

National Association of
Black Military Women
Celebrates March
Women's History
Month



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March Women's History Month

- Women's History Month is a celebration of women's contributions to history, culture and society and has been observed annually in the month of March in U.S. Since 1987.
- Women's History Month is a dedicated month to reflect on the often-overlooked contributions of women to U.S. history.
- The actual celebration of Women's History Month grew out of a weeklong celebration of women's contributions organized by the school district of Sonoma, California, in 1978. Presentations were given at dozens of schools, hundred of students participated in a "Real Woman " essay contest and a parade was held in downtown Santa Rosa.

March Women's History Month

- A few years later, the idea caught on within communities, school districts and organization across the country.
- In 1980, President Jimmy Carter issued the first presidential proclamation declaring the week of March 8th as National Women's History Week.
- The U.S. Congress followed suit the next year, passing a resolution establishing a National Celebration.



Strategic New National
Association of Black Military
Women Leaders

NABMW



- NABMW Chicago President Arlene Duncan, USMC Veteran after serving eight years. An active member of the Women Marine Association and Kappa Epsilon PSI, a military sorority. She is a graduate of the University of Arizona global campus earning a bachelor of arts degree in Education, She is currently pursuing her Master's degree in criminal justice with a specialization in Homeland Security.





NABMW



- NABMW Houston Texas President Andrea L. Tanner. Andrea serves as first president and charter member of the Houston Chapter.
- Andrea has completed All but her Dissertation (ABD) in receiving her Doctorate in Community Care and Counseling with an emphasis in Trauma. She currently holds a Master of Science Degree in Behavioral Science concentrating in Psychology.
- Andrea is employed by the Department of Veterans Affairs, Readjustment Counseling Service (RCS), as a Vet Venter Director and Chair of her District's Diversity, Inclusion , and Equity Committee.



NABMW



- NABMW Charleston, SC President Sandra Ward Bowens. Holds a Doctorate Degree in Education (EdD), is a retired USAF Master Sergeant, a retired Special Education Teacher.
- In 1997, her Electronic Infant Security Protocol for Labor and Delivery, Newborn Nursery, and Postpartum became Best Practice for USAF Hospitals was implemented in hospitals throughout the United States.
- In 2004, her idea to standardize badges in her school district (second largest school district in the State of South Carolina) was implemented by the District Superintendent .
- Sandra was apart of the Think Tank that helped to develop the USAF Nurse Enlisted Commissioning Program (NECP) started in 2007.





NABMW



- NABMW San Antonio President Mary Hayes, a retired Army Sergeant Major completed 30 years of military and federal civilian service. Her combined Active, Reserve and Federal Civilian Service afforded her the honor and privilege to serve the majority of her career in the Judge Advocate General's Corps in various capacities.
- Mary served as the principal advisor, an integral component of the "Foundation of Five" team that included the Staff Judge Advocate, Deputy Staff Judge Advocate, Legal Administrator and the Senior civilian representative.
- Her career academically and professionally molded her abilities in embodying the spirit of the servicing organizations and positions to continually serve with integrity, compassion, determination and honesty.





NABMW



- NABMW Dallas, Texas President LaNeika R. Johnson. Served in the United States Army Iraq War Veteran, Army/Army Reserves for nine years, focusing on education and entrepreneurship. LaNeika holds an Associate Degree in business Administration , Bachelor's Degree in Business Management, and Christian Counseling and has completed most of her coursework for her Master's in Business Administration. La Neika is co-founder of Alpha Delta Omega Military Sorority, Inc.
- LaNeika owns her own Mobile Tax Preparation Business, Real Estate Investing Company, Virtual Mortgage Loan Officer and Credit Restoration company.
- She is a devoted mother of phenomenal twin girls , an international Best Selling Author, A Forbes Black Member and most importantly a Woman of God.



NABMW



- NABMW New Orleans (NOLA) President Shakeria Jackson, US Army MSG (R). Shakeria served as a Medic, Lab Tech, Mortuary Tech, Acting SGM, OPS NCIC, BDG EO, Afghanistan Embassy Liaison just to name a few.
- As a civilian she became involved in the community through philanthropy and volunteering. Her focus – underserved communities and the youth led her to assist HuManity Youth Program Boys and Girls Club and serving in various capacities including serving the homeless.
- As an advocate for Veterans and Women, Shakeria has been a member of several organizations while in and out of the military. She is a member of the Women Veterans Interactive Foundation, Wounded Warrior Project, Veterans of Foreign Wars, , and the National African American Gun Association. She is a Lifetime member of Disabled American Veterans, Federally Employed Women, and the National Association of Black Military Women where she serves as the President of the first Louisiana Chapter in the city of New Orleans, installed in 2023. Shakeria brings her passion for community, Veterans, and Women to the organization and is excited about its future.



NABMW



- NABMW Southern New Jersey President Sebrina L. Flagg-Briggs Air Force retired Chief Master Sergeant. In 2021 after a long-dedicated career of service. Chief (Ret) served as the Air Transportation Superintendent of the 88th Aerial Port Squadron, 514th Air Mobility Wing, Air Force Reserve Command, Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J. Chief Flagg-Briggs (Ret) also worked in the Aerial Port Squadron as a full time Air Reserve Technician .
- Throughout her career, Chief Flagg-Briggs accomplished a variety of tasks that significantly contributed to the Aerial Port unit's capability to perform its wartime mission. She ensured that the reservists under her command were professionally trained and equipped to provide wartime combat and peacetime Aerial Port support activities.
- Presently Sebrina continues the work of her peace initiative, PepRally4Life, Cheering for Living, which was established in 2012. She is the creator and CEO of PepRally4Life PR4L whose mission is dedicated to bringing positive change to communities and beyond by spreading positive messages. Some of the most urgent messages of PR4L is take care of your Wingman. Take them off the ledge whenever you can. Keep in mind the length of everyone's ledge is different. Also, PTSD, depression, anxiety are significant issues, recognize this and lend a helping hand when you can.



