, employer or government plans. That's over 91 percent of the population. Over 28 million people, or 8.9 percent, are uninsured. You can find more facts about America's people, places and economy, from the American Community Survey, at <[www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov)>.

Sources:

Joseph Nathan Kane, Kane's Famous First Facts, Fifth Edition, H.W. Wilson Co., New York, NY 1997, #840

First college of pharmacy, accessed 8/28/2020: [www.usciences.edu/about/history](http://www.usciences.edu/about/history)

Wise Health Consumer Month, accessed 8/28/2020: <http://aipm.net/wise/>

Pharmacies and drugstores, Economic Census, NAICS 446110:

<https://data.census.gov/cedsci/all?hidePreview=false&n=446110&q=446110%3A%20Pharmacies%20and%20drug%20stores&table=EC1700BASIC&tid=ECNBASIC2017.EC1700BASIC&lastDisplayedRow=0>

Health insurance coverage, American Community Survey:

<https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?q=Health%20Insurance%20Coverage&table=DP03&tid=ACSDP1Y2018.DP03&t=Health%20Insurance&lastDisplayedRow=117>

### **FEBRUARY 17: PET DENTAL HEALTH MONTH**

*Profile America* — Wednesday, February 17th. Los Angeles was the first municipality to establish a publicly owned veterinary hospital 50 years ago. The spay and neuter center

opened this month in 1971. Veterinary medicine goes far beyond reproduction control, of course. Veterinary organizations have established February as National Pet Dental Health Month, focusing on the problems our animal companions can experience through poor oral health. In fact, they track quite closely with the negative health consequences in our own haphazard dental hygiene. Across the nation, there are nearly 32,000 veterinary offices where Americans can brush up on pets' oral health, among services valued at about \$42 billion annually. You can find more facts about America's people, places and economy, from the American Community Survey, at <[www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov)>.

Sources:

Joseph Nathan Kane, Kane's Famous First Facts, Fifth Edition, H.W. Wilson Co., New York, NY 1997, #5125

Pet Dental Health Month, accessed 8/25/2020:

[www.avma.org/Events/pethealth/Pages/February-is-National-Pet-Dental-Health-Month.aspx](http://www.avma.org/Events/pethealth/Pages/February-is-National-Pet-Dental-Health-Month.aspx)

Veterinary offices and revenue, County Business Patterns, NAICS 541940:

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Veterinary offices revenue, Economic Census, NAICS 541940

<https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?q=541940&tid=ECNBASIC2017.EC1700BASIC&hidePreview=false>

## **FEBRUARY 18: OH, CANADA**

*Profile America* — Thursday, February 18th. Although Canada has been self-governing since 1867, it wasn't until this date just 95 years ago that the U.S. established formal diplomatic relations through recognition of a Canadian ambassador in Washington. Until that date, the Dominion of Canada's foreign relations remained under the control of London. Canada is our second greatest trading partner, narrowly trailing Mexico. In 2019, more than \$612 billion of goods passed one way or the other across the effectively undefended border. There are about 7.5 million foreign-born residents out of Canada's population of 38 million. America's population of around 328 million includes 45 million foreign-born residents, with about 814,000 from Canada. You can find more facts about America from the U.S. Census Bureau, online at <[www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov)>.

Sources:

Anniversary, accessed 9/4/2020: <https://history.state.gov/countries/canada>

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## **FEBRUARY 19: NOTABLE BLACKS IN LAW**

*Profile America* — Friday, February 19th. Black History Month stories often celebrate Thurgood Marshall, the first black appointed to the U.S. Supreme Court in 1967. The trail to that tribunal was broken over a century earlier. This month in 1865 African-American attorney John Rock was admitted to practice before the Supreme Court. Rock was an MD who practiced medicine and dentistry, as well as law. He died at the age of 41, just a year after being admitted to the bar of the Supreme Court. And the first black justice of a state supreme court, Jonathon J. Wright of South Carolina, was seated in 1870, and served until the end of Reconstruction. Today, out of nearly 15 million full time state and local government workers, judicial and legal functions occupy 404,000 people. You can find more facts about America from the U.S. Census Bureau, online at <[www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov)>.

