

This day in history: April 8

- 1913** The 17th Amendment, which requires senators to be elected by direct popular vote, is ratified. Woodrow Wilson progressive (liberal) agenda, got this amendment passed, took the state's right to have their legislation elect senators, making them responsible to the states, and put it in the hands of the states citizens. This amendment superseded the Constitution's original intent to control the senators in Article 1 Section 3.1.
- 1952** President Truman orders the seizure of the nation's steel mills to avert a strike, an act later ruled illegal by the Supreme Court.
- 1974** Hank Aaron hits his 715th home run, breaking Babe Ruth's record.
- 1975** Frank Robinson of the Cleveland Indians makes his debut as the first manager a major league baseball team.

This day in history: April 9

- 1682** Sieur de La Salle claims the Mississippi River valley for France.
- 1865** Robert E. Lee surrenders his Confederate army to Ulysses S. Grant.
- 1939** Black singer Marian Anderson performs for 75,000 people at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C., after her concert at Constitution Hall is canceled because of her race.
- 1942** Seventy-five thousand starving American and Filipino defenders on the Bataan Peninsula in the Philippines are surrendered to the Japanese.
- 2003** In Baghdad, Iraqis and U.S. soldiers celebrate the fall of Saddam Hussein by toppling a giant statue of the dictator.

This day in history: April 10

- 1606** King James I of England charters the London Company to establish settlements in North America.
- 1781** In South Carolina, young Andrew Jackson is part of a Patriot militia band ambushed by the British.
- 1849** Walter Hunt of New York City patents the safety pin.
- 1925** *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald is published.
- 1942** The Bataan Death March which was the forcible transfer by the Imperial Japanese Army of 60,000–80,000 Filipino and American prisoners of war after the three-month Battle of Bataan in the Philippines during World War II. All told, approximately 2,500–10,000 Filipino and 100–650 American prisoners of war died before they could reach their destination at Camp O'Donnell. The reported death tolls vary, especially amongst Filipino POWs, because historians cannot determine how many prisoners blended in with the civilian population and escaped. The march went from Mariveles, Bataan, to San Fernando, Pampanga. From San Fernando, survivors were loaded to a box train and they were brought to Camp O'Donnell in Capas, Tarlac. The Japanese were unprepared for the number of prisoners that they were responsible for, and there was no organized plan for how to handle them. Prisoners were stripped of their weapons and valuables, and told to march to Balanga, the capital of Bataan. Many were beaten, bayoneted, and mistreated. The first major atrocity occurred when between 350 and 400 Filipino officers and NCOs, were summarily executed

after they had surrendered.

This day in history: April 11

- 1945 American troops liberate the Buchenwald concentration camp in Germany.
- 1947 Jackie Robinson becomes the first black baseball player in the major league when he plays an exhibition game as a Brooklyn Dodger.
- 1951 President Truman relieves General Douglas MacArthur of command for publicly criticizing his Korean War policy.
- 1970 *Apollo 13* lifted off from Cape Canaveral, FL carrying astronauts Jim Lowell, Fred Haise and Jack Swigert on the 3rd mission to the moon. Fifty-six hours into the flight, an explosion inside a liquid oxygen tank rocked the ship.
“Houston, we've have a problem,” Swigert reported to Mission Control. At once the spacecraft began to lose power. Lovell looked out a porthole and saw a catastrophe in the making, “We are venting something into space,” he radioed.
The ship was losing oxygen used to generate power. The spacecraft was dying – 200,000 miles from home.
The astronauts squeezed into the frigid Lunar Module and used it as a lifeboat to save power in the Command Module.
The next 3 days became a race to solve one problem after another. They didn't trust the ship's damaged system to navigate, so they steered by the sun and Earth and to save coolant water they drank only 6 ounces a day.
The capsules heat shield had been damaged, but on April 17, Apollo 13 splashed down into the Pacific ocean just three miles from the carrier Iwo Jima. A failed mission had turned into one of NASA's finest hours. (A post note – Obama has in his first term of office, canceled ALL of NASA's space programs – for the U.S. to go into space they will have to BUY time from Communist Russia or Communist China to do so. All of NASA's space shuttles have been placed in museums, we who have conquered space have been relegated to last place in the world.)

This day in history: April 12

- 1776 North Carolina issues the Halifax Resolves, the first act by a colony authorizing its Continental Congress delegates to vote for independence.
- 1811 Settlers sponsored by John Jacob Astor establish the first American outpost in the Pacific Northwest near present-day Astoria, Oregon.
- 1861 The Civil War begins at Fort Sumter in Charleston, South Carolina.
- 1934 The strongest wind gust on record, 231 miles per hour, hits Mount Washington, New Hampshire.
- 1945 Franklin D. Roosevelt dies of a cerebral hemorrhage in Warm Springs, GA.
- 1981 The first manned space shuttle flight begins as *Columbia* blasts off from Cape Canaveral, FL.

This day in history: April 13

- 1743 Thomas Jefferson, the 3rd U.S. president, is born in Albemarle County, Virginia.
- 1890 In Washington, President Andrew Jackson gives a famous toast during

- a time of sectional strife: "Our Federal Union: It must be preserved."
- 1801 After 33 hours of bombardment, Union-held Fort Sumter in Charleston, SC, surrenders to Confederate forces.
- 1997 Tiger Woods, age 21, becomes the youngest player to win the Masters Golf Tournament in Augusta, GA.

This day in history: April 14

- 1828 The first edition of *Noah Webster's American Dictionary of the English Language* is published.
- 1865 John Wilkes Booth assassinates Abraham Lincoln at Ford's Theater in Washington, D.C.
- 1939 The *Grapes of Wrath* by John Steinbeck is published.
- 1956 The first commercial videotape recorder is demonstrated simultaneously in Redwood City, CA, and Chicago.
- 1981 America's first operational space shuttle, *Columbia*, completes its first flight.