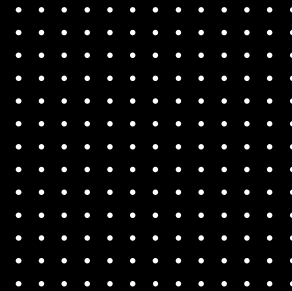




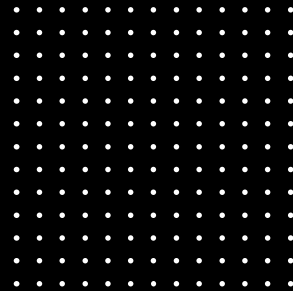
NATIONAL
ASSOCIATION OF
BLACK MILITARY
WOMEN CELEBRATES
BLACK HISTORY
MONTH



- Black History Month is an annual celebration of achievements by African Americans and a time for recognizing their central role in U.S. history. Also known as African American History Month, the event grew out of “Negro History Week,” the brainchild of noted historian Carter G. Woodson and other prominent African Americans. Since 1976, every U.S. president has officially designated the month of February as Black History Month. Other countries around the world, including Canada and the United Kingdom, also devote a month to celebrating Black history.
- The story of Black History Month begins in 1915, half a century after the Thirteenth Amendment abolished slavery in the United States.



**NATIONAL
ASSOCIATION OF
BLACK MILITARY
WOMEN CELEBRATES
BLACK HISTORY
MONTH**



- Our History: The National Association of Black Military Women is an association of women located throughout the country who are veterans or current members of the United States Armed Forces. Founded under the former name “The Black WAAC, WAC, “Women in Service”
- The beginning: July 1976 a group of 21 women who served in the Women’s Army Auxiliary Corps (WAAC) and Women’s Army Corps (WAC) during World War 11, Korean and Vietnam Wars got together at Lucille Brown’s home in Hampton, Va. At this meeting, the women decided to locate and invite other former service women to a first reunion that was held in 1978 in Dallas, Texas.
- The Mission of the National Association of Black Military Women is to seek out, record, maintain and tell the history and heritage of African American Military Women who served and are serving in the United States Armed Forces.

Brigadier General Clara M. Adams-Ender 18th Chief, Army Nurse Corps



- Adams-Ender entered the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College in Fort Leavenworth, Kansas; she graduated in 1976 as the first woman to earn a Master of Military Art and Science degree at the College. Adams-Ender graduated from the U.S. Army War College in 1982, she was the first African American Nurse Corps officer in the Army to do so and, the first African-American nurse corps officer to graduate from the United States Army War College.
- After working as the Chief of the Department of Nursing at the 97th General Hospital, she served as Chief of Nurse Recruiting at Fort Sheridan, and Illinois, Chief of the Department of Nursing at Walter Reed Army Medical Center, Adams-Ender was promoted to the rank of Brigadier-General and became the Chief of the Army Nurse Corps in 1987. In 1991, Adams-Ender was selected to be Commanding General, Fort Belvoir, Virginia, and served in this capacity as well as that of Deputy Commanding General of the U.S. Military District of Washington until her retirement in 1993.
- Adams-Ender was known throughout her career for being active in nurse recruiting, initiating nursing units and advocating on behalf of critical care nurses for increased pay. Adams-Ender received the Distinguished Service Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, Legion of Merit award, Army Commendation Medal, and Meritorious Service Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters; she also received non-military awards that included the Roy Wilkins Meritorious Service Award of the NAACP, the Gertrude E. Rush Award for Leadership from the National Bar Association, and, in 1996, was named one of the 350 women who changed the world by Working Women magazine.
- After retirement, Adams-Ender also served as the President of Caring About People With Enthusiasm (CAPE) Associates, Inc., and published her autobiography, *My Rise to the Stars: How a Sharecropper's Daughter Became an Army General*, in 2001.
- BG Adams-Ender is a Member of the National Association of Black Military Women
-

Major General Rosetta Y. Burke

- Rosetta Y. Burke is a retired senior officer of the United States Army Reserve. She was the first female Assistant Adjutant General of New York State and of the Army National Guard.
- Burke served with the United States Army Reserve from 1962 to 1992. She joined the New York Army National Guard in 1993, where she served as the Assistant Adjutant General. She retired as a major general in 1997, culminating a military career of over 35 years of service.
- Burke was named state director of the Selective Service System for New York by Governor George E. Pataki in 1997. The appointment, made available by President Bill Clinton and signed by the National Director of the Selective Service System, Gil Coronado. After World War II, no women holding high office existed. She was named to the post in 1994, after serving thirty years.[1] She was the first female general in New York's Army National Guard and the first female in the nation to be promoted to major general.[2] She retired in 1997.
- MG Burke served as the 2nd President of the National Association of Black Military Women.

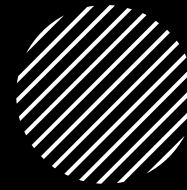




COL Irma Hagans Cooper



- Colonel (Ret) Irma Hagans Cooper is a thirty-year Veteran of the United States Army. She is a graduate of the Army War College with a Masters degree in Strategic Studies. She has held three (3) Commands ranging from Company to a Medical Group including one command in Iraq. Colonel (Ret) Cooper has distinguished herself by exceptionally meritorious conduct in a myriad of assignments with the Army Nurse Corp. In all positions, she has demonstrated inspiring leadership, tireless energy and total dedication to the spirit and mission of the Army Nurse Corp and the United States Army Reserves.
- Colonel (Ret) Cooper previously Commanded of the largest Medical Group on West Coast which consists of two Combat Support hospitals and 12 medical companies and detachments. She successfully planned organized and sustained command and control for medical units in California and Utah. She successfully executed numerous deployments and humanitarian missions. She commanded major deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan and humanitarian missions to Honduras, Germany, and El Salvador.
- COLONEL (Ret) Cooper was awarded the Bronze Star for her service in Iraq and has numerous other awards including the Merit of legion. Colonel (RET) Cooper is the recipient of numerous awards and honors, including, 1 of 3 2013 Veterans Service Award by California State Senator Dr. Ed Hernandez, 2012 Military Nurse of the year Award presented by The National Association of Black Nurses and in 2004 Nurse of the Year Award presented by Citrus Valley Medical Center. She maintains membership in Nursing and Military National Association to stay current on issues to better assist veterans.
- Colonel Hagans Cooper Serves as the VP Operations for the National Association of Black Military Women



COL Stephanie Dawson



- Col. Stephanie Dawson is the first female brigade commander in New York National Guard history, took command of a brigade level unit. Her last assignment was deputy commander of the 369th Sustainment Brigade, known as the Harlem Hellfighters because of the unit's daring conduct in World War 1. Prior to that she served as commander of the 27th Rear Operations Center and deployed that unit to Iraq in 2003/2004. Dawson also served as a platoon leader and company commander during her military career. As executive officer for the 369th Corps Support Battalion during the unit's 9-11 activation, she helped spearhead battalion relief, security, supply, transportation, and other logistics support missions for initial Ground Zero operations.
- Dawson is a 2007 graduate of the Army War College, as well as the Army's Command and General Staff College and the Combined Arms and Services School. Her awards include the Bronze Star, the Meritorious Service Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Iraq Campaign Medal, and the Global War on Terrorism Medal.
- Colonel Dawson served as the 4th President of the National Association of Black Military Women.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH FIGURES AND LEADERS

Known as the “Mother of the Civil Rights Movement”

Born: 1913 Died: 2005

MLK Jr. started a boycott of Montgomery buses due to her resistance coupled with the arrest. The 17,000 black residents of Montgomery pulled together and kept the boycott going for more than a year.



