

**This day in history: February 18**

- 1735** The first opera performed in America, *Flora, or Hob in the Well*, is presented in Charleston, SC.
- 1841** The first continuous filibuster begins in the Senate and lasts until March 11.
- 1885** Mark Twain's *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, the great American novel is published.
- 1977** The first space shuttle, *Enterprise*, takes its maiden test flight, attached to the top of a Boeing 747.

**This day in history: February 19**

- 1807** Former Vice President Arron Burr is arrested in Alabama on suspicion that he is scheming to establish an independent republic.
- 1847** The first rescuers reach the Donner Party, a band of California-bound settlers stranded by snow in the Sierra Nevada Mountains.
- 1878** Thomas Edison receives a patent for the phonograph.
- 1942** President Franklin D. Roosevelt signs an executive order authorizing the internment of Japanese-Americans.
- 1945** U.S. Marines begin a horrific struggle for the Pacific island of Iwo Jima.

**This day in history: February 20**

- 1809** The Supreme Court rules that the power of the Federal Government is greater than the power of state governments.
- 1839** Congress outlaws dueling in the District of Columbia.
- 1862** Willie Lincoln, Abraham Lincoln's son, dies at the White House of typhoid fever.
- 1942** Lt. Edward "Butch" O'Hare becomes the first Navy's first flying ace of World War II after shooting down five Japanese bombers headed for the *USS Lexington*.
- 1962** John Glenn becomes the first American to orbit the earth.

**This day in history: February 21**

- 1848** Former President John Quincy Adams suffers a stroke on the floor of the U.S. House, and dies two days later.
- 1878** The first telephone directory is issued in New Haven, Connecticut.
- 1885** The Washington Monument is dedicated.
- 1965** African American leader Malcolm X is shot and killed by three members of the Nation of Islam in New York City.
- 1972** Richard Nixon becomes the first U.S. President to visit Red China

**This day in history: February 22**

- 1732** George Washington is born in Westmoreland County, Virginia.
- 1819** Spain cedes Florida to the United States.
- 1879** Frank Woolworth starts a retail revolution when he opens his first "five cents store" in Utica, NY.
- 1924** Calvin Coolidge delivers the first presidential radio broadcast from the White House.
- 1980** The U.S. Olympic hockey team wins a stunning victory over the Soviets, 4-3, at Lake Placid, NY.

**This day in history: February 23**

- 1836** The siege of the Alamo begins in San Antonio, TX
- 1847** U.S. troops under General Zachary Taylor defeat Mexican General Santa Anna at the Battle of Buena Vista.
- 1861** President-elect Abraham Lincoln arrives secretly in Washington, D.C., amid reports of assassination plots.
- 1945** U.S. Marines fighting on Iwo Jima raise the American Flag atop Mount Suribachi.
- 1954** School children in Pittsburgh receive the first injections of a polio vaccine developed by Dr. Jonas Salk.

**This day in history: February 24**

- 1803** The Supreme Court in *Marbury v. Madison*, affirms its power as the final interpreter of constitutional issues.
- 1841** John Quincy Adams begins two days of arguments before the U.S. Supreme Court in the *Amstad* case.
- 1868** President Andrew Jackson becomes the first president to be impeached by the House of Representatives (the Senate later acquits him).
- 1871** For the first time since the Civil War, the South gains full representation in Congress with the seating of the Georgia delegation.
- 1991** In the Persian Gulf, a U.S.-led coalition begins a ground campaign against Iraq.