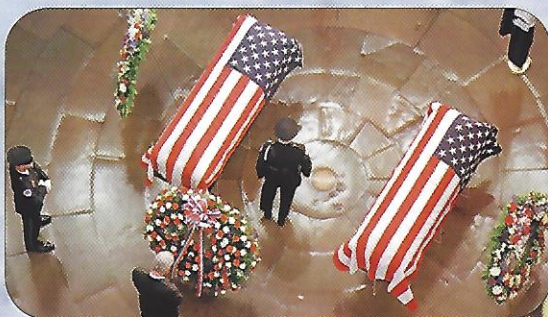


☛ Mentally unstable Russell Eugene Weston Jr. charges into the U.S. Capitol building on July 24 and fatally shoots Special Agent John Gibson and Officer Jacob Chestnut.



AP Photo/Gary Cameron, Pool

☛ A Titanic exhibit tours the U.S. featuring over 200 artifacts and displays chronicling the fateful ship's maiden voyage and tragic sinking.

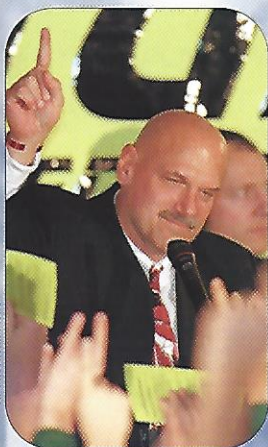


Reuters/Jim Bourg/Archive Photos



AP Photo/Jim Mone

☛ Northwest Airlines pilots strike for 17 days in August and September causing more than 27,000 canceled flights and a loss of \$338 million.



AP Photo/Jim Mone

☛ Reform Party candidate Jesse Ventura shocks the nation when he wins the race for governor of Minnesota in November. Ventura is a former Navy Seal, pro wrestler and action movie actor.



AP Photo/Ruth Fremson

☛ In response to family pressure, DNA testing confirms that remains buried in the Tomb of the Unknowns are those of Michael J. Blassie, an Air Force pilot shot down in Vietnam.



AP Photo/LM Otero

☛ In summer 1998, North Texas temperatures exceed 100 degrees for 45 days. The state's heat death toll climbs to 132 and fires burn over 344,000 acres.

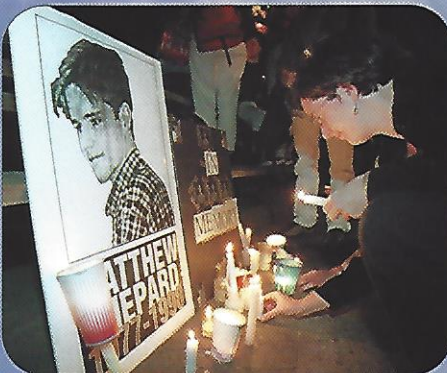
## Flash

☛ In September, Hurricane Georges crashes through the Florida Keys and Mississippi. The killer storm causes the largest mandatory evacuation in Florida history, and Mississippi victims receive over \$131 million in aid.



AP Photo/Dave Martin

☛ Matthew Shepard, a 21-year-old gay student at the University of Wyoming, dies five days after being brutally attacked in an apparent hate crime. Vigils in his memory are held across the country.



AP Photo/Suzanne Plunkett

In August, General Motors Corporation and United Auto Workers reach an agreement that ends an eight-week strike.

President Clinton announces the federal government ends the 1998 fiscal year with a budget surplus of \$70 billion, the first surplus since 1969.

More than 280 colleges now admit some or all of their applicants without regard to SAT or ACT scores. Many schools say the system improves the academic quality and diversity of their student bodies.

DNA tests determine that Rebecca Chittum was unknowingly switched with Callie Conley at a Virginia hospital after their births three years ago. This case prompts a national debate on the need for stricter hospital procedures.