

# Timeline of the 1980s

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**1980-** Ronald Reagan elected President, John Lennon of the Beatles is shot dead in New York City, Ted Turner launches CNN; the 1<sup>st</sup> all news network.

**1981-** Reagan nominates Sandra Day O' Connor of Arizona as the 1<sup>st</sup> woman on the U.S. Supreme Court, MTV goes on the air running around the clock music videos; debuting with "video killed the radio star", President Reagan is wounded by gunman (John Hinckley) along with his press secretary and two law enforcement officers.

**1982-** British overcome Argentina in the Falklands War, Israel invades Lebanon in attack on PLO, Equal Rights Amendment fails ratification, Michael Jackson releases "Thriller" which sells 25 million copies, becoming the biggest selling album in history, MRI diagnostic machines are introduced in Britain.

**1983-** terrorist explosion kills 257 U.S. Marines in Beirut, U.S. invades Grenada, Sally Ride becomes the 1<sup>st</sup> U.S. woman astronaut in space as a crew member aboard the Space Shuttle Challenger.

**1984-** Toxic gas leaks from Union Carbide plant in Bhopal, India, killing 2000 and injuring 150,000, Bell Telephone system is broken up, Democrats nominate Walter Mondale and 1<sup>st</sup> woman V.P. candidate Geraldine Ferraro, Apple issues the user-friendly Macintosh personal computer.

**1985-** Soviet Leader Chernenko dies and is replaced by Mikhail Gorbachev; under the slogans of glasnost and perestroika Gorbachev initiates a broad program of reform and liberalization, Reagan and Gorbachev meet at summit; agree to step up arms control talks and renew cultural contacts, Rock Hudson dies of AIDS at age 59; he is the first major star to fall victim to the disease, Dozens of top name musicians and bands perform at Live Aid concerts in Philadelphia and London; the shows benefit African famine victims, Coca Cola attempts to change their 99 year old formula for coke to attract younger drinkers; "New Coke" is poorly received and Coke is reintroduced as Coke Classic.

**1986-** Pres. Reagan freezes Libyan assets in the U.S.; 3 months later U.S. planes attack Libyan "terrorist centers", Space Shuttle Challenger explodes after launch at

Cape Canaveral, Fla., killing all 7 aboard (including the 1<sup>st</sup> teacher to space), Secret initiative to send arms to Iran is revealed; Reagan denies exchanging arms for hostages and halts arms sales; diversion of funds from arms sales to Nicaraguan Contras revealed one week later, Oprah Winfrey show hits national television.

**1987-** Oliver North tells Congressional inquiry higher officials approved his secret Iran-Contra operations, U.S. Supreme Court rules that Rotary Clubs must admit women.

**1988-** Pan Am 747 explodes from terrorist bomb and crashes in Lockerbie, Scotland; killing 259 aboard and 11 on the ground, U. S. Navy ship shoots down Iranian airliner in the Persian Gulf; mistaking it for a jet fighter; 290 killed, Democrats nominate Michael Dukakis of Massachusetts for President and Lloyd Bentsen of Texas for Vice President, Republicans nominate Vice President George Bush for President and Dan Quayle for Vice President, Republicans sweep 40 states as Bush defeats Dukakis.

**1989-** U.S. planes shoot down 2 Libyan fighters over international waters in the Mediterranean, tens of thousands of Chinese students take over Beijing's Tiananmen Square in rally for democracy; chaos spreads across the nation, thousands are killed in Tiananmen Square as Chinese leaders take hard line toward demonstrations., The Berlin Wall starts to come down.