NOVEMBER 1: FIRST MEDICAL SCHOOL FOR WOMEN

Profile America — Sunday, November 1st. On this date in 1848, America’s first medical school for women opened in Boston. By 1873, the school had graduated almost 100 doctors. That year, the Boston Female Medical School merged with the Boston University School of Medicine to form the world’s first coed medical learning facility. In America today, nearly 56 percent of all college students are female, and just last year, women made up the majority of medical students. Of the 1,022,000 active physicians in America, 651,000 of those are men, and 370,000 women. Female doctors make up the majority in the specialties of obstetrics, gynecology, geriatrics and pediatric medicine. You can find more facts about America’s people, places and economy, from the American Community Survey, at <www.census.gov>.

Sources:
History, accessed 6/18/2020: www.bumc.bu.edu/busm/about/history/
College enrollment, all races table: www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/demo/tables/school-enrollment/2018/2018-cps/tab01-01.xlsx
Specialties by gender, accessed 6/18/2020:
www.aamc.org/data/workforce/reports/492560/1-3-chart.html

NOVEMBER 2: FIRST COMMERCIAL RADIO BROADCAST

Profile America — Monday, November 2nd. Even with all of our electronic diversions, many of us listen to radio at some point every day. The wide variety of formats means we can choose our favorite type of music, and radio keeps us up to the minute on news and weather. The presidential election held on this date one century ago was the occasion of the first commercial radio broadcast. Station KDKA in Pittsburgh carried the results, in which Warren G. Harding defeated the ticket of James Cox and his vice-presidential nominee Franklin Roosevelt, whose famous radio days lay ahead. Just two years later, that first station was joined by 400 others as the popularity of radio swept the nation. Today, there are some 5,400 radio broadcast establishments, employing over 90,000 people. You can find more facts about America’s people, places and economy, from the American Community Survey, at <www.census.gov>.
Profile America — Tuesday, November 3rd. Today’s elections are taking place 156 years since America’s first absentee ballot voting. This measure was introduced in 1864 during the Civil War to permit Union army soldiers in the field to choose between re-electing Abraham Lincoln or sending his opponent to the White House. On November 24, 1896, Vermont became the first state to enshrine in law the concept of voting away from home, though the voter had to be within the state. All that was required to vote at any polling location was a certification of state residency. Early voting, including absentee balloting, is increasingly used in our elections. In 2018, of the 122 million votes cast nearly 40 percent were by the early or absentee vote method. You can find more facts about America from the U.S. Census Bureau online at <www.census.gov>.

Sources:
2018 all votes: www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/cps/tables/p20/583/table02_1.xlsx

Profile America — Wednesday, November 4th. The slang exclamation “ka-ching!” owes its birth to a development on this date in 1879. That’s when James Ritty, a saloon keeper in Dayton, Ohio, patented the cash register he developed with his mechanic brother John. The unit indeed registered sales, but didn’t have a cash drawer. That came just a little later, and the sound made by ringing up sales on mechanical or
electronic registers was iconic for generations. Today, there are some 3.3 million cashiers, over 72 percent of them women, and mostly using bar code scanners. The first use of that technology took place in Troy, Ohio, just 21 miles from Dayton, and now record America’s retail and food sales, which before the pandemic totaled $480-billion per month. You can find more facts about America from the U.S. Census Bureau online at <www.census.gov>.

Sources:
Ritty and the cash register, accessed 6/18/2020: http://ohiohistorycentral.org/w/James_Ritty

NOVEMBER 5: FIRST ENGINEERING COLLEGE

Profile America — Thursday, November 5th. Much has been heard in recent years about national education policy encouraging more science, technology, engineering and math — or STEM — students. As far as engineering goes, the trail was broken 196 years ago on this date, with the founding of the Rensselaer School in Troy, New York. Now known as Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, in 1824 it was the nation’s first engineering school. Its first 10 students graduated with engineering degrees in 1826. Engineering has come to be applied to many fields beyond physical structures, such as in chemistry and computer science, and is a powerful force in our economy. There are nearly 62,000 engineering service firms in the nation, employing over one million people. You can find more facts about America’s people, places and economy, from the American Community Survey, at <www.census.gov>.

