

National Association of Black
Military Women Celebrates March
Women's History Month
2025

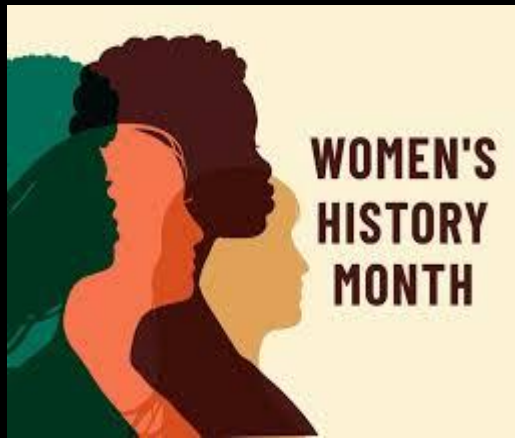
www.nabmw.org





“Moving Forward
Together! Women
Education & Inspiring
Generations”





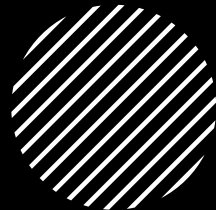
Moving Forward Together! Women Educating & Inspiring Generations," celebrating the collective strength and influence of women in education, mentorship, and leadership.

Theme: "Moving Forward Together! Women Educating & Inspiring Generations".

Focus: This theme highlights the significant contributions of women in education, mentorship, and leadership roles, emphasizing their ability to shape minds and futures.

Purpose: The theme aims to recognize and celebrate the achievements of women who have dedicated their lives to these areas, inspiring future generations.

National Women's History Alliance (NWHHA): The NWHHA selects and publishes the yearly theme for Women's History Month.



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



- It took years for Women's History Month to be federally recognized.
- In 1980, the National Women's History Project led a coalition of women's groups successfully lobbied President Jimmy Carter to issue a proclamation recognizing National Women's History Week, National Geographic reported. It took until 1987 for Congress to pass a law designating March as Women's History Month.
- Between 1988 and 1994, Congress passed resolutions requesting and authorizing the president to proclaim the special month. Since 1995, each president has issued an annual proclamation designating Women's History Month.
- A few years later, the idea caught on within communities, school districts and organization across the country.
- In 1980, President Jimmy Carter issued the first presidential proclamation declaring the week of March 8th as National Women's History Week.
- The U.S. Congress followed suit the next year, passing a resolution establishing a National Celebration



Strategic New National Association of Black Military Women Leaders

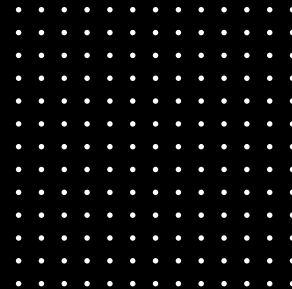


NABMW

- COL (Ret) Debra Gomes is the National Assistant Treasurer . COL Gomes is a U.S. Army Veteran (Army Nurse Corp). She served as the Battalion Commander for the 344th Combat Support Hospital, Ft. Dix, N.J. She previously served as Acting Executive Officer, 344th CSH.
- In support of OEF 2006-2008 she served as Case Manager. Her previous assignment include Chief Nurse CSH, Clinical Head Nurse, Deployable Medical Systems (DEPMEDS) trainer for the 344th CSH., Deputy Test Standard Officer, 307th General Hospital.
- COL Gomes is a Board-Certified Registered Nurse Practitioner for 37 years. Her past position Deputy Director of Nursing, Harlem Hospital for a Level 1 Trauma Hospital.
- COL Gomes is a Life Member of the National Association of Black Military Women.



NABMW



- Stacey Dawson is the National Assistant Membership Chair. Originally from Harrisburg, Pa. now residing in sunny Florida. Stacey joined the military right after High School wanting to see the world.
- She started her journey right after high school with years of active duty and then joined the Reserves. She decided to stay in the reserves wanting to make a career in the military. She had a family at the time and small children and wanted the best for them both, so she decided to go into the I.T. field and still have a military career. While at work one day she was called up for deployment for Operation Desert Storm. There she was sent to Dhahran, Saudi Arabia where her life changed forever. One dreadful night the Iraqi's decided to bomb her barracks by sending a scud missile through her barracks injuring her and the other soldiers in her unit. (13 killed and 99 wounded) Her injuries led her to be a recipient of the Purple Heart Medal. Motto: "I don't look like what I been through".
- Stacey's background in the private sector was Information Technologies, and she earned an associate degree in business management.
- Stacey is a strong advocate for Black Women and Girls where she is a 20 plus member with the National Coalition of 100 Black Women, Inc. She also advocates for homeless female veterans and kids.
- Stacey also serves as Membership Chair for the Orlando Chapter.

NABMW



- Vernita Sneed is the Assistant South-Central Region.
- Chief Warrant Officer Three (CW03) entered the US Army in 1987 as a Paralegal Specialist, holding the rank of Private First Class (E3) through the U.S. Army Judge Advocate General (JAG) Corps. Progressed to the rank of Sergeant First Class (E-7) before being selected in 1997 to attend Warrant Officer Candidate School, subsequently earning a commission as a Warrant Officer. She retired in 2007 with the rank of Chief Warrant Officer Three (CWO3).
- She has served at multiple locations across the U.S. and internationally, including:
- US locations: Ft. Jackson, SC, Ft. Benjamin, Harrison, IN, Colorado Springs, CO; San Antonio, TX, Ft. Drum, NY; Charlottesville, VA; Ft. McNair, DC.
- International Assignments: Darmstadt, Germany; Brunssum, Netherlands; Brussels, Belgium; Zagreb, Croatia; Naples, Italy.



NABMW



- MAJ (Ret) Teresa Ann Polk is the President of the DMV Chapter. She served as Medical Surgical Nurse (66H) (Army Nurse Corp) from 1978-1998.
- Her assignments included: Male Surgical and Psychiatry Units, Emergency Room and Head Nurse , Family Practice, Ft. Polk, LA; Staff Nurse 121 Evac Hospital, Yongsan, Korea, Staff Nurse ENT/Oral Surgery, Orthopedic as and Head Nurse Neurology and General Surgery, Walter Reed Army Medical Center, Head Nurse Same Day Surgery, Brooke Army Medical Center, Ft. Sam Houston, Texas, Head Nurse Medical Unit, Ft. Meade, MD and Chief Nurse, US Army Health Clinic, Ft. Ritchie, MD.
- MAJ Polk is a Diamond Life Member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. Charter Member, National Association of 100 Black Women Inc., Member of Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing/Virginia Association of School Nurse, Charter Member, Museum of African American History.



NABMW



- Lakeisha M. Trimm-Green is the President of the Houston, TX Chapter.
- Lakeisha is a U.S. Army Veteran who proudly serves her country with a dignity and pride. She is one of Six Founders of Alpha Delta Omega Military Sorority, Inc.
- She holds a degree in Health Administration, Business Administration and Health Information Technologies/Medical Front Office.
- She is the CEO of Moments Like This Coaching and Counseling Services LLC, Motivational Speaker, Grief Counselor, Mental Health Coach/Advocacy. In her spare time, she enjoys riding motorcycles, traveling, helping others, family time, reading and journaling.
- She is co-author 2x International bestselling books and is 3x Amazon Bestselling Author.
- Loves giving herself by doing selfless service for others in her spare time because she was always told whatever you do, do it out the kindness of your heart and not for shine.