“It was not pre-arranged. It just happened that the driver made a demand and I just didn't feel like obeying his demand. I was quite tired after spending a full day working.”

“At the time I was arrested I had no idea it would turn into this. It was just a day like any other day. The only thing that made it significant was that the masses of the people joined in.”

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

"I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character."

Born: 1899 Died: 1968

King's philosophy of "tough-mindedness and tenderheartedness" was not only highly effective, but it gave the civil rights movement an inspiring moral authority and grace.



"Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that."

First African-American Supreme Court Justice

Born: 1908 Died: 1993



“I have a lifetime appointment and I intend to serve it. I expect to die at 110, shot by a jealous husband.”



Marshall realized that one of the best ways to bring about change was through the legal system. Between 1938 and 1961, he presented more than 30 civil rights cases before the Supreme Court. He won 29 of them.

“What is the quality of your intent?”

The Little Rock Nine were the first black teenagers to attend an all-white school.

"I tried to see a friendly face somewhere in the mob. . . . I looked into the face of an old woman, and it seemed a kind face, but when I looked at her again, she spat at me."

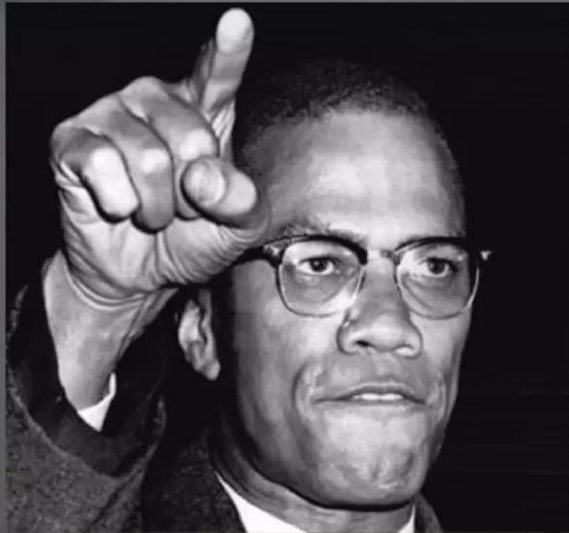


The Little Rock Nine included: Terrence Roberts, Carlotta Walls, Jefferson Thomas, Ernest Green, Gloria Ray, Melba Pattillo, Thelma Mothershed, Elizabeth Eckford and Minnijean Brown

"I went to the first day of school with Ernest... and it burst my bubble, I usually say that. That's when I became aware that the world of open and available doors... were in no way going to be open and available to me."

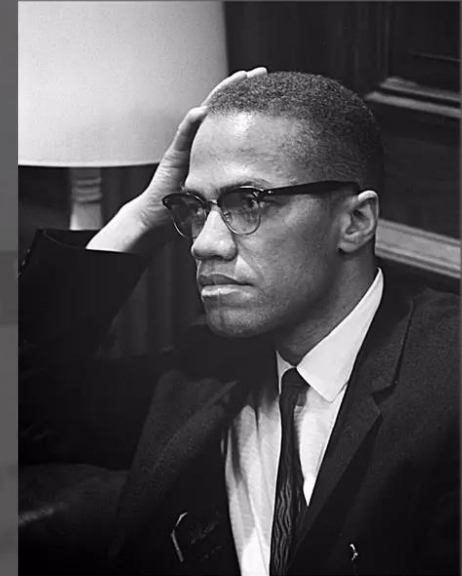
MALCOLM X

Born Malcolm Little. X is the name he gave himself.



Born: 1925 Died: 1965

"If you're not ready to die for it, put the word 'freedom' out of your vocabulary."



"What is your real name?" an interviewer asked him. "Malcolm, Malcolm X," he replied.

"What was your father's real name?" the interviewer went on. Malcolm answered: "My father didn't know his real name. My father got his name from his grandfather and he got his name from his grandfather and he got it from the slave master."

HARRIET TUBMAN

American abolitionist

Born: 1820 Died: 1913

“I had reasoned this out in my mind, there was one of two things I had a *right* to, liberty or death; if I could not have one, I would have the other.”



“If I could have convinced more slaves that they were slaves, I could have freed thousands more.”

“I was the conductor of the Underground Railroad for eight years, and can say what most conductors can't say; I never ran my train off the track and I never lost a passenger.”

By Annette Taylor Connor

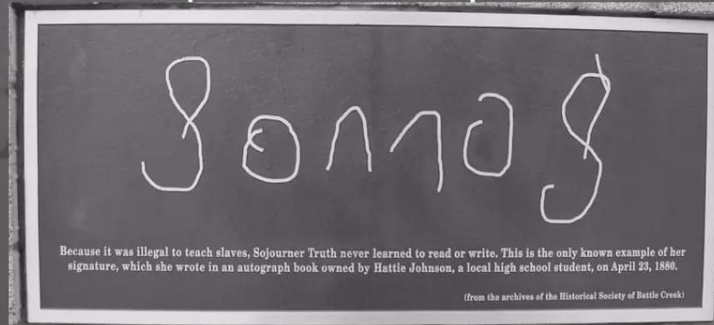
SOJOURNER TRUTH

Women's Rights Activist

Born: 1797 Died: 1883



“The rich rob the poor and the poor rob one another.”



“That man over there says that women need to be helped into carriages, and lifted over ditches, and to have the best place everywhere. Nobody ever helps me into carriages, or over mud-puddles, or gives me any best place! And ain't I a woman? Look at me! Look at my arm! I have ploughed and planted, and gathered into barns, and no man could head me! And ain't I a woman? I could work as much and eat as much as a man - when I could get it - and bear the lash as well! And ain't I a woman? I have borne thirteen children, and seen most all sold off to slavery, and when I cried out with my mother's grief, none but Jesus heard me! And ain't I a woman?”

Barack Obama

Yes we can.

The 44th President of the United States of America

Born: 1961 Died: N/A

“I don't oppose all wars. What I am opposed to is a dumb war. What I am opposed to is a rash war.”



“My parents shared not only an improbable love, they shared an abiding faith in the possibilities of this nation. They would give me an African name, Barack, or blessed, believing that in a tolerant America your name is no barrier to success.”

“The thing about hip-hop today is it's smart, it's insightful. The way they can communicate a complex message in a very short space is remarkable.” Dr. Annette Tucker Osborne

First African-American woman in space.

Born: 1956 Died: N/A

“There have been lots of other women who had the talent and ability before me. I think this can be seen as an affirmation that we're moving ahead. And I hope it means that I'm just the first in a long line.”



“I'm very aware of the fact that I'm not the first African-American woman who had the skills, the talent, the desire to be an astronaut. I happen to be the first one NASA selected.”

“More women should demand to be involved. It's our right. This is one area where we can get in on the ground floor and possibly help to direct where space exploration will go in the future. ”

LUIS ARMSTRONG

Greatly influential jazz player

Born: 1901 Died: 1971

“Musicians don't retire; they stop when there's no more music in them.”