Sources:
Engineering services & employment, County Business Patterns, NAICS 541330: https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?q=541330%3A%20Engineering%20services&tid=CBP2017.CB1700CBP&n=54133%3A541330&vintage=2018&hidePreview=false

NOVEMBER 6: AMERICAN INDIAN AND ALASKA NATIVE HERITAGE MONTH
Profile America — Friday, November 6th. This is American Indian and Alaska Native Heritage Month, conceived over a century ago but made official by a congressional resolution signed by President George H.W. Bush in 1990. The American Community Survey finds about 5.9 million American Indians and Alaska Natives in the United States; about 1.7 percent of the total population. California is home to the greatest number of these groups at over a million, followed by Oklahoma with over a half-million. American Indian and Alaska Native populations, alone or in combination with other races, surpass 100,000 in 21 states from Florida to Alaska. At nearly 20 percent, Alaska has the highest percentage of population in the honored group. You can find more facts about America’s people, places and economy, from the American Community Survey, at <www.census.gov>.

Sources:
Heritage Month background:
https://www.census.gov/newsroom/facts-for-features/2019/aian-month.html
Population, American Community Survey:

NOVEMBER 7: FIRST COLLEGE FOR WOMEN

Profile America — Saturday, November 7th. Tomorrow marks the 183rd anniversary of the opening of the first American college for women — Mount Holyoke Seminary in South Hadley, Massachusetts. The new institution began instruction in 1837 with 80 students, who paid annual tuition and boarding fees of $64. The school became Mount Holyoke College in 1893 and remains a prestigious liberal arts college for women. Among its prominent alumni are poet Emily Dickinson, former Secretary of Labor Frances Perkins, and current Secretary of Transportation Elaine Chao. Today, there are over 10.3 million women attending college, over 2,200 of them at Mount Holyoke. In comparison, male higher education enrollment stands at 8.4 million students. You can find more facts about America from the U.S. Census Bureau online at <www.census.gov>.

Sources:
Background, accessed 6/18/2020: www.mtholyoke.edu/about/history
Notable alumni, accessed 6/18/2020: www.mtholyoke.edu/about/notable/alumnae-changemakers
Student body, accessed 6/18/2020:
College enrollment, Table 1, Current Population Survey: www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/demo/tables/school-enrollment/2018/2018-cps/tab01-01.xlsx
NOVEMBER 8: PLUGGING IN

Profile America — Sunday, November 8th. On this date 116 years ago, Connecticut inventor Harvey Hubbell moved household electricity from shock it to socket. In November 1904, he received a patent for the world’s first detachable electric plug: the two-, now often three-prong plug familiar to us today. Remarkable as it sounds, at the time electric terminals would extend out from a wall, and any electrical device had to be hard-wired to them — a time consuming process with a chance of electrocution. Hubbell was no one-hit wonder, as in the 1890s he created an electric switch and patented the pull-chain electric light socket. Electrical supplies for builders and homeowners are available at the nearly 6,000 home centers in America, along with 15,000 hardware stores. You can find more facts about America’s people, places and economy, from the American Community Survey, at <www.census.gov>.

Sources
Electrical supplies:
Home centers, County Business Patterns, NAICS 444110: https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?q=444110%3A%20Home%20centers&hidePreview=false&tid=CBP2017.CB1700CBP&n=444110
Hardware stores, County Business Patterns, NAICS 444130: https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?q=444130&tid=CBP2017.CB1700CBP&n=444130&vintage=2017

NOVEMBER 9: LIGHTS OUT

Profile America — Monday, November 9th. At 5:16 p.m. Eastern time on this date in 1965, about 30 minutes after sundown, a fast-moving ripple of deeper darkness spread over much of the northeastern United States and a part of Canada. A mis-set relay in an Ontario power station began a cascade of power grid overloads and disconnects across 80,000 square miles of the United States and Canada. The entire states of New York, Connecticut, Rhode Island and Massachusetts were blacked out. Some 30 million people were affected for up to 14 hours. Each year, more than 4.1 trillion kilowatt hours of electricity are generated by domestic power companies. Over 11,500 establishments produce, transmit and distribute this energy. You can find more facts about America’s people, places and economy, from the American Community Survey, at <www.census.gov>.