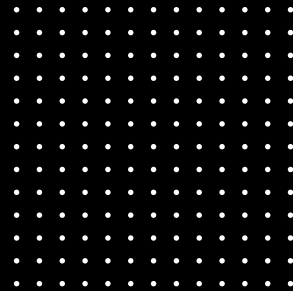
NABMW



- US Army SGM(R) Belinda Hill is the New Orleans (NOLA) President. Her military career includes service in the US Army Reserves from 1979 to 1990 as a Surgical Technician. She volunteered for active duty during Operation Dessert Storm. She served with the Army Recruiting Command (USAREC) as a Recruiter, Guidance Counselor, Operations NCO, and Equal Opportunity NCO. Retired December 1, 2009, with the Nashville Recruiting Battalion, Nashville, TN with the rank of MSG E-8.
- She is a retired National Service Officer for DAV, and serve as Department/Chapter Service Officer, Chairperson for Disabled American Veterans (DAV) Interim Women's Veteran Committee for DAV National Headquarter. Served as the DAV's first female (Black) Department Commander for the State of Louisiana 2022-2023. Currently serving as the DAV Adjutant for Westbank DAV Chapter 23, in Westwego, LA.



NABMW



- April D. Harrison is the Interim Orlando, FL, Chapter President. April is a retired Hospital Corpsman Senior Chief a native of Colquitt, Ga. She is a Global Speaker and a Veterans Community Ambassador.
- April was appointed as Deputy Command Master Chief at Navy Medicine Readiness and Training Command Patuxent River, Navy Medicine Readiness and Training Unit Dahlgren, Dahlgren Va.
- Her sea duty assignments include the USS KEARSARGE (LHD 3), HELSEACOMBATRON 28 (HSC-28), 2nd FSSG Detachment, and the USS ABRAHAM LINCOLN (CVN 72), as the Departmental Leading Chief Petty Officer of the Dental Department.
- She has attended Purdue University where she completed her BS in Healthcare Administration and AS in Health Science, and completed the U.S. Navy Senior Enlisted Academy, CMC 1002: Servant Leadership, and Harvard University Omens, Oracles, and Prophecies course. Senior Chief Harrison earned the Enlisted Surface Warfare Specialist, Enlisted Aviation Warfare Specialist, and Enlisted Information Dominance Warfare pins.
- She currently serves as the Post Adjutant of Dorie Miller American Legion Post 331, Kappa Epsilon Psi Military Sorority, Incorporated, and a member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP).

Dr. Hazel Neil Dukés

March 17, 1932 – March 1, 2025



- Hazel Dukés was an American activist. From 1989-1992, she served as national president of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and president of the organization's New York State chapter.
- While living in Roslyn, on Long Island, she worked to combat discrimination in housing. She worked for President Lyndon B. Johnson's "Head Start" program in the 1960s. In 1966, she took a position at the Nassau County Attorney's Office, becoming the first black American to do so. She eventually worked as a community organizer for the Economic Opportunity Commission of Nassau County and taught children who were living in poverty. She remained consistently outspoken throughout the Reagan and Bush presidencies during the 1980s and into the 1990s. Dukés was an advocate for education reform and the advancement of civil rights.
- She was awarded the Empire State and Nation Builder Award by the New York State Association of Black and Puerto Rican Legislators and was recognized by the New York State Senate in 2018. In 2019, a plaque honoring Dukés was placed on 137th Street and Adam Clayton Boulevard in Harlem.
- In January 2023, Dukés swore in Kathy Hochul as governor of New York.[18] In March 2023, a street in Roslyn Heights, New York, where Dukés once lived, was given the honorary name of "Dr. Hazel Dukés Way".
- In August 2023, former secretary of state Hillary Clinton presented Dukés with the Spingarn Medal, the highest honor conveyed by the NAACP.



Geraldine Morgan Thompson November 18, 1948-February 12, 2025

- State Sen. Geraldine Thompson, a towering figure in Orlando-area politics for many and an advocate for African American history
- Thompson, a Democrat representing western Orange County, was first elected to the Florida House in 2006 and served over the years multiple terms in both House and Senate.
- She founded the Wells' Built Museum of African American History and Culture in Parramore, preserving the stories and memorabilia of the Civil Rights movement as well as African Art.
- In 2003, she authored the Orlando book in the Black America Series, recounting 150 years of Black history in the city.
- "Senator Geraldine Thompson was a force—a trailblazer, a historian, a fierce advocate, and a devoted mother and grandmother who worked every day to uplift all Floridians, ensuring that no one was left behind," U.S. Rep. Maxwell Frost, D-Orlando, said in a prepared statement.
- "Her impact and legacy of service, resilience, and unwavering love for her community will be felt for generations to come. ... We lost a giant, but her work lives on in all of us."

Dr. Opal Lee

October 7, 1926 – 98 years old



- Juneteenth commemorates the end of slavery in the United States. It is named for June 19th, the day in 1865 when enslaved people in Texas found out they were free.
- Opal Lee is an American retired teacher, counselor, and activist in the movement to make Juneteenth a federally-recognized holiday. She is often described as the "grandmother of Juneteenth".
- Lee campaigned for decades to make Juneteenth a federal holiday.[22] She promoted the idea by leading 2.5 miles (4.0 km) walks each year, representing the 2.5 years it took for news of the Emancipation Proclamation to reach Texas. At the age of 89, she conducted a symbolic walk from Fort Worth, from which she departed in September 2016, to Washington, D.C., where she arrived in January 2017.
- She was hoping to plead the case for a federal holiday directly to President Barack Obama. Lee has not only marched in Texas, but also in Fort Smith and Little Rock, Arkansas; Las Vegas, Nevada; Madison and Milwaukee, Wisconsin; Atlanta, Georgia; Selma, Alabama; and the Carolinas. She promoted a petition for a Juneteenth federal holiday at Change.org; the petition received 1.6 million signatures.[25] She said, "It's going to be a national holiday, I have no doubt about it. My point is let's make it a holiday in my lifetime."
- On June 17, 2021, at the age of 94, her efforts succeeded as a bill to make Juneteenth a federal holiday was passed by Congress and signed into law by President Joe Biden. She was an honored guest at the bill signing ceremony, receiving the first of many pens Biden used to sign the document. As she sat in the front row, she received a standing ovation and Biden got down on one knee to greet her.
- President Joe Biden signed Senate Bill S. 475, making Juneteenth the eleventh federal holiday. In 2024, Biden awarded Lee the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the Nation's highest civilian honor.



LTC Charity Adams Earley

- Soldier and community activist, Lt. Col. Charity E. Adams-Earley served as the highest-ranking Black woman officer during World War II. Her service during the war helped defeat the Axis Powers. But Adams also fought against segregation in the Army and helped open the doors of opportunity for African American women in the military. Faced by challenges all her life, Adams' commitment to activism helped her better her life and the lives of others.
- With the onset of World War II, the United States rapidly expanded their military forces. Formed in early 1942, the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps (WAAC) marked the beginning of a separate department which allowed women to serve in the Army. Later changed to Women's Army Corps (WAC), the Army recruited talented women capable of performing non-combat roles. That spring, Adams applied for entry into the WAAC, which the Army accepted.
- In December 1944, Adams deployed to Europe leading the first Black WAC unit to serve overseas. The Army gave Adams command of the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion. Stationed in Birmingham, England, they organized and sorted mail for delivery to U.S. Soldiers in the European Theater. Despite segregated living conditions, her troops diligently worked around the clock seven days a week, working in three shifts, to ensure the delivery of millions of letters. Given six months to clear mountains of backlogged mail, the unit completed the job in half the time. The 6888th then moved to facilities in France to organize more undelivered mail to the European Theater.
- Adams served in Europe until late 1945. For her work in Europe with the 6888th, Adams received a promotion to lieutenant colonel. After the war, she worked at the Pentagon for a short time before requesting a discharge in 1946.