"I think that anybody from the 20th century, up to now, has to be aware that if it wasn't for Louis Armstrong, we'd all be wearing powdered wigs. I think that Louis Armstrong loosened the world, helped people to be able to say "Yeah," and to walk with a little dip in their hip. Before Louis Armstrong, the world was definitely square, just like Christopher Columbus thought."

-- South African trumpet legend Hugh Masekela



SIX Triple Eight



6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion



- The 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion, nicknamed the "Six Triple Eight", was a predominantly black battalion of the Women's Army Corps (WAC). The 6888th had 855 women, amongst whom were three Latinas, both enlisted and officers, and was led by Major Charity Adams. It was the only predominantly all-black US Women's Army Corps unit sent overseas during World War II. The group motto was "No mail, low morale" The battalion was organized into five companies, Headquarters, Company A, Company B, Company C, and Company D. Most of the 6888th worked as postal clerks, but others were cooks, mechanics and held other support positions, so that the 6888th was a self-sufficient unit.

All-Black, All-Woman WWII Unit Awarded Congressional Gold Medal



- Seventy-seven years after World War II, the only all-Black Women's Army Corps unit to serve in Europe during the conflict is set to receive one of the United States' highest civilian honors. On March 14, reports Deborah Bailey for the Afro, President Joe Biden signed into law a bill awarding the Congressional Gold Medal to the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion. Details of the formal award ceremonies have yet to be finalized.
- Credited with clearing a six-month backlog of mail to American troops in just three months, according to the U.S. Army Center of Military History, the "Six Triple Eight" followed a motto of "no mail, low morale." As the National WWII Museum notes, the women, who were stationed in Europe during the final months of the war, processed an average of 65,000 pieces of mail per shift, for a total of 17 million by the conflict's end.
- Of the 855 original members of the battalion, only a half-dozen or so are still alive today, reports Michael Casey for the Associated Press (AP). The unit was disbanded with little fanfare in January 1946, only receiving recognition, including a monument, a documentary and now the Congressional Gold Medal, in recent years.
- "It's overwhelming," battalion veteran Major Fannie Griffin McClendon, who is 101, tells the AP. "It's something I never even thought about it. I don't know if I can stand this."
- Led by Major Charity Adams, the 6888th trained at Fort Oglethorpe in Georgia before sailing to Europe in February 1945. Dodging German U-boats as their ship crossed the Atlantic, the women narrowly escaped a Nazi rocket attack upon arriving in Glasgow, Scotland. From Glasgow, they traveled to Birmingham, England, where they worked in unheated, dimly lit warehouses "stacked to the ceiling with letters and packages," per the U.S. Army Center.
- The 6888th shipped out at a time when African American organizations were pressuring the U.S. government to let Black women serve overseas.
- As members of the only all-Black, all-woman U.S. Army unit in Europe, the women faced both racism and sexism. On one occasion, a white general told Adams that he was "going to send a white first lieutenant down here to show you how to run things." In response, she said, "Over my dead body, sir."

The 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion Monument



- The monument is in the Buffalo Soldier Military Park at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas along with other monuments honoring African-American individuals and units, and consist of a 25-inch Bronze bust of the unit's Commanding Officer, LTC Charity Adams (Earley), eight black granite panels highlighting the unit's lineage, historical information, key unit pictures, one panel for the Corporate Donors who donate at least \$6,688.88, and on the back panel is an alphabetical list, by states, of 800-plus members, of the original list of 855 assigned during WWII. Three were killed in an automobile accident.

Company G, 24th Infantry

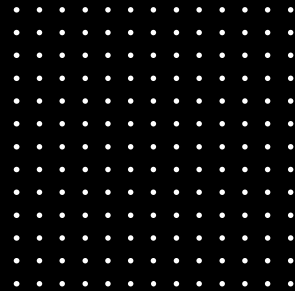
On this day July 18, 1950

- Company G, 24th Infantry heads to the front lines. African American troops of the U.S. Army's 24th Infantry Regiment began the 16-hour offensive that enabled them to recapture Yechon, South Korea. For the U.S. forces, it marked the first South Korean city restored to friendly hands.
- Formed in 1869, the regiment had already played an important role in history, taking part in the important Battle of San Hill in 1898.
- Despite their important victory in the Korean War, the regiment continued to battle prejudice and doubts among Army leaders.
- Although Army officials continued to ignore or discount such success, South Korean officials honored the regiment with its Presidential Unit Citation.





Coretta Scott King
April 27, 1927-January 30, 2006



- Born in Marion, Ala in 1927. King was a talented singer who initially hoped to build a career in music. In the early 1950's, she enrolled in the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston . She met Martin Luther King, Jr. , who was studying theology at Boston University.
- Coretta Scott King, was an American author, activists, and civil rights leader and the wife of Martin Luther King, Jr. from 1953 until his death.
- As an advocate for African-American equality, she was a leader for the civil rights movement in the 1960's.

David Dinkins

July 10, 1927-November 23, 2020



- Born in Trenton, New Jersey, in 1927, David Dinkins attended Howard University and Brooklyn Law School. He began his career in New York City politics in the 1960s, ascending to city clerk and Manhattan borough president, before becoming the Big Apple's first African American mayor in 1989.
 - David Norman Dinkins was an American politician, lawyer, and author who served as the 106th Mayor of New York City from 1990-1993.
 - Dinkins was among the more than 20,000 Montford Point Marines, the first African American U.S. Marines from 1945 to 1946.
-



Cecily Louise Tyson

December 19, 1924-January 28, 2021



- Cecily Louise "Cicely" Tyson was an American actress known for her portrayal of strong African-American women. Tyson received various awards including three Emmy Awards, a Screen Actors Guild Award, a Tony Award, an Honorary Academy Award, and a Peabody Award.
- Cicely Tyson, the stage, screen and television actress whose vivid portrayals of strong African-American women shattered racial stereotypes in the dramatic arts of the 1970s, propelling her to stardom and fame as an exemplar for civil rights.
- In a remarkable career of seven decades, Ms. Tyson broke ground for serious Black actors by refusing to take parts that demeaned Black people. She urged Black colleagues to do the same, and often went without work. She was critical of films and television programs that cast Black characters as criminal, servile or immoral, and insisted that African-Americans, even if poor or downtrodden, should be portrayed with dignity.
- Her chiseled face and willowy frame, striking even in her 90s, became familiar to millions in more than 100 film, television and stage roles, including some that had traditionally been given only to white actors. She won three Emmys and many awards from civil rights and women's groups, and at 88 became the oldest person to win a Tony, for her 2013 Broadway role in a revival of Horton Foote's "The Trip to Bountiful."



Maya Angelou

April 4, 1928-May 28, 2014

- Maya Angelou, an American author, poet and civil rights activist, rose to prominence with the publication of “I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings” in 1969.
- She published seven autobiographies, three books of essays, several books of poetry, and is credited with a list of plays, movies, and television shows spanning over 50 years. She received dozens of awards and more than 50 honorary degrees
- She was best known for her unique and pioneering autobiographical writing style.



