



Notable Quotable

“It is, I believe, the greatest generation any society has ever produced.”

~ Tom Brokaw, journalist and author



January Horoscopes and Birthdays

In astrology, those born between January 1–19 are Capricorn’s Goats. Goats are responsible masters of self-control and considered some of the hardest workers in the zodiac. Those born from January 20–31 are the Water Bearers of Aquarius. These deep-thinking intellectuals have big and original dreams. The world is full of possibilities, and Aquarians seek freedom in order to reach their greatest potential.

- Betsy Ross – Jan. 1, 1752
- Isaac Newton – Jan. 4, 1643
- Diane Keaton – Jan. 5, 1946
- Zora Neale Hurston – Jan. 7, 1891
- Elvis Presley – Jan. 8, 1935
- Max Roach – Jan. 10, 1924
- Martin Luther King Jr. – Jan. 15, 1929
- Michelle Obama – Jan. 17, 1964
- Dolly Parton – Jan 19, 1946
- Telly Savalas – Jan. 21, 1924
- Etta James – Jan. 25, 1938
- Oprah Winfrey – Jan. 29, 1954
- Jackie Robinson – Jan. 31, 1919

The Greatest Generation *continued from pg. 1*

But thanks to a never-say-die, can-do attitude forged in the hardships of the Great Depression, Americans went to work and by 1945 had built a massive army capable of fighting the Pacific, Asia, Europe, and in the Mediterranean, as well as a civilian workforce to support it. Surely there were defeats and missteps in battle, but the Greatest Generation never did cast blame or look for a scapegoat. They instead forged

ahead to the next challenge. Perseverance, bravery, and mutual respect would become their generational hallmarks.

Lessons learned during the war were put to use in postwar America. There was little room for endless hemming and hawing on the battlefield. So, too, in the boardroom, in laboratories, and in politics. Common experience united the Greatest Generation in bonds that could not be broken.

Snow Angel

Wilson Bentley was a young farmer in Vermont when he snapped the first photograph of a snowflake on January 15, 1885. He was not a scientist or photographer, but after his parents gave him a microscope at age 15, he became fascinated with the natural world. Taking photographs of snowflakes was not easy. After all, their crystals melt at the slightest hint of warmth. Bentley had to invent his own equipment, rigging together a microscope and camera, to capture his ephemeral subjects.

He would stand in the cold for hours, waiting for the perfect flake and then transfer it under the lens using a feather as a tool. Until his death in 1931, Bentley photographed 5,000 different snowflakes and was the first to argue that no two snowflakes were alike. Scientists attempted to replicate Bentley’s work to no avail. They even accused him of fraud. But Bentley’s images were more than scientific research; they were artistic masterpieces, secret glimpses into nature’s wonderful geometry.

Auburn Hill Digest

January 2021

Celebrating January

Get Organized Month

International Creativity Month

Volunteer Blood Donor Month

First Foot Day
January 1

Trivia Day
January 4

Bobblehead Day
January 7

Make Your Dream Come True Day
January 13

Martin Luther King Jr. Day
January 18

Compliment Day
January 24

Kazoo Day
January 28

Inspire Your Heart with Art Day
January 31

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The Greatest Generation

It was the journalist Tom Brokaw who coined the phrase “The Greatest Generation” as a tribute to those born in 1924 and earlier. This generation faced more than its fair share of hardship, coming of age during the Great Depression and fighting the evils of World War II. There are still many lessons to be learned from this generation, and if we listen carefully enough, we might even learn that any generation can be called the “greatest.”

been called a “collective ethos,” a united mindset that grew out of the rally against the oppressive tyranny of the Nazis in defense of freedom. America was a small country reeling from the Great Depression. The United States Army was smaller than that of Portugal. The Great Depression had also decimated government coffers, making it difficult to find money to support the military.

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The Greatest Generation has also been called the G.I. Generation by historians, due to the fact that 16 million Americans served in the military during World War II. This shared trial created what has



Better Health, Step by Step

The American Lung Association wants you to Take the Stairs on January 13, hoping that this holiday encourages you to get exercise one step at a time. Stair climbing strengthens your leg muscles, improves balance, burns fat, and increases blood flow and heart rate, which help lower blood pressure and boost good cholesterol. You don’t need to climb 100 flights of stairs to

enjoy the benefits. A sustained workout of 20 minutes, or even taking a couple of flights up and down, is often enough to experience some health benefits. For more ambitious athletes, there are plenty of exotic staircases to challenge your stamina. Lion Rock in Sri Lanka is home to a 1,500-year-old-palace carved into a rock with 1,200 steps to the 660-foot peak.

