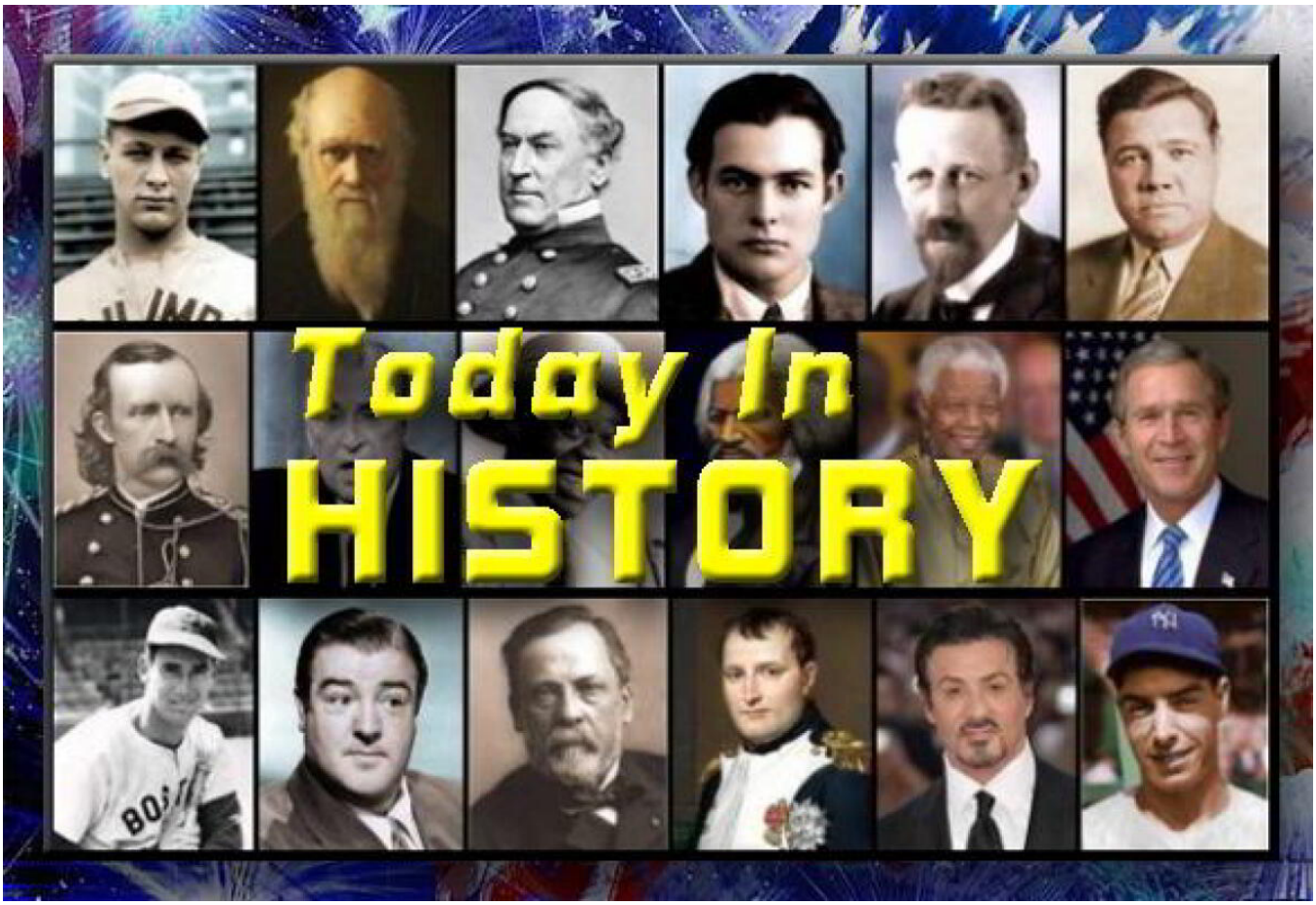

Today In History – August 31

Lincoln Herald Staff

Today in History in 1422 King Henry V of England dies in France from dysentery. Henry VI of England becomes king of England at the age of just under nine months.

Our on this day in history archives contain over 200,000 events, birthdays and deaths from 6,000 years of history. Here is a roundup of a few of them:

August 31 is the 243rd day of the year (244th in leap years) in the Gregorian calendar. There are 122 days remaining until the end of the year.

EVENTS

1056 – Byzantine Empress Theodora dies suddenly without children to succeed the throne, ending the Macedonian dynasty.

1314 – Norway's capital is moved from Bergen to Oslo.

1422 – King Henry V of England dies in France from dysentery. Henry VI of England becomes king of England at the age of just under nine months.

1798 – Irish Rebellion of 1798: Irish rebels, with French assistance, establish the short-lived Republic of Connacht.

1803 – Meriwether Lewis and William Clark start their expedition west by leaving Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania at 11 in the morning.

1812 – Troop transporter Salvador runs aground on the Rio de la Plata, between Argentina and Uruguay, killing 470 people, of the 600 on board.

1813 – At the final stage of the Peninsular War, British and Portuguese forces capture Donostia, now known as San Sebastian, in the Basque Country, resulting in a rampage and eventual destruction of the town.

1848 – Costa Rica becomes independent from the Federal Republic of Central America.

1864 – American Civil War: Union forces led by General William T. Sherman launch an assault on Atlanta, Georgia.

