



## Today in History

*January 6, 1884*

▲ **Austrian monk Gregor Mendel died. His pioneering studies of the biological heredity of sweet peas laid the mathematical foundation of the science of genetics**

**1953:** Phenytoin was approved for use as an anti-epileptic drug in the U.S.

**1989: The Soviet Union rehabilitated victims of Stalin's purges**

**2004:** China said it would slaughter 10,000 civet cats amid fears that the animal was the source of the SARS virus that had killed over 750 people

**2005: Former South African president Nelson Mandela was hailed for his courage after revealing that his son had died from AIDS**