NABMW



- Major (Ret) Louise Nixon serves as the Northeast Regional Director covering Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island, Vermont and Pennsylvania.
- In 1987 Ms. Nixon joined the United States Army Reserve, Army Nurse Corps as a 2nd.Lieutenant. Her first assignment was with the 307 General Hospital on Varick Street in New York City. She was reassigned to the 343rd Evac Hospital, which later became the 343rd Combat Support Hospital. Due to her extensive background in critical care nursing, she became the Assistant Officer in Charge of the Emergency Medical Treatment section.
- While in Iraq, Major Nixon was assigned to the Intermediate Care Ward at Abu Ghraib Prison Hospital and functioned in the capacity as the Assistant Officer in Charge.
- As a healthcare professional and Army veteran with many years of comprehensive nursing, management and operations experience, Major (Ret.) Louise Nixon can truly say she has practiced and enjoyed the Art of Nursing.



NABMW



- NABMW CSM (Ret) Annie Suggs serves as the National Chaplain. She is an Ordained & Licensed Interfaith Reverend at One Spirit Interfaith Seminary and Unity Fellowship Church Movement, a Social Justice Ministry. She graduated from the United States Army Sergeant Majors Academy and holds a Bachelor of Science in Organizational Management from Nyack College and a Master of Divinity from New York Theological Seminary. She is currently a Doctor of Ministry Candidate at New York Theological Seminary.
- Her career with the US Army highlights a commitment of 27 years of service, retiring as Command Sergeant Major on August 7, 2007.

NABMW



- NABMW Dr. Vitina Speciale-Olmo, JD serves as National's Parliamentarian . As the enforcer of the parliamentary rules for each committee, Dr. Speciale-Olmo acts in a firm manner ensuring that the discussion remained on point and without fighting.
- Dr. Vitina Speciale-Olmo is an award-winning and strategic leader with breadth and depth of experience across business, legal, and teaching arenas. Currently, she is a National Strategic Sourcing Manager and Contracts Specialist for the largest commercial real estate services and investment firm globally, partnering cross-functionally, providing B2B solutions, and improving costs, efficiencies, and operations.
- Vitina holds degrees for Doctorate in Healthcare Administration, Master in Business Administration, Juris Doctor, and Bachelor of Science in Business Management, admission to the NJ Bar, and certifications in compliance and editing. She is a member of the NJ Bar Association, Delta Theta Phi, and Delta Sigma Pi as well as an active volunteer in her community.

Charity Adams Earley



- Educator, soldier, and psychologist, Charity Adams Earley paved the way for African American women in the military, in education, and in her community. Her most prominent role was leading the first African American women unit of the army on a tour of duty overseas during World War II.
- Her unit was the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion. Their mission was to organize and direct mail to U.S. servicemen which had gone undelivered. The battalion was faced with air hangers full of undelivered post, which needed to be sorted and redirected. Earley's unit began working in Birmingham, England. The women worked around the clock in three shifts, for eight hours per shift, seven days a week. They were tasked with clearing all the backlogged mail in six months, but they were able to accomplish their goal in three months.

Anna Mae Robertson

- Anna Mae Robertson served in the Women's Army Corps during World War II and was assigned to the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion.
- Robertson and the more than 850 other women of the Six Triple Eight arrived in England, the mission was clear: Sort and deliver years of backlogged mail intended for U.S. troops, government personnel and Red Cross workers serving in the European theater.





Gladys Schuster Carter
(1922-2009)



- PFC Gladys S. Carter was a member of the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion, the only unit of African American women to serve in the European Theater during World War II, which was established solely to ensure that the massive volume of letters, packages, and boxes of food sent from home in the United States made it to the soldiers fighting on the front line.
- PFC Gladys Schuster Carter was one of 885 women who served in the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion of the Women's Army Corps (WAC) during World War II, helping to process backlogged mail in the European theatre.
- PFC Carter served for two years in the WAC, from February 1943 to November 1945, and achieved the rank of Private First Class. She was a founding member of the local chapter of the National Association of Black Military Women in Greater Hampton Roads, Virginia.

Mary Fields



- Mary Fields (c. 1832 – December 5, 1914), born into slavery in Hickman County Tennessee “also known as Stagecoach Mary and Black Mary”, was an American mail carrier who was the first Black woman to be employed as a star route postwoman in the United States.
- Fields had the star route contract for the delivery of U.S. mail from Cascade, Montana, to Saint Peter's Mission. She drove the route for two four-year contracts, from 1895 to 1899 and from 1899 to 1903. Author Miantae Metcalf McConnell provided documentation discovered during her research about Mary Fields to the United States Postal Service Archives Historian in 2006. This enabled the USPS to establish Mary Fields' contribution as the first African-American female star route mail carrier in the United States.



Dr. Jill Biden

- Jill Tracy Jacobs Biden (born June 3, 1951) is an American educator who has been the first lady of the United States since 2021 as the wife of President Joe Biden. She was the second lady of the United States from 2009 to 2017 when her husband was vice president. Since 2009, she has been a professor of English at Northern Virginia Community College and is believed to be the first wife of a vice president or president to hold a salaried position during the majority of her husband's tenure.



Michelle Obama

- Michelle LaVaughn Robinson Obama (born January 17, 1964) is an American attorney and author who served as the first lady of the United States from 2009 to 2017, being married to former president Barack Obama. Raised on the South Side of Chicago, Obama is a graduate of Princeton University and Harvard Law School. In her early legal career, she worked at the law firm Sidley Austin where she met her future husband.



Kamala Harris



- Kamala Devi Harris (KAH-mə-lə, born October 20, 1964) is an American politician and attorney serving as the 49th and current vice president of the United States. Harris served as a United States senator from California from 2017 to 2021, and as attorney general of California from 2011 to 2017.





Sandra Day O'Connor
(1930-2023)

- Sandra Day O'Connor was an American attorney, politician, and jurist who served as an associate justice of the Supreme Court of the United States from 1981 to 2006. O'Connor was the first woman to serve as a U.S. Supreme Court justice. A moderate conservative, O'Connor was known for her precisely researched opinions.
- Justice Sandra Day O'Connor was appointed to the Supreme Court by President Ronald Reagan and served from 1981 until 2006.



