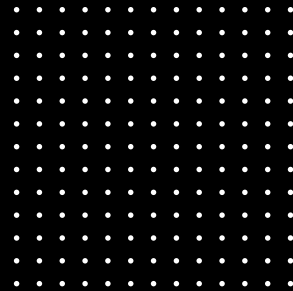




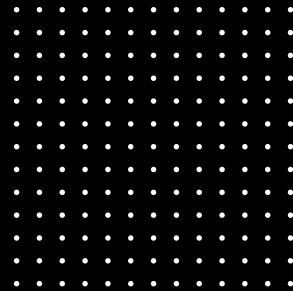
**NATIONAL
ASSOCIATION OF
BLACK MILITARY
WOMEN CELEBRATES
BLACK HISTORY ALL
DAY EVERYDAY!**



- 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.



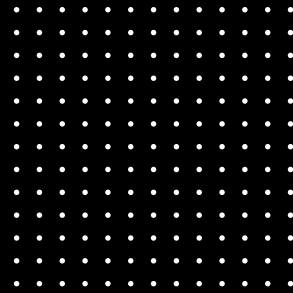
**NATIONAL
ASSOCIATION OF
BLACK MILITARY
WOMEN CELEBRATES
BLACK HISTORY ALL
DAY EVERYDAY!**



- 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.



Mary Eliza Mahoney
May 7, 1845-January 4,
1926



Dr. Annette Tucker Osborne

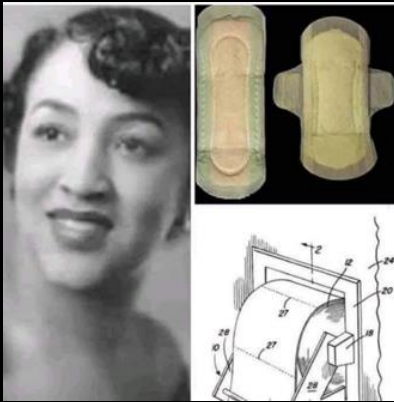
- Mary Eliza Mahoney was the first African-American to study and work as a professionally trained nurse in the United States. In 1879, Mahoney was the first African American to graduate from an American school of nursing.
- After receiving her nursing diploma, Mahoney worked for many years as a private care nurse, earning a distinguished reputation. She worked for predominantly white, wealthy families. The majority of her work was with new mothers and newborns, and had been done in New Jersey, with the occasional travel to other states. During the early years of her employment, African American nurses were often treated as if they were household servants rather than professionals. Mahoney emphasized her preference to eating dinner alone in the kitchen, distancing herself from eating with the existing household help, to further dismiss the relation between the professions.
- Mahoney also lived alone in an apartment in Roxbury where she spent time reading and relaxing, while also attending church activities with her sister. Nevertheless, families who employed Mahoney praised her efficiency in her nursing profession. Mahoney's professionalism helped raise the status and standards of all nurses, especially minorities. Mahoney was also known for her skills and preparedness. As Mahoney's reputation quickly spread, she received private-duty nursing requests from patients in states in the north and southeast coast.

Mary Beatrice Davidson Kenner

May 17, 1912- January 13, 2006



- Mary Beatrice Davidson Kenner was an American inventor most noted for her development of the adjustable sanitary belt. Kenner received five patents, which includes a carrier attachment for invalid walker and bathroom tissue dispenser. She was the brilliant mind behind the invention of sanitary napkins. Despite facing racial discrimination that led to her groundbreaking invention being initially rejected, she persevered and saw it accepted 30 years later, in 1956.
- Prior to her invention, women relied on a variety of methods to manage menstruation. One common practice was the use of old cotton or linen rags, which could be washed and reused. She was clearly over it, just imagine hand washing them daily to re-use! If one had an infant, handwashing their cloth diapers AND menstrual garments?
- Mary was not just a pioneer in feminine hygiene, she held five patents for various household inventions, including a bathroom tissue holder that she co-invented with her sister.



Ronald McNair Ph.D.

October 21, 1950-January 28,
1986

- In 1959, police were called to a segregated library when a Black 9-year-old boy refused to leave after being denied the right to check out books. That boy, Ronald McNair went on to earn a Ph.D. in physics from MIT and become a NASA astronaut.
- Today, the same library that once turned him away is named in his honor.
- Ronald Erwin McNair was an American NASA astronaut and physicist. He died at the age of 35 during the launch of the Space Shuttle Challenger on mission STS-51-L, in which he was serving as one of three mission specialists in a crew of seven.





Dr. Ruth Ella Moore
(May 19, 1903-July
19, 1994)

- Dr. Ruth Ella Moore was an American bacteriologist and microbiologist, who in 1933, became the first African American woman to be awarded a Ph.D. in natural science. She was a professor of bacteriology at Howard University. A decade later, she was installed as the head of the department of bacteriology, which she renamed to the department of microbiology. During that period, she was promoted to associate professor of microbiology.
- She published her research on tuberculosis, immunology, dental caries, the response of gut microorganisms to antibiotics, and the blood types of African-Americans.
- Throughout her career she was a member of the American Public Health Association and the American Society of Microbiology which she joined in 1936. Moore was the first African-American to join the American Society for Microbiology. As a Black woman, she faced restrictions to attending American Society for Microbiology meetings, particularly where Jim Crow laws were in effect, mandating segregation in hotels and conference venues. Moore also was a member of the American Association of Science, American Society of Immunology, the American Association of Microbiology, and the American Public Health Association.

Mary McLeod Bethune

July 10, 1875-May 18, 1955

- Mary McLeod Bethune transformed American Education and labor through founding Bethune-Cookman College, serving as president of multiple civil rights organizations, and becoming the highest-ranking Black woman in government during the Roosevelt administration. Her work connecting education, labor rights, and civil rights created lasting change..”
- Mary McLeod Bethune was a leader who helped recruit Black women for the Women’s Army Corps (WAC) during WWII including those who served in the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion.