Sources:
NOVEMBER 10: NATIONAL FAMILY CAREGIVERS MONTH

Profile America — Tuesday, November 10th. November is National Family Caregivers Month, honoring the great number of relatives, friends and neighbors involved in caring for those Americans needing assistance in the home, even independent of pandemic issues. In an aging nation, volunteer caregiving lessens the strain on the country’s medical system and provides at least $375 billion worth of service annually. Up to 30 percent of American adults are involved in some level of caregiving toward an ill or disabled loved one. There are nearly 41 million people with a disability nationwide — 12.7 percent of the noninstitutionalized population. Among people age 65 and older, around 34 percent have at least one disability. You can find more facts about America’s people, places and economy, from the American Community Survey, at <www.census.gov>.

Sources:

NOVEMBER 11: VETERANS DAY
Profile America — Wednesday, November 11th. One-hundred two years ago today, history’s bloodiest war to date ended after more than four years of slaughter. This Veteran’s Day holiday was conceived as Armistice Day to honor the 4.7 million Americans who served — and the 116,500 who died — in what was then called the Great War. The occasion kept its name and focus until 1954, when it was changed to Veterans Day, and its scope widened to honor veterans from all eras. Overall, World War One consumed around 8.5 million lives in the involved armies. The last American veteran of that war died in 2011, but there remain nearly 18 million living veterans nationwide, including 4,800 from between the world wars. You can find more facts about America from the U.S. Census Bureau online at <www.census.gov>.

Sources:

NOVEMBER 12: DRIVE-THRU BANKING

Profile America — Thursday, November 12th. For many decades, going to the bank was somewhat of a chore — with inconvenient hours and locations, and waiting in line for a teller. Not anymore. We increasingly handle our money through online banking, at an ATM, or at our bank’s drive-in windows. The first such drive-up facility opened on this date in 1946 at the Exchange National Bank in Chicago, which offered its motoring customers 10 teller windows. Now, drive-up service is available nationwide, and Americans have a choice of nearly 92,000 commercial banking locations to handle their money. ATMs notwithstanding, over 1.5 million employees work in commercial banks, which have over $20.4 trillion in assets, with over $986 billion in cash. You can find more facts about America from the U.S. Census Bureau online at <www.census.gov>.

Sources:
NOVEMBER 13: FRIDAY FOOD OPTIONS

Profile America — Friday, November 13th. Fifty-four years ago this month, a 1,100-year-old religious injunction was lifted for America’s 46 million Roman Catholics. In recognition of Friday as a day of penance, 9th Century Pope Nicholas I had decreed that Catholics would be required to abstain from eating meat, although fish on Fridays was allowed. The American church hierarchy lifted that guidance in 1966. At the time, America’s population of 197 million consumed an annual per capita average of 10.6 pounds of fish. The change in church practice didn’t let marine and freshwater fish off the hook, though. Today’s population of 329 million, including 76.3 million Catholics, now consumes a per capita average of 16.1 pounds of fish annually. Profile America is in its 24th year as a public service of the U.S. Census Bureau.

Sources:
1966 U.S. population and per capita fish consumption/tables 2 & 119, accessed 6/23/2020:
Current U.S. Roman Catholics, accessed 6/23/2020:
http://cara.georgetown.edu/frequently-requested-church-statistics/
Current per capita fish consumption, accessed 6/23/2020:

NOVEMBER 14: DOW JONES TOPS 1,000

Profile America — Saturday, November 14th. The way to make a small fortune investing in stocks is to begin with a large one. That old joke seems apt in times of great turbulence on Wall Street, but in the long run, the market has steadily advanced. Hitting several record highs over 29,000 early this year, it was on this date in 1972 that the Dow Jones Industrial Average first topped the 1,000 level. Developed by Charles Henry Dow, the index was first published in 1896 with a mark of 40.94. In 1972, 4.5 billion shares were traded during the year on the New York Stock Exchange. Now, the daily figure is well over 1-billion. To help Americans navigate the market, there are over
19,000 investment advising establishments employing around some 92,000 people. You can find more facts about America from the U.S. Census Bureau online at <www.census.gov>.