Sources:

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## **FEBRUARY 20: FIRST BURGLAR ALARM**

*Profile America* — Saturday, February 20th. We live in an age concerned about security. Many homes display signs warning that they are protected by a certain brand of security system, and television ads extol the benefits of competing brands. The first burglar alarm was patented in Massachusetts in 1853. It featured a battery-powered bell on each window and door to be protected. The patent rights were purchased five years later by Edwin Holmes, who made the first installations on the 21st of this month in 1858. By 1872, he was installing systems in New York City that connected to a central office. Today, installing and monitoring such systems is a \$23.2 billion a year business for 11,000 specialized security establishments nationwide. You can find more facts about America from the U.S. Census Bureau online at <[www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov)>.

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## **FEBRUARY 21: FIRST WOMAN D.D.S.**

*Profile America* — Sunday, February 21st. On this date 155 years ago, Lucy Hobbs Taylor received a doctorate in dentistry from the Ohio College of Dental Surgery. She was the first American woman so credentialed, and it's believed she was also the first in the world. Born in 1833, Lucy Hobbs at first tried to attend medical school, but finding that avenue closed to her, studied dentistry. Beginning in 1861, she practiced without a certificate, as was common at the time. Following her graduation in 1866, she married James Myrtle Taylor, and the couple practiced dentistry in Lawrence, Kansas, for the rest of their lives. There are some 103,000 dentists in America today. Of that total, over 33,000 are women. You can find more facts about America's people, places and economy, from the American Community Survey, at <[www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov)>.

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## **FEBRUARY 22: FINAGLING FLORIDA**

*Profile America* — Monday, February 22nd. Although not as famous and extensive as the Louisiana Purchase in 1803, the nation concluded a vast land acquisition on this date in 1819 that filled out our southeastern continental seaboard. Secretary of State and future President John Quincy Adams signed the Florida Purchase Treaty, assuming the \$5 million of America citizens' claims against Spain. In exchange, Florida and the Gulf coasts of the state of Mississippi, and the Alabama territory were ceded to the United States. In the 1840 Census, before its ascension to statehood in 1845, Florida had 35,000 residents. Now, it's 21.3 million. Florida is our third most populous state, behind California and

Texas, and surpassed New York in 2014. *Profile America* is in its 24th year as a public service of the U.S. Census Bureau.

Sources:

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## **FEBRUARY 23: EARLY PRESIDENTIAL RADIO**

*Profile America* — Tuesday, February 23rd. The history of radio and the presidency seems to center entirely on Franklin Roosevelt's famous "fireside chats" beginning in 1933 in the depths of the Depression. But the first president to address the nation from the White House over the infant broadcast medium was, ironically, "Silent Cal." President Calvin Coolidge spoke to a coast-to-coast audience on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of this month in 1924 on the occasion of George Washington's birthday. His words were carried over a mere 42 stations. That year, there were 530 radio stations in the country, broadcasting to just 1.25 million households. Today, there about 4,500 radio stations employing almost 76,000 people. About 95 percent of America's 122 million occupied households have radios. *Profile America* is in its 24th year as a public service of the U.S. Census Bureau.

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## **FEBRUARY 24: ENGINEERING WEEK**

*Profile America* — Wednesday, February 24th. Every time we use a phone, drive a car, watch TV, cross a bridge, or do myriad everyday activities, we are benefitting from the accumulated work of a most important, broad profession — engineering. To celebrate its central contribution to our way of life, we are today in the middle of National Engineers Week. During this time, engineering societies and corporations will reach out to schoolchildren and stage events across the country to call attention to the achievements of the profession, which apply science, math and principles of matter and energy to provide many modern marvels. There are nearly 62,000 engineering establishments nationwide. Broadly defined, there are over 2 million engineers building our modern society. You can find more facts about America's people, places and economy, from the American Community Survey, at <[www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov)>.