Music to Our Ears



The Grammy trophy weighs six pounds and is made of a custom alloy known as "grammium."

On January 31, the world's greatest musicians and recording artists will compete for the coveted Grammy Awards. With or without a live audience, event organizers have carefully planned an awards ceremony full of dazzling performances.

The story of the Grammy awards began with the Hollywood Walk of Fame. In 1953, the Hollywood Chamber of Commerce developed the Walk of Fame as a beautification project that would honor the four major branches of the entertainment industry: motion pictures, television, audio recording, and radio. Representatives of the music and recording industry were asked to submit a list of names to be honored with the famous coral-colored star, but honorees would only be considered eligible based on minimum sales of one million records or 250,000 albums. The committee soon realized that

these metrics would exclude some of music's most important names. The sales requirements were done away with and a new association was formed, the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences. This Academy was keenly aware of the Oscar awards for motion pictures and the Emmys for television. It was only natural that the music industry should have its own awards, and so the Grammys, named for the gramophone, were invented in 1959.

During that very first awards ceremony, Grammys were awarded in 28 categories, with Ella Fitzgerald winning Best Jazz Performance and Best Female Vocalist, Henry Mancini winning Album of the Year, and Domenico Modugno winning Record of the Year. Who will win this year?

Basketball for All



Despite its team name, the Harlem Globetrotters did not play in Harlem until 1968.

On January 27, 1927, the Harlem Globetrotters basketball team played their first game in Hinkley, Illinois. It was an era when Black players were not allowed to play on professional teams. Abe Saperstein, a Chicago sports booking agent, was impressed with the talent of a team known as the Savoy Big Five, so named because they played in Chicago's Savoy Ballroom. He recruited them to play on a new team, which he called the New York Harlem

Globetrotters, named after the neighborhood that was the center of African American culture at the time. The team competed throughout the country, even beating the Minneapolis Lakers, the best team in the NBA, in 1948. The Globetrotters never joined the NBA but instead became one of the world's most beloved and talented exhibition basketball teams, delighting crowds with both their play and playful on-court antics.

Going Cuckoo



After Hardy died in 1957, Laurel put his telephone number in the phone book so fans could call him.

Beginning on January 11, fans of the comedic duo of Stan Laurel and Oliver Hardy celebrate Cuckoo Dancing Week in honor of their cuckoo theme song. Marvin Hatley first composed the tune known as "The Dance of the Cuckoos" as an on-the-hour musical chime for the Hal Roach Studio's radio station in 1930. When Laurel heard the tune, he asked Hatley

if he could use it in their act. The duo's comedy routines, featured in over 100 short films and features, gave Laurel and Hardy worldwide fame. And everywhere Laurel and Hardy went, "The Dance of the Cuckoos" followed. When they visited Ireland in 1953, the church bells of Cork's Cobh Cathedral rang out "The Dance of the Cuckoos" to welcome them.

Lincoln's Legacy

On January 1, 1863, President Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation, which he called the "central act" of his administration and "the great event of the 19th century." But this story began over 100 days prior, on September 17, 1862, with the Battle of Antietam.



The Emancipation Proclamation dissuaded Britain and France from supporting the Confederacy.

The Battle of Antietam was not a resounding victory for the Union Army. Union forces, led by General George McClellan, were successful in repelling General Robert E. Lee's push into Union territory, but it cost thousands of lives and casualties. President Lincoln was furious that McClellan had allowed Lee to retreat. Lincoln believed that if McClellan had pursued Lee and wiped out his troops, the Confederate forces would have suffered a setback too powerful to overcome. Lincoln eventually removed McClellan from command, and military historians have called the Battle of Antietam a stalemate.

Lincoln seized on the retreat of Lee as a victory, and the stage was set to make his Emancipation Proclamation on September 22, 1862. Lincoln had long opposed slavery, once proclaiming, "There can be no moral right in connection with one man's making a slave of the other," but thus far his main aim in the war had been the preservation of the Union. The Emancipation Proclamation changed that by making the freedom of slaves one of the North's chief aims of the war. His proclamation called on southern states to rejoin the Union within 100 days, or on January 1, 1863, all slaves in southern states would be declared free.

There was little Lincoln could do to enforce his own proclamation when January 1 arrived, but slavery had been officially condemned and Lincoln could now work toward a Constitutional amendment abolishing slavery. American history had been made.