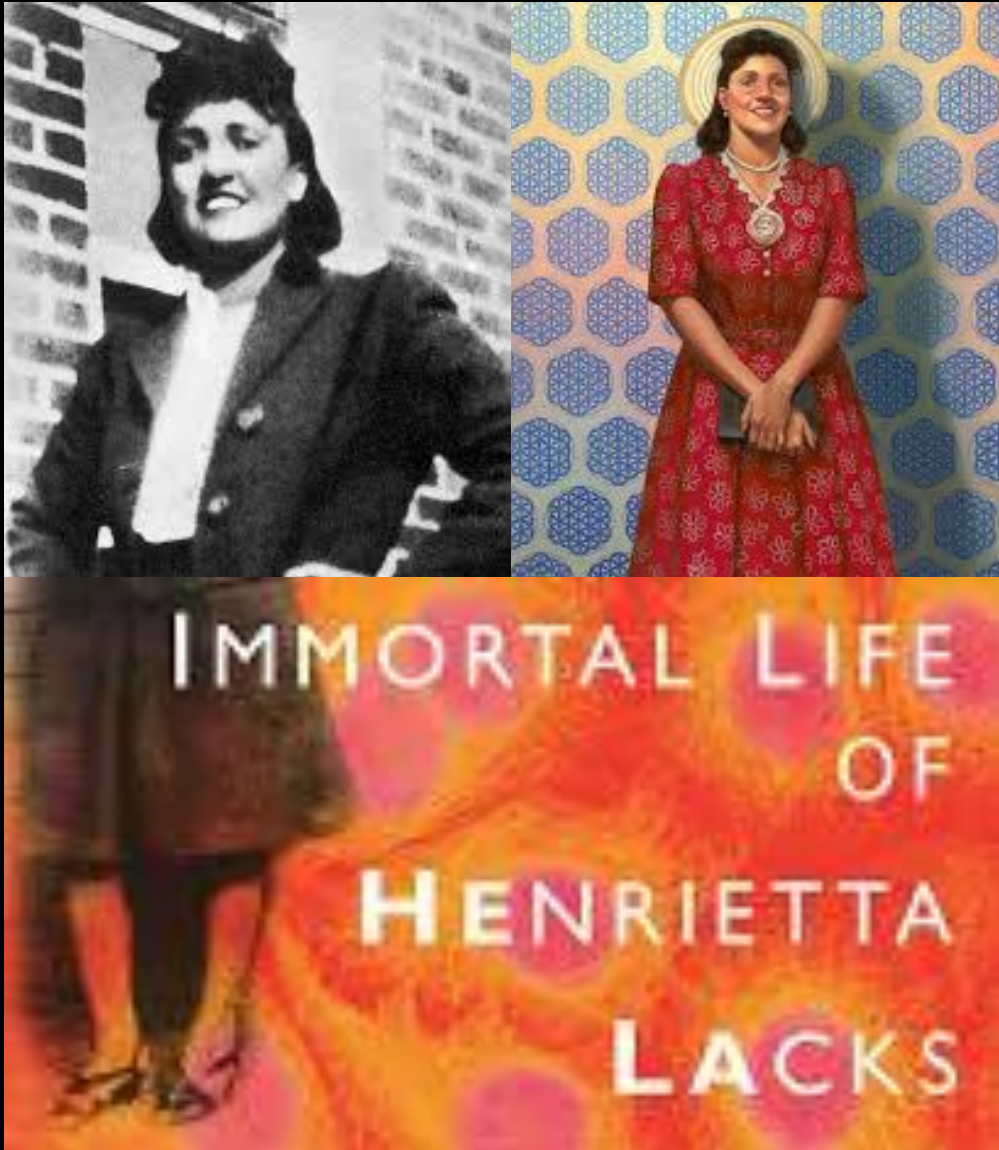
Selma Hortense Burke

Dec 31, 1900 - August 29, 1995



- When was the last time you looked-really looked-at a dime? It is the smallest coin in U.S. circulation, so it takes a keen eye to see the very subtle “JS” just beneath Franklin D. Roosevelt’s truncated neck.
- These are the initials of John Sinnock, the U.S. Mint’s Chief Engraver from 1925 to 1947, who is credited with sculpting the profile of the 32nd President. However, institutions such as the Smithsonian American Art Museum –and even Roosevelt’s son-credit another sculptor with inspiring the design Selma Burke, the illustrious Harlem Renaissance Sculptor.
- On February 22, 1944, Burke met with Roosevelt for 45 minutes, sketched his profile on a brown paper bag, and engaged in a lively conversation about their childhoods. At one point, Burke said, “Mr. President, could you hold your head like this?” He invited her back for another session the following day. About a year later, just months before Roosevelt’s death, Eleanor Roosevelt visited Burke’s home in New York to see the profile-in-progress. The first lady told her, “I think you’ve made Franklin too young.” To which Burke replied, “I didn’t make it for today, I made it for tomorrow and tomorrow.”





Henrietta Lacks

August 1, 1920-Oct 4, 1951

- Henrietta Lacks— was an African-American woman whose cancer cells are the source of the HeLa cell line, the first immortalized human cell line and one of the most important cell lines in medical research. An immortalized cell line reproduces indefinitely under specific conditions, and the HeLa cell line continues to be a source of invaluable medical data to the present day. Few individuals in the history of medicine can claim to have saved more lives than Henrietta Lacks.
- Lacks was the unwitting source of these cells from a tumor biopsied during treatment for cervical cancer at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, Maryland, in 1951. These cells were then cultured by George Otto Gey, who created the cell line known as HeLa, which is still used for medical research. As was then the practice, no consent was required to culture the cells obtained from Lacks's treatment. Neither she nor her family were compensated for the extraction or use of the HeLa cells.
- Even though some information about the origins of HeLa's immortalized cell lines was known to researchers after 1970, the Lacks family was not made aware of the line's existence until 1975. With knowledge of the cell line's genetic provenance becoming public, its use for medical research and for commercial purposes continues to raise concerns about privacy and patients' rights.
- Henrietta Lacks' living relatives reached a settlement with the biotechnology company they sued seeking compensation for its use of cells that were taken from her decades ago without her consent.