Dr. Annette Tucker Osborne

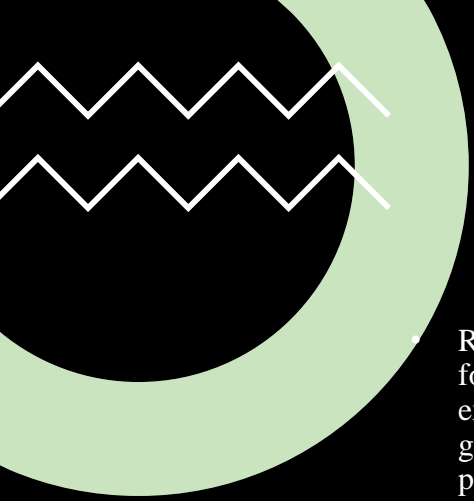


Lena Derriecott Bell King

January 27, 1923 – January 18, 2024



- Lena Derriecott Bell King was a member of the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion, the only all-Black, all-female unit to serve overseas during World War II. Known as the "Six Triple Eight", this battalion played a critical role in maintaining morale for U.S. troops in Europe by clearing a massive backlog of undelivered mail. In 2022, the Congressional Gold Medal was awarded to the 6888th in recognition of its members' contributions. King was one of the Battalion's last five surviving members.
- The women of the Six Triple Eight faced racism and sexism both at home and abroad. While stationed in Birmingham, England, Derriecott and her colleagues endured freezing conditions, frequent air raids, and prejudice from some of their male counterparts. However, they were treated more respectfully by the British public, who often welcomed them into their homes.
- After successfully clearing the mail backlog in England, the battalion was reassigned to France, where they sorted another accumulation of undelivered mail. Derriecott's time in France further exposed her to the devastation of war, including bombed cities and displaced civilians.
- The contributions of the 6888th Battalion went largely unrecognized for over six decades, before receiving widespread acknowledgment. In 2022, the battalion was awarded the Congressional Gold Medal, and King was recognized in a ceremony in Las Vegas.



Rev. Shavon Arline-Bradley

Rev. Shavon Arline-Bradley is the president and chief executive officer for National Council of Negro Women (NCNW) and brings 21 years of experience in healthcare, diversity, equity, & inclusion (DEII), government affairs, and executive leadership. She is also the founding principal and CEO of R.E.A.C.H. Beyond Solutions, a public health, advocacy, and executive leadership firm promoting DEI, political and organizational strategy, risk management, government affairs, and technical assistance.

- Prior to starting R.E.A.C.H., she served as senior advisor and director of external engagement during the Obama Administration in the Department of Health & Human Services for the 19th U.S. Surgeon General, Dr. Vice Admiral Vivek H. Murthy. Before her tenure in the Office of the U.S. Surgeon General, at the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) headquarters, Rev. Arline-Bradley served as the executive vice president of strategic planning & partnerships, as well as former chief of staff.
- She is a community advocate serving in leadership capacity in the following organizations: Delta for Women for Action, NAACP Board of Directors Health Committee, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., National Social Action Commission, and Oprah Winfrey Network initiative “OWN Your Health.” In addition, she is an active member of American Public Health Association, Links, Inc., and Jack & Jill of America, Inc., just to name a few. Further in 2024, Rev. Arline-Bradley became the youngest to keynote the Martin Luther King, Jr. Beloved Community Commemorative Service, the world-renown annual celebration of Dr. King’s birthday, organized by the King Center.



Joy-Ann Reid



- Joy-Ann M. Lomena-Reid is an American political commentator and television host. She was a national correspondent for MSNBC and is best known for hosting the political commentary program The ReidOut from 2020 to 2025. Her previous anchoring credits include The Reid Report (2014–2015) and AM Joy (2016–2020).
- Reid began her journalism career in 1997, leaving New York and her job at a business consulting firm to begin working in South Florida for a WSVN Channel 7 morning show. She left journalism in 2003 to work with the group America Coming Together to oppose the Iraq War and President George W. Bush. She later returned to broadcasting as a talk radio host and worked on Barack Obama's 2008 presidential campaign.
- In 2015, Reid gave the inaugural Ida B. Wells lecture at Wake Forest University's Anna Julia Cooper Center. In 2016, The Hollywood Reporter said she had the "ability to break down complex issues in a way that makes them digestible and accessible." In 2018, The New York Times stated that "Ms. Reid, the daughter of immigrants, has emerged as a 'heroine' of the anti-Trump 'resistance'."
- In July 2020, MSNBC announced that Reid would host The ReidOut, a new Washington-based weeknight commentary show in the 7 p.m. Eastern time slot vacated by the March 2020 retirement of Hardball host Chris Matthews, making her cable's first Black female primetime anchor. On February 23, 2025, The New York Times reported that MSNBC had canceled The ReidOut, with plans to air its final episode during the week of February 24–28. The final broadcast of The ReidOut aired February 24, 2025.



Elizabeth Warren



- Elizabeth Ann Warren is an American politician and former law professor who is the senior United States senator from Massachusetts, serving since 2013. A member of the Democratic Party and regarded as a progressive, Warren has focused on consumer protection, equitable economic opportunity, and the social safety net while in the Senate. Warren was a candidate in the 2020 Democratic Party presidential primaries, ultimately finishing third after Joe Biden and Bernie Sanders.
- Warren's first foray into public policy began in 1995, when she worked to oppose what eventually became a 2005 act restricting bankruptcy access for individuals. During the late 2000s, her national profile grew after her forceful public stances in favor of more stringent banking regulations after the financial crisis of 2007–2008. She served as chair of the Congressional Oversight Panel of the Troubled Asset Relief Program, and proposed and established the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, for which she served as the first special advisor under President Barack Obama.
- In 2012, Warren defeated incumbent Republican Scott Brown and became the first female U.S. senator from Massachusetts. She was reelected by a wide margin in 2018, defeating Republican nominee Geoff Diehl. On February 9, 2019, Warren announced her candidacy in the 2020 United States presidential election. She was briefly considered the front-runner for the Democratic nomination in late 2019, but support for her campaign dwindled. She withdrew from the race on March 5, 2020, after Super Tuesday. She was reelected to a third Senate term in 2024 against Republican nominee John Deaton.





Yvette D. Clarke

- Yvette Diane Clarke is an American politician serving as the U.S. representative for New York's 9th congressional district since 2013. A member of the Democratic Party, she first entered Congress in 2007, representing New York's 11th congressional district until redistricting. Clarke represented the 40th district in Brooklyn on the New York City Council from 2002 to 2006.
- Clarke was elected to the 40th district of the New York City Council in 2001. She succeeded her mother, former City Council member Una S. T. Clarke, who held the seat for more than a decade, making theirs the first mother-to-daughter succession in city council.
- She cosponsored City Council resolutions that opposed the war in Iraq, criticized the federal USA PATRIOT Act, and called for a national moratorium on the death penalty. She was a frequent critic of the Bush administration's policies and opposed budget cuts by Bush and Congress on several programs addressing women's rights and poverty. She later voted against extending provisions of the Patriot Act after the election of President Barack Obama.

