

TODAY

Today is Monday, Feb. 1, the 32nd day of 2021. There are 333 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Feb. 1, 2003, the space shuttle Columbia broke up during re-entry, killing all seven of its crew members: commander Rick Husband; pilot William McCool; payload commander Michael Anderson; mission specialists Kalpana Chawla, David Brown and Laurel Clark; and payload specialist Ilan Ramon, the first Israeli in space.

In 1790, the U.S. Supreme Court convened for the first time in New York. (However, since only three of the six justices were present, the court recessed until the next day.)

In 1862, "The Battle Hymn of the Republic," a poem by Julia Ward Howe, was published in the Atlantic Monthly.

In 1865, abolitionist John S. Rock became the first Black lawyer admitted to the bar of the U.S. Supreme Court.

In 1893, inventor Thomas Edison completed work on the world's first motion picture studio, his "Black Maria," in West Orange, New Jersey.

In 1942, during World War II, the Voice of America broadcast its first program to Europe, relaying it through the facilities of the British Broadcasting Corp. in London.

In 1943, during World War II, one of America's most highly decorated military units, the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, made up almost exclusively of Japanese-Americans, was authorized.

In 1960, four Black college students began a sit-in protest at a Woolworth's lunch counter in Greensboro, North Carolina, where they'd been refused service.

In 1962, the Ken Kesey novel "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest" was first published by Viking Press.

In 1968, during the Vietnam War, South Vietnam's police chief executed a Viet Cong officer with a pistol shot to the head in a scene captured by news photographers.

In 1979, Iranian religious leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini received a tumultuous welcome in Tehran as he ended nearly 15 years of exile.

In 1991, 34 people were killed when an arriving USAir jetliner crashed atop a commuter plane on a runway at Los Angeles International Airport.

In 2018, a judge ordered a Wisconsin girl, Morgan Geyser, to be committed to a mental hospital for 40 years for stabbing a classmate when she was 12 years old to curry favor with the fictional horror character Slender Man.

Ten years ago: Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak announced he would not run for a new term in September elections but rejected protesters' demands he step down immediately and leave the country, after a dramatic day in which a quarter-million Egyptians staged their biggest protest to date calling on him to go.

Five years ago: The World Health Organization declared a global emergency over the explosive spread of the Zika virus, which was linked to birth defects in the Americas, calling it an "extraordinary event" that posed a public health threat to other parts of the world.

One year ago: As China's death toll from the new coronavirus rose to 259, Beijing criticized Washington's order barring entry to most foreigners who had visited China in the past two weeks. A World Health Organization official said governments needed to prepare for "domestic outbreak control."

Today's Birthdays: Singer Don Everly is 84. Actor Garrett Morris is 84. Bluegrass singer Del McCoury is 82. TV personality-singer Joy Philbin is 80. Political commentator Fred Barnes is 78. Rock musician Mike Campbell (Tom Petty & the Heartbreakers) is 71. Blues singer-musician Sonny Landreth is 70. Actor-writer-producer Bill Mummy is 67. Rock singer Exene Cervenka is 65. Actor Linus Roache is 57. Princess Stephanie of Monaco is 56. Actor Sherrylyn Fenn is 56. Lisa Marie Presley is 53. Comedian-actor Pauly Shore is 53. Actor Brian Krause is 52. Jazz musician Joshua Redman is 52. Rock musician Patrick Wilson (Weezer) is 52. Actor Michael C. Hall is 50. Rock musician Ron Welty is 50. Rapper Big Boi (Outkast) is 46. Roots rocker Jason Isbell is 42. Country singer Julie Roberts is 42. Actor Jarrett Lennon is 39. Rock singer-musician Andrew VanWyngarden is 38. TV personality Lauren Conrad is 35. Actor-singer Heather Morris is 34. Actor and mixed martial artist Ronda Rousey is 34. Rock singer Harry Styles (One Direction) is 27.

— Associated Press

FURTHER REVIEW

A BANNER DAY



GEORGE ROSE/TNS

By Charles Apple | THE SPOKESMAN-REVIEW

Typically, viewers remember a Super Bowl because of a spectacular performance by a football player. Or because of a close game with an exciting finish. Or perhaps an extraordinarily entertaining halftime performance.

But in the case of Super Bowl XXV — 30 years ago — the showstopper came before the show even began: When Whitney Houston set the country on fire with her unusual performance of the national anthem.

Houston's electrifying performance in Tampa

Just 10 days before, the U.S. and its coalition of allies had begun daily aerial attacks on Iraq in what would become known as the Gulf War.

Officials worried about terrorist attacks. The Goodyear blimp was grounded for Super Bowl XXV. Concrete barriers and 6-foot-high chain-link fences stood between the parking lot and Tampa Stadium. Fans were asked to walk through metal detectors and past bomb-sniffing dogs. Ladies' bags were checked. All this is common today. But in 1991, not so much.

It was in this environment that 26-year-old Whitney Houston stepped up to perform the traditional pregame national anthem, accompanied by the Florida Orchestra.

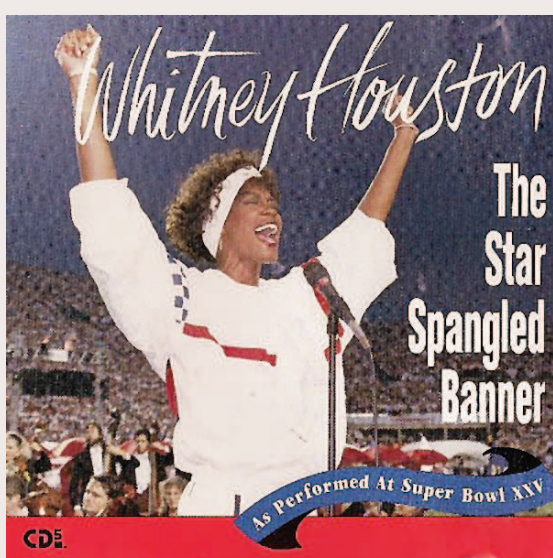
Wanting to wow the crowd with some patriotic soul, Houston had worked with her vocal arranger Rickey Minor and the orchestra to put her own twist on the 191-year-old "The Star Spangled Banner": They took the anthem, normally played in 3/4 time, and changed it to 4/4 time. This slowed the anthem down just a bit, but allowing Houston to perform a little vocal magic with it.