Gladys Mae West
October 27, 1930

- In 1956, Gladys Mae West began her career at the U.S. Naval Weapons Laboratory. Her role was to collect and process data from satellites, which she used to help pinpoint their exact locations in space. This experience as a "human computer" helped Dr. Gladys West lay the foundations for the modern technology of GPS.
- Gladys Mae West is an American mathematician. She is known for her contributions mathematical modeling of the shape of the Earth, and her work on the development of satellite geodesy models, that were later incorporated into Global Positioning System (GPS).
- Before Google maps, there was Gladys West the woman who shaped modern GPS technology.

Letitia James

October 18, 1958



- Letitia “Tish” James is the 67th Attorney General for the state of New York. With decades of experience and a long record of achievements, she is a powerful, effective attorney and lifelong public servant. When she was elected in 2018, she became the first woman of color to hold statewide office in New York and the first woman to be elected Attorney General.
- She has been a national leader in the fight to defend access to reproductive health care, leading dozens of legal actions across the country to protect and expand access to this lifesaving care. Attorney General James also stood up against corruption and took strong action against officials who broke New York laws or workplace protection measure, regardless of their status or political affiliation.

Commissioner Viviana DeCohen


- Rev. Viviana DeCohen, a veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps, served as the commissioner of the Mount Vernon New York Veterans Service Agency and associate pastor at Mount Vernon Heights Congregational Church. She has dedicated her time and talent assisting veterans by ensuring they had food, shelter, clothing, education and employment opportunities, and by providing a little motivation which earned her the affectionate title of “Mama V.”
- Along with being a member of American Legion Post 1038 in Valhalla, N.Y., DeCohen is a member of the Women Marines Association, NY-6, Navy League, NAVPA (National Association of Veteran Program Administrators), Student Veterans of America, Washington, D.C., and military adviser to the Barbara Giordano Foundation.
- Viviana DeCohen was appointed Commissioner of the New York State Department of Veteran Services December 2021, by NYS Governor Kathy Hochul.





Valdez V.
Demings
March 12, 1957

- Valdez Venita Demings is an American politician and former police officer who served as U.S. representative for Florida's 10th congressional district from 2017 to 2023. The district covered most of the western half of Orlando and includes much of the area around Orlando's resort parks
- From 2007 to 2011, Demings was Chief of the Orlando Police Department, its first female chief, capping a 27-year career with the department. She has also been First Lady of Orange County, Florida, since December 4, 2018, when her husband Jerry Demings was sworn in as the mayor.
- Demings is a member of the New Democrat Coalition and the Congressional Black Caucus.



Jerry L.
Demings
June 12, 1959



- Mayor Jerry L. Demings was sworn in on December 4, 2018, as the 5th elected Mayor of Orange County and is the first African American to serve in the role.
- He oversees more than 8,000 Orange County employees and a \$4.4 billion budget as the County's chief executive officer. He says that his goal is to make Orange County the "Experimental Prototype Community of Tomorrow" by creating a community culture of innovation, collaboration and inclusiveness.
- Mayor Demings currently serves on several regional boards of directors, including the Greater Orlando Aviation Authority, Central Florida Expressway Authority, Metroplan Orlando, Central Florida Regional Transportation Authority/Lynx, Dr. Phillips Performing Arts Center, Orange County Tourist Development Council, Orlando Economic Partnership and he is involved in numerous civic organizations.
- Mayor Demings has a passion for working with organizations that support children and volunteers with several non-profit agencies.

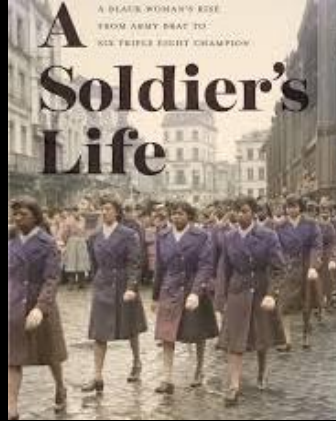
Tyler Perry




- Almost a full century after the end of World War II, new stories about the quiet heroism of everyday individuals continue to come to light. Now Tyler Perry is tackling the war with his new film *The Six Triple Eight*, the story of the war's only Women's Army Corps unit of color, which stars Kerry Washington. Perry wrote and directed the project and produced it alongside Nicole Avant, Angi Bones, Tony L. Strickland, Keri Selig, and Carlota Espinosa.
- The 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion contributed to the war effort in a unique way: by sorting through a three-year backlog of mail (17 million pieces of it!) that hadn't been delivered to American soldiers far from home. In the face of discrimination and a vast, unfamiliar country divided by global conflict, these 855 women brought hope to the front lines.
- *The Six Triple Eight* tells the inspiring true story of the incredible and brave women of the first and only Women's Army Corps unit of color to be stationed overseas during World War II.



Colonel (Ret) Edna Cummings



- Army Veteran-Six Triple Eight Advocate and Documentary Producer: sharing stories about the only black WACS to serve in Europe during WWII
- Col. Cummings works to bring recognition to the all-Black WWII Women's Army Corps unit, the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion (Six Triple Eight). She championed Congressional effort to enact passage of the Six Triple Eight Congressional Gold Medal Act of 2021, the nation's highest civilian honor.
- Among many other military and civic recognitions, in March 2020, Col. Cummings was inducted into the Army Women's Foundation Hall of Fame and the Military Officers Association of America selected her as one its national Changemakers MOAA – Edna Cummings – MOAA Changemaker. In July 2022, she received the NAACP's Jesse Brown Leadership Award.
- Her memoir, A Soldier's Life, A Black Woman's Rise from Army Brat to Six Triple Eight Champion is due to be published by the University of Virginia Press in Spring 2025. Through Cummings leadership, advocacy, and business acumen, the 6888th's history has reached millions of audiences worldwide.