Shirley Chisholm

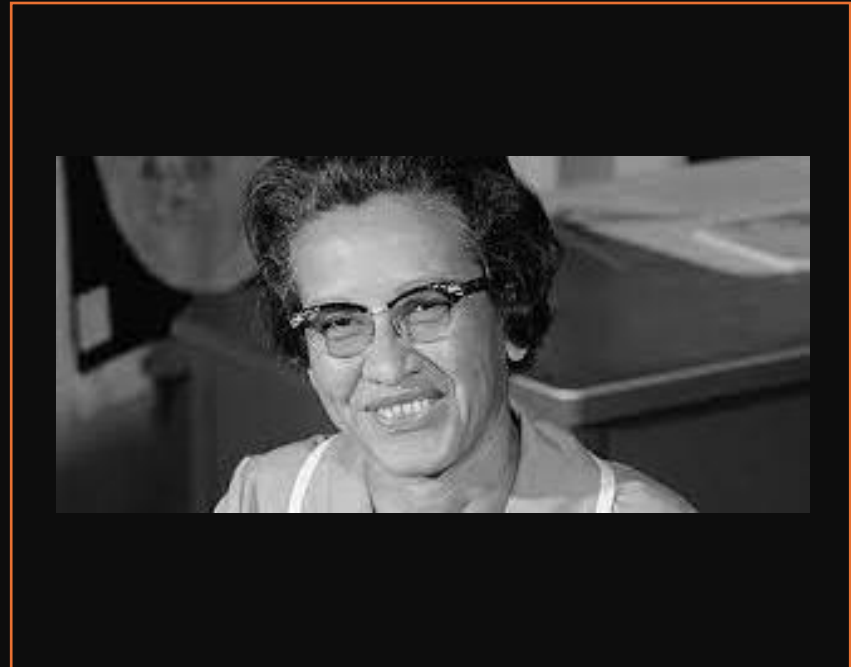
- Chisholm was a pioneer for African-American women holding major roles in the government. Chisholm first served as an educational consultant for New York City's bureau of child welfare and ran for New York State Assembly in 1964. In 1968, Chisholm was elected as the first African-American Congresswoman, and later became one of the founding members of the Congressional Black Caucus. Chisholm made history once again in 1972 when she became the first African-American woman of a major political party to run for the Democratic party nomination.



Katherine Johnson

August 26, 1918-February 24, 2020

- In 1962, as NASA prepared for the orbital mission of John Glenn, Johnson was called upon to do the work that she would become most known for. The complexity of the orbital flight had required the construction of a worldwide communications network, linking tracking stations around the world to IBM computers in Washington, Cape Canaveral in Florida, and Bermuda. The computers had been programmed with the orbital equations that would control the trajectory of the capsule in Glenn's Friendship 7 mission from liftoff to splashdown, but the astronauts were wary of putting their lives in the care of the electronic calculating machines, which were prone to hiccups and blackouts. As a part of the preflight checklist, Glenn asked engineers to "get the girl"—Johnson—to run the same numbers through the same equations that had been programmed into the computer, but by hand, on her desktop mechanical calculating machine. "If she says they're good," Katherine Johnson remembers the astronaut saying, "then I'm ready to go." Glenn's flight was a success, and marked a turning point in the competition between the United States and the Soviet Union in space.





Bessie Coleman

January 26, 1892-April 30, 1926



- Bessie Coleman soared across the sky as the first woman of African American and Native American descent to earn her pilot's license in the U.S. Known for performing flying tricks, Coleman's nicknames were: "Brave Bessie," "Queen Bess," and "The Only Race Aviatrix in the World." Her goal was to encourage women and African Americans to reach their dreams – and this became her legacy. Though her life and career were cut short in a tragic plane crash, her life and legacy continue to inspire people around the world.
- Coleman's dream was to own a plane and to open her own flight school. She gave speeches and showed films of her air tricks at churches, theaters, and schools to earn money. She refused to speak anywhere that was segregated or discriminated against African Americans. In 1922, she performed the first public flight by an African American woman. She was famous for doing "loop-the-loops" and making the shape of an "8" in an airplane. People were fascinated by her performances, and she became more popular both in the United States and in Europe. She toured the country giving flight lessons and performing in flight shows, and she encouraged African Americans and women to learn how to fly.
- On April 30, 1926, Bessie Coleman took a test flight with a mechanic named William Wills. Wills piloted the plane while Coleman sat in the passenger seat. At about 3,000 feet in the air, a loose wrench got stuck in the engine of the aircraft. Wills could no longer control the steering wheel, and the plane flipped over. Coleman was not wearing a seatbelt. At the time, airplanes did not have a roof. Due to her un-fastened seatbelt, when the plane flipped over Coleman fell out of the open plane. She did not survive the fall. Wills crashed the aircraft a few feet away and also died in the accident. Her death was heartbreaking for thousands of people across the world. At her funeral in Chicago, famous activist Ida B. Wells-Barnett delivered her eulogy.



Harlem Hellfighters



- The 369th Infantry Regiment, originally formed as the 15th New York National Guard Regiment before being re-organized as the 369th upon federalization and commonly referred to as the Harlem Hellfighters, was an infantry regiment of the New York Army National Guard during World War I and World War II.
- Founded:1913
- Nickname Hell-fighters , Men of Bronze, Black Rattliers





Jackie Robinson

January 31, 1919-October 24, 1972



- Jack Roosevelt Robinson was an American professional baseball player who became the first African American to play in Major League Baseball (MLB) in the modern era. Robinson broke the color line when he started at first base for the Brooklyn Dodgers on April 15, 1947. The Dodgers signing Robinson heralded the end of racial segregation in professional baseball that had relegated black players to the Negro leagues since the 1880s. Robinson was inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1962.



Tina Turner

May 24, 1939-May 24, 2023

- Tina Turner was an American-born singer, songwriter and actress. Known as the "Queen of Rock 'n' Roll", she rose to prominence as the lead singer of the husband-wife duo Ike & Tina Turner before launching a successful career as a solo performer.





Nikki Giovanni

- Yolande Cornelia "Nikki" Giovanni Jr.] (born June 7, 1943) is an American poet, writer, commentator, activist, and educator. One of the world's most well-known African-American poets her work includes poetry anthologies, poetry recordings, and nonfiction essays, and covers topics ranging from race and social issues to children's literature. She has won numerous awards, including the Langston Hughes Medal and the NAACP Image Award. She has been nominated for a Grammy Award for her poetry album, The Nikki Giovanni Poetry Collection. Additionally, she has been named as one of Oprah Winfrey's 25 "Living Legends".
- Giovanni gained initial fame in the late 1960s as one of the foremost authors of the Black Arts Movement. Influenced by the Civil Rights Movement and Black Power Movement of the period, her early work provides a strong, militant African-American perspective, leading one writer to dub her the "Poet of the Black Revolution"
- Giovanni is proud of her Appalachian roots and works to change the way the world views Appalachians and Affrilachians.