Another thing they did, which would be called into question later: They prerecorded Houston's vocals. The NFL insisted that it would be too difficult for Houston to hear her musical cue in front of 73,800 fans that day. So yes, Houston would lip-sync to her own recording on national TV before the game.

At one point, NFL officials listened to the recording, decided it was a little *too* different for their tastes, and asked Houston to give it another go. She and her arranger refused. She'd present the song in Tampa as planned, singing into a "dead" mic.

Houston launched into her falsetto on "broad stripes and bright stars." She hit her stride with "rockets red glare." F-16 jets from MacDill Air Force Base flew overhead as she neared the end of her performance, holding the word "brave" for eight seconds that she made seem effortless.

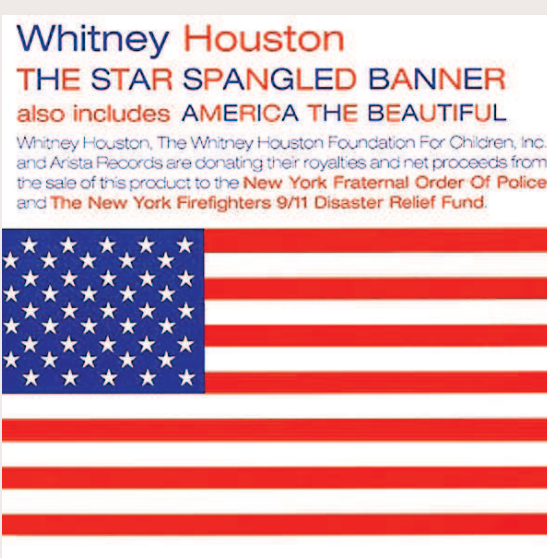
By the time she was done, the nation was buzzing: "Did you see that?"

Houston's anthem on the charts

The public clamored for a recording of Houston's performance. Two weeks after the Super Bowl, Arista Records released the recording as a single on vinyl, CD and cassette.

The single debuted at No. 32 on the Billboard Hot 100 singles chart and peaked at No. 20 on March 20. The single was Arista's fastest-selling single ever, at the time, spending a total of 11 weeks on the Hot 100.

Houston donated \$531,650 of the proceeds to the American Red Cross Gulf Crisis Fund, which provided aid to military personnel serving in the Gulf, their families and to victims of the war there.



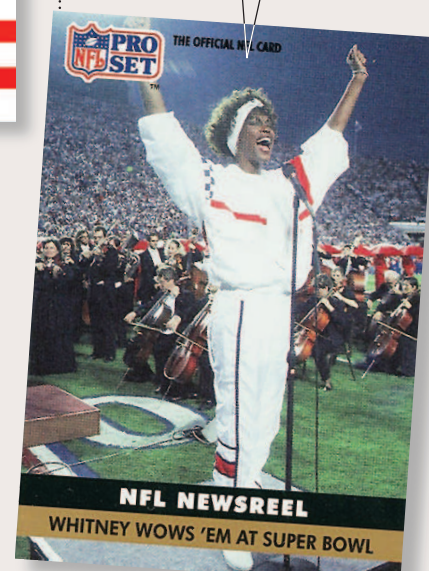
Houston and her record company released the recording again, following the terrorist attacks of 9/11.

This time, the single would peak at No. 6 — the first time in the history of Billboard's Hot 100 that an artist had placed the national anthem in the Top 10. Before the introduction of the Hot 100, "The Star Spangled Banner" had been at No. 7 hit for Margaret Woodrow Wilson in 1915 and then a No. 1 hit for John McCormack in 1917.

The single would sell 1.2 million copies in the U.S. and would remain in the Hot 100 for 27 weeks.

Later in 1991, Houston's anthem performance would place her onto the front of a football card published by Pro Set — at the time, a popular brand for collectors.

Today, copies can be found on Amazon and other popular forums for sports card collectors for under \$5.

**But what about the game itself?**

It would have to be one heck of a game to top Houston's national anthem performance. And Super Bowl XXV was one heck of a game.

The New York Giants won, 20-19, after Buffalo Bills kicker Scott Norwood's last-second field goal attempt — which would have won the game for the Bills — sailed wide right of the goalposts.

If you're a Bills fan, then you might remember this game as the first of four consecutive Super Bowl appearances — and four consecutive Super Bowl losses.



PHIL SANDLIN/ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Bills were known for their high-flying no-huddle offense which had led the league in scoring. The Giants had led the NFL by allowing just 211 points all season long.

Giants defensive coordinator Bill Belichick came up with an ever-shifting series of defensive schemes aimed at throwing Bills quarterback Jim Kelly off-kilter. That plan seemed to work.

The game was unusual in that ABC chose to not broadcast the halftime show, "A Small World Salute to 25 Years of the Super Bowl," produced by Disney and featuring 3,500 local children and a performance by the boy band New Kids on the Block.

Instead, it showed a special ABC News report hosted by Peter Jennings with the latest news on the Gulf War. The halftime show was taped and shown after the game.

Sources: ESPN, the New Yorker, Essence, Jet, Beckett, USA Today, the Florida Orchestra, "The Billboard Book of Top 40 Hits" by Joel Whitburn