

This day in history: April 15

- 1850 The city of San Francisco is incorporated by California's legislature.
- 1865 Andrew Johnson takes the oath of office as the 17th U.S. president a few months after Abraham Lincoln dies.
- 1892 The General Electric Company is established.
- 1912 The British liner *Titanic* sinks en route from Southampton, England, to New York City, killing approximately 1,500 people.
- 1955 Ray Kroc opens his first McDonald's restaurant in Des Plaines, IL.
- 2015 The CSKT Water Compact passes the Montana House by a vote of 53-47 and is sent back to the Montana Senate where it also passed – **A DAY THAT WILL DIRECTLY EFFECT ALL OF WESTERN MONTANA, QUITE POSSIBLY THE REST OF MONTANA AND THE WESTERN U.S. WATER/LAND.**
The bill was signed by Governor Bullock and transmitted to the U.S. Senate for ratification – Montana Senator Testor tried to get it ratified by attaching it to another bill, fortunately this didn't happen.

This day in history: April 16

- 1789 President-elect George Washington leaves Mount Vernon for his inauguration in New York City.
- 1862 Abraham Lincoln signs a bill ending slavery in the District of Columbia.
- 1912 Harriet Quimby becomes the first woman to fly across the English Channel.
- 1947 Much of Texas City, TX, is destroyed when a ship carrying fertilizer blows up in its harbor, killing nearly 600 people.
- 1963 Martin Luther King Jr. writes his "*Letter From Birmingham Jail*" while incarcerated for protesting against segregation.
- 2007 The deadliest school shooting in U.S. history leaves 33 dead at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, VA.

This day in history: April 17

- 1492 Christopher Columbus signs a contract with Spain, giving him a commission to seek a westward route to the Indies.
- 1524 Italian navigator Giovanni da Verrazano, exploring for France, becomes the first European to sail into New York Harbor.
- 1861 Virginia secedes from the Union.
- 1942 The aircraft carrier USS *Hornet* steamed west across the Pacific with 16 B-25 bombers lashed to its deck – planes never before launched from a carrier on a combat mission. Their secret target: Tokyo, Japan. The Japanese forces had surged across the Pacific and were confident that their nation was safe. Lt. Col James H. "Jimmy" Doolittle planned out an attack on Tokyo, using bombers launched from aircraft carriers.
- 1961 Some 1,200 American-backed Cuban exiles launch the Bay of Pigs invasion, a failed attempt to overthrow Fidel Castro's Communist dictatorship.
- 1970 The Apollo 13 astronauts return safely to Earth, four days after an onboard explosion crippled their spacecraft.

This day in history: April 18

- 1775 Paul Revere makes his famous ride from Boston to Lexington warning that “the British are coming.”**
- 1861 As the Civil War approaches, Colonel Robert E. Lee is offered command of the Union armies, and offer he turns down.**
- 1906 The Great San Francisco Earthquake rocks the Bay Area, setting off fires and ultimately destroying most of the city and killing 3,000 people.**
- 1942 Sixteen B -25's led by Lt. Col. James H. Doolittle take off from the aircraft carrier USS *Hornet* and bomb Tokyo.
As the attack did little damage, but it stunned the Japanese. News of Jimmy Doolittle's “thirty seconds over Tokyo” electrified Americans and helped turn the tide of the war in the Pacific, especially after the Japanese surprise attack on Pearl Harbor December 7, 1941.**
- 1978 The U.S. Senate votes to turn the Panama Canal over to Panama by the year 2000. A vote, as history will teach us, a bad decision, allowing a foreign nation, control over the vital Canal.**
- 1983 A suicide bombing by the terrorist Hezbollah kills 63 people at the U.S. Embassy in Beirut. Lebanon.**

This day in history: April 19

- 1775 The Revolutionary War begins with the Battles of Lexington and Concord.**
- 1865 Funeral services are held for Abraham Lincoln in Washington, D.C.**
- 1897 The first Boston Marathon is run.**
- 1933 Franklin D. Roosevelt announces that the U.S. is going off the gold standard. (A decision by a PROGRESSIVE president that remains one of the worst executive actions taken affecting not only the dollar but the entire economy and the start of “fiat money”).**
- 1951 General Douglas MacArthur, relieved of command by President Truman, gives a farewell address to Congress, saying “Old soldiers never die; they just fade away.”**
- 1995 A bomb explodes outside the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City, killing 168 people and injuring hundreds of others.**

This day in history: April 20

- 1841 Edgar Allen Poe's “The Murders in the Rue Morgue.” one of the first detective stories published.**
- 1861 Robert E. Lee resigns his command in the U.S. Army.**
- 1912 Fenway Park, home of the Boston Red Sox, opens.**
- 1940 RCA demonstrates the first U.S. electron microscope, capable of magnifying 100,000 times.**
- 1999 At Columbine High School in Littleton, CO, two students shoot and kill twelve classmates and a teacher before committing suicide.**

This day in history: April 21

- 1789 John Adams takes the oath to become the 1st U.S. vice president.**
- 1832 Abraham Lincoln enlists to serve in the Black Hawk War and is elected captain of the militia company.**
- 1836 Texans win independence from Mexico when forces led by Sam Houston defeat General Santa Anna's army at San Jacinto.**
- 1856 A train crosses the Mississippi River for the first time on a new bridge**

connecting Rock Island, IL, and Davenport, IA.

1942 Butch O'Hare receives the Medal of Honor. (Chicago's airport Ohare is named after Butch.)

1956 Elvis Presley hits #1 on the Billboard charts for the first time with "Heartbreak Hotel".