CMR. Carlton G. Philpot



- Commander Carlton G. Philpot, US Navy (Ret.) served nearly 25 years in the Navy in a variety of sea and shore duty assignments. His last active-duty assignment was as an instructor at the Army's Command and General Staff College, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, where he retired in 1994.
- For more than 33 years, he has served as the volunteer Chairman and Project Director of the Buffalo Soldier Educational and Historical Committee, a nonprofit 501c3 corporation. The committee's primary objectives are to enhance the recognition and awareness of the first-class contributions, service and sacrifices of African-American military units and individuals who have served this country with dignity, courage, bravery, honor and unselfish devotion—despite receiving 'second-class' treatment and recognition before and after serving their country.
- The primary method of honoring these patriotic Americans is through building monuments. Working with various committees, he spearheaded fundraising, development and coordinated the design and construction of seven monuments on Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. Most recently, a monument honoring the all-Black Women Army Corps (WAC) unit the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion was dedicated on November 30, 2018, at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas.
- Five of the 6888th veterans attended this historic event. This battalion was the only all-Black Women Army Corps (WAC) unit to be deployed overseas during WWII. The 855 women from forty states and Puerto Rico were shipped first to England in 1945, where they sorted, repackaged and distributed all the military and civilian personnel mail in Europe during a 16-month period. The Army gave them only six months to clear the existing two-year backlogs of nearly 18 million pieces in England, and they did it in just three months and went on to work in France. The 6888th Motto was "No Mail, Low Morale," and they "broke all records" to ensure soldiers fighting on the war front got their mail from home front.





MSG (Ret) Elizabeth Anne Helm-Frazier



- MSG Elizabeth Anne Helm-Frazier was born in St. Petersburg, FL, and is the oldest of five children. She joined the Army for its educational and job opportunities. Throughout her 25-year career, she held a variety of assignments and high-profile positions. Some of her military career highlights include being U.S. Army TRADOC’s Career Counselor of the Year, San Antonio’s Mentor of the Year, Past President of the Northern Virginia Chapter 33, and the Women’s Army Corps, Volunteer of the Year, Fort Gordon, GA.
- After her retirement in 2006, Elizabeth Helm-Frazier has continued her service to military women, veterans, and community activities. One of her many ongoing volunteer commitments is ensuring the legacy of the 6888th Postal Battalion, the first and only all-Black and all-female unit to deploy to the European Theater of Operations during World War II. Through her efforts, she helped raise funds to build a monument at Fort Leavenworth to recognize the 6888th’s exemplary service in WWII. Additionally, she served as a producer of the critically acclaimed documentary, “No Mail, Low Morale,” which tells the 6888th Postal Directory Battalion story.
- Elizabeth Helm-Frazier is highly skilled at providing counseling and guidance to Army women and continues to be an advocate and role model for Army women.





Jesse Louis Jackson
October 8, 1941 -

- Jesse Louis Jackson is an American civil rights activist, politician, and ordained Baptist minister. Beginning as a young protégé of Martin Luther King Jr. during the civil rights movement, Jackson maintained his status as a prominent civil rights leader throughout his political and theological career for over seven decades. He served from 1991 to 1997 as a shadow delegate and senator for the District of Columbia. Jackson is the father of former U.S. Representative Jesse Jackson Jr. and current U.S. Representative Jonathan Jackson.
- Jackson began his activism in the 1960s and founded the organizations that merged to form the Rainbow/PUSH organization. Extending his activism into international matters beginning in the 1980s, he became a critic of the Reagan administration and launched a presidential campaign in 1984. Initially seen as a fringe candidate, Jackson finished in third place for the Democratic nomination, behind former Vice President Walter Mondale and Senator Gary Hart. He continued his activism for the next three years and mounted a second bid for president in 1988. Exceeding expectations once again, Jackson finished as the runner-up to Governor of Massachusetts Michael Dukakis.
- Jackson never sought the presidency again but was elected to the United States Senate in 1990 for the District of Columbia, for which he would serve one term as a shadow delegate during the Bush and Clinton administrations. Initially a critic of President Bill Clinton, he became a supporter. Jackson hosted Both Sides with Jesse Jackson on CNN from 1992 to 2000. He has been a critic of police brutality, the Republican Party, and conservative policies, and is regarded as one of the most influential African-American activists of the 20th and 21st centuries.



Election History! Lisa Blunt Rochester (Delaware) Angela Alsobrooks, (Maryland)

- Two years ago, U.S. Senate did not have a single Black woman, and before that only two Black women had ever served in the upper chamber of Congress.
- Lisa Blunt Rochester of Delaware and Angela Alsobrooks of Maryland changed the math. This is also the first time that two Black women will serve as senators together — and they will each take seats held by White male Democrats.
- Blunt Rochester and Alsobrooks were two of three Black women running as Democrats for open Senate seats. Valerie McCray ran for a seat in Indiana but struggled to compete in the Republican stronghold.
- Two Black Women will serve together in the Senate for the first time.



James Enos Clyburn

- James Enos Clyburn (born July 21, 1940) is an American politician serving as the U.S. representative for South Carolina's 6th congressional district. First elected in 1992, Clyburn is in his 17th term, representing a congressional district that includes most of the majority-black precincts in and around Columbia and Charleston, as well as most of the majority-black areas outside Beaufort and nearly all of South Carolina's share of the Black Belt. Since Joe Cunningham's departure in 2021, Clyburn has been the only Democrat in South Carolina's congressional delegation and as well as the dean of this delegation since 2011 after fellow Democrat John Spratt lost re-election.
- Clyburn served as the third-ranking House Democrat, behind Nancy Pelosi and Steny Hoyer, from 2007 until 2023, serving as majority whip behind Pelosi and Hoyer during periods of Democratic House control, and as assistant Democratic leader behind Pelosi and Hoyer during periods of Republican control. He was House Majority Whip from 2007 to 2011 and again from 2019 to 2023 and House assistant Democratic leader from 2011 to 2019 and again from 2023 to 2024. After the Democrats took control of the House in the 2018 midterm elections, Clyburn was re-elected majority whip in January 2019 at the opening of the 116th Congress, alongside the re-elected Speaker Pelosi and Majority Leader Hoyer, marking the second time the trio has served in these roles together.