Tanya J. Bradsher

- After retiring from the Army, Bradsher returned to the National Security Council and served as an advisor in the Executive Office of the President. Bradsher worked as chief of communications for the American Psychiatric Association before joining Congressman Don Beyer's office as chief of staff.
- She later served as chief for communications, plans, and operations in the Defense Health Agency. In 2021, Bradsher was selected by Secretary Denis McDonough as chief of staff of the United States Department of Veterans Affairs
- On April 19, 2023, President Joe Biden announced his intent to nominate Bradsher to serve as the United States deputy secretary of Veterans Affairs, after Donald Remy resigned on April 1.
- On September 20, 2023, Bradsher was sworn in as the Deputy Secretary of Veterans Affairs.
- She served as the United States Deputy Secretary of Veterans Affairs from 2023 to 2025.



Viola Ford Fletcher

May 10, 1914, -110 Years old



- Viola Ford Fletcher, otherwise known as "Mother Fletcher," speaks to CNN's Omar Jimenez about what she remembered from the 1921 Tulsa Race massacre and the decades-long fight for justice. Mother Fletcher, is the oldest known living survivor of the Tulsa race massacre and a supercentenarian. One hundred years after the massacre, she testified before Congress about the need for reparations.
- In 2020, Fletcher and the other survivors filed suit against the city of Tulsa, the Tulsa Board of Commissioners and the Oklahoma Military Department, seeking reparations. The suit was dismissed by Tulsa County District Judge Caroline Wall in July 2023. She testified about reparations before the U.S. Congress on May 19, 2021, along with her 100-year-old brother Hughes and Lessie Benningfield Randle, who was 106. Fletcher told Congress. She testified that the city of Tulsa had used the names of victims and images of the massacre to generate money for the city. In 2022, Fletcher, her brother, and Randle received \$1 million from New York philanthropist.
- Her book Don't Let Them Bury My Story: The Oldest Living Survivor of the Tulsa Race Massacre In Her Own Words is available on Amazon.

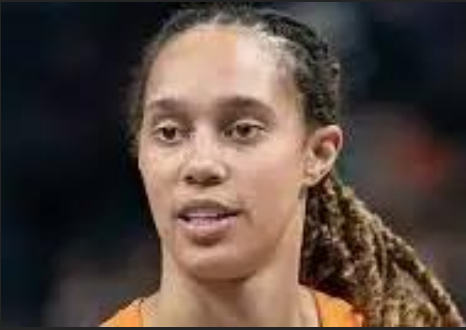


Phyllis Wilson, MPA, BSN, RN



- Phyllis Wilson is President of the Military Women's Memorial Foundation. Chief Warrant Officer Five (CW5) Phyllis J. Wilson, U.S. Army (Retired) completed 37 years of military service. She is a life member of numerous Veteran associations - VFW, DAV, AUSA, USAWOA, MOAA, ROA, AMVETS, and the American Legion to name a few. She is also a Daughter of the American Revolution and a descendant of the Pilgrims that arrived on the Mayflower in 1620.
- She was inducted into the Army Women's Foundation Hall of Fame in March 2017 on Capitol Hill and the U.S. Veterans Hall of Fame in 2022.
- She is a member of the Reserve Forces Policy Board (appointed by the Secretary of Defense), the Board of Directors for Policy Vets, the Association of the United States Army (AUSA) since 2018 and an AUSA Senior Fellow since 2019.

Brittany Griner



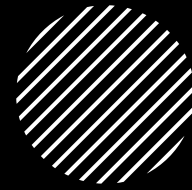
- Brittney Yvette Griner is an American professional basketball player for the Atlanta Dream of the Women's National Basketball Association. She is a three-time Olympic gold medalist with the U.S. women's national basketball team and a six-time WNBA All-Star.
- Griner led the U.S. national women's basketball team to victory at the Rio Olympics in 2016. In 2020, Griner protested "The Star-Spangled Banner" and stated she would not be on the court while the national anthem was played during game openers. She changed this decision after her incarceration, now standing for the anthem, while being clear that she continues to support those who choose to protest. Griner was named to the national team for the 2020 Olympics (held in 2021 in Tokyo), where she won her second gold medal. She won her third consecutive gold medal with Team USA at the 2024 Olympics in France. She is also a two-time FIBA Women's World Cup winner with Team USA (2014 and 2018).
- On February 17, 2022, Griner was detained and arrested on smuggling charges by Russian customs officials after cartridges containing less than a gram of medically prescribed hash oil, illegal in Russia, were found in her luggage. She had been playing basketball with the Russian Premier League during the WNBA off-season. Her trial began on July 1, and she pled guilty to the charges. On August 4, she was sentenced to nine years in prison. In November 2022, Griner was transferred to the Russian penal colony IK-2. U.S. officials stated that she was "wrongfully detained". On December 8, Griner was released in a prisoner exchange for Russian arms dealer Viktor Bout. She made her return to the WNBA in May 2023, receiving a standing ovation from the audience.



Maxine Moore Waters

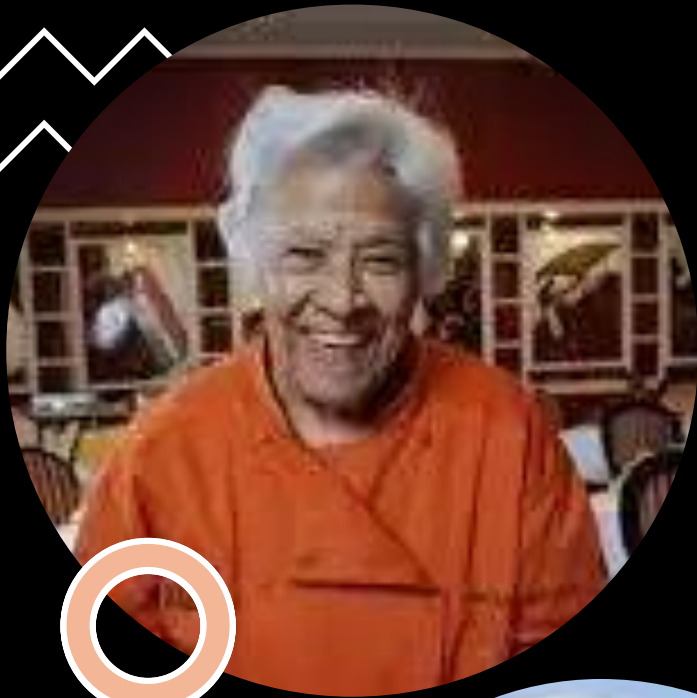
- Maxine Moore Waters (née Carr; born August 15, 1938) is an American politician serving as the U.S. representative for California's 43rd congressional district since 1991. The district, numbered as the 29th district from 1991 to 1993 and as the 35th district from 1993 to 2013, includes much of southern Los Angeles, as well as portions of Gardena, Inglewood and Torrance.
- A member of the Democratic Party, Waters is in her 18th House term. She is the most senior of the 13 black women serving in Congress and chaired the Congressional Black Caucus from 1997 to 1999. She is the second-most senior member of the California congressional delegation, after Nancy Pelosi. She chaired the House Financial Services Committee from 2019 to 2023 and has been the ranking member since 2023.
- Before becoming a U.S. representative, Waters served seven terms in the California State Assembly, to which she was first elected in 1976. As an assemblywoman, she advocated divestment from South Africa's apartheid regime. In Congress, she was an outspoken opponent of the Iraq War and has sharply criticized Presidents George H. W. Bush, George W. Bush, Barack Obama, and Donald Trump.
- Waters was included in Time magazine's list of "100 Most Influential People of 2018."





