

This Day in History... February 11, 1983

First US Inventors' Day



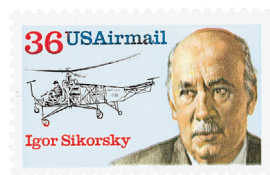
Issued on Edison's 100th birthday.



Lindbergh invented a glass perfusion pump that would later make heart surgeries possible.



Ford received 161 US patents.



Sikorsky is credited with inventing the first modern helicopter.

On February 11, 1983, America celebrated its first Inventors' Day.

Some nations had set aside days to honor their inventors before 1983 and some since. In January of that year, US President Ronald Reagan issued a proclamation establishing February 11, Thomas Edison's birthday, as Inventors' Day.

It's custom in many countries to celebrate Inventors' Day on the birthday of a noted native inventor. Reagan chose Edison because of his prolific career. Over the course of his life, Edison received 1,093 patents in the US (plus more in other countries) and founded 14 companies – including what would become General Electric.

In his proclamation, Reagan stated that "Inventors are the keystone of the technological progress that is so vital to the economic, environmental, and social well-being of this country. Individual ingenuity and perseverance, spurred by the incentives of the patent system, begin the process that results in improved standards of living, increased public and private productivity, creation of new industries, improved public services, and enhanced competitiveness of American products in world markets."



Robert Fulton invented and patented several items, including a dredging machine and the first modern naval torpedoes.



Lincoln patented a device to lift boats off shoals in a river.



Walker invented a scalp healing tonic and became America's first female self-made millionaire.



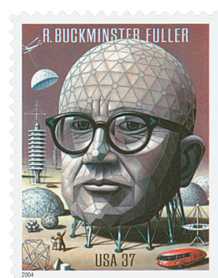
Gilbreth invented the foot-pedal trash can, developed shelves in refrigerator doors, and improved the electric can opener and other kitchen appliances.



Jefferson invented and improved on many creations. He's credited as the creator of the swivel chair.



Chester Carlson developed xerography - the process of using electrostatic action to transfer dry powder on copy paper.



R. Buckminster Fuller invented the geodesic dome, among other things.

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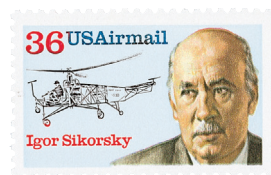
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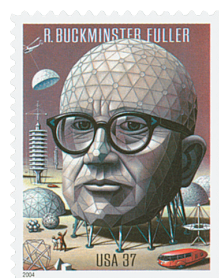
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