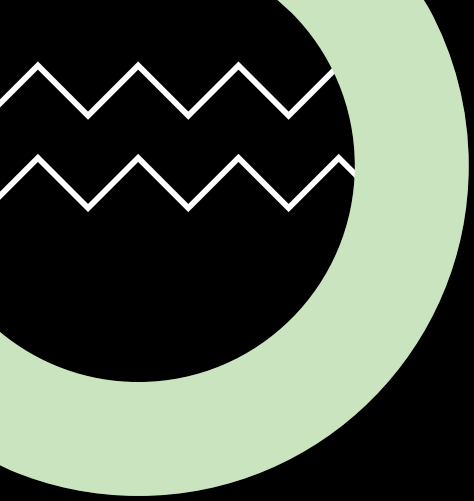


John Robert Lewis

February 21, 1940- July 17, 2020

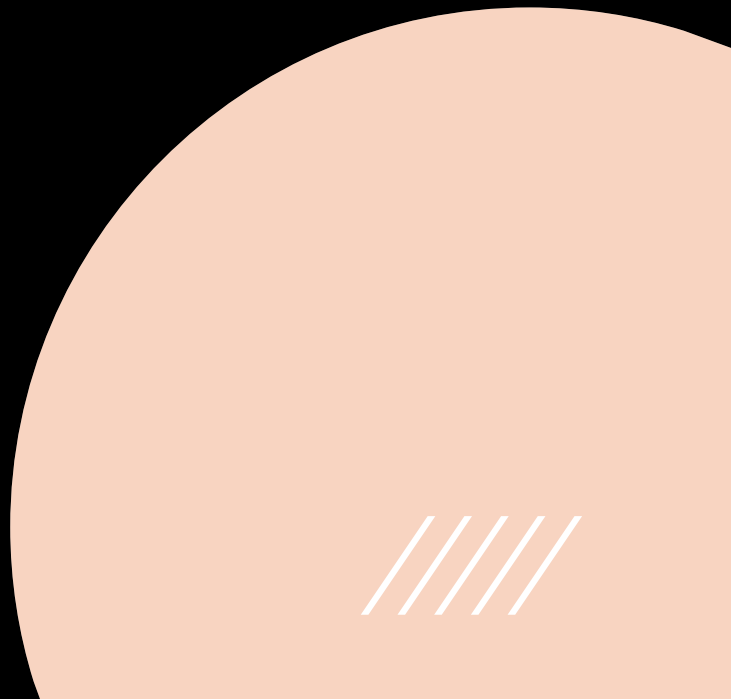
- John Robert Lewis was an American civil rights activist and politician who served in the United States House of Representatives for Georgia's 5th congressional district from 1987 until his death in 2020. He participated in the 1960 Nashville sit-ins and the Freedom Rides, was the chairman of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) from 1963 to 1966 and was one of the "Big Six" leaders of groups who organized the 1963 March on Washington. Fulfilling many key roles in the civil rights movement and its actions to end legalized racial segregation in the United States. In 1965 Lewis led the first of three Selma to Montgomery marches across the Edmund Pettus Bridge where, in an incident that became known as Bloody Sunday, state troopers and police attacked Lewis and the other marchers.
- A member of the Democratic Party, Lewis was first elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1986 and served 17 terms. The district he represented included most of Atlanta. Due to his length of service, he became the dean of the Georgia congressional delegation. He was one of the leaders of the Democratic Party in the House, serving from 1991 as a chief deputy whip and from 2003 as a senior chief deputy whip. He received many honorary degrees and awards, including the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2011.
- Lewis represented Georgia's 5th congressional district, one of the most consistently Democratic districts in the nation. Since its formalization in 1845, the district has been represented by a Democrat for most of its history.
- Lewis was one of the most liberal congressmen to have represented a district in the Deep South. He was categorized as a "Hard-Core Liberal" by On the Issues. The Washington Post described Lewis in 1998 as "a fiercely partisan Democrat but ... also fiercely independent". Lewis characterized himself as a strong and adamant liberal. The Atlanta Journal-Constitution said Lewis was the "only former major civil rights leader who extended his fight for human rights and racial reconciliation to the halls of Congress". The Atlanta Journal-Constitution also said that to "those who know him, from U.S. senators to 20-something congressional aides", he is called the "conscience of Congress". Lewis cited Florida Senator and later Representative Claude Pepper, a staunch liberal, as being the colleague whom he most admired. Lewis also spoke out in support of gay rights and national health insurance.





Black History Heroes You May Never Have Heard Of

Dr. Annette Tucker Osborne





Col Ruth A. Lucas

November 23, 1920-March 23, 2013



- Colonel Ruth Alice Lucas was the first African American woman in the Air Force to be promoted to the rank of colonel and who at the time of her retirement was the highest-ranking African American woman in the Air Force.
- Ruth Alice Lucas was born in Stamford, Connecticut, on November 28, 1920. Shortly after graduation, Col. Lucas enlisted in the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps (WAAC) in 1942 and was one of the first black women to attend what is now the Joint Forces Staff College in Norfolk, VA. She transferred from the Army to the newly created Air Force in 1947.
- Col. Lucas held a variety of positions, mainly in research and education, before being named colonel in 1968. At the time of her promotion, Col. Lucas was a general education and counseling services assistant in the office of the deputy assistant secretary of defense for education at the Pentagon. She created, organized and implemented special literacy programs aimed to increase the education levels of service personnel.