Jasmine Crockett

- Jasmine Felicia Crockett is an American lawyer and politician who has been a U.S. representative from Texas's 30th congressional district since January 2023.
- She is a member of the Democratic Party, in a district covering most of south Dallas County, central Dallas, Dallas Love Field airport, and a small portion of Tarrant County.
- In the 118th Congress, Crockett served as the Democratic freshman class representative between the House Democratic leadership and the approximately 35 newly-elected Democratic members. Crockett was named as co-chair of the 2024 Harris-Walz campaign. Crockett is a member of the Congressional Progressive Caucus.
- Crockett previously represented the 100th district in the Texas House of Representatives. Prior to that, she was a public defender for Bowie County, Texas, and had previously practiced law in a private firm.



Leyah Chase

- Leyah Chase was an American chef based in New Orleans, Louisiana. An author and television personality, she was known as the Queen of Creole Cuisine, advocating both African-American art and Creole cooking.
- Her restaurant, Dooky Chase, was known as a gathering place during the 1960s among many who participated in the Civil Rights Movement and was known as a gallery due to its extensive African-American art collection. In 2018 it was named one of the 40 most important restaurants of the past 40 years by Food & Wine.
- Chase was the recipient of a multitude of awards and honors. In her 2002 biography, Chase's awards and honors occupy over two pages. Chase was inducted into the James Beard Foundation's Who's Who of Food & Beverage in America in 2010. She was honored with a lifetime achievement award from the Southern Foodways Alliance in 2000. Chase received honorary degrees from Tulane University, Dillard University, Our Lady of Holy Cross College, Madonna College, Loyola University New Orleans, and Johnson & Wales University. She was awarded Times-Picayune Loving Cup Award in 1997. The Southern Food and Beverage Museum in New Orleans, Louisiana, named a permanent gallery in Chase's honor in 2009.



Donna Brazile



- Donna Lease Brazile is an American political strategist, campaign manager, and political analyst who served twice as acting Chair of the Democratic National Committee. She is currently an ABC News contributor and was previously a Fox News contributor until her resignation in May 2021.
- Brazile was also previously a CNN contributor, but resigned in October 2016, after WikiLeaks revealed that she shared two debate questions with Hillary Clinton's campaign during the 2016 United States presidential election.
- A member of the Democratic Party, Brazile was the first African-American woman to direct a major presidential campaign, acting as campaign manager for Al Gore in 2000. She has also worked on several presidential campaigns for Democratic candidates, including Jesse Jackson and Walter Mondale–Geraldine Ferraro in 1984, and for Dick Gephardt in the 1988 Democratic primary. She served as the acting chair of the Democratic National Committee in spring 2011, and again from July 2016 to February 2017.
- In the 1990s, Brazile served as chief of staff and press secretary to Congressional Delegate Eleanor Holmes Norton of the District of Columbia, where she helped guide the District's budget and local legislation on Capitol Hill. She also served as an advisor for Bill Clinton's campaign for the presidency in 1992 and for re-election in 1996. In 1999, Brazile was appointed deputy campaign manager and was later promoted to campaign manager of the 2000 presidential campaign of Vice-President Al Gore, becoming the first African-American woman to manage a major party presidential campaign.



Lisa Franchetti

- Lisa Marie Franchetti is a former United States Navy admiral who served as the 33rd chief of naval operations from 2 November 2023 to 21 February 2025. She is the first woman to be chief of naval operations, and the first woman to serve on the Joint Chiefs of Staff.
- Before this she most recently served as the 42nd vice chief of naval operations from September 2022 to November 2023 and as acting chief of naval operations (CNO) from August to November 2023.
- A surface warfare officer, Franchetti previously served as director for strategy, plans, and policy of the Joint Staff (J5) from 2020 to 2022, the second deputy chief of naval operations for warfighting development in 2020, and commander of the United States Sixth Fleet from 2018 to 2020. She has also commanded carrier strike groups and U.S. Naval Forces Korea during her career. She was the second woman promoted to four-star admiral in the United States Navy. She was also the second female Vice Chief of Naval Operations in the history of the navy.



Gwynne Wilcox



- Wilcox has been a member of its board since 2021 — the same year she was given an American Bar Association award for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in the legal profession for demonstrating leadership. She was confirmed by the Senate in September 2023 for a second term slated to end in 2028. Former President Joe Biden named her chair in December.
- On his first day in office, President Trump signed an executive order “ending radical and wasteful government DEI programs and preferencing,” following it up one day later with another executive order “ending illegal discrimination and restoring merit-based opportunity.”
- Because of two existing vacancies on the board at the time Wilcox was fired, the NLRB was not able to conduct its business. To adjudicate cases, the board requires three of its five members to issue decisions.
- Wilcox was reinstated as a board member but not as chair. On Jan. 20, President Trump named Marvin E. Kaplan to lead the NLRB. “This moment is about standing up for workers,” Congressional Labor Caucus Co-Chair and Rep. Steven Horsford, D-Nev., said Monday. “The courts have upheld the rights of this independent agency, and we’re pleased to welcome our board member back.”
- Gwynne Wilcox The first Black woman to chair the National Labor Relations Board returned to the agency Monday with a hero’s welcome after a judge ruled last week she was illegally fired.
- Dozens of staff members cheered, clapped and waved signs that said “Welcome back Gwynne” as Wilcox returned to the independent federal agency charged with protecting employee rights.



Mary Church Terrell

September 23, 1863-
July 24, 1954



- Mary Terrell was an American civil rights activist, journalist, teacher and one of the first African-American women to earn a college degree. She taught in the Latin Department at the M Street School—the first African American public high school in the nation—in Washington, DC.
- In 1895, she was the first African-American woman in the United States to be appointed to the school board of a major city, serving in the District of Columbia until 1906. Terrell was a charter member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (1909) and the Colored Women's League of Washington (1892). She helped found the National Association of Colored Women (1896) and served as its first national president, and she was a founding member of the National Association of College Women (1923).



Minnie Spotted-Wolf (1923-1987)

- Minnie Spotted-Wolf was one of the first Native American women to enlist in the United States Marine Corps.
- Spotted-Wolf, from Heart Butte, Montana, was a member of the Blackfoot tribe. Prior to joining the Marines, she had worked on her father's ranch doing such chores as cutting fence posts, driving a two-ton truck, and breaking horses. Known for her skill for breaking horses, she described Marine boot camp as: "hard but not too hard."
- She served on military bases in California and Hawaii. She worked as a heavy equipment operator and a driver for general officers.
- She was discharged in 1947.



Jackie Ormes

August 1, 1911-December 26, 1985

Jackie Ormes was an American cartoonist. She is known as the first African-American woman cartoonist and creator of the Torchy Brown comic strip and the Patty-Jo 'n' Ginger panel.

Ormes drew and wrote throughout high school. She was arts editor for the 1929–1930 Monongahela High School Yearbook where her earliest efforts as a cartoonist can be seen in the lively caricatures of her school's students and teachers. It was during this period that she wrote a letter to the editor of the Pittsburgh Courier, a weekly African-American newspaper that was published on Saturdays. The then-editor, Robert Vann, wrote back. This correspondence led to her first writing assignment—covering a boxing match. Her coverage of subsequent matches led to her becoming an avid fan of the sport.

Ormes started in journalism as a proofreader for the Pittsburgh Courier. She also worked as an editor and as a freelance writer, writing on police beats, court cases and human-interest topics. While she enjoyed "a great career running around town, looking into everything the law would allow, and writing about it," what she really wanted to do was draw.