1876 – Ottoman sultan Murat V is deposed and succeeded by his brother Abd-ul-Hamid II.

1886 – An Earthquake kills 100 in Charleston, South Carolina.

1888 – Mary Ann Nicholls is murdered. She is perhaps the first of Jack the Ripper's victims

1895 – John Brallier is paid US$10 plus expenses to play football for the Latrobe, Pennsylvania YMCA, making him the first professional football player.

1897 – Thomas Edison patents the Kinetoscope, the first movie projector.

1897 – Initiated by Theodor Herzl, the Zionist World Congress in Basel, Switzerland, calls for the creation of a Jewish state.

1907 – England, Russia and France form the Triple Entente alliance.

1914 – Ecuador becomes a signatory to the Buenos Aires Convention.

1915 – Brazil becomes a signatory to the Buenos Aires Convention.

1920 – Polish-Bolshevik War: A decisive Polish victory in the Battle of Komarów.

1920 – First news radio program broadcast in Detroit, Michigan.

1931 – Production of Ford Motor Company's Model A ends, with 4.3 million produced.

1936 – Radio Praha, now the official international broadcasting station of the Czech Republic, goes on the air.

1939 – Nazi Germany mounts a staged attack on Gleiwitz radio station, giving them an excuse to attack Poland the following day, starting World War II.

1940 – Pennsylvania Central Airlines Trip 19 crashes near Lovettsville, Virginia.

1941 – World War II: Serbian paramilitary forces defeat German forces in the Battle of Loznica.

1943 – The USS Harmon, the first U.S. Navy ship to be named for a black person, is commissioned.

1945 – The Liberal Party of Australia is formed by Robert Menzies.

1949 – The Greek Civil War ends.

1950 – East Germany bans Jehovah's Witnesses from practising their faith.

1951 – The Dominican Republic records its highest-ever temperature, at 43 degrees Celsius.

1953 – The city of Santander in Northern Spain opens its new airport.

1957 – The Federation of Malaya gains its independence from the United Kingdom.

1958 – An assassination attempt on King Norodom Sihanouk of Cambodia fails, when a parcel bomb sent by Ngo Dinh Nhu, brother and advisor to Ngo Dinh Diem, fails to detonate.

1962 – Trinidad and Tobago become independent.

1963 – Sarawak, North Borneo and Singapore achieve technical independence, pending accession to the Federation

of Malaya.

1968 – An earthquake in Iran kills at least 12,000 people.

1978 – William and Emily Harris, founders of the Symbionese Liberation Army, plead guilty to the 1974 kidnapping of newspaper heiress Patricia Hearst.

1980 – The Solidarity trade union is formed in Poland.

1980 – Heavy rain causes flooding in Ibadan, Nigeria, killing over 300 people.

1985 – Richard Ramirez, the "Night Stalker" serial killer, is arrested in Los Angeles, California.

1986 – An Aeroméxico Douglas DC-9 collides with a Piper PA-28 over Cerritos, California, killing 67 in the air and 15 on the ground.

1986 – The Soviet passenger liner Admiral Nakhimov sinks in the Black Sea after colliding with the bulk carrier Pyotr Vasev, killing 398.

1987 – Thai Airways Flight 365 crashes into the ocean near Ko Phuket, Thailand, killing all 83 people on board.

1989 – Buckingham Palace officials confirm that Princess Anne and Captain Mark Phillips are to be separated.

1990 – The plan for German unity is signed in Berlin.

1991 – Kyrgyzstan declares its independence from the Soviet Union.

1992 – Pascal Lissouba is inaugurated as the President of the Republic of the Congo after a multiparty presidential election, ending a long history of one-party oppressive rule under the Congolese Workers Party.

1994 – The Provisional Irish Republican Army declares a ceasefire.

1996 – Saddam Hussein's troops seize Irbil, Iraq, after Kurdish leader Masoud Barzani had asked for help to defeat the Kurdish PKK.

1997 – Diana, Princess of Wales, dies in a car crash in Paris.

1998 – North Korea reportedly launches Kwangmyongsong, its first satellite.

1999 – A LAPA Boeing 737-200 crashes during take-off from Jorge Newbury Airport, Buenos Aires, Argentina, killing 65 people, including 2 on the ground.

1999 – The first of a series of Russian Apartment Bombings in Moscow, killing one person and wounding 40 others.

2001 – PBS airs the final episode of Mister Rogers' Neighborhood with host Fred Rogers retiring.

2004 – Mel Gibson's movie The Passion of the Christ is released on DVD and VHS in stores across the United States, selling approximately 4.1 million copies by the end of the day.

2005 – A stampede at the Al-Aimmah Bridge in Baghdad kills 1,199 people.

2005 – Football: An early-round FA Cup match in England sets the record for the most penalty kicks taken. It took 40 such kicks to separate Tunbridge Wells and Littlehampton Town.

2006 – Edvard Munch's painting The Scream is recovered in a police raid, more than two years after it was stolen.

2010 – Iraq War officially ends.

2016 – Brazilian President Dilma Rousseff is impeached and removed from office; Michel Temer succeeds her as president.

2018 – A six-hour-long funeral takes place for American soul singer Aretha Franklin in Detroit, Michigan.

2023 – A fire in Johannesburg kills 77 people.