Tuskegee Airmen/99th Pursuit Squadron/later known as the 99th Fighter Squadron



- The Tuskegee Airmen were a group of African American military pilots (fighter and bomber) and airmen who fought in World War II. They formed the 332nd Fighter Group and the 477th Bombardment Group (Medium) of the United States Army Air Forces (USAAF). The name also applies to the navigators, bombardiers, mechanics, instructors, crew chiefs, nurses, cooks, and other support personnel. The Tuskegee airmen received praise for their excellent combat record earned while protecting American bombers from enemy fighters. The group was awarded three Distinguished Unit Citations.
- All black military pilots who trained in the United States trained at Griel Field, Kennedy Field, Moton Field, Shorter Field, and the Tuskegee Army Airfields. They were educated at the Tuskegee Institute (now Tuskegee University), located near Tuskegee, Alabama. Of the 922 pilots, five were Haitians from the Haitian Air Force and one pilot was from Trinidad. It also included a Hispanic or Latino airman born in the Dominican Republic.

Angela Yvonne Davis

- Angela Yvonne Davis (born January 26, 1944) is an American Marxist and feminist political activist, philosopher, academic, and author; she is a professor at the University of California, Santa Cruz. Davis was a longtime member of the Communist Party USA (CPUSA) and a founding member of the Committees of Correspondence for Democracy and Socialism (CCDS). She was active in movements such as the Occupy movement and the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions campaign.

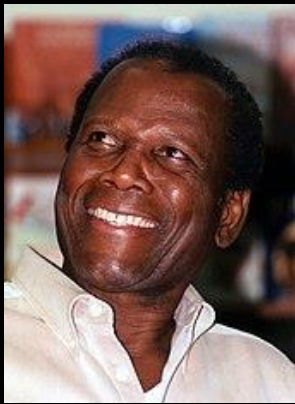




Sidney Poitier

February 20, 1927-January 2, 2022

- Sidney Poitier, was a Bahamian and American actor, film director, and diplomat. In 1964, he was the first Black actor and first Bahamian to win the Academy Award for Best Actor. He received two competitive Golden Globe Awards, a BAFTA Award, and a Grammy Award as well as nominations for two Emmy Awards and a Tony Award. In 1999, he ranked among one of the "American Film Institute's 100 Stars "Poitier was one of the last surviving stars from the Golden Age of Hollywood cinema.
- Poitier also received acclaim for *Porgy and Bess* (1959), *A Raisin in the Sun* (1961), and *A Patch of Blue* (1965), because of his strong roles as epic African American male characters. He continued to break ground in three successful 1967 films which dealt with issues of race and race relations: *To Sir, with Love*; *Guess Who's Coming to Dinner*, and *In the Heat of the Night*, the latter of which earned him Golden Globe and BAFTA Award nominations. In a poll the next year he was voted the US's top box-office star.[11] Poitier also directed various films, including *A Warm December* (1973), *Uptown Saturday Night* (1974), and *Stir Crazy* (1980). He later starred in *Shoot to Kill* (1988) and *Sneakers* (1992).



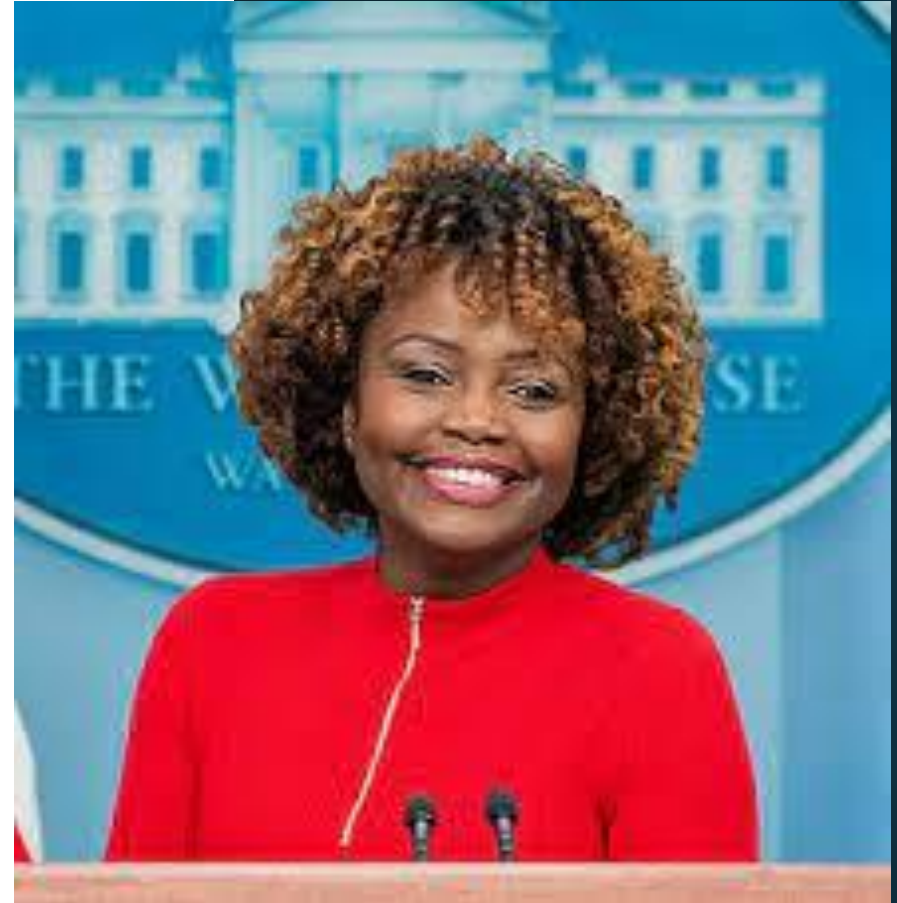
Amanda Gorman



- Born March 7, 1998, is an American poet and activist. Her work focuses on issues of oppression, feminism, race and marginalization, as well as the African diaspora. Gorman was the first person to be named National Youth Poet Laureate. She published the poetry book *The One for Whom Food Is Not Enough* in 2015. She rose to fame in 2021 for writing and delivering her poem "The Hill We Climb" at the inauguration of Joe Biden. Gorman's inauguration poem generated international acclaim and shortly thereafter, two of her books achieved best-seller status, and she obtained a professional management contract.
- Gorman was highlighted in *Time* magazine's 100 Next list under the category of "Phenoms", with a profile written by Lin-Manuel Miranda. That same month, Gorman became the first poet to perform at the Super Bowl, when she delivered her poem "Chorus of the Captains" at Super Bowl LV.

Karine Jean-Pierre

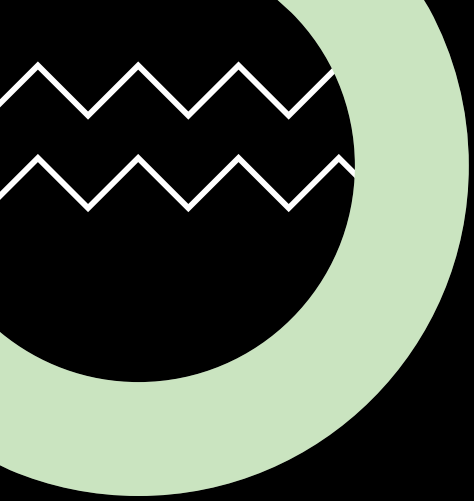
- Karine Jean-Pierre (born August 13, 1974, is an American political advisor who has served as the White House press secretary since May 13, 2022. She is the first black person and the first openly LGBT person to serve in the position. Previously, she served as the deputy press secretary to her predecessor Jen Psaki from 2021 to 2022 and as the chief of staff for U.S. Vice Presidential candidate Kamala Harris during the 2020 presidential campaign.
- Prior to her work with Harris during the 2020 election and with the Biden–Harris administration, Jean-Pierre was the senior advisor and national spokeswoman for the progressive advocacy group MoveOn.org. She was also previously a political analyst for NBC News and MSNBC and a lecturer in international and public affairs at Columbia University.