Michelle Howard

- Michelle Janine Howard is a retired United States Navy four-star admiral who last served as the commander of the United States Naval Forces Europe, United States Naval Forces Africa and Allied Joint Force Command Naples. She previously was the 38th Vice Chief of Naval Operations. She assumed her last assignment on June 7, 2016.
- Howard achieved many historical firsts throughout her naval career. She was the first African-American woman to command a United States Navy ship, USS Rushmore, and the first to achieve two- and three-star rank. In 2006, she was selected for the rank of rear admiral (lower half), making her the first admiral selected from the United States Naval Academy class of 1982 and the first female graduate of the United States Naval Academy selected for flag rank. On July 1, 2014, Howard was appointed Vice Chief of Naval Operations, the second highest-ranking officer in the Navy.
- Upon her swearing in, Howard became the highest-ranking woman (until the swearing in of Lisa Franchetti) and first female four-star admiral in United States Naval history. Howard also became the first female four-star admiral to command operational forces, when she assumed command of United States Naval Forces Europe and Naval Forces Africa. Howard retired on December 1, 2017, after nearly 36 years of service in the United States Navy.
- In 2021, Howard was appointed to The Naming Commission, a congressional commission created to rename U.S. military assets and locations with names associated with the Confederate States of America (CSA) and was sworn in as its chair in March.



Joan Higginbotham



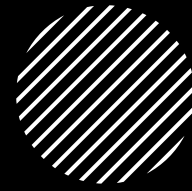
Joan Elizabeth Higginbotham is an electrical engineer and a former NASA astronaut. She flew aboard Space Shuttle Discovery mission STS-116 as a mission specialist and is the third African American woman to go into space, after Mae Jemison and Stephanie Wilson.

Higginbotham began her career in 1987, two weeks after getting her Bachelor of Science degree, at the Kennedy Space Center (KSC), Florida, as a Payload Electrical Engineer in the Electrical and Telecommunications Systems Division. Within six months she became the lead for the Orbiter Experiments (OEX) on OV-102, the Space Shuttle Columbia.

Higginbotham then served as backup orbiter project engineer for OV-104, Space Shuttle Atlantis, where she participated in the integration of the orbiter docking station (ODS) into the space shuttle used during Shuttle/Mir docking missions. Two years later, she was promoted to lead orbiter project engineer for OV-102, Space Shuttle Columbia. In this position, she held the technical lead government engineering position in the firing room where she supported and managed the integration of vehicle testing and troubleshooting. She actively participated in 53 space shuttle launches during her 9-year tenure at Kennedy Space Center.

- Selected as an astronaut candidate by NASA in April 1996, Higginbotham reported to the Johnson Space Center in August 1996. Since that time, she had been assigned technical duties in the Payloads & Habitability Branch, the Shuttle Avionics & Integration Laboratory (SAIL), the Kennedy Space Center (KSC) Operations (Ops) Support Branch, where she tested various modules of the International Space Station for operability, compatibility, and functionality prior to launch, the Astronaut Office CAPCOM (Capsule Communicator) Branch in the startup and support of numerous space station missions and space shuttle missions, the Robotics Branch, and Lead for the International Space Station Systems Crew Interfaces Section.





Nettie Craig Asberry July 15, 1865- November 17, 1968

- Nettie Asberry was an African-American leader, music teacher, and centenarian who helped to found the Tacoma NAACP and was active in the Washington State Association of Colored Women's Clubs.
- After college, Asberry taught music and performed in choirs in Nicodemus, Kansas, Kansas City, Missouri, and Denver, Colorado. She married Albert Jones, and the two of them moved to Seattle, Washington to take advantage of the opportunities available there amid the rebuilding of the city after the Great Seattle Fire of 1889. Shortly after arriving, Asberry became first organist and music director for the First African Methodist Episcopal Church. When Albert Jones died in 1893, however, she returned briefly to her family in Kansas.
- The Tacoma City Association of Colored Women's Clubs (Tacoma CWC) named the Asberry Culture Club, named in Asberry's honor.
- On January 4, 2022, the Tacoma City Council designated the Henry J. and Nettie Craig Asberry House a city landmark. That same week the Tacoma CWC bought the historic Asberry House. Six months later, Tacoma CWC received funding from the National Trust for Historic Preservation's African American Cultural Heritage Action Fund to be used for the purpose of preserving and interpreting Asberry's home.



Women Inventors Who Changed The World



Dorothy Vaughan

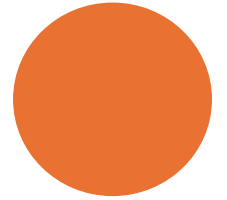
September 20, 1910–November 10, 2008

- Dorothy Jean Johnson Vaughan was an American mathematician, computer programmer, and NASA manager who made significant contributions to the early US space program. In 1949, she became acting supervisor of the West Area Computers, the first African-American woman to receive a promotion and supervise a group of staff at the center. Vaughan rose through the ranks of NASA's Langley Research Center's "West Area Computing" division to become a manager. She was a respected advocate for women, regardless of race, pushing for promotions and pay raises. Vaughan also helped compile a handbook of algebraic methods for calculating machines.
- She later was promoted officially to the position of supervisor. During her 28-year career, Vaughan prepared for the introduction of computers in the early 1960s by teaching herself and her staff the Fortran programming language. She later headed the programming section of the Analysis and Computation Division (ACD) at Langley.
- Vaughan is one of the women featured in Margot Lee Shetterly's history *Hidden Figures: The Story of the African-American Women Who Helped Win the Space Race* (2016). It was adapted as a biographical film of the same name, also released in 2016.
- In 2019, Vaughan was honored with the Congressional Gold Medal posthumously



Olga D. Gonzalez-Sanabria

- Olga D. González-Sanabria is a Puerto Rican scientist and inventor. She is the highest-ranking Hispanic at NASA Glenn Research Center, and a member of the Ohio Women's Hall of Fame. González-Sanabria, Director of the Engineering and Technical Services, is responsible for planning and directing a full range of integrated services including engineering, fabrication, testing, facility management and aircraft services for the Glenn Research Center. She played an instrumental role in the development of the "Long Cycle-Life Nickel-Hydrogen Batteries" which helps enable the International Space Station power system.
- In 1979, González-Sanabria began her NASA career as chief of its Glenn Research Center's Plans and Programs Office and executive officer to the Center's Director. During her career González-Sanabria also served as Director of the Systems Management Office during which she oversaw the implementation of Glenn's Business Management System (ISO 9000 certification).
- González-Sanabria played an instrumental role in the power systems area with the development of the "Long Cycle-Life Nickel-Hydrogen Batteries". Her technical contributions helped to enable the International Space Station power system. She was awarded an R&D 100 Award in recognition of this effort.
- In 2002, González-Sanabria was appointed to Senior Rank and named director of the Systems Management Office at NASA's Glenn Research Center, thus becoming the highest-ranking Hispanic at NASA Glenn.
- González-Sanabria's governmental service is 30 years with NASA, where she still works today.