Cecil J. Williams

November 26, 1937-



- Here is Cecil Williams drinking from a “Whites Only” water fountain in 1956. The fact that he is alive to recreate this photo is wondrous. To have lived through such dark times only to see this administration try and set progress back must be painful for him and others.
- As an avid photographer, publisher, author and inventor who is best known for his photographs capturing many civil rights moments on his camera. He was a pioneer in standing up against bigotry, segregation and social inequities.
- For his sake, Ruby Bridges, John Lewis, Angela Davis, Medgar Evers and so many other social justice heroes – we owe it to them to hold up their legacies.
- The sacrifices cannot be in vain.
- This is American History.
- *(image taken from @afician archives IG)*



Alice H. Parker

1895-1920



- Alice H. Parker invented the first modern natural gas heating system, which used ducts to distribute warm air throughout a home. Her invention was a key step toward the development of modern HVAC systems.
- Parker's furnace used multiple burners that could be controlled individually. The furnace brought cooler air into a heat exchanger and distributed warm air through ducts. The furnace was simple, reliable, efficient, and economical on fuel costs.
- Parker's invention was a safer and more effective method of home heating. It decreased the risk of house fires by eliminating the need to leave a burning fireplace on all night.
- Parker's patent was granted on December 23, 1919. The furnace never entered commercial use, but it was valuable proof of concept. In 2019, the National Society of Black Physicists honored Parker. The New Jersey Chamber of Commerce established the Alice H. Parker Women Leaders in Innovation Awards.



Dr. Vinson Eugene Allen



Meet the founder of the first Black-Owned Urgent Care Facility in the U.S. who has received the keys to the city of Compton.

Making history and saving lives! Dusk to Dawn Urgent Care founder in 2001. For over 20 years this Los Angeles staple has been a light of hope, healing, and representation in healthcare, Let's celebrate this groundbreaking!

Dr. Vinson Eugene Allen's deep compassion for Los Angeles has led many city mayors to seek his support for programs to assist underserved community residents. However, Dr. Allen's influence extends well beyond Los Angeles; he maintains a strong bond with his hometown of Cleveland, Mississippi, where he is recognized for his generosity, including his practice of giving away cars three times a year. Recently, he has strongly emphasized supporting school systems and engaging with children about their futures, reflecting his belief in the transformative power of education and mentorship.

Remembering the Enslaved People who Built the Capitol

In 1862, slavery was abolished in the District of Columbia and by 1868, major expansions and additions to the Capitol were complete. The U.S. Capitol Building as we know it today would not stand without the contributions of hundreds of enslaved and free laborers. Today, these individuals are recognized by a commemorative marker in Emancipation Hall, added to the Capitol Visitor Center in 2012—over two hundred years after the Capitol’s initial construction.

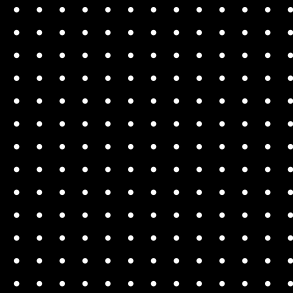
It features a block of a Aquia Creek sandstone and a plaque that reads: “This sandstone was originally part of the United States Capitol’s East Front, constructed in 1824-1826. It was quarried by laborers including enslaved African Americans and commemorates their important role in building the Capitol.”

This acknowledgement, albeit long overdue, helps share the full story of the enslaved and free.





William H. Hastie
November 17, 1904-
April 14, 1976



- William Henry Hastie Jr. was an American lawyer, judge, educator, public official, and civil rights advocate. He was the first African American to serve as Governor of the United States Virgin Islands, as a federal judge, and as a federal appellate judge.
- Hastie was known as a very outspoken proponent of racial equality. From 1940 to 1942, he was a civilian aide to the United States Secretary of War, Henry Stimson, advocating for equal treatment of African Americans in the Army. Hastie resigned in 1943, in protest of the lack of progress and continued racial discrimination within many of the Army's practices.
- Throughout his legal career, Hastie successfully argued several major civil rights cases. In 1944, Hastie and Thurgood Marshall were the co-lead lawyers in the landmark Supreme Court case *Smith v. Allwright*. In the case, the Supreme Court held that the petitioner, a black man named Lonnie Smith, could not be precluded from voting in primary elections. Hastie and Marshall also won *Morgan v. Virginia*, in which Hastie argued before the U.S. Supreme Court successfully that Virginia's law enforcing segregation on interstate buses was unconstitutional.
- Hastie is remembered as a fierce civil rights lawyer, and a fair, impartial, and well-respected jurist. He received several honors for his activism and public service, and the Third Circuit Library in Philadelphia is named in his honor.

Corporal George McIvory

November 15, 1925



- In 1943, at just 18 years old, he answered the call to serve during WWII, joining the Marine Corps Reserves after President Franklin D. Roosevelt's historic directive allowed African Americans to enlist in the Marine Corps. As an anti-aircraft gunner with the 52nd Defense Battalion, he served in the South Pacific, returning home as a proud corporal.
- Corporal McIvory remains a cherished resident of Jacksonville and a testament to the courage and perseverance of the Montford Point Marines—the first Black men to serve in the U.S. Marine Corps. We honor his service, sacrifice, and trailblazing legacy.

Myesha Mizuno



- Myeish Mizuno makes history as the first Black woman to lead a network game show, including both daytime syndication and primetime “Celebrity Family Feud” on ABC. With a background in producing for major networks like MTV and NBC, Mizuno brings a fresh perspective to the iconic franchise.





