



● The final component of One World Trade Center's spire was put into place on May 10th, making the building a symbolic height of 1,776 feet and the tallest in the Western Hemisphere. One World Trade Center, also referred to as 1WTC or Freedom Tower, stands on the site of the original 6 World Trade Center. The new complex is home to the National September 11 Memorial and Museum.

● 800,000 federal employees were furloughed and 1.3 million more were required to work without knowing when their next paycheck would come, after the government shut down on October 1st. The shut-down was the first since 1995-96, and resulted when Congress could not pass the budget for 2014. The shut-down ended on October 17th, after Congress agreed to suspend the debt limit until February 7, 2014.

● November 22, 2013 marked the 50th anniversary of the assassination of the 35th President, John Fitzgerald Kennedy. The nation paid tribute to President Kennedy with ceremonies across the country. Kennedy's most famous quotation came from his 1961 Inaugural Address, "And so, my fellow Americans: ask not what your country can do for you - ask what you can do for your country."

● The USS George Washington aircraft carrier helped distribute supplies to the Philippines after that nation was hit by Typhoon Haiyan on November 8th. The typhoon was the deadliest natural disaster on record in the Philippines, according to the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council.

● Enrollment opened on October 1st for the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act that was signed into law in 2010. The

controversial law faced additional scrutiny as the healthcare.gov website caused frustration for users as they tried to enroll.

● The National Toy Hall of Fame introduced their 2013 inductees - Chess and the Rubber Duck. The toys join other iconic toys such as Barbie, Hot Wheels and Lincoln Logs, bringing the total to 54 toys in the Hall of Fame.

● "Selfie" was announced in November as Oxford Dictionaries 2013 Word of the Year. Researchers say the use of this word increased 17,000% in the English language since this time last year.

● Nelson Mandela passed away in December. He was a revolutionary politician who served as South Africa's first black president from 1994-1999. He was a messenger of reconciliation and a freedom fighter for his people.