Stephanie Kwolek
July 31, 1923 – June 18,
2014



- Stephanie Louise Kwolek was a Polish-American chemist best known for inventing Kevlar. Her career at the DuPont company spanned more than 40 years. For her discovery, Kwolek was awarded the DuPont company's Lavoisier Medal for outstanding technical achievement.
- As of August 2019, she was the only female employee to have received that honor. In 1995 she became the fourth woman to be added to the National Inventors Hall of Fame. Kwolek won numerous awards for her work in polymer chemistry, including the National Medal of Technology, the IRI Achievement Award and the Perkin Medal.
- Kevlar is used in more than 200 applications, including tennis rackets, skis, parachute lines, boats, airplanes, ropes, cables, and bullet-proof vests. It has been used for car tires, fire fighter boots, hockey sticks, cut-resistant gloves and armored cars. It has also been used for protective building materials like bomb-proof materials, hurricane safe rooms, and bridge reinforcements. During the week of Kwolek's death, the one millionth bullet-resistant vest made with Kevlar was sold. Kevlar is also used to build cell phone cases; Motorola's Droid RAZR has a Kevlar unibody.
- Kevlar has gone on to save lives as a lightweight body armor for police and the military; to convey messages across the ocean as a protector of undersea optical-fiber cable; to suspend bridges with super-strong ropes; and to be used in countless more applications from protective clothing for athletes and scientists to canoes, drumheads, and frying pans.



Alice Augusta Ball
July 24, 1892 -December 31, 1916

- Alice Augusta Ball was an African American chemist who developed the "Ball Method" for making ethyl ester derivatives of chaulmoogra oil, which were used as a treatment for leprosy during the early 20th century.
 - She was the first woman and first African American to receive a master's degree from the University of Hawaii and was also the university's first female and African-American chemistry professor. She died at the age of 24 and her contributions to science were not recognized until many years after her death.
-

Cecilia Payne-Gaposchkin

May 10, 1900-December 7, 1979

- Cecilia Payne-Gaposchkin was a British and American astronomer and astrophysicist. In her 1925 doctoral thesis she proposed that stars were composed primarily of hydrogen and helium.
- Her groundbreaking conclusion was initially rejected by leading astrophysicists, including Henry Norris Russell, because it contradicted the science of the time, which held that no significant elemental differences distinguished the Sun and Earth. Independent observations eventually proved that she was correct.
- Overcoming barriers for women in science – Payne did not receive a degree from Cambridge despite completing her studies – her work on the cosmic makeup of the universe and the nature of variable stars was foundational to modern astrophysics. She was elected to the Royal Astronomical Society while still a student at Cambridge and later became the first recipient of the American Astronomical Society's prestigious Annie J. Cannon award. Her success also opened the door for countless female astronomers, including her Harvard colleague, Helen Sawyer Hogg, and in 1956, she was appointed Harvard's first female Professor and female Department Chair.

Dr. Annette Tucker Osborne




Josephine Cochrane

March 8, 1839-August 3, 1913



- Josephine Cochran was an American inventor who invented the first successful hand-powered dishwasher, which she designed and then constructed with the assistance of mechanic George Butters, who became one of her first employees.
- Once her patent issued on 28 December 1886, she founded Garis-Cochrane Manufacturing Company to manufacture her machines. Cochrane showed her new machine at the World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago in 1893 where nine Garis-Cochran washers were installed in the restaurants and pavilions of the fair and was met with interest from restaurants and hotels, where hot water access was not an issue. She won the prize for "best mechanical construction, durability and adaptation to its line of work" at the Fair. Garis-Cochran Manufacturing Company, which built dishwashers, grew through a focus on hotels and other commercial customers and was renamed as Cochran's Crescent Washing Machine Company in 1897.
- Cochran's Crescent Washing Machine Company became part of KitchenAid through acquisition by Hobart Manufacturing Company several years after Cochran's death in 1913. Cochran was posthumously inducted into the National Inventors Hall of Fame in 2006 for patent 355,139 issued on December 28, 1886, for her invention of the dishwasher.



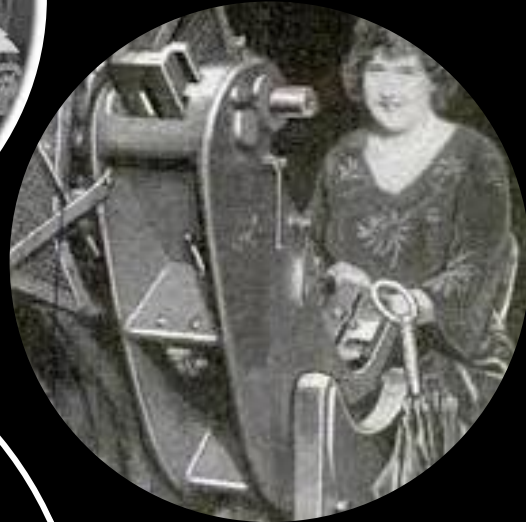


Mary Anderson
February 19, 1866 –
June 27, 1953



- Mary Elizabeth Anderson was an American real estate developer, rancher, viticulturist, and most notably the inventor of what became known as the windshield wiper.
- On November 10, 1903, Anderson was granted her first patent for an automatic car window cleaning device controlled from inside the car, called the windshield wiper. Her patent didn't get far as she got no manufacturing firms to agree to make her invention!
- In 1902, she visited to New York City in the winter. Anderson sat in a trolley car on a frosty day. Anderson observed that the trolley car driver struggled to see past the windows because of the falling sleet. The trolley car's front window was designed for bad-weather visibility, but its multi-pane windshield system worked very poorly. Therefore, to clear the sights, the driver needed to open the window, lean out of the vehicle, or stop the car to go outside in order to wipe the windscreen with his or her hands. Anderson, who was not an engineer but an entrepreneur, identified the problem and its opportunity. She envisioned a windshield wiper blade that the trolley driver could operate from the inside. At that time, it rarely occurred to anyone else to eliminate the problem. It was something drivers simply accepted and dealt with.
- When she returned to Alabama, she drew up a sketch for a wiper blade that could be operated from inside a vehicle and wrote up the description. She also hired a designer for a hand-operated device to keep a windshield clear and had a local company produce a working model. Her device consisted of a lever inside the vehicle that controlled a rubber blade on the outside of the windshield. The lever could be operated to cause the spring-loaded arm to move back and forth across the windshield. A counterweight was used to ensure contact between the wiper and the window. The device could be easily removed if desired after the winter was over. Similar devices had been made earlier, but Anderson's was the first windshield clearing device to be effective. Anderson's simple mechanism and basic design have remained much the same, but unlike today's windscreen wipers, Anderson's could be removed when not needed.
- She then applied for, and in 1903 was granted, a 17-year patent for a windshield wiper. The patent application was filed on June 18, 1903. On November 10, 1903, the United States Patent Office awarded Anderson patent number 743,801 for her Window Cleaning device.





Beulah Louise Henry
September 28, 1887
– February 1, 1973

- Beulah Louise Henry was an American inventor whose extensive contributions to consumer products and manufacturing technology solidified her legacy in the field.
- Born in Raleigh, North Carolina, and later based in New York City, Henry was a pioneering figure who held 49 patents and developed over 110 inventions, significantly advancing technology while breaking gender barriers in her field.
- Her inventions include a bobbin-free sewing machine and a vacuum ice cream freezer. She received 49 patents and had around 110 inventions total. Unique from most inventors of the time, Henry's inventions did not always follow the same theme or category. She focused on developing quality of life improving products for women, including a hair curler, vanity case, and a rubber sponge soap holder. One of her more prominent inventions was a "snap-on" parasol, which would allow women to change their parasol's pattern to match their outfit without needing to buy an entirely new parasol.
- Henry delved into the market of children's toys by inventing a new method for stuffing dolls. As a substitute to using traditional, heavy stuffing, she devised a way to inflate lifelike dolls and toys with rubber tubing, significantly reducing the toys' weight.