Sources:
Fortune joke, accessed 6/18/2020: www.barrypopik.com/index.php/new_york_city/entry/how_to_make_a_small_fortune_on_wall_street_start_with_a_large_one/
1972 Volume, accessed 6/18/2020: https://books.google.com/books?id=9oPmHQibsZkC&pg=PA154&lpg=PA154&dq=NYSE+daily+trading+volume+1972&source=bl&ots=ctQvarTORu&sig=ACfU3U1FQWz6i-dHaRPObPrvYitSeqdRsA&hl=en&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwijQ8a3BmlzqAhX1mXIEHW4ADHoQ6AEwC3oECBIQAQ#v=onepage&q=NYSE%20daily%20trading%20volume%201972&f=false

NOVEMBER 15: AMERICA RECYCLES DAY

Profile America — Sunday, November 15th. Today is America Recycles Day, a program of the Keep America Beautiful campaign. America Recycles Day was created by the National Recycling Coalition in 1997. Every year since then, the President usually issues a proclamation recognizing this day and encouraging his fellow Americans to commit to the act of recycling. Recycling not only saves space in landfills, reuses important resources and saves energy but it also prevents the needless destruction of many aquatic animal species. Recycling is a major business nationwide, as waste management and remediation services earn over $100 billion annually. Additionally, the country’s 25,000 environmental engineers, who help minimize waste and pollution. You can find more facts about America’s people, places and economy, from the American Community Survey, at <www.census.gov>.

Sources:
NOVEMBER 16: DOWNSCALE DINING

Profile America — Monday, November 16th. What is likely the grandest, most involved and labor intensive meal in the American tradition looms next week: Thanksgiving. At the other end of the preparation spectrum is today’s observance: National Fast Food Day. It celebrates the often fried and high-calorie temptations on offer, though healthier options can be found on many menus. The White Castle chain, started in 1921, is thought to be the first fast food outlet. Today, there are 251,000 limited service establishments nationwide, employing 3.6 million workers. Conversely, our agricultural sector produces a bounty of healthier choices. Along with some imports, it makes 252 pounds of fruit and 402 pounds of vegetables available per capita annually. You can find more facts about America’s people, places and economy, from the American Community Survey, at <www.census.gov>.

Sources:

NOVEMBER 17: SEAT OF GOVERNMENT

Profile America — Tuesday, November 17th. The United States Congress met for the first time in the District of Columbia on this date in 1800. Up until then, it did its squabbling, vilifying and, most importantly, legislating in Philadelphia. Ever since
President George Washington laid the cornerstone for the Capitol in 1793, the District had been planned as the permanent home for the national government. By 1800, enough of the Capitol had been completed for the members of the Sixth Congress to move in. One senator found D.C. to be “lacking in houses, cellars, kitchens, well-informed men [and] amiable women.” In 1800, the population of the District was 8,000. Two-hundred-20 years on, the population of the nation's capital is about 706,000. You can find more facts about America’s people, places and economy, from the American Community Survey, at <www.census.gov>.

Sources:
Congressional move, accessed 6/23/2020:
www.senate.gov/artandhistory/history/minute/The_Senate_Moves_to_Washington.htm
Quotation, accessed 6/23/2020:
www.senate.gov/artandhistory/history/common/briefing/Meeting_Places_Quarters.htm
1800 population: Historical Statistics of the United States: Colonial Times to 1970, p. 26:
Current D.C. population:
www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/DC,washingtoncitydistrictofcolumbia,US#viewtop

NOVEMBER 18: TIGER TALE

Profile America — Wednesday, November 18th. Today is Geographic Information System Day, falling squarely in the middle of Geographic Awareness Week. Both the GIS industry, and geographers overall, hope to increase understanding the relationships between people and their environments. This month also sees the 31st anniversary of the launch of the Census Bureau’s Topologically Integrated Geographic Encoding and Referencing, or TIGER. This mapping system was developed for the 1990 Census and has been refined ever since. It created the first seamless, digital map of the nation and forms the underlying architecture of our GIS today. To continue the process of recording the facts on the ground, there are about 6,800 people working in America’s 881 surveying and mapping establishments. You can find more facts about America from the U.S. Census Bureau online at <www.census.gov>.