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Occasion, accessed 10/24/2019: [www.asce.org/event/2021/engineers-week/](http://www.asce.org/event/2021/engineers-week/)

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## **FEBRUARY 25: SENATORIAL IRONY**

*Profile America* — Thursday, February 25th. On this date 151 years ago, the first African American to ever serve in Congress took his seat. Elected in 1870 by the Reconstruction era Mississippi legislature, Hiram R. Revels filled the Senate spot vacated in the Civil War. Even more symbolic than removing a statue, the freeborn Revels, a Union army recruiter and chaplain, took the place of Jefferson Davis, who departed in 1861 for the presidency of the Confederacy. Revels impressed many as a senator, but resigned after just a year to accept the presidency of Alcorn Agricultural and Mechanical College—now Alcorn State. When Revels entered office, Mississippi's population was 828,000, with 444,000 Blacks. Today, the state has about 3 million residents, and over 1.1 million are Black. *Profile America* is in its 24th year as a public service of the U.S. Census Bureau.

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2018 Mississippi population estimates:

<https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?q=Mississippi%20population%20Black&tid=ACSDP1>

## **FEBRUARY 26: NICKELS AND DIMES**

*Profile America* — Friday, February 26th. One of the first chain stores in America opened this month 142 years ago in Utica, New York. It was F.W. Woolworth's, and for long after 1879 it was known simply as the "five and dime" in tribute to its low-cost merchandise, which originally cost no more than a dime. As the cost of everything rose in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, Woolworth's was no longer able to compete with the growing number of discount stores, shopping malls, and food courts. The chain went out of business in 1997, before the explosion of e-commerce. Today, Americans have a choice of around 54,000 general merchandise stores in which to shop. These retailers normally do \$690 billion of business annually, and employ some 2.8 million sales clerks and other staff. You can find more facts about America from the U.S. Census Bureau online at <[www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov)>.

### Sources:

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General merchandise stores employment and revenue, Economic Census, NAICS 452:

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## **FEBRUARY 27: EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT**

*Profile America* — Saturday, February 27th. On this date 149 years ago, America's third female law student was graduated. But this third woman was a significant first. Charlotte Ray was a freeborn African-American, and the first black woman to graduate law school. With her 1872 degree from historically black Howard University, she began her law practice in Washington, D.C., and was the first woman accredited to argue a case before the Supreme Court. In Charlotte Ray's time, only some 8,600 college and professional degrees were awarded nationwide. Today, in the 27 million-strong black population over 25 years old, about 22 percent have bachelor's degrees or higher levels of educational attainment. About 2.3 million have graduate or professional degrees. You can find more facts about America's people, places and economy, from the American Community Survey, at <[www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov)>.

### Sources:

Joseph Nathan Kane, Kane's Famous First Facts, Fifth Edition, H.W. Wilson Co., New York, NY 1997, #4637

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Black population and educational attainment:

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## **FEBRUARY 28: COLLEGE FOR THE DEAF**

*Profile America* — Sunday, February 28th. The nation's first college for deaf students traces its beginning to this month in 1857, when Congress incorporated the Columbia Institution for the Instruction of the Deaf, Dumb and Blind. In 1864, the school was federally chartered to confer degrees, the first three of which were awarded in 1869, signed by President Ulysses S. Grant, and all subsequent diplomas bear the U.S. President's signature. In 1954, the name of the institution was changed to Gallaudet College in honor of Thomas Hopkins Gallaudet, a pioneer in educating deaf students. An estimated 36 million Americans are deaf or hard of hearing. Some 1,100 of them are seeking a degree from Gallaudet and are among the nation's 22 million students enrolled in universities. You can find more facts about America's people, places and economy, from the American Community Survey, at <[www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov)>.

Sources:

Joseph Nathan Kane, *Kane's Famous First Facts*, Fifth Edition, H.W. Wilson Co., New York, NY 1997, #3033

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