Lloyd Austin

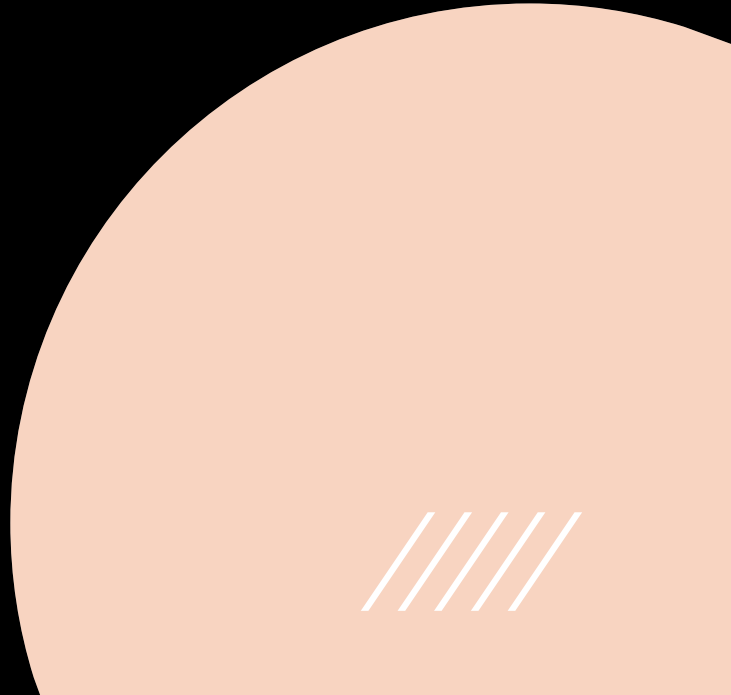
- Lloyd James Austin III is an American politician and retired United States Army four-star general who is serving as the 28th United States secretary of defense since January 22, 2021. Before retiring from the military in 2016, Austin served as the 12th commander of United States Central Command (CENTCOM), beginning in March 2013. Prior to that he served as the 33rd vice chief of staff of the Army from January 2012 to March 2013, and as commander of United States Forces – Iraq from September 2010 to December 2011. He is the first African American to hold each of these positions. After retiring from the armed services Austin joined the boards of Raytheon Technologies, Nucor, Tenet Healthcare, and Auburn University. On December 7, 2020, he was nominated for defense secretary by then-President-elect Joe Biden and was confirmed by the United States Senate on January 22, 2021, by a vote of 93–2.





Black History Heroes You May Never Have Heard Of

Dr. Annette Tucker Osborne



Cathay Williams

1844-1893

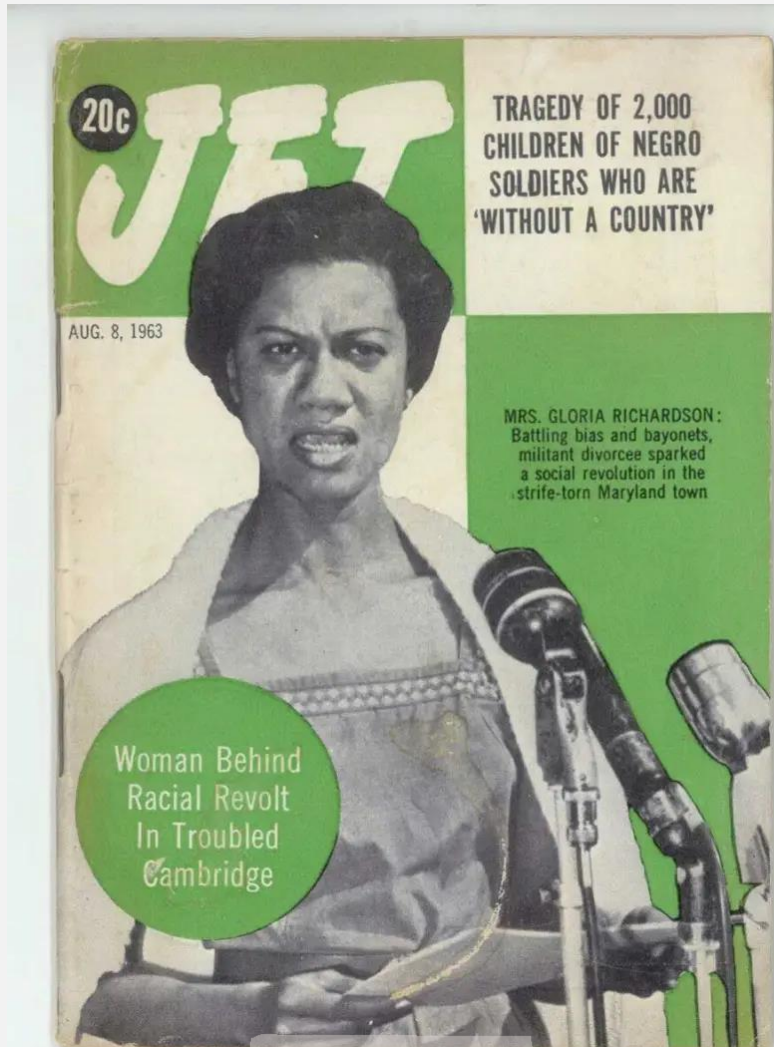
- Private Cathay Williams was the only African-American woman to serve in the United States Army as a Buffalo Soldier. On November 15, 1866, she enlisted in the Army as a man. Williams reversed her name William Cathay and lived as a male soldier and served until she was found out due to the list of many illnesses she suffered while serving.
- Shortly after her enlistment, Williams contracted smallpox, was hospitalized and rejoined her unit, which by then was posted in New Mexico. Possibly due to the effects of smallpox, the New Mexico heat, or the cumulative effects of years of marching, her body began to show signs of strain. She was frequently hospitalized. The post surgeon finally discovered she was a woman and informed the post commander. She was discharged from the Army by her commanding officer, Captain Charles E. Clarke on October 14, 1868.
- She is the only documented black woman to have served while posing as a man during the Indian Wars.
- What Makes Cathay Williams An American Hero: Though over 400 women served in the Civil War posing as male soldiers, Williams was the first African American woman to enlist and the only documented woman to serve in the United States Army, while disguised as a man, during the Indian Wars. Williams is also the only known female Buffalo Soldier. Williams' determination to serve her country demonstrates the extraordinary feats women have accomplished simply trying to live their lives.



