

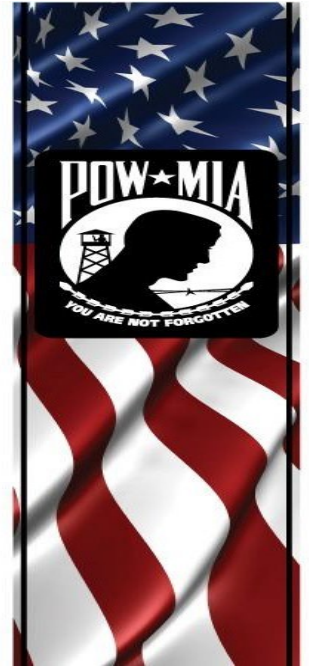


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December 7th: “A Date Which Will Live in Infamy”

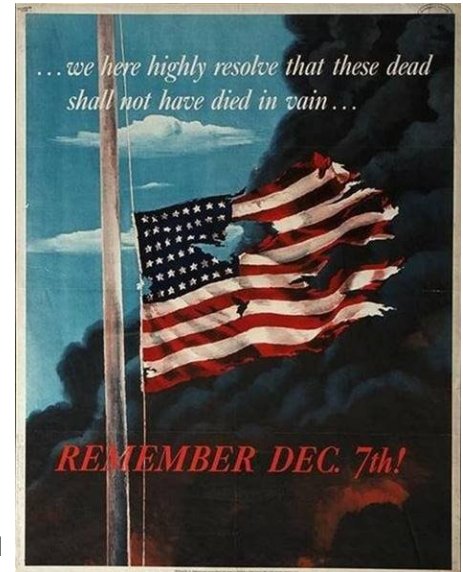
In the United States, December 7 is one of the most solemnly remembered dates in the nation's history. On that day in 1941, Imperial Japanese forces launched a surprise attack on the U.S. naval base at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, drawing the United States into World War II and profoundly reshaping its role in the world.

The Attack on Pearl Harbor – December 7, 1941

At 7:55 a.m. Hawaiian time, the first wave of 353 Japanese aircraft—fighters, high-level bombers, dive bombers, and torpedo planes—struck the U.S. Pacific Fleet in Pearl Harbor and nearby airfields. A second wave arrived approximately one hour later.

In under two hours the attackers inflicted devastating losses:

- 2,403 Americans killed (2,335 military personnel and 68 civilians), including 1,177 sailors and Marines aboard the battleship USS Arizona
 - Approximately 1,178–1,272 wounded (minor discrepancies exist depending on source and inclusion of lightly injured)
 - 18 ships sunk, beached, or heavily damaged, including all eight battleships present
 - 188 aircraft destroyed and 159 damaged on the ground
- The three U.S. aircraft carriers of the Pacific Fleet—USS Enterprise, Lexington, and Saratoga—were at sea and escaped the assault unscathed, a fact that would prove critical in the months ahead.



“A Date Which Will Live in Infamy”

On December 8, 1941, President Franklin D. Roosevelt addressed a joint session of Congress. In a speech lasting just over six minutes, he declared December 7, 1941, “a date which will live in infamy.” Congress declared war on Japan that same day, with the Senate voting 82–0 and the House 388–1 (the sole dissenting vote cast by Rep. Jeannette Rankin of Montana). On December 11, Germany and Italy declared war on the United States, completing America's entry into World War II on both the Pacific and European fronts.

National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day

In 1994, Congress officially designated December 7 as National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day (Public Law 103-308, signed August 23, 1994). Each year the president issues a proclamation urging Americans to observe the day with appropriate ceremonies and to honor all those who died or suffered because of the attack.

Standard observances include:

- U.S. flags flown at half-staff on federal buildings, military bases, naval vessels, and U.S. diplomatic posts abroad
- A moment of silence at 7:55 a.m. Hawaiian Standard Time (12:55 p.m. Eastern Standard Time)

Wreath-laying ceremonies at the USS Arizona Memorial in Pearl Harbor and at memorials nationwide

The USS Arizona Memorial and Survivor Interments

The battleship USS Arizona suffered the greatest loss of life that morning. A Japanese armor-piercing bomb detonated her forward magazine, causing a catastrophic explosion that sank the ship in minutes and killed 1,177 of her crew—nearly half of all Americans lost that day. The sunken hull remains where she went down, serving as the final resting place for more than 900 sailors and Marines still entombed within.

Since 1982, the National Park Service and U.S. Navy have permitted surviving USS Arizona crew members to have their cremated remains interred inside the ship by Navy divers, reuniting them with their fallen shipmates. More than 40 survivors have chosen this honor. The last known USS Arizona crew member, Lou Conter, passed away on April 1, 2024, at age 102.

As of late 2025, fewer than ten known survivors of the Pearl Harbor attack remain alive, all over 100 years old.

A Fading but Enduring Memory

In the decades immediately following the war, December 7 was observed with a gravity comparable to Veterans Day. As the generation that experienced the attack has nearly passed, large-scale national remembrance has gradually become more localized—centered in Hawaii, at veterans' organizations, and among military communities. For many younger Americans, the date is now most familiar through Roosevelt's famous phrase rather than personal or family memory of the event itself.