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Ruth Bader Ginsburg

1933-2020

- Ruth Bader Ginsburg was a U.S. Supreme Court justice, the second woman to be appointed to the position.
- Ruth Bader Ginsburg graduated from Columbia Law School, going on to become a staunch courtroom advocate for the fair treatment of women and working with the ACLU's Women's Rights Project. She was appointed by President Jimmy Carter to the U.S. Court of Appeals in 1980 and appointed to the Supreme Court by President Bill Clinton in 1993.
- Selected to fill the seat vacated by Justice Byron White. President Clinton wanted a replacement with the intellect and political skills to deal with the more conservative members of the Court.
- As a judge, Ginsburg favored caution, moderation and restraint. She was considered part of the Supreme Court's moderate-liberal bloc presenting a strong voice in favor of gender equality, the rights of workers and the separation of church and state. In 1996 Ginsburg wrote the Supreme Court's landmark decision in *United States v. Virginia*, which held that the state-supported Virginia Military Institute could not refuse to admit women. In 1999 she won the American Bar Association's Thurgood Marshall Award for her contributions to gender equality and civil rights.





Ketanji Brown Jackson

- Ketanji Onyika Brown Jackson (born Ketanji Onyika Brown; /kə'tɑːndʒi/ kə-TAHN-jee; born September 14, 1970) is an American lawyer and jurist who is an associate justice of the Supreme Court of the United States. Jackson was nominated to the Supreme Court by President Joe Biden on February 25, 2022, and confirmed by the U.S. Senate and sworn into office that same year. She is the first black woman and the first former federal public defender to serve on the Supreme Court. From 2021 to 2022, Jackson was a United States circuit judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit.





Eleanor Roosevelt

- Anna Eleanor Roosevelt (October 11, 1884 – November 7, 1962) was an American political figure, diplomat, and activist. She was the first lady of the United States from 1933 to 1945, during her husband President Franklin D. Roosevelt's four terms in office, making her the longest-serving first lady of the United States. Through her travels, public engagement, and advocacy, she largely redefined the role of First Lady.



Mazie Hirono

- Having served as the lieutenant governor of Hawaii between 1994 and 2002, Hirono not only became the first Asian American and Pacific Islander woman to ever be sworn into the Senate in 2013, but she's also the first Buddhist senator.



Stacey Abrams

- Stacey Yvonne Abrams (/ˈeɪbrəmz/; born December 9, 1973) is an American politician, lawyer, voting rights activist, and author who served in the Georgia House of Representatives from 2007 to 2017, serving as minority leader from 2011 to 2017.
- A member of the Democratic Party, Abrams founded Fair Fight Action, an organization to address voter suppression, in 2018. Her efforts have been widely credited with boosting voter turnout in Georgia, including in the 2020 presidential election, when Joe Biden narrowly won the state, and in Georgia's 2020–21 regularly scheduled and special U.S. Senate elections, which gave Democrats control of the Senate.
- The name Stacey Abrams has become synonymous with voting accessibility and turnout, making history by becoming the first woman and first African American woman to hold positions in state and national politics. Abrams is now one of the most prominent African American female politicians in the United States.



Janeen L. Birckhead

2024 Army Women's Foundation 2024
Hall of Fame Inductee

- Major General Janeen L. Birckhead is the 31st Adjutant General of the Maryland National Guard. In this capacity, Maj. Gen. Birckhead serves as military advisor to the Governor of Maryland, leading a force of more than 6,300 Soldier, Airman, and federal and state civilian employees.





SFC Latoya Greene

2024 Army Women's Foundation 2024 Hall of Fame Inductee

- SFC Greene received the Special Recognition of Champion Award. She made a name for herself on social media by winning several powerlifting competitions, her Army “Motivation Monday” messages, and for earning the title of the strongest woman on Fort Cavazos.
- For 2 ½ years, SFC Greene used media platforms, with an audience of over 900k people, to advocate for the way the Army determine Body Mass Index (BMI),
- She spent her PCS leave at Ft. Liberty, where the first study was conducted, to get personnel to volunteer. While stationed in Korea, she used social media to get personnel at Fort Gregg Adams , where the second study was conducted, to volunteer.
- She sat on panels, and stayed in communication with leaders that oversaw the study, in order to keep the masses informed.
- On June 9, 2023, Army Directive 2023-11 was released, announcing the new way the Army will determine BMI.

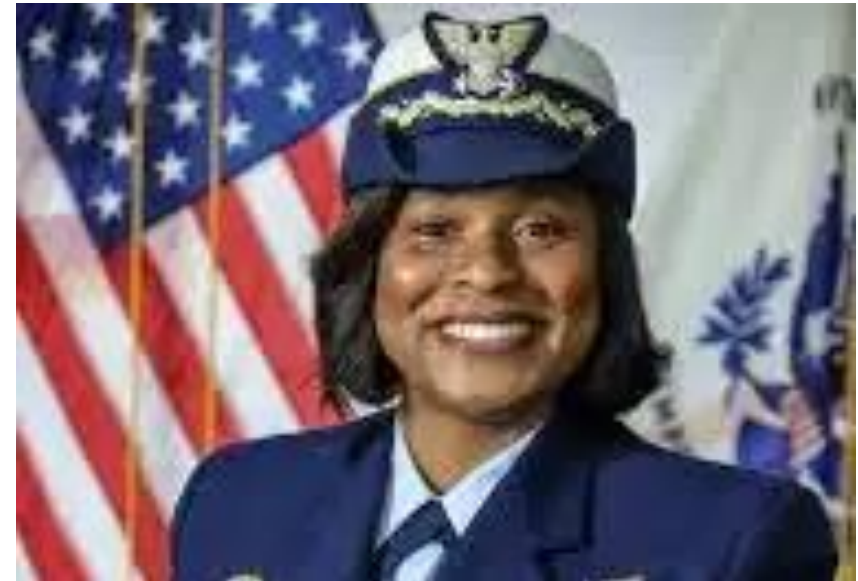
MG Tammy Smith
2024 Army Women's Foundation 2024
Hall of Fame Inductee

- Tammy Smith is a retired US Army Major General. She advocates for LGBTQ+ and military veteran communities through speaking and personal engagement with national organization. A mentor and coach, she improves personal executive presence and communications skills in aspiring leaders through workshops focused on impactful storytelling.