Sources:
Geography Awareness Week, accessed 6/11/2020:
www.awarenessdays.com/awareness-days-calendar/geography-awareness-week-2020/
Surveying and mapping, County Business Patterns, NAICS 54136: https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?q=54136%3A%20Geophysical%20surveying%20and%20mapping%20services&hidePreview=false&n=54136&tid=CBP2017.CB1700CBP
**NOVEMBER 19: NATIONAL FARM-CITY WEEK**

*Profile America* — Thursday, November 19th. National Farm-City Week began yesterday and ends on Thanksgiving Day, when agricultural bounty is most notable. First declared by congressional resolution in 1956, the occasion recognizes that farms are a necessary precondition for town life and urbanization. As Daniel Webster noted in 1840, “When tillage begins, other arts follow. The farmers are therefore the founders of human civilization.” The national population of 330 million people is sustained by the output of America’s 2.06 million farms, which encompass 900 million acres. To aid farmers in tilling the soil, around 1,140 establishments annually manufacture over $20 billion worth of farm machinery and equipment. You can find more facts about America’s people, places and economy, from the American Community Survey, at <www.census.gov>.

Sources:
National population: [www.census.gov/popclock/?intcmp=home_pop](http://www.census.gov/popclock/?intcmp=home_pop)
Farm equipment manufacturers and revenue, Economic Census, NAICS 333111: [https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?q=333111%3A%20Farm%20machinery%20and%20equipment%20manufacturing&hidePreview=false&tid=ECNBASIC2017.EC1700BASIC&n=333111](https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?q=333111%3A%20Farm%20machinery%20and%20equipment%20manufacturing&hidePreview=false&tid=ECNBASIC2017.EC1700BASIC&n=333111)

**NOVEMBER 20: AMERICAN EDUCATION WEEK**

*Profile America* — Friday, November 20th. Today marks the end of the 99th observance of American Education Week. Celebrated the week before Thanksgiving, American Education Week has been recognized since 1921. When it was discovered that many of the military draftees in World War I were illiterate, the American Legion and the American Education Association joined together to develop ways in which public education could be improved and highlighted. It recognizes the power of education and
acclaims the role of America’s teachers. There are 2.6-million teaching in elementary and middle schools, 523,000 in high school, and 346,000 in preschool and kindergarten. In addition, there are 166,000 special education teachers nationwide. You can find more facts about America from the U.S. Census Bureau online at <www.census.gov>.

Sources:

NOVEMBER 21: PEANUT BUTTER LOVERS MONTH

Profile America — Saturday, November 21st. It’s a time to celebrate one of life’s simple, sticky pleasures — it’s Peanut Butter Lovers Month. The stuff of one of America’s favorite sandwiches, peanut butter was first offered to the public at the St. Louis Exposition in 1904. But as we currently know it — with the peanuts roasted and the product churned like butter to be smooth and so the oil won’t separate — peanut butter didn’t appear on grocery shelves until the 1920s. Annually, 7.4 pounds of peanuts and its related foods are available for consumption per capita. Otherwise, peanut oil is used in making paints, cosmetics, and lubricants, while the shells are used to make wallboard, abrasives, and fuel. Making peanut butter and roasting nuts is a $15.2 billion a year business in America. You can find more facts about America’s people, places and economy, from the American Community Survey, at <www.census.gov>.