Yet every December 7, flags are lowered, wreaths are placed, and the nation pauses to remember the morning that changed the course of the 20th century. In President Roosevelt's enduring words, it remains a date which will live in infamy—and in the grateful memory of the United States.



7 Big Changes for the 2026 Tax Season

What to know about the new deductions from the One Big Beautiful Bill and other key

Rocky Mengle, AARP Published November 19, 2025

If you're trying to plump up your nest egg or stretch your retirement savings, every dollar you can keep in your pocket counts. To help with that effort, the 2026 tax season arrives with a host of changes that could cut your 2025 tax bill.

Most of the changes are products of the One Big Beautiful Bill (OBBB), signed into law on July 4. If you qualify, you can take advantage of the new tax rules when you file your federal income tax return for 2025, which is due April 15, 2026.

If you're retired or approaching retirement, here are seven tax changes that could save you big bucks.

1. Higher standard deduction

If, like most people, you claim the standard deduction on your tax return, you probably know it increases each year to account for inflation. But you may not have known that the OBBB added an extra 5 percent increase to the inflation-adjusted standard deduction for the 2025 tax year. For example, a married couple claiming the standard deduction on a joint return can reduce their taxable income by an extra \$1,500.

If you are 65 or older, or blind, you get a bigger standard deduction — an extra \$2,000 for single filers and heads of household, or \$1,600 more for each qualifying spouse on a joint return (for a total of \$3,200). The extra deduction is doubled for those who are both 65-plus and blind, to \$4,000 for an individual and \$3,200 for each qualifying spouse filing jointly.

2. New deduction for older taxpayers

If you're 65 or older at the end of 2025, you might qualify for a new federal income tax deduction of up to \$6,000 if you file an individual return, or up to \$12,000 if your spouse is also 65 or older and you file jointly.

Not everyone 65 or older will receive the full deduction — or any deduction at all. The amount you can deduct depends on your modified adjusted gross income (MAGI) — your total adjusted gross income, plus certain tax-free income for people living out of the country. If your MAGI is greater than \$75,000 (\$150,000 for joint filers), the deduction is gradually reduced by 6 cents for every dollar over that amount.

3. Higher SALT deduction cap

If you itemize on your tax return, you can deduct certain state and local taxes (SALT) you paid during the year. This includes state and local income or sales taxes (whichever is higher), real estate taxes and qualified personal property taxes.

The SALT deduction was capped at \$10,000 from 2018 to 2024, but the limit for the 2025 tax year jumps to \$40,000 for single filers and married couples filing jointly (\$20,000 per person for married couples filing separately). The limit will increase 1 percent each year through 2029, then drop back to \$10,000 in 2030.

4. New deduction for car loan interest

If you took out a loan in 2025 to buy a new (not used) car, minivan, van, SUV, pickup truck or motorcycle, you might be able to deduct up to \$10,000 of interest paid during the year.

The caveat? To qualify, the vehicle's final assembly must have taken place in the U.S., and it must weigh less than 14,000 pounds. (To find out where your car was assembled, enter the vehicle identification number into the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's VIN Decoder. The assembly location will be listed in the "Other Information" section.)

The deduction is gradually phased out based on your income. Once your MAGI surpasses \$100,000 (\$200,000 for joint filers), the deduction is reduced by \$200 for every \$1,000 (or portion thereof) over the applicable threshold. You're no longer eligible for the deduction if you paid \$10,000 in interest for the year and your MAGI is \$150,000 or more (\$250,000 or more for joint filers).

As with the new deduction for people 65 and older, you can claim the car loan interest deduction whether or not you itemize, but the deduction is available only for the 2025 through 2028 tax years.

Your lender is required to provide a statement to you by January 31, 2026, indicating the total amount of interest you paid on your auto loan in 2025.

5. Larger 401(k) catch-up contributions if you're age 60 to 63

You can only contribute so much each year to a workplace retirement account such as a 401(k), 403(b) or 457 plan. For 2025, the basic contribution limit for such plans is \$23,500. Workers 50 and older can add another \$7,500 — a "catch-up" contribution — for a maximum of \$31,000.

Here's the big change that starts this tax year: Savers who are ages 60 to 63 at the end of the year can make an even larger catch-up contribution of up to \$11,250, for a total of \$34,750. The bigger catch-up for this group was part of the SECURE 2.0 Act, a 2022 federal law designed to promote saving for retirement.

6. New deduction for tipped workers

7. New deduction for overtime pay



December 2025

January 2026						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30	1	2	3 Food Distribution	4	5	6
7 VPR Pearl Harbor Day	8 The Immaculate Conception of The Blessed Virgin Mary VFW Meeting	9	10	11	12	13 Wreaths Across America
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25 Christmas	26	27
28	29	30	31 New Year's Eve	1 New Year's Day	2	3

January 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 New Year's Day	2	3
4	5	6	7 Food Distribution	8	9	10
11	12 VFW Meeting	13	14	15	16	17
18	19 ML King Day	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31