Richard B. Spikes
October 2, 1878-January 22, 1963

- Richard Bowie Spikes was an African-American inventor who held several United States patents. He is credited with developing and improving inventions such as a beer tap, a modification of an automatic gear shift mechanism for motor vehicles, and a safety braking system for trucks and buses.
- Spikes was a prolific inventor with more than a dozen patents to his name. Born on October 2, 1878, his inventions transformed the transportation industry, including the automatic gear shift, the automatic safety brake system, an automatic car washer, and automobile directional signals.



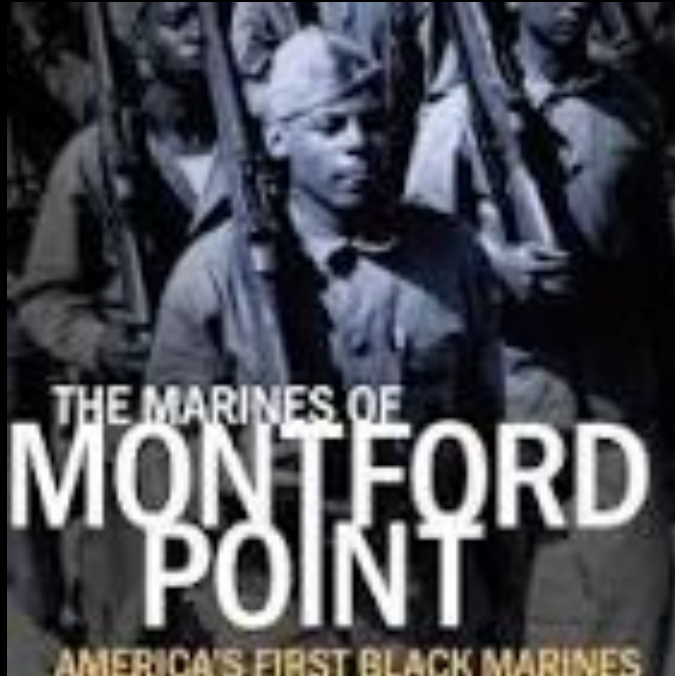
Paul E. Williams

March 12, 1913-1944



- Paul E. Williams was the first black architect to become a member of the American Institute of Architects in 1923, and in 1957 he was inducted as the AIA's first black fellow.
- In 1923, Paul became the first Black member of the American Institute of Architects (AIA), and in 1939 he won the AIA award of merit for his conception of the MCA building in Beverly Hills. Paul Williams is also recognized for his pioneering work in prefabricated structures.
- On November 26th, 1962, African American inventor, Paul E. Williams patented a helicopter, Lockheed Model 186 (XH-51). It was a compound experimental helicopter and only 3 units were built. The UH-60 Black Hawk was fielded by the Army in 1979.

Who is a Montford Point Marine?



- They are the first African-Americans to enlist in the U.S. Marine Corps after President Franklin Roosevelt issues an Executive Order establishing the Fair Employment Practices Commission in June 1941. The recruits trained at Camp Montford Point in Jacksonville, NC from August 26, 1942, until the camp was decommissioned on September 9, 1949.
- The largest number of black Marines to serve in combat during WW II took part in the seizure of Okinawa, with approximately 2,000 seeing action.
- The Montford Point Marines were posthumously awarded the Congressional Gold Medal in 2012.
- The Senate recognized them as members of the inner circle of America's Greatest Generation.
- The Montford Point Marines are considered military pioneers of courage and bravery.
- They are also known as the "Forgotten Warriors".





Sydney Freeman, Jr. Ph.D., CFD, COI



- Sydney Freeman Jr. (born 1984) is an American educational theorist, social scientist, and former educational administrator. Freeman's early education was at Seventh-Day Adventist, historically black schools and institutions, and has written several articles about the history and state of the denomination. His areas of research includes higher education, the challenges in higher education administration programs, the university presidency, the faculty career cycle, and the leadership of historically black colleges and universities. He is a professor in the Department of Leadership and Counseling at the University of Idaho in Moscow, Idaho, the first African American male to be promoted to full professor in the university's history.
- In 2021, at the age of 36, Freeman became the first African American male to be promoted to full professorship in the history of the University of Idaho. Freeman was named the director of the University of Idaho's Black History Research Lab, which was founded in the fall of 2021. In late 2021, he was the first Black person to earn the Barbara Townsend Award from the Association for the Study of Higher Education, for his work focusing on higher education leadership preparation; he also gave, as part of earning the award, a keynote lecture at the association's annual conference. In 2022, he was named a visiting scholar at the University of Pennsylvania.



Dr. William Conan Davis

August 22, 1926- March 16, 2022

- William Conan Davis was a professor emeritus and was chair of natural sciences at St. Philip's College in San Antonio, Texas. The William C. Davis Science Building is named in his honor.
 - He is best known for his research in food chemistry. He discovered arabinogalactan and used it to create instant mashed potatoes. His discoveries also improved potato chips and soft serve ice cream. He developed an organic glue for use in particle board. More recently, he co-developed the formula for Dasani water.
 - In addition to his scientific work, he was a Lutheran lay minister, served during the Korean War, and received the Purple Heart.
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Charles Walter David, Jr.