Women Who Were First





Marie Curie

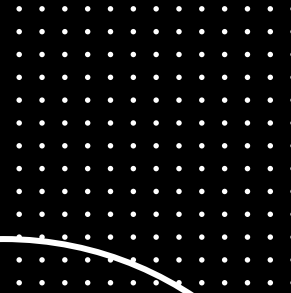
November 7, 1867-July 4, 1934

- Maria Salomea Skłodowska-Curie was a Polish-born physicist and chemist who revolutionized our understanding of radioactivity. In 1891, she moved to Paris to study at the Sorbonne, where she met her husband, Pierre Curie. Together, they researched radioactivity and were awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1903, along with Becquerel. Curie discovered new elements, polonium and radium, and coined the term “radio-active”.
- Marie Curie became the first woman to win a Nobel Prize and the first person — man or woman — to win the award twice. With her husband Pierre Curie, Marie's efforts led to the discovery of polonium and radium and, after Pierre's death, the further development of X-rays. The famed scientist died in 1934 of aplastic anemia likely caused by exposure to radiation.



Junko Tabei

September 22, 1939 – October 20, 2016



- Junko Tabei was a Japanese mountaineer, author, and teacher. She was the first woman to reach the summit of Mount Everest and ascend the Seven Summits, climbing the highest peak on every continent.
- In 1969, Junko Tabei established the Joshi-Tohan Club (Women's Mountaineering Club) for women only. The club's slogan was "Let's go on an overseas expedition by ourselves", and the group was the first of its kind in Japan. Tabei later stated that she founded the club because of how she was treated by male mountaineers of the time; some men, for example, refused to climb with her, while others thought she was only interested in climbing as a way to find a husband. Tabei helped fund her climbing activities by working as an editor for the Journal of the Physical Society of Japan.
- Tabei continued her mountaineering pursuits, eventually climbing the highest mountain on each continent: Kilimanjaro (1980), Aconcagua (1987), Denali (1988), Elbrus (1989), Mount Vinson (1991), and Puncak Jaya (1992). Upon her successful climb of Puncak Jaya, she became the first woman to complete the Seven Summits. By 2005, Tabei had taken part in 44 all-female mountaineering expeditions around the world. She had a personal goal to climb the highest mountain in every country in the world, and by the end of her lifetime she had completed at least 70 of these mountains.



Dr. Barbara Ross-Lee

- Barbara Ross-Lee, D.O., FACOFP, currently the Vice President for Health Sciences and Medical Affairs at the New York Institute of Technology College of Osteopathic Medicine, is the first African-American female to serve as dean of a United States medical school. She is also the first osteopathic physician to serve a Robert Wood Johnson Health Policy Fellowship. Dr. Ross-Lee has an extensive background in health policy issues and serves as an advisor on primary care, medical education, minority health, women's health and rural healthcare issues on the federal and state levels. She has lectured widely and published numerous scholarly articles on a variety of medical and health-care issues. She has received seven honorary degrees and numerous national awards.
- She shattered barriers and paved the way for countless others in the medical field. Her visionary leadership also led to the establishment of NYITCOM - Arkansas, the first osteopathic school in the state of Arkansas.
- She is also known as the sister of Diana Ross along with being the aunt of actress Tracee Ellis Ross, and singer-songwriters Rhonda Ross Kendrick and Evan Ross.



Tammy Duckworth



- Ladda Tammy Duckworth is an American politician and retired Army National Guard lieutenant colonel serving as the junior United States senator from Illinois since 2017. A member of the Democratic Party, she represented Illinois's 8th congressional district in the United States House of Representatives from 2013 to 2017.
- Duckworth ran unsuccessfully for a seat in the United States House of Representatives in 2006, then served as director of the Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs from 2006 to 2009 and as assistant secretary for public and intergovernmental affairs at the United States Department of Veterans Affairs from 2009 to 2011. In 2012, Duckworth was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives, where she served two terms. She was elected to the U.S. Senate in 2016, defeating Republican incumbent Mark Kirk.
- Duckworth is the first Thai American woman elected to Congress, the first person born in Thailand elected to Congress, the first woman with a disability elected to Congress, the first female double amputee in the Senate, and the first senator to give birth while in office. She is the second Asian American woman to serve in the Senate, after Mazie Hirono.





Maj. Gen. Jeanne Holm June 23, 1921-February 15, 2010



- Jeanne M. Holm was the first woman in the armed forces to be promoted to the rank of Major General (1973), and this was only one of her many firsts. She served in the Army from 1942-1945 and transferred to the Air Force in 1948, when a new law integrated women in the regular armed forces. Gen. Holm served in a variety of personnel assignments, including Director of Women in the Air Force from 1965-73. She played a significant role in eliminating restrictions on numbers of women serving in all ranks, expanding job and duty station assignments for women, opening ROTC and service academies to women, and changing the policies on the status of women in the armed forces.
- General Holm is recognized as the driving force behind the successful movement for women achieving equal opportunities and equal rights in the military.
- Her challenge to the military leadership to utilize the talents of military women was the foundation for sweeping increases in the numbers of, and opportunities for, women in the military.



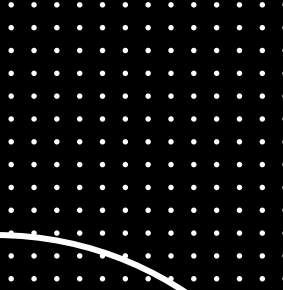
Aileen Hernandez

May 23, 1926- February 13, 2017

- Aileen Hernandez was an African-American union organizer, civil rights activist, and women's rights activist. She served as the president of the National Organization for Women between 1970 and 1971 and was the first woman to serve on the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.
- Born in 1926, Hernandez attended Howard University, where her interest in civil rights was cemented in an incident where she was told that she had to hail a "black" taxi. After graduating with honors, she became a labor union organizer before helping found NOW. As its second president, she helped organize the Women's Strike for Equality and testified in front of a congressional subcommittee on the Equal Rights Amendment, but she left the organization out of frustration with what she saw as its racial inequities. Hernandez would go on to co-found several organizations that focused on African-American women, along with teaching at several universities in California. She died in 2017 at the age of 90.



Adrienne Adams



- Adrienne Eadie Adams is an American politician serving as Speaker of the New York City Council since 2022. A Democrat, Adams represents the 28th district. She is the first woman elected to the district, and the first African-American elected as Council Speaker.
- Adams was first elected to the City Council in 2017, to complete the term of her expelled predecessor, Ruben Wills. Her district includes the Queens borough neighborhoods of Jamaica, Rochdale Village, Richmond Hill and South Ozone Park.
- Adams won her 2017 City Council primary with 39% of the vote (3,499 votes). Her opponent, Richard David, got 32% of the vote (2,822 votes), and her other opponent, Hettie Powell, received 29% (2,589 votes). Adams went on to win the general election with 86% of the vote. During her first term, she was elected by her colleagues in the Black, Latino and Asian Caucus to serve as co-chair of the caucus, and at various points she also served as chair of the Subcommittee on Landmarks, Public Sitings, and Dispositions, and later chair of the Committee on Public Safety.
- In January 2022, the New York City Council elected Adrienne Adams as Speaker. She is the second individual from the borough of Queens to hold this position, following Peter Vallone Sr. Additionally, she is the third woman and the first Black person to serve as Speaker. Her election was a political defeat for newly elected mayor Eric Adams, a fellow centrist Democrat and high-school classmate but no relation, who had privately been trying to win support for rival Speaker candidate Francisco Moya.

