This Week in History

March 14 to 20th

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USPA NEWS - The FBI's "10 Most Wanted" program begins, Julius Caesar is murdered, the first Internet domain name is registered, a beached whale is found with 88 pounds of plastic inside, and the first space walk occurs, all this and more in this week in history.

March 14

- (1812) US Congress authorizes war bonds to finance War of 1812.
- (1880) Salvation Army of England starts work in the US at Harry Hill's Variety Theatre in New York City.
- (1888) Second largest snowfall in New York City history, 21 inches.
- (1950) FBI's "10 Most Wanted Fugitives" program begins.
- (1967) John F. Kennedy's body moved from temporary grave to a permanent memorial.
- (1973) Future US senator John McCain is released after spending over five years in a North Vietnamese prisoner of war camp.
- (1980) Polish airliner crash kills all 87 aboard, including 22 US amateur boxers.
- (1983) OPEC cut oil prices for first time in 23 years.
- (1990) Mikhail Gorbachev becomes president of the Soviet Congress.
- (2016) President Putin orders Russian troops out of Syria.

March 15

- (44 BC) Julius Caesar is stabbed to death by Brutus, Cassius and several other Roman senators on the Ides of March in Rome.
- (1493) Christopher Columbus returns to Spain after his first voyage to the New World
- (1848) A revolution breaks out in Hungary. The Habsburg rulers are compelled to meet the demands of the Reform party.
- (1907) Finland is the first European country to give women the right to vote.
- (1939) Reneging on his pledge in the Munich Agreement, Adolf Hitler and Germany occupy and annex Czechoslovakia.
- (1951) UN forces recapture Seoul, the fourth and final time the city changes hands in the Korean War.
- (1955) US Air Force unveils self-guided missile.
- (1966) Racial riots erupt in the Watts section of Los Angeles.
- (1985) The first Internet domain name, symbolics.com is registered.
- (2020) US Federal Reserve slashes interest rates to near zero to support the economy during the COVID-19 pandemic.

March 16

- (1827) First US newspaper, "Freedom's Journal" owned and operated by African Americans begins publishing in New York City.
- (1882) US Senate ratifies the Geneva Convention of 1864, legitimatizing the International Red Cross and the American Red Cross.
- (1939) Hungary annexes republic of Karpato-Ukraine.
- (1955) President Eisenhower upholds the use of atomic weapons in case of war.
- (1988) Chemical attack on Kurdish town of Halabja by Iraqi forces kills 5000 civilians, largest ever chemical weapons attack.
- (1994) American figure skater Tonya Harding pleads guilty to felony attack on former Olympic teammate Nancy Kerrigan.
- (1998) Pope John Paul II asks God for forgiveness for the inactivity and silence of some Roman Catholics during the Holocaust.
- (2014) Voters in Crimea vote overwhelmingly to leave Ukraine and rejoin Russia amid international condemnation of its design.
- (2019) Beached dead whale found to have 88 pounds of plastic inside it, including 40 pounds of plastic bags, in Mabini, Philippines.
- (2021) Declassified US intelligence report says Russian President Vladimir Putin authorized efforts to aid re-election of Donald Trump.

March 17

- (432) Saint Patrick, aged about 16 is captured by Irish pirates from his home in Great Britain and taken as a slave to Ireland.
- (1845) Rubber band patented by Stephen Perry of London.
- (1891) British Steamer "Utopia" sinks off Gibraltar killing 574.
- (1905) Albert Einstein finishes his scientific paper detailing his Quantum Theory of Light, one of the foundations of modern physics.
- (1930) Construction begins of the Empire State Building, the world's first skyscraper of 100+ stories, on 5th Avenue in New York City.
- (1969) Golda Meir becomes Israel's fourth Prime Minister, the first and only female to hold the office.
- (1992) South African referendum of white voters on an end to apartheid, over two-thirds vote for an end to the system.

- (1995) US approves first chickenpox vaccine, Varivax by Merck & Co.
- (2000) The 800+ deaths of members of the Ugandan cult Movement for the Restoration of the Ten Commandments of God is considered to be a mass murder and suicide orchestrated by leaders of the cult.
- (2016) Archaeologists announce the discovery of an 2,500 year old iron age warrior king burial ground, with 75 graves in Pocklington, Northern England.

March 18

- (1818) US Congress approves first pensions for government service.
- (1881) Barnum and Bailey Circus, traveling as "The Greatest Show on Earth," debuts at Madison Square Garden in New York City.
- (1921) Steamer "Hong Koh" runs aground off Swatow, China killing 1,000.
- (1940) Benito Mussolini and Adolf Hitler meet at Brenner Pass where the Itailian dictator agrees he will, in due course, joi Germany's impending war effort in the west.
- (1944) Nazi Germany occupies Hungary.
- (1965) Cosmonaut Alexey Leonov, leaving his spacecraft Voskhod II for 12 minutes, becomes the first person to walk in space.
- (1990) First free elections in East Germany, Conservatives beat Communists.
- (2014) Russia formally annexes Crimea, previously part of Ukraine, by signing Treaty of Accession.
- (2018) Vladimir Putin is elected to a new six-year term as Russian President with 76% of the vote, his fourth term.
- (2021) US President Joe Biden agrees Russian President Vladimir Putin is a "killer" in ABC New interview. Putin responds "it takes one to know one" a day later.

March 19

- (1831) The first US bank robbery, the City Bank in New York robbed of \$245,000.
- (1866) Immigrant ship "Monarch of the Seas" sinks off Liverpool, 738 die.
- (1918) US Congress authorizes time zones and approves daylight savings time.
- (1937) Astronomer Fritz Zwicky publishes his research on stellar explosion in which he coines the term "supernova" and hypothesizes that they were the origin of cosmic rays.
- (1985) US Senate votes 55-45 to authorize production of the MX "Peacekeeper" intercontinental ballistic missile.
- (1987) American televangelist Jim Bakker resigns amid rape accusation by his secretary, Jessica Hahn.
- (2001) Rock and Roll Hall of Fame inductees: Aerosmith, Solomon Burke, The Flamingos, Michael Jackson, Queen, Paul Simon, Steely Dan, Ritchie Valens, James Burton, Johnnie Johnson and Chris Blackwell.
- (2003) Airstrikes by an American and British-led coalition signal the beginning of the invasion of Iraq, without United Nations support and in defiance of world opinion.
- (2018) World's last male, northern white rhino, 45 year old Sudan, dies in Kenya.
- (2021) Icelandic volcano Fagradalsfjall erupts for the first time in 800 years and after more than 50,000 earthquakes.

March 20

- (1815) Napoleon Bonaparte enters Paris after escape from Elba, begins 100-day rule.
- (1868) Jesse James Gang robs a bank in Russelville, Kentucky, of \$14,000.
- (1886) First AC power plant in US begins commercial operation in Massachusetts.
- (1933) Dachau, the first Nazi concentration camp, is completed.
- (1945) US 70th Infantry Division captures Saarbrucken, immediately prior to the invasion of Germany by the western Allies.
- (1947) A record 180 tonne blue whale is caught in the South Atlantic.
- (1972) Donegall Street bombing: the Provisional Irish Republican Army detonate its first car bomb on Donegall Street in Belfast. Four civilians, two RUC officers and a UDR soldier killed while 148 people were wounded.
- (1991) Michael Jackson signs \$65 million, six album deal with Sony Records.
- (2003) A US-led coalition launches a ground invation of Iraq, after an ultimatum for Saddam Hussein and his sons to leave Iraq expires.
- (2016) Barack Obama becomes the first US President to visit Cuba since 1928, arriving for a three day tour.

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