



Today in History

May 17, 2004

▲ **Massachusetts became the first U.S. state to issue legal marriage licenses to same-sex couples. Thousands of couples obtained licenses within days**

1510: Florentine painter Sandro Botticelli, whose works embody the Italian Renaissance spirit, died in poverty

1792: The New York Stock Exchange was founded by 24 brokers who signed an agreement while meeting under a tree on what is now Wall Street

1814: Norway was declared an independent nation. It has the world's second oldest constitution after the U.S.

1954: The U.S. Supreme Court outlawed racial segregation in schools