Sources:
History of peanut butter, accessed 6/19/2020: https://historydaily.org/thank-the-st.-louis-worlds-fair-for-some-of-your-favorite-foods
NOVEMBER 22: NATIONAL FAMILY WEEK

Profile America — Sunday, November 22nd. Today is the start of National Family Week, observed in the week of Thanksgiving, and ending on the 28th. Family Week was launched in 1968 in Indianapolis by a teacher and school administrator as a means to provide Americans with an opportunity to promote strong families. The activist observed a stark life outcome difference in children who came from strong, supportive families and those who were not so raised. The Alliance for Children and Families, a nonprofit association representing child- and family-serving organizations in America and Canada, has directed National Family Week efforts for more than 30 years. Among America’s 121-million households there are over 79-million families, with an average of 3.24 members. Profile America is in its 24th year as a public service of the U.S. Census Bureau.

Sources:

NOVEMBER 23: DIABETES MONTH

Profile America — Monday, November 23rd. November is designated every year as American Diabetes Month. The goal is to make the public more aware of the serious nature of the disease, and how to detect and control it. When our bodies are unable to maintain a normal blood sugar level, many complications may follow, including kidney failure, and greater susceptibility to coronavirus. The disease is also the leading cause of new cases of blindness. Diabetes in America is on the rise, surging from under 1 percent of the population in 1958 to over 7 percent in this decade. One of the most vital tools in the fight against the ravages of diabetes is insulin. Nationally, nearly 1,300 establishments manufacture pharmaceutical preparations — insulin among them — and earn $178 billion per year. You can find more facts about America from the U.S. Census Bureau online at <www.census.gov>.

Sources:
Rise in diabetes diagnoses, accessed 6/9/2020:
Pharmaceutical manufacturing establishments, County Business Patterns:
Pharmaceutical industry value of shipments, Annual Survey of Manufacturers, NAICS 325412:
https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?q=325412&tid=ASMAREA2017.AM1831BASIC01&hidePreview=false

NOVEMBER 24: TOUCH TONE PHONES

Profile America — Tuesday, November 24th. We still use the word “dial” to refer to the act of calling someone on the phone. This is a legacy, as a great many of us have never used a rotary phone or seen one, except in old movies and TV shows. Push-button, or touch-tone, phones made their debut on this date in 1963. Fifty-seven years ago, the service was an extra cost option and was available only in two cities in Pennsylvania. It did not take long, however, for the speed of placing calls on the new phones to make them popular. In 1963, 81 percent of American homes had telephones. That percentage now is nearly 99 percent. In this decade, the phone of choice is mobile, as 96 percent of American households have cell phones. You can find more facts about America’s people, places and economy, from the American Community Survey, at <www.census.gov>.

Sources:
Touch-tone debut, accessed 7/18/2019:
Households with phone service, American Community Survey:
Percent of population with mobile phone, accessed 6/11/2020:
www.pewinternet.org/fact-sheet/mobile/

NOVEMBER 25: TEACH THE CHILDREN
Profile America — Wednesday, November 25th. Public education in the New World traces its birth to very early in the Colonial era. Three-hundred and seventy-three years ago this month, the Massachusetts Bay Colony authorities ordered that every township with 50 or more householders assign at least one person to teach children to read and write. The teachers would be paid by the children's parents or the general village population. Towns of 100 or more householders were required to establish schools with headmasters and instruction to prepare children for still higher education. Educating the young has been a growing priority for state and local governments ever since 1647. State and local governments together spend a combined $1 trillion on education services annually. You can find more facts about America's people, places and economy, from the American Community Survey, at <www.census.gov>.

Sources:
State & local government education expenditures:
www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/gov-finances/tables/2017/summary-tables/17slsstab1a.xlsx?

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NOVEMBER 26: THANKSGIVING

Profile America — Thursday, November 26th. Today is Thanksgiving Day. One of the most traditional of American holidays, it's thought to have begun in 1621 in Plymouth, Massachusetts. The holiday became national in 1863, and the fourth Thursday of the month has been the official day since 1941. In many of the nation's nearly 120 million households, people will share a special meal, typically turkey with all the traditional trimmings. American farmers raise around 245 million turkeys annually, in some 2,500 locations nationwide. In a recent measure, Americans eat an average of 16.4 pounds of turkey each year, while the birds themselves have … or had … an average weight of 30 pounds. The men and women of the U.S. Census Bureau wish you and your loved ones a joyful and peaceful Thanksgiving.

