

1. **Giovanni da Verrazzano** (c.1485 - 1528) Florentine explorer sailing under the French flag landed at Cape Fear, North Carolina on this date in 1524; continued on to New York and Newfoundland. First European to sight New York and Narragansett Bays. He died in 1528 in the Lesser Antilles.
2. **Jon Bon Jovi** (March 2, 1962 -) Born John Francis Bongiovi, Jr. American musician, songwriter, singer, and actor, sold over 120 million albums.
3. **Giovanni Battista Viotti** (May 12, 1755 - March 3, 1824) Violinist, composer and director of French and Italian opera companies.
4. **Ray 'Boom Boom' Mancini** (March 4, 1961 -) Born Raymond M. Mancino. The boxer held the WBA lightweight championship for two years.
5. **Lucio Battisti** (March 5, 1943 - September 9, 1998) Italian singer/songwriter. Considered one of the best and most influential musicians and authors in Italian pop/rock music history.
6. **Michelangelo Buonarroti** (March 6, 1475 - February 18, 1564) An Italian Renaissance painter, sculptor, architect, and engineer.
7. **Franco Harris** (March 7, 1930 -) Hall of Fame football player. Played for Penn State University and the Pittsburgh Steelers.
8. **Luca Ronconi** (March 8, 1955 -) Born in Sousse, Tunisia. He is an Italian actor, theater and opera director.
9. **Amerigo Vespucci** (March 9, 1454 - February 22, 1512) Explorer, cartographer, demonstrated Columbus' discovery was not Asia but a new continent.
10. **James Valvano** (March 10, 1946 - April 28, 1993) American college basketball coach at North Carolina State U; won the 1983 NCAA Tournament. He is known for his ESPY Awards speech just prior to his death from cancer.
11. **Antonin Scalia** (March 11, 1936 -) An Associate Justice on the U.S. Supreme Court. He was born in Trenton, NJ.
12. **Joseph Petrosino** (August 30, 1880 - March 12, 1909) A NYPD officer who fought against organized crime. Many of his crime fighting techniques are used today. Born in Fadula, Salerno, Italy. Lieutenant Petrosino was assassinated on March 12th in Sicily, Italy.
13. **Joe Bellino** (March 13, 1938 -) This Heisman Trophy winner played football for the Naval Academy and the Boston Patriots.
14. **New Orleans Lynching** of 11 Italians, March 14, 1891, after a jury acquitted them of the murder of Chief of Police David Hennessy. This was one of the largest multiple lynchings in American history.
15. **Gaius Julius Caesar** (July 13, 100BC - March 15, 44BC) Assassinated in 44 BC Roman military and political leader, he played a critical role in changing the Roman Republic into an Empire.
16. **Bernardo Bertolucci** (March 16, 1940 -) Born in Parma, Italy. Italian writer and an Academy Award film director.
17. **John Orlando Pastore** (March 17, 1907 - July 15, 2000) Rhode Island's first Italian American governor and U.S. Senator.
18. **Antonio Salviati** (March 18, 1816 - January 25, 1890) An Italian glass manufacturer responsible for mass producing glass products, making Murano the glass manufacturing center of the world.
19. **John Sirica** (March 19, 1904 - August 14, 1992) Chief Judge, U.S. District Court, District of Columbia. Chief Justice during the Watergate hearings.
20. **Arthur F. DeFranzo** (March 20, 1919 - June 10, 1944) U.S. Army Medal of Honor awardee for his actions during WWII.
21. **Mayor Joseph Alioto** (February 12, 1916 - January 29, 1998) Proclaimed the "First Earth Day" in San Francisco, CA.
22. **Angele Badalamenti** (March 22, 1957 -) American composer and soundtrack director for the movies. Blue Velvet and Twin Peaks.
23. **Robert Gallo** (March 23, 1937 -) U.S. Biomedical researcher who identified HIV, the cause of AIDS.
24. **Joseph Barbera** (March 24, 1911 - December 18, 2006) Animator, cartoonist, director and producer of "The Flintstones," "The Jetsons" and others.
25. **Arturo Toscanini** (March 25, 1867 - January 16, 1957) Musician and conductor. The NBC Symphony Orchestra was created for him in 1937.
26. **Nancy Pelosi** (March 26, 1940 -) First woman and Italian American to serve as Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives.
27. **Francesco Antonio Zaccaria** (March 27, 1714 - October 10, 1795) Italian theologian, historian and writer.
28. **Fra Bartolommeo** (March 28, 1472 - October 6, 1517) Born di Pogholo; Dominican friar known for Italian Renaissance paintings of religious subjects.
29. **Enea Bossi, Sr.** (March 29, 1888 - January, 1963) Italian American aerospace engineer and aviator; designed the first stainless steel airplane and the *Pedolante*, "Pedal Glider", a human powered airplane.
30. **Frankie Laine** (March 30 - February 6, 2007) Born Francesco Paolo Lovvocchio. Singer, musician, and songwriter.
31. **Dr. Leonardo Buseaglia** (March 13, 1924 - June 11, 1998) University of Southern California professor; authored inspirational books on love.

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