Zeita Merchant

- Zeita Merchant is the current Commanding Officer of the U.S. Coast Guard Sector New York the largest port on the east coast of the United States. Upon her appointment in 2021, Merchant became the first person of an ethnic minority and the second woman to hold this position. On Veterans Day in 2021, Merchant received a Women in Service award from the American Red Cross.
- Merchant graduated from Tougaloo College with a bachelor of science degree in biology. She also earned a master of public administration degree from George Washington University. Merchant joined the Coast Guard in 1997 and noted the following about the organization's gender bias at the time:
"Everywhere I served I saw other women, but they were juniors, there were no senior African American women in the Coast Guard at that point in time. So, I really couldn't see what I wanted to be".



Sarah Thomas

- Thomas 47, became the first woman to referee full-time in the N.F.L. in 2015 and first officiated a playoff in 2019.
- Sarah Thomas became a part of a seven-person on field team officiating the Super Bowl in 2021.





Rachel Balkovec

- Balkovec made history in 2022 when she was named the first woman to manage an affiliate of a Major League Baseball team. Before the New York Yankees hired her to lead its Low-A Tampa Tarpons, she worked as the team's minor league hitting coach.



Mamie Johnson

- Mamie "Peanut" Johnson (September 27, 1935 – December 18, 2017) was an American professional baseball player who was one of three women, and the first female pitcher, to play in the Negro leagues.



Mo'ne Davis



- Mo'ne Ikea Davis (born June 24, 2001, is an American former Little League Baseball pitcher and former Hampton University softball player from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. She was one of two girls who played in the 2014 Little League World Series and was the first girl to earn a win and to throw a shutout in Little League World Series history. She was the 18th girl overall to play and the sixth to get a hit. She was also the first Little League baseball player to appear on the cover of Sports Illustrated as a Little League player.
- In 2015, she released a memoir, written with Hilary Beard, *Mo'ne Davis: Remember My Name*. That year she also teamed up with the brand M4D3 (Make A Difference Everyday) to design a line of sneakers for girls, with some of the proceeds going toward the Plan International's Because I Am a Girl initiative, which has the goal of helping to lift four million girls in the developing world out of poverty
- In 2018, she committed to Virginia's Hampton University to play softball starting in the fall of 2019. Davis made her debut for the Lady Pirates on February 8, 2020, going 1-for-3, driving in two runs, and recording a sacrifice in Hampton's 15–4 win over North Carolina A&T. She ended the season third on the team in chances (77) and putouts (46) and had a .333 batting average with three multi-hit games and two multi-RBI games. Davis started as an infielder in 49 of the Pirates' 55 games and her batting average dipped to .219 with six doubles, 24 runs scored (2nd on the team), 16 RBI, and a perfect 8-for-8 in steals on the basepaths.



Jessica Watkins

NASA Astronaut

- Jessica Watkins was selected by NASA to join the 2017 Astronaut Candidate Class. Watkins reported for duty in August 2017 and completed two years of training as an astronaut candidate. The Colorado native earned a Bachelor of Science in geological and environmental sciences from Stanford University, and a Doctorate in geology from the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA). Dr. Watkins conducted her graduate research on the emplacement mechanisms of large landslides on Mars and Earth.
- She has worked at NASA's Ames Research Center and NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory and was a science team collaborator for NASA's Mars Science Laboratory rover, Curiosity. Watkins served as a mission specialist on NASA's SpaceX Crew-4 mission to the International Space Station, which concluded on Oct. 14, 2022. It was the first spaceflight for Watkins, and the first flight of the Crew Dragon "Freedom" spacecraft. During the mission, she spent 170 days in space maintaining the space station and contributing to science experiments that not only might improve life on Earth, but also allow researchers to learn more about the effects of long duration spaceflight on the human body.

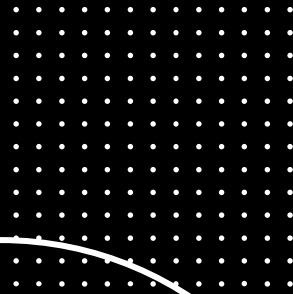




Billie Jean King

- Billie Jean King, also known as BJK, is an American former world No. 1 tennis player. King won 39 Grand Slam titles: 12 in singles, 16 in women's doubles, and 11 in mixed doubles. King was a member of the victorious United States team in seven Federation Cups and nine Wightman Cups.
- Regarded by many as one of the greatest tennis players of all time. King was inducted into the International Tennis Hall of Fame in 1987. The Fed Cup Award of Excellence was bestowed on her in 2010. In 1972, she was the joint winner, with John Wooden, of the Sports Illustrated Sportsman of the Year award and was one of the Time Persons of the Year in 1975.
- She has also received the Presidential Medal of Freedom and the Sunday Times Sportswoman of the Year lifetime achievement award. She was inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame in 1990, and in 2006, the USTA National Tennis Center in New York City was renamed the USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center. In 2018, she won the BBC Sports Personality of the Year Lifetime Achievement Award. In 2020, the Federation Cup was renamed the Billie Jean King Cup in her honor. In 2022, she was awarded the French Legion of Honor.

Serena Williams



- Serena Jameka Williams (born September 26, 1981, is an American former professional tennis player. Widely regarded as one of the greatest tennis players of all time,[a] she was ranked world No. 1 in singles by the Women's Tennis Association (WTA) for 319 weeks, including a joint-record 186 consecutive weeks, and finished as the year-end No. 1 five times. She won 23 Grand Slam women's singles titles, the most in the Open Era, and the second-most of all time. She is the only player to accomplish a career Golden Slam in both singles and doubles.
- Williams also won 14 major women's doubles titles, all with her sister Venus, and the pair was unbeaten in major doubles finals (the best unbeaten record in major finals in any discipline of the sport).The pair achieved a non-calendar year Grand Slam between the 2009 Wimbledon Championships and the 2010 French Open, which granted the sisters the doubles world No. 1 ranking. Serena won four Olympic gold medals, three in women's doubles—an all-time joint record in tennis, shared with her sister. The duo are the only women in the Open Era to win Olympic gold in both singles and doubles. She also won two major mixed doubles titles, both in 1998. She is the only singles player, male or female, to complete three Career Golden Slams – one in women's singles and two in same-sex doubles. Williams was the world's highest paid woman athlete in 2016, earning almost \$29 million. She repeated this feat in 2017 when she was the only woman on Forbes' list of the 100 highest-paid athletes, with \$27 million in prize money and endorsements. She won the Laureus Sportswoman of the Year award a record four times (2003, 2010, 2016, 2018), and in December 2015 was named Sportsperson of the Year by Sports Illustrated magazine. She is the highest-earning woman athlete of all time.

