

**This day in history: September 17**

- 1630** English Puritans led by John Winthrop found Boston, Massachusetts.
- 1776** Spanish explorers found the Presidio, around which San Francisco will grow.
- 1787** The Constitutional Convention approves the final draft of the United States Constitution.
- 1862** Union troops stop a Confederate invasion of Maryland at the Battle of Antietam, the bloodiest day of fighting in the Civil War.
- 1920** The American Professional Football Association – later named the National Football League – is formed in Canton, Ohio.
- 1978** At the White House, Egyptian president Anwar el-Sadat and Israeli prime minister Menachem Begin sign the Camp David Accords.

**This day in history: September 18**

- 1793** George Washington lays the cornerstone of the U.S. Capitol.
- 1850** Congress passes the Fugitive Slave Act, which mandates the return of slaves who escaped into free states or free territories.
- 1889** In Chicago, reformer Jane Addams establishes Hull House to help working-class people.
- 1947** The United States Air Force is established.
- 1984** Retired Air Force colonel Joe Kittinger becomes the first person to complete a solo balloon flight across the Atlantic.

**This day in history: September 19**

- 1676** In an uprising by some Virginia colonists, Nathaniel Bacon burns Jamestown.
- 1777** Patriot forces withstand a British attack in the First Battle of Saratoga, New York.
- 1796** George Washington's Farewell Address is published.
- 1881** President James Garfield dies of wounds suffered during a July 2 shooting.
- 1960** Chubby Checker's recording of "The Twist," which gave birth to a popular dance, hits the top of the music charts.

**This day in history: September 20**

- 1863** Confederates win the Battle of Chickamauga in northwest Georgia.
- 1881** Chester A. Arthur becomes the 21<sup>st</sup> U.S. president after James Garfield's death.
- 1984** A truck bomb explodes outside of the U.S. Embassy near Beirut, Lebanon, killing two dozen people.
- 1998** Cal Ripken Jr. of the Baltimore Orioles ends his record-breaking streak of playing 2,632 consecutive baseball games spanning sixteen seasons.

**This day in history: September 21**

- 1780** Benedict Arnold gives detailed plans of West Point to British Major Andre. (Thus becoming a traitor to America – and earning himself the most infamous name in American History).
- 1784** The *Pennsylvania Packet and Daily Adventure*, the first successful American daily newspaper.

- 1893** In Springfield, Massachusetts, Charles and Frank Duryea take what is believed to be the first gasoline-powered automobile built in the United States for a maiden drive.
- 1897** The *New York Sun* runs an editorial answering eight-year old Virginia O'Hanlon's question: "Yes Virginia, there is a Santa Claus."
- 1970** *Monday Night Football* debuts on ABC (Browns defeat Jets, 31-21).

**This day in history: September 22**

- 1776** Nathan Hale is hanged by the British in New York City. No American can ever forget the last words he uttered before they put the noose around his neck: "I regret that I have but one live to lose for my country."
- 1862** Abraham Lincoln issues the preliminary Emancipation Proclamation, declaring the freedom of all slave in Confederate-controlled regions as of January 1, 1865.
- 1975** In San Francisco, President Ford survives a second assassination attempt in three weeks.
- 1989** Hurricane Hugo, one of the most destructive storms of the twentieth century, comes ashore at Charleston, South Carolina.

**This day in history: September 23**

- 1642** Harvard College confers upon nine graduates the first bachelor of arts degrees given in America.
- 1779** John Paul Jones declares, "I have not yet begun to fight."
- 1780** John Andre, a British spy, is captured with papers revealing that Benedict Arnold was planning to surrender West Point to the British.
- 1806** The Lewis and Clark expedition returns to St. Louis from the Pacific Ocean.
- 1845** The Knickerbocker Base Ball Club of New York, the first baseball team. Is organized.