

November 6th, 1953

A tropical depression moved east from the central Gulf of Mexico and across Florida on November 5th, accompanied by heavy rain and 30 to 40 mph winds. As it reached the Atlantic Coast and passed over the cold stream it rapidly intensified. At the same time, an unusual cold outbreak was developing in the West and Northeast. As the storm intensified it turned sharply to the north and the moisture of the storm was thrown back to the cold air mass creating a band of snow that developed from North Carolina to New York.

Richmond had 7.3 inches of snow from this storm with 7.2 inches falling on the 6th. This storm is the largest snowfall Richmond has ever recorded in November. It is also the largest early measurable snowfall in Richmond as only traces of snow have been recorded in October in Richmond and this snow was early in November. The only exception was 0.9 inches of snow on the 5th day of November in 1962. The Veterans' Day snowstorm of November 11, 1987 was only 4.5 inches in Richmond.

Snow began in Washington and the early-morning hours of the 6th. A tight pressure gradient set up between the strong ocean storm and the cold high-pressure system to the north causing winds in Washington at times were over 30mph. Old Kings Highway in Alexander, Virginia was blocked by a large trips and the total snowfall at National Airport was recorded at 6.7 inches. This is one of Washington's biggest early season snow falls, not far behind the Veterans' Day snowstorm of November 11, 1987, which piled up 11 inches in and Washington.

(p. 65 Washington Weather Book 2002 by Ambrose, Henry, Weiss)