

# THE HISTORY OF Today

October 15 is the 288th day of the year  
(289th in leap years) in the Gregorian calendar.  
There are 77 days remaining until the end of the year

**1860:** Eleven-year-old Grace Bedell of Westfield, N.Y., wrote a letter to presidential candidate Abraham Lincoln, suggesting he could improve his appearance by growing a beard.

**1951:** The situation comedy "I Love Lucy" premiered on CBS.

**1964:** Composer Cole Porter died at age 73.

**1969:** Peace demonstrators staged activities across the country, including a candlelight march around the White House, as part of a moratorium against the Vietnam War.

**1976:** Democrat Walter F. Mondale and Republican Bob Dole faced off in the first debate between vice-presidential nominees.

**1989:** Wayne Gretzky of the Los

Angeles Kings surpassed Gordie Howe's NHL career scoring record of 1,850 points.

**1990:** South Africa's Separate Amenities Act, which had barred blacks from public facilities for decades, was scrapped.

**1991:** The Senate narrowly confirmed the nomination of Clarence Thomas to the Supreme Court, 52-48.

**1993:** Nelson Mandela and F.W. de Klerk were named winners of the Nobel Peace Prize for their efforts to end apartheid in South Africa.

**2003:** China launched its first manned space mission.

**2005:** Iraqis voted to approve a constitution.



**1945:** The former premier of Vichy France, Pierre Laval, was executed.



**1966:** President Lyndon Johnson signed a bill creating the Department of Transportation.

**1946:** Nazi war criminal Hermann Goering fatally poisoned himself hours before he was to have been executed.



**1990:** Soviet President Mikhail S. Gorbachev was named the winner of the Nobel Peace Prize.



**2002:** InClone Systems founder Sam Waksal pleaded guilty in New York in the biotech company's insider trading scandal. (He was later sentenced to more than seven years in prison.)