Gloria Richardson

On this day July 21, 1963

- When a National Guardsman poked his bayonet at Gloria Richardson in Cambridge, Maryland, she pushed it away, refusing to back down during protests against racism and inequality. The image of Richardson, head of the Cambridge Nonviolent Action Committee, courageous stand appeared in newspapers around the world. The stand also inspired change. Two days later, she and others signed the Treaty of Cambridge in the office of Attorney General Bobby Kennedy.
- The victory came after a quarter century of struggle. Richardson grew up in segregated Cambridge, where the communities were literally separated by a street named Race. She began her activism while a Howard University student, protesting segregated seating at Woolworth's. In 1962, she and others created the committee to aid SNCC's efforts to break down the barriers that barred Black residents from decent jobs, housing and health care.
- White men hurled eggs at the protesters, who became targets of violence when nightriders attempted to bomb their homes. Richardson encouraged protesters to defend themselves with guns. After two white men were wounded in such a shootout, the governor sent in the National Guard, which stayed in the city nearly a year.
- Richardson continued to stand up against them. "It got very scary, with the threats against us, and with whites coming through the Black community, shooting," her daughter, Donna R. Orange, told The New York Times. "She just marched right past them."
- Although she signed the Treaty of Cambridge, she didn't support the document in public: "Why would we agree to submit to have our civil rights granted by vote when they were ours already, according to the Constitution?"
- Richardson became a national symbol, one of six women listed as "fighters for freedom" at the March on Washington. Fearing that she was becoming an icon, she stepped back from leadership, but not before her example inspired such activists as Stokely Carmichael.





Jane Bolin

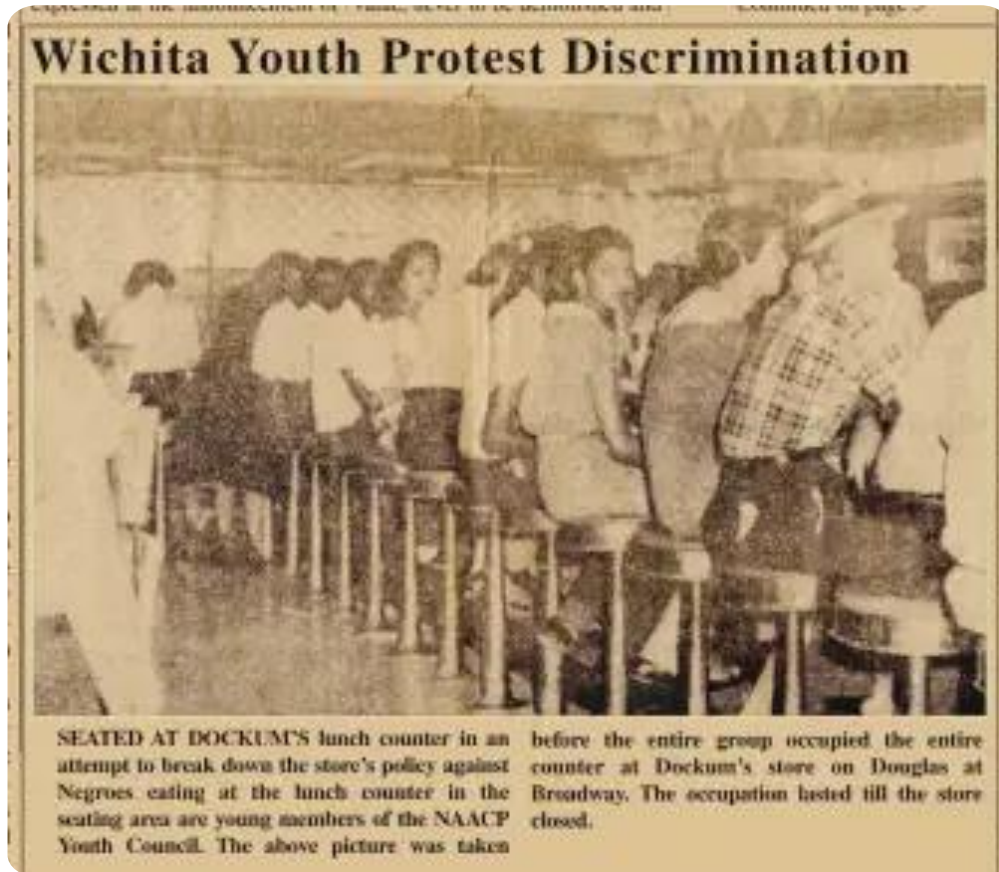
On this day July 22, 1939

- Jane Bolin became the first Black female judge in the United States when she was sworn in as a family judge in New York City.
- Her career adviser discouraged her from applying to Yale Law School, but she graduated in the top 20 in her class, becoming the first Black woman to graduate from that school. In turn, she became the first Black woman to pass the New York State bar exam and the first to join New York City's law department.
- Bolin fought to end segregation in child placement facilities, including skin color-based assignments for probation officers. She worked with First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt on the Wiltwyck School, which used a holistic approach to help end youth crime.
- In a 1958 speech, Bolin spoke out for women's rights: "Those gains we have made were never graciously and generously granted. We have had to fight every inch of the way — in the face of sometimes insufferable humiliations."
- She served on New York's Family Court for four decades and also on the boards of the NAACP, National Urban League and Child Welfare League. Constance Baker Motley, who served as a federal judge, called Bolin a role model.
- After her retirement at age 70, she became a school consultant and child reading volunteer. After her death, Congressman Charles Rangel delivered a tribute to her on the floor of the House of Representatives, and New York renamed the Queens Midtown tunnel in her honor.

Dr. Annette Tucker Osborne



Wichita Youth Protest Discrimination On this day July 19, 1958



- The protest began on July 19, 1958, in downtown Wichita, Kansas, at a Dockum Drug Store (a store in the old Rexall chain), in which protesters would sit at the counter all day until the store closed, ignoring taunts from counter-protesters. The sit-in ended three weeks later when the owner relented and agreed to serve black patrons.
- A newspaper clipping from Aug. 7, 1958, issue of the *Enlightener*, a Black newspaper in Wichita shows the Dockum Drug Store lunch counter sit-in, one of the earliest in the nation. Dockum Drug Store in downtown Wichita, Kansas, refused to serve Black patrons at its lunch counter.
- “It was degrading, dehumanizing”, recalled then-teenager Galyn Vsey, “You felt like something was wrong, but you learned to cope with it”. But something stirred up in him and other students, many of them belonging to the local NAACP Youth Council. They decided to organize to protest this segregationist policy. For three weeks, they took their seats at the lunch counter from opening to closing. For three weeks, they endured insults and threats of violence from white patrons.
- “We were anticipating the potential for violence and danger, but we had faith – because we felt that righteousness and justice were on our side”.
- Wichita’s nine Dockum stores belonged to the Rexall drugstore chain, which decided to end discrimination at all lunch counters nationwide because of the protest.
- A downtown monument now honors those who conducted the sit-ins.

Carolyn R. Payton

September 1977

- Carolyn Robertson Payton is best remembered as the first woman and first African American Director of the United States Peace Corps. Her path to this position, as well as her departure say much about her character—open to new opportunities, committed to making a difference, and willing to do what she felt was right no matter the consequences. Payton accepted the position of field assessment officer for trainees for the newly created Peace Corps in 1964. Although women were usually not given overseas staff positions, in 1966 Payton became the Peace Corps Director for the Eastern Caribbean region stationed in Barbados.
- As one of only two female country directors, her success was critical in demonstrating that women could effectively do the job. This success resulted in gender being dropped as a qualifier for overseas staff positions. After a seven-year absence, Payton was again called to the Peace Corps in 1977, this time by then US President Jimmy Carter who appointed Payton Peace Corps Director. She served for less than two years.
- Payton was a pioneer in black women's leadership within the American Psychological Association and psychology.
- Her strong views about the Peace Corps' mission and its implementation strategies, especially regarding the importance of Peace Corps volunteers being nonpolitical, clashed with those of Sam Brown, then Director of Action, the agency with jurisdiction over the Peace Corps. Payton's refusal to back down on issues she felt were vital to the Peace Corps' very existence and the surrounding publicity led President Carter to ask for her resignation.





