

A close-up portrait of Nelson Mandela, an elderly man with short, graying hair, smiling warmly. He is wearing a dark, patterned shirt. The background is a soft, out-of-focus light color.

Today in History

December 5, 2013

▲ **Nelson Mandela, South Africa's first black president, died at age 95. An anti-apartheid icon, he led the transition from white-minority rule to democracy in 1994**

1933: The U.S. celebrated the end of 14 long years of alcohol prohibition

1993: Rafael Caldera was elected president of Venezuela for the second time in 25 years

1995: Spanish Foreign Minister Javier Solana was formally appointed Secretary-General of NATO

1998: The last Khmer Rouge troops surrendered in Cambodia ending a brutal era which had seen millions murdered by the guerilla movement