Venus Ebony Starr Williams[

- Venus Ebony Starr Williams born June 17, 1980, is an American professional tennis player. A former world No. 1 in both singles and doubles, Williams has won seven Grand Slam singles titles, five at Wimbledon and two at the US Open. She is widely regarded as one of the greatest tennis players of all time.
- In 2000 and 2001, Williams claimed the Wimbledon and US Open titles, as well as Olympic singles gold at the 2000 Sydney Olympics. She first reached the singles world No. 1 ranking on 25 February 2002, becoming the first African American woman to do so in the Open era, and the second time after Althea Gibson. She reached four consecutive major finals between 2002 and 2003 but lost each time to Serena.
- Along with her seven singles major titles, Williams has also won 14 women's doubles major titles, all partnering Serena; the pair are unbeaten in Grand Slam doubles finals. She became the world No. 1 in doubles for the first time on June 7, 2010, alongside Serena, after the pair completed a non-calendar-year Grand Slam at the French Open. The pair also won three Olympic gold medals in women's doubles, in 2000, 2008, and 2012, adding to Venus' singles gold in 2000 and her mixed doubles silver in 2016.. Williams has also won two mixed doubles major titles, both in 1998.





Ibtihaj Muhammad

- In 2016, fencing star Muhammad made history as the first Muslim woman wearing a hijab to represent the United States at the Olympics. That same year, she won a bronze medal and was included on TIME's 100 Most Influential People list.

Sha'Carri Richardson

- Sha'Carri Richardson (/ʃə'kəri/ shə-KERR-ee; born March 25, 2000, is an American track and field sprinter who competes in the 100 meters and 200 meters races. Richardson rose to fame in 2019 as a freshman at Louisiana State University, running 10.75 seconds to break the 100 m collegiate record at the NCAA Division I Championships. This winning time made her one of the ten fastest women in history at 19 years old. In April 2021, Richardson ran a new personal best of 10.72 seconds, becoming the sixth-fastest woman of all time (at the time) and the fourth-fastest American woman in history.
- She qualified for the 2020 Summer Olympics after winning the women's 100-meter dash with 10.86 in the United States Olympic Trials. On July 1, it was reported that Richardson had tested positive for cannabis use following her 100 m final at the U.S. Trials, invalidating her win and making her ineligible to compete in the 100 m at the Olympics. After successfully completing a counseling program, she accepted a one-month period of ineligibility that began on June 28, 2021. In July 2023, she became the US national champion in the women's 100 meters at the 2023 USA Outdoor Track and Field Championships, running 10.82 seconds.
- Richardson won gold in the 100 m at the 2023 World Championships in Budapest, beating Shericka Jackson and Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce in a new championships record time of 10.65 seconds. On the penultimate day of the 2023 World Championships, she would also go on to win gold as part of Team USA in the women's 4x100m relay final with a championship record of 41.03 seconds.





Misty Copeland



- Misty Danielle Copeland (born September 10, 1982)[1] is an American ballet dancer for American Ballet Theatre (ABT), one of the three leading classical ballet companies in the United States. On June 30, 2015, Copeland became the first African American woman to be promoted to principal dancer in ABT's 75-year history.
- Copeland was considered a prodigy who rose to stardom despite not starting ballet until the age of 13. Two years later, in 1998, her ballet teachers, who were serving as her custodial guardians, and her mother, fought a custody battle over her. Meanwhile, Copeland, who was already an award-winning dancer, was fielding professional offers. The legal issues involved filings for emancipation by Copeland and restraining orders by her mother. Both sides dropped legal proceedings, and Copeland moved home to begin studying under a new teacher, who was a former ABT member.



Tonya Boyd



- The Fire Department of New York has appointed Tonya Boyd as its first-ever Black female deputy chief in its 150-year existence.
- Boyd, who assumed her new role on Wednesday, initially planned to enter the nursing field. In fact, the emergency medical technician training, which put her on the historic path, was originally a means of paying for nursing school.
- She became an EMT 20 years ago. Shortly after that, Rudy Giuliani, New York City's mayor at the time, merged the city's EMT department with its fire department.
- "African American women will see someone who looks like them as a deputy chief and they will know more is possible-their careers won't top out at paramedic or even lieutenant," Boyd said.





Carla Hayden



- Carla Diane Hayden (born August 10, 1952) is an American librarian who is serving as the 14th librarian of Congress. Since the creation of the office of the librarian of Congress in 1802, Hayden is both the first African American and the first woman to hold this post. Appointed in 2016, she is the first professional librarian to hold the post since 1974.



Donyale Luna

- Luna inspired the careers of Tyra Banks, Naomi Campbell, and several other beautiful Black supermodels who followed in her footsteps. In March 1966, she became the first woman of color to appear on the cover of British Vogue. At only 33 years old, Luna died in 1979.





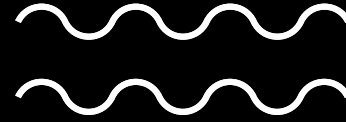
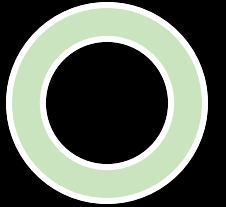
Ilhan Omar



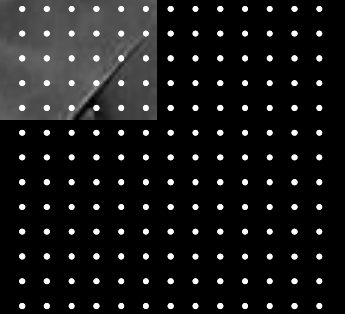
- Ilhan Abdullahi Omar (born October 4, 1982) is an American politician serving as the U.S. representative for Minnesota's 5th congressional district since 2019. She is a member of the Democratic Party. Before her election to Congress, Omar served in the Minnesota House of Representatives from 2017 to 2019, representing part of Minneapolis. Her congressional district includes all of Minneapolis and some of its first-ring suburbs.
- Ilhan Omar is the first Somali American U.S. Lawmaker.