June 20, 1917 – March 29, 1943

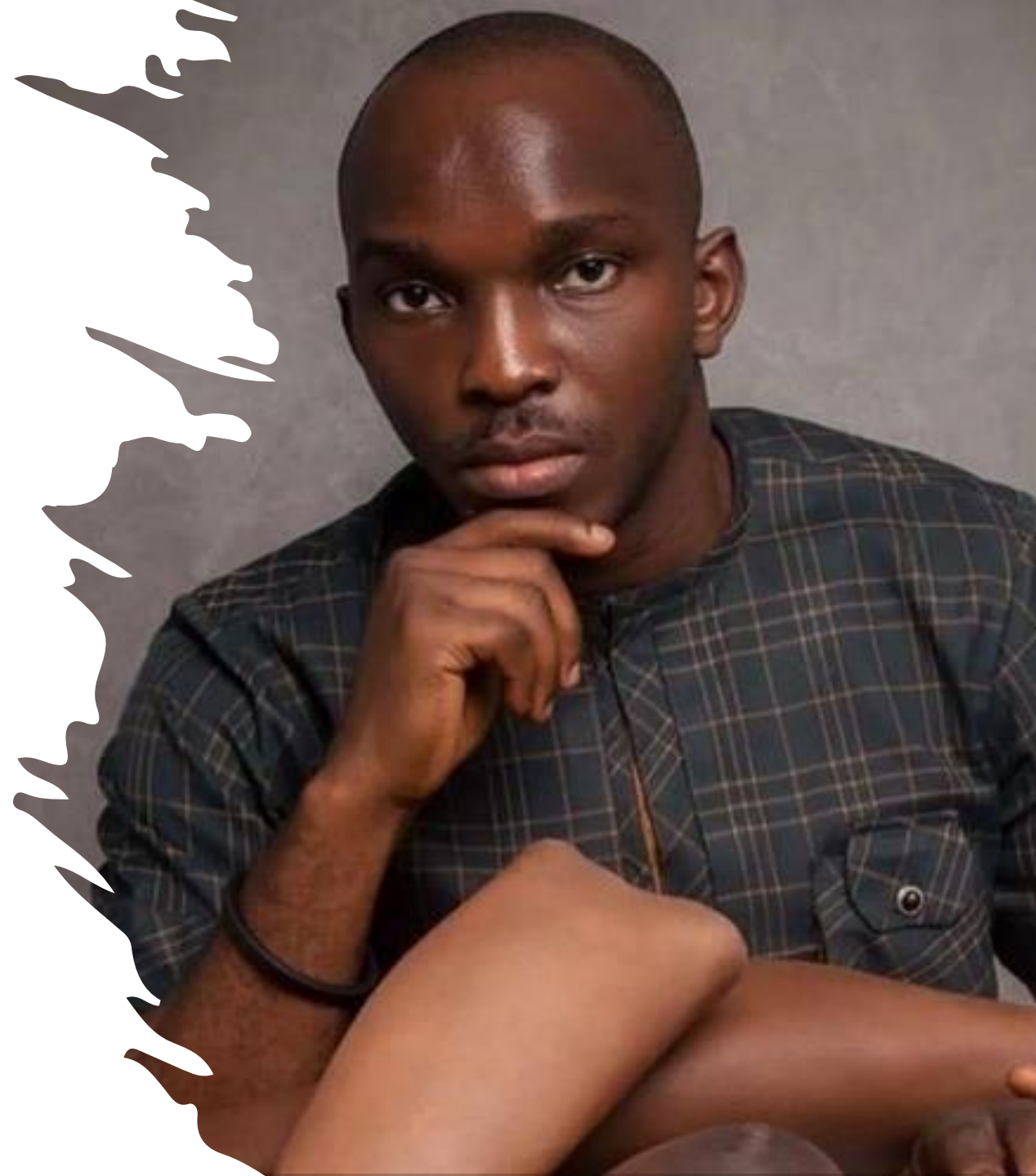


- Charles Walter David Jr. served as a Steward's Mate in the United States Coast Guard, died of pneumonia after rescuing other sailors from the frigid North Atlantic. He was assigned to the USCGC Comanche during World War II, which was assigned to escort a convoy that included the Dorchester, a troop transport, when it was torpedoed by a U-boat off Greenland. David volunteered to dive into the frigid waters to rescue exhausted crew and passengers from the Dorchester. David also rescued several other Comanche crew members, who grew exhausted.
- Even though David was one of the lowest ranking men on his ship and his own nation considered him a second-class citizen, he willingly put his life at risk to save his fellow Americans.
- In addition to the two men whom David single-handedly saved, he and his shipmates successfully rescued ninety-three survivors from the Dorchester.
- Charles Walter David, Jr. 's widow and son received his Navy and Marine Corps Medal from Rear Admiral Stanley Parker and Lieutenant Langford Anderson. Courtesy US Coast Guard.

John Amanam Sunday

November 14, 1988

- John Amanam Sunday is the first African sculptor specializing in hyperrealistic prosthetics for black amputees.
- With a bachelor's degree in Arts fueled by a personal mission to address the lack of skin-tone matching prosthetics in the market, Amanam founded his company Immortal Cosmetic Art Ltd.
- Many people know him. His products have been used in over 60 countries. Over the years, John has acquired more than 4000 clients around the world.





George Edwin Taylor

August 4, 1857-December 23, 1925

George Edwin Taylor was an American journalist, editor, political activist, and politician. In 1904, he was the candidate of the National Negro Liberty Party for President of the United States. He was the first African American to run for president.

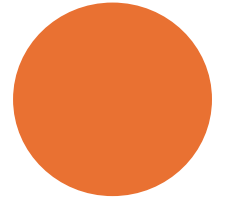
More than one hundred years before Barack Obama, George Edwin Taylor made presidential history. Born in the antebellum South to a slave and a freed woman, Taylor became the first African American ticketed as a political party's nominee for president of the United States, running against Theodore Roosevelt in 1904.



Dr. Alexa Irene Canady

November 7, 1950

- Alexa Irene Canady (born November 7, 1950) is a retired American medical doctor specializing in pediatric neurosurgery. After completing her residency at the University of Minnesota in 1981, she became the first black woman to become a neurosurgeon. This came after Ruth Kerr Jakoby became the first American woman to be board certified in neurosurgery in 1961.
- Canady specialized in pediatric neurosurgery and was the chief of neurosurgery at the Children's Hospital in Michigan from 1987 until her partial retirement in 2001. In addition to surgery, she also conducted research and was a professor of neurosurgery at Wayne State University. After her retirement, she moved to Florida and maintained a part-time practice at Pensacola's Sacred Heart Hospital until her full retirement in January 2012.
- In 1989, Canady was inducted into the Michigan Women's Hall of Fame, and in 1993 she also received the American Medical Women's Association President's Award.





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