Sources:
Number of U.S. households:
www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/US/HSD410215#viewtop
Turkeys raised and consumption, accessed 6/5/2020: www.eatturkey.org/industry/
Turkey per capita consumption, accessed 6/5/2020:
NOVEMBER 27: NATIVE AMERICAN VICE PRESIDENT

*Profile America* — Friday, November 27th. On this Native American Heritage Day, it’s befitting to note the career of Charles Curtis of Kansas. This month in 1892, he was elected to Federal office, representing an advance for American Indians. Spending much of his youth on his mother’s reservation, Curtis was possibly the first person of Native American heritage to be elected to the House of Representatives, and definitely the first in the Senate, where he rose to Senate Majority Leader in 1925. He wound up his career as Herbert Hoover’s Vice President. There are over 5.7 million Native Americans and Alaska Natives of single or mixed race, as was Vice President Curtis. Of the 223 million citizens of voting age in the 2018 elections, nearly 2 million were of American Indian and Alaska Native heritage. *Profile America* is in its 24th year as a public service of the U.S. Census Bureau.

Sources:
[https://nationaldaycalendar.com/national-native-american-heritage-day-day-after-thanksgiving/](https://nationaldaycalendar.com/national-native-american-heritage-day-day-after-thanksgiving/)
Curtis biography, accessed 8/3/2018:
[www.senate.gov/senators/FeaturedBios/Featured_Bio_Curtis.htm](http://www.senate.gov/senators/FeaturedBios/Featured_Bio_Curtis.htm)
American Indian/Alaska Native population, American Community Survey:
American Indians and Alaska Natives population, and of voting age, American Community Survey:

NOVEMBER 28: SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY

*Profile America* — Saturday, November 28th. Today is Small Business Saturday, a day to honor and support small businesses nationwide. Begun just 10 years ago by the American Express Company, and recognized by the Small Business Administration in 2015, the occasion gives a boost to small merchants just after Black Friday, and shortly before Cyber Monday. In the most recent Census Bureau survey of enterprise owners, there were nearly 6.9 million business firms with employees nationwide. In this group, over 3.37 million — nearly 49 percent — were enterprises having four or fewer employees. Almost 10 million of America’s business enterprises are women-owned. 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).
NOVEMBER 29: TV DINNERS

Profile America — Sunday, November 29th. The menu for the day after Thanksgiving often involves leftover turkey. Household dinner options are nothing like that facing the Swanson Company this month 67 years ago. Overestimating the need for Thanksgiving turkeys in 1953, the firm found itself with some 260 tons of unsold turkey. Enter a salesman named Gerry Thomas. He modified a tray used by airlines into one with three compartments, filled it with a turkey dinner, and suggested tying the idea to the nation’s growing television market. And so the TV dinner was born, going on sale in 1954. Frozen foods have come along steadily ever since, and there are 86,000 workers employed by the nation’s 700 frozen food manufacturing establishments. Profile America is in its 24th year as a public service of the U.S. Census Bureau.

Sources:

NOVEMBER 30: TRAFFIC SIGNAL

Profile America — Monday, November 30th. The first traffic signal with indicators for “stop”, “go” and, most notably, “caution” was patented this month 97 years ago. The 1923 green light went to African-American inventor Garrett Morgan, who decided to do something after witnessing a collision between a car and a horse-drawn wagon on a Cleveland street. At the time, there were already more than 15 million motor vehicles on the nation’s roads. Morgan’s three-position signal was manually operated by a traffic
officer during peak hours. This invention, with its staffing and mechanical requirements, was soon overtaken by the now-familiar system of green, yellow and red lights. Today’s traffic signals regulate the movements of the approximately 274 million registered motor vehicles nationwide. You can find more facts about America’s people, places and economy, from the American Community Survey, at <www.census.gov>.

Sources:
Morgan and traffic signal, accessed 6/19/2020: www.history.com/this-day-in-history/garrett-morgan-patents-three-position-traffic-signal
Vehicle registrations, accessed 6/19/2020: www.bts.gov/content/number-us-aircraft-vehicles-vessels-and-other-conveyances