Hattie McDaniel



- Hattie McDaniel (June 10, 1893 – October 26, 1952) was an American actress, singer-songwriter, and comedienne. For her role as Mammy in *Gone with the Wind* (1939), she won the Academy Award for Best Supporting Actress, becoming the first African American to win an Oscar. She has two stars on the Hollywood Walk of Fame, was inducted into the Black Filmmakers Hall of Fame in 1975, and in 2006 became the first Black Oscar winner honored with a U.S. postage stamp.



Anna May Wong

- As Hollywood's first Asian American movie star, Wong was a groundbreaking talent in every way. She bravely fought racism and discrimination and starred in over 50 films. In 1960, one year before her death at age 56, she became the first Asian American woman to receive a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.



Halle Berry

- Halle Berry (born August 14, 1966, Cleveland, Ohio, U.S.) American film actress, the first African American to win the Academy Award for best actress. She received the honor for her nuanced portrayal of Leticia Musgrove, a down-on-her-luck character in *Monster's Ball* (2001).
- Berry was a teenage finalist in national beauty pageants, worked in modeling, and began acting on television in 1989. Film roles in *Jungle Fever* (1991), directed by Spike Lee, and in *Boomerang* (1992), starring Eddie Murphy, first brought her notice. She starred with Jessica Lange in *Losing Isaiah* (1995), a drama about adoption, before earning acclaim for her portrayal of film star Dorothy Dandridge, the first African American to be nominated for a best-actress Oscar, in the television film *Introducing Dorothy Dandridge* (1999). That performance earned her Emmy and Golden Globe awards.





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Josephine Baker

- Josephine Baker spent her youth in poverty before learning to dance and finding success on Broadway. In the 1920s she moved to France and soon became one of Europe's most popular and highest-paid performers. She worked for the French Resistance during World War II, and during the 1950s and '60s devoted herself to fighting segregation and racism in the United States. After beginning her comeback to the stage in 1973, Baker died of a cerebral hemorrhage on April 12, 1975, and was buried with military honors.



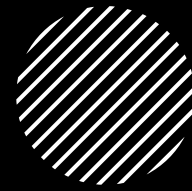
Chloé Zhao

- Zhao, a Chinese filmmaker, has won several awards for her directorial work on indie movies, like *Nomadland* (2020). In 2021, she became the second woman—and first woman of color—to win Best Director at the Oscars.

Whoopi Goldberg



- Caryn Elaine Johnson (born November 13, 1955, known professionally as Whoopi Goldberg (/ˈwʊpi/), is an American actor, comedian, author, and television personality.[4][5] A recipient of numerous accolades, she is one of 19 entertainers to win the EGOT, which includes an Emmy Award, a Grammy Award, an Academy Award, and a Tony Award. In 2001, she received the Mark Twain Prize for American Humor.
- Goldberg began her career on stage in 1983 with her one-woman show, Spook Show, which transferred to Broadway under the title Whoopi Goldberg, running from 1984 to 1985. She won a Grammy Award for Best Comedy Album for the recording of the show. Her film breakthrough came in 1985 with her role as Celie, a mistreated woman in the Deep South, in Steven Spielberg's period drama film *The Color Purple*, for which she won the Golden Globe Award for Best Actress in a Motion Picture – Drama. For her role as an eccentric psychic in the romantic fantasy film *Ghost* (1990), she won the Academy Award for Best Supporting Actress and a second Golden Globe Award. She starred in the comedy *Sister Act* (1992) and its sequel *Sister Act 2: Back in the Habit* (1993), becoming the highest-paid actress at the time. She also starred in *Jumpin' Jack Flash* (1986), *Clara's Heart* (1988), *Soapdish* (1991), *Ghosts of Mississippi* (1996), and *Till* (2022). She also is known for voicing roles in *The Lion King* (1994) and *Toy Story 3* (2010).



Viola Davis

- Viola Davis (/var'ɒl.ə/; born August 11, 1965) is an American actress and producer. Davis is one of the few performers to have been awarded an Emmy, a Grammy, an Oscar, and a Tony (EGOT). She is the sole black actor to achieve the Triple Crown of Acting[as well as the third person to achieve both statuses. Time named her one of the 100 most influential people in the world in 2012 and 2017 In 2020, The New York Times ranked her ninth on its list of the greatest actors of the 21st century.] Her film breakthrough came with her role in the drama *Doubt* (2008), for which she received her first Academy Award nomination for Best Supporting Actress.
- Davis began her career in Central Falls, Rhode Island, appearing in small stage productions. David Baker was her first director. After graduating from the Juilliard School in 1993, she won an Obie Award in 1999 for her performance as Ruby McCollum in *Everybody's Ruby*. She played minor roles in film and television in the late 1990s and early 2000s, before earning the Tony Award for Best Featured Actress in a Play for her role as Tonya in the 2001 Broadway production of August Wilson's *King Hedley II*. Davis won the 2010 Tony Award for Best Actress in a Play for her role as Rose Maxson in the Broadway revival of August Wilson's play *Fences*.



Rachel Robinson



- Rachel Isum was born in Pasadena, California, and attended Manual Arts High School in Los Angeles, California, and the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA). At UCLA, she met Robinson in 1941 prior to his leaving UCLA when his baseball eligibility ran out. She graduated from UCLA on June 1, 1945, with a bachelor's degree in nursing. Rachel and Robinson married on February 10, 1946, the year before he broke into the big leagues. They had three children: Jackie, Jr. (1946–1971), Sharon (born 1950), and David (born 1952).
- After Jackie Robinson's retirement from baseball following the 1956 season, Rachel Robinson further pursued her nursing career, obtaining a master's degree in psychiatric nursing from New York University in 1959. She worked as a researcher and clinician at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine's Department of Social and Community Psychiatry, a position she held for five years. She then became an assistant professor at Yale School of Nursing and later the Director of Nursing at the Connecticut Mental Health Center. She is the widow of professional baseball player Jackie Robinson. After her husband's death, she founded the Jackie Robinson Foundation





Oprah Winfrey

- Oprah Gail Winfrey, often known simply as Oprah, is an American talk show host, television producer, actress, author, and philanthropist. She is best known for her talk show, *The Oprah Winfrey Show*, broadcast from Chicago, which was the highest-rated television program of its kind in history and ran in national syndication for 25 years, from 1986 to 2011. Dubbed the "Queen of All Media," she was the richest African-American of the 20th century, was once the world's only black billionaire, and the greatest black philanthropist in U.S. history. By 2007, she was sometimes ranked as the most influential woman in the world.