Alice Allison Dunnigan

- Alice Allison Dunnigan was the first African-American female White House correspondent. She was also the first Black female member of the Senate and House of Representatives press galleries. Her love for writing began when she was 13, penning one-sentence pieces for the Owensboro Enterprise. She became the chief of the Associated Negro Press in 1947, which would allow her a year later to become the first female African American to follow a President's campaign out on the road. While she had to pay her way to cover Harry S. Truman on his Western campaign trail, she would finally receive the respect she deserved when John F. Kennedy was elected. She would serve as an education consultant of the President's Committee on Equal Employment Opportunity until 1965.

Wangari Maathai

- Wangari Maathai became the first Black woman to win the 2004 Nobel Peace Prize for her environmental work in Kenya. She was also the first woman in East and Central Africa to earn a doctorate degree. Maathai served as the chairman for six years on the National Council of Women in Kenya, and introduced the idea of accomplishing the largest tree-planting campaign in Africa—the Green Belt Movement. The organization has planted over 51 million trees in Kenya since its founding in 1977.
-



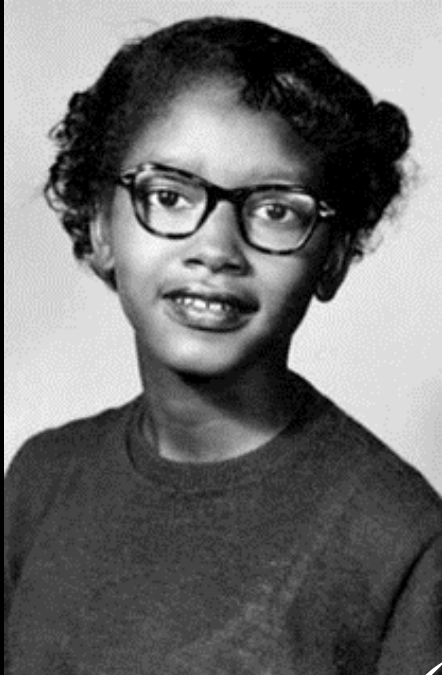
Marsha P. Johnson

- Marsha P. Johnson was an LGBTQ activist and trans woman who was one of the first drag queens to walk into the Stonewall Inn. In addition to being a drag performer, Johnson co-founded the Street Transvestite Action Revolutionaries organization with Sylvia Rivera, according to CNN. The organization housed and fed homeless youth that identified as queer, as well as sex workers in the lower part of New York City, said USA TODAY. Johnson also modeled for Andy Warhol, performed with the drag group Hot Peaches, and was an AIDS activist with ACT UP for five years.

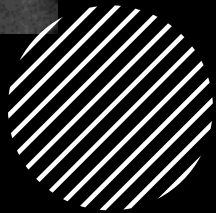




Claudette Colvin



- Nine months before Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat to a white passenger on a bus in Montgomery, Alabama, then 15-year-old Claudette Colvin did the same. On March 2, 1955, Colvin was taking the bus home from high school when the driver ordered her to give up her seat, according to NPR. Colvin refused, saying she paid her fare and it was her constitutional right, but was then arrested by two police officers. Colvin later became the main witness in the federal lawsuit *Browder v. Gayle*, which ended segregation on public transportation in Alabama.

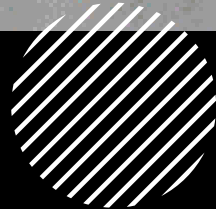


Irene Morgan Kirkaldy



- And before both Claudette Colvin and Rosa Parks, there was Irene Morgan Kirkaldy. In July 1944, Morgan Kirkaldy was arrested after she refused to give up her bus seat to a white passenger in Virginia. She was convicted in a County Circuit Court but appealed the decision to the Virginia Supreme Court and later to the Supreme Court. With the help of lawyers from the NAACP, including Thurgood Marshall, the Supreme Court ruled in favor of Morgan Kirkaldy on June 3, 1946. While Southern states largely ignored the ruling, Morgan Kirkaldy's case was a pioneer in civil rights law. Morgan Kirkaldy received the Presidential Citizens Medal from President Bill Clinton in 2001.





Daisy Bates

- Bates was a civil rights activists best known for her work on behalf of the Little Rock Nine. Bates and her husband founded the Arkansas State Press, a weekly African-American newspaper that advocated for civil rights. In 1952, Bates became the president of the NAACP's Arkansas chapter and in 1957, Bates fought for the Little Rock Nine, the nine Black students who were attending an all-white school as part of the school's desegregation. Bates escorted and advocated for the students amid intense opposition and is honored by the state of Arkansas with a state holiday on the third Monday of February.

Dorothy Height

- Height has been called the matriarch of the civil rights movement and often worked outside of the public eye. After receiving two degrees from New York University in the 1930s, Height worked for the New York City Welfare Department and then became the assistant executive director of the Harlem Y.M.C.A. She was involved in anti-lynching protests, brought public attention to the exploitation of African-American women working in "slave markets," and escorted First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt to the National Council of Negro Women, a council she served on for more than 40 years. In the 1950s, she lobbied President Dwight D. Eisenhower to take an aggressive stance on school desegregation issues. Height also worked with Martin Luther King Jr., and she stood on the platform with as he delivered his famous "I Have a Dream" speech in August 1963.



Ellsa Baker



- Baker was a civil rights activist who worked for a number of organizations throughout her lifetime. After graduating as valedictorian from Shaw University in North Carolina, Baker moved to New York City to help start the Young Negroes Cooperative League. She started working for the NAACP in 1940 and co-founded the organization In Friendship to fight against Jim Crow laws in 1955. In 1957, she was asked to help organize Martin Luther King Jr.'s Southern Christian Leadership Conference and also helped form the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, SNCC, which became one of the biggest human rights advocates in the country.



Diane Nash

- Of the many accomplishments Nash has made in her lifelong commitment to civil rights activism, her most famous contributions include her work organizing and leading Freedom Rides and sit-ins. Nash, who was born in Chicago, got involved with the civil rights movement when she enrolled at Fisk University in Nashville in 1959. In April 1960, she helped found the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC). Nash also coordinated the Nashville Student Movement Ride, which was part of the Freedom Rides in 1961, coordinating between her fellow students, the media, and the Department of Justice. She engaged in sit-ins herself, even spending time in jail in February 1961 in solidarity with the "Rock Hill Nine," nine students that were imprisoned after a sit-in. Nash also played a crucial role in the desegregation campaign in Birmingham in 1963, and received a Rosa Parks Award from the SCLC along with her husband in 1965.



Today We Are Black History!





NABMW Celebrates Black History **24/7/365**

Dr. Annette Tucker Osborne