

A portrait of Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, an elderly man with a white turban and a dark jacket over a white shirt. He is seated in a gold-colored ornate chair. The background is slightly blurred, showing a flag with red and white stripes.

## Today in History

*January 8, 2017*

▲ **Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, president of Iran from 1989 to 1997 and a dominant figure in Iranian politics since the 1980s, died at the age of 82**

**1973:** The trial began in the U.S. of seven men accused of bugging the Democratic Party headquarters in the Watergate apartment complex

**1991: Pan Am, one of America's oldest airlines, filed for bankruptcy**

**1998:** Scientists said nicotine addiction was related to the release of dopamine, a neurotransmitter chemical in the brain

**2013: Wildfires and record high temperatures up to 45C devastated vast tracts of southeast Australia**