Medicine, Nursing and Research



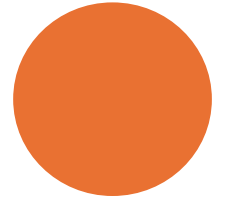
Dr. Susan Smith McKinney (1847-1918)

- Susan Smith McKinney-Steward, M.D., graduated valedictorian from the New York Medical College for Women in 1870, she was the first African-American woman to ever earn a medical degree in New York state, and the third in the United States.
- Dr. Smith was of mixed heritage, her father of African descent and her mother was the daughter of a French officer and a Shinnecock woman. Dr. Smith started attending the medical school just a few years after the Emancipation Proclamation. After graduation, Dr. Smith McKinney-Steward practiced medicine in Brooklyn and Manhattan, specializing in prenatal care and childhood diseases. She founded The Women's Hospital and Dispensary in Brooklyn which later became The Memorial Hospital for Women and Children. She was a member of the Kings County and New York State Homeopathic Medical Societies and served as an official physician for the Brooklyn Home for Aged Colored People (now Brooklyn Home for the Aged), one of the early medical institutions in Weeksville, Brooklyn, where Dr. Smith McKinney-Steward was born. She also practiced at New York Medical College and Hospital for Women in Manhattan.



Clara Barton

- Clarissa Harlowe Barton (December 25, 1821 – April 12, 1912) was an American nurse who founded the American Red Cross. She was a hospital nurse in the American Civil War, a teacher, and a patent clerk. Since nursing education was not then very formalized and she did not attend nursing school, she provided self-taught nursing care. Barton is noteworthy for doing humanitarian work and civil rights advocacy at a time before women had the right to vote. She was inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame in 1973.



Elizabeth Blackwell

- Elizabeth Blackwell (3 February 1821 – 31 May 1910) was a British and American physician, notable as the first woman to earn a medical degree in the United States, and the first woman on the Medical Register of the General Medical Council for the United Kingdom. Blackwell played an important role in both the United States and the United Kingdom as a social reformer and was a pioneer in promoting education for women in medicine. Her contributions remain celebrated with the Elizabeth Blackwell Medal, awarded annually to a woman who has made a significant contribution to the promotion of women in medicine.





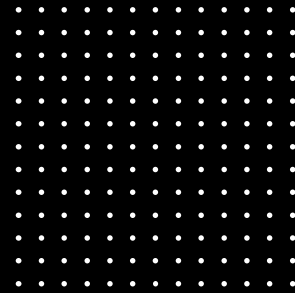
Mary Francis Hill Coley

- Mary Francis Hill Coley (August 15, 1900 – March 1966) was an American midwife who ran a successful business providing a range of birth services and who starred in a critically acclaimed documentary film used to train midwives and doctors. Her competence projected an image of black midwives as the face of an internationally esteemed medical profession, while working within the context of deep social and economic inequality in health care provided to African Americans. Her life story and work exist in the context of Southern granny midwives who served birthing women outside of hospitals.





Adah Belle Samuels
Thoms
(1870-1943)



- National Association of Colored Graduate Nurse cofounders, fought for Blacks to serve as American Red Cross nurses in WWI.
- In 1906, Adah Belle Thoms was named assistant superintendent of nurses at Lincoln Hospital in New York. While she would spend the next 18 years acting as director, her race precluded her from being given the title, according to the National Museum of African American History & Culture. Thoms cofounded the National Association of Colored Graduate Nurses and served as the organization's president from 1916 to 1923, and later successfully lobbied for Black nurses to serve in the American Red Cross Nursing and Army Nurse Corps during WWI. Thoms published the first chronicle of the history of black nurses in America with her book "Pathfinders: A History of the Progress of Colored Graduate Nurses." She was one the original inductees to the American Nurses Association Hall of Fame in 1976.



Estelle Massey Osborne

- Estelle Massey Riddle Osborne (May 3, 1901 – December 12, 1981)[1] was an African American nurse and educator. She served in many prominent positions and worked to eliminate racial discrimination in the nursing field.
- Few Americans helped to change the face of nursing in the 20th-century more than Estelle Massey Osborne. A nurse administrator, educator, and leader at a time when racial lines prevented most African American women from holding top positions in their fields, she reached some of the highest ranks as she worked tirelessly to open up nursing to women of color.
- To be the first at anything is an accomplishment, but to have been, like Osborne, the first in so many arenas is a testament to her vision, fearlessness, and strength of character. In a relatively short span of time, from 1934, when she became the 11th president of the National Association of Colored Graduate Nurses, to 1966, when she left her executive post at the National League for Nursing to retire, she made heroic steps toward eliminating racial barriers and prejudice at the heart of our healthcare system.



Marie Curie

- Curie was the scientific genius behind radioactivity and X-rays as we know them today. Not only did she become the first woman to ever win the Nobel Peace Prize in 1903, but she also became the first person to ever win it twice in 1911. Curie was 66 when she died in 1934.
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Alice Allison Dunnigan

- Alice Allison Dunnigan (April 27, 1906 – May 6, 1983), was an American journalist, civil rights activist and author. Dunnigan was the first African-American female correspondent to receive White House credentials, and the first black female member of the Senate and House of Representatives press galleries. She wrote an autobiography entitled *Alice A. Dunnigan: A Black Woman's Experience*. She is commemorated by an official Kentucky Historical Society marker.
- Alice chronicled the decline of Jim Crow during the 1940s and 1950s, which influenced her to become a civil rights activist. She was inducted into the Kentucky Hall of Fame in 1982.
- During her time as a reporter, she became the first black journalist to accompany a president while traveling, covering Harry S. Truman's 1948 campaign trip.
- In 2022, the White House Correspondents' Association created the Dunnigan-Payne Lifetime Achievement Award in memory of Dunnigan and fellow White House reporter Ethel Payne.



Naomi Ruth Barber King

1931-2024



- Naomi King established the A.D. King Foundation in May 2008 with a mission of empowering youth and women and advancing strategies for nonviolent social change.
- Mrs. King holds awards and special recognitions, such as recipient of the S. C. L. C. Rosa Parks Freedom Award, Hope Worldwide Living Legend Award, A. D. King Foundation: Truth Finder Award, Principled Life Award, Zambians Freedom, Justice and Peace Award, Global Citizens Award, Lifetime Achievement Award, African Leadership Magazine, many proclamations from various states and more. She was featured in the AARP documentary "Voices of Civil Rights", and holds memberships in NAACP, SCLC, SCLC Women, and American Bridge Association.
- Known for her love of butterflies and affectionately called the "Butterfly Queen," King set an example of courage, resilience and grace in the face of injustice, uncertainty and heartache, which were themes highlighted in a 2022 documentary about her life.
- Naomi King published a book in 2014 titled "A.D. and ML King: Two Brothers Who Dared to Dream".
- Naomi Barber King civil rights activist died March 7, 2024, at 92 years old.



Tarana Burke

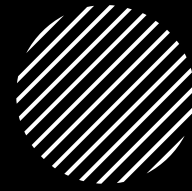


- Tarana Burke (born September 12, 1973) is an American activist from New York City, who started the MeToo movement. In 2006, Burke began using MeToo to help other women with similar experiences to stand up for themselves. Over a decade later, in 2017, #MeToo became a viral hashtag when Alyssa Milano and other women began using it to tweet about the Harvey Weinstein sexual abuse cases. The phrase and hashtag quickly developed into a broad-based, and eventually international movement.



Ruby Nell Bridges Hall (1954-)

- Ruby Nell Bridges Hall is an American civil rights activist. She was the first African American child to attend formerly whites-only William Frantz Elementary School in Louisiana during the New Orleans school desegregation crisis on November 14, 1960.
- She is the subject of a 1964 painting, *The Problem We All Live With*, by Norman Rockwell.



Ruby Dee

- Ruby Dee (October 27, 1922 – June 11, 2014) was an American actress, poet, playwright, screenwriter, journalist, and civil rights activist. Dee was married to Ossie Davis, with whom she frequently performed until his death in 2005.[2] She received numerous accolades including two Emmy Awards, a Grammy Award, an Obie Award and a Drama Desk Award as well as nominations for an Academy Award. She was honored with the National Medal of Arts in 1995, the Screen Actors Guild Life Achievement Award in 2000, and the Kennedy Center Honors in 2004.
- She made her film debut in *That Man of Mine* (1946) before landing a leading roles in films such as *The Jackie Robinson Story* (1950), *Edge of the City* (1957), *Take a Giant Step* (1959), and *Buck and the Preacher* (1972). She also acted in the Ossie Davis film *Black Girl* (1972), and the Spike Lee films *Do the Right Thing* (1989) and *Jungle Fever* (1991). For her performance in *American Gangster* (2007), Dee was nominated for the Academy Award for Best Supporting Actress and won the Screen Actors Guild Award for Female Actor in a Supporting Role.
- Dee and Davis were well-known civil rights activists in the Civil Rights Movement.[27] Dee was a member of the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE), the NAACP, the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, Delta Sigma Theta sorority, and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. She was also as an active member of the Harlem Writers Guild for over 40 years. In 1963, Dee emceed the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom.[28] Dee and Davis were both personal friends of both Martin Luther King Jr. and Malcolm X, with Davis giving the eulogy at Malcolm X's funeral in 1965.[29] In 1970, she won the Frederick Douglass Award from the New York Urban League. In 1999, Dee and Davis were arrested at 1 Police Plaza, the headquarters of the New York Police Department, protesting the police shooting of Amadou Diallo.

Audre Lorde 1934–1992

- A self-described “black, lesbian, mother, warrior, poet,” Audre Lorde dedicated both her life and her creative talent to confronting and addressing injustices of racism, sexism, classism, and homophobia. Lorde was born in New York City to West Indian immigrant parents. She attended Catholic schools before graduating from Hunter High School and published her first poem in *Seventeen* magazine while still a student there. Of her poetic beginnings Lorde commented in *Black Women Writers*: “I used to speak in poetry. I would read poems, and I would memorize them. People would say, well what do you think, Audre. What happened to you yesterday? And I would recite a poem and somewhere in that poem would be a line or a feeling I would be sharing. In other words, I literally communicated through poetry. And when I couldn’t find the poems to express the things I was feeling, that’s what started me writing poetry, and that was when I was twelve or thirteen.”



Malala Yousafzai



- Yousafzai began fighting for girls' rights to education in Pakistan at just 11 years old. After surviving an assassination attempt a few years later, she has courageously continued to be a worldwide voice for young women. In 2014, she became the world's youngest Nobel Peace Prize recipient.



Kali Nicole Gross

- Kali Nicole Gross is an American historian. She is an African American Studies professor at Emory University. She is also a Distinguished Lecturer of the Organization of American Historians, and the 2019–2021 National Publications Director of the Association of Black Women Historians. She is an expert on the experiences of African American women in the United States criminal justice system in the late 1800s and early 1900s. She has written about how these experiences reflect the roles of race and gender in late nineteenth-century urban America, particularly Philadelphia.

Vera Wang



- Wang, a first-generation Chinese-American fashion designer, has become one of the most beloved bridal designers of all time. Before launching her own brand, she worked at Vogue and Ralph Lauren. In 2005, the Council of Fashion Designers of America selected her as the Womenswear Designer of the Year.



Ethel L. Payne

- Ethel Lois Payne (August 14, 1911 – May 28, 1991) was an American journalist, editor, and foreign correspondent. Known as the "First Lady of the Black Press," she fulfilled many roles over her career, including columnist, commentator, lecturer, and freelance writer. She combined advocacy with journalism as she reported on the Civil Rights Movement during the 1950s and 1960s. Her perspective as an African American woman informed her work, and she became known for asking questions others dared not ask.
- She was the first African American woman to be included in the White House Press corps and became a radio and television commentator, and she covered events including the Korean War, the Civil Rights movement, and the Vietnam War. Ethel Payne broke barriers as a journalist and was known for asking questions about topics that other journalists did not want to approach.





Ruth Handler

- When Handler—a co-founder of Mattel—invented the Barbie doll in 1959, she forever influenced childhoods around the world. Fun fact: She named the dolls after her own kids, Barbara and Ken.

Mother Teresa

- Considered one of the world's greatest humanitarians, Mother Teresa dedicated her life to charity work. She received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1979 and was posthumously canonized as Saint Teresa of Calcutta in 2016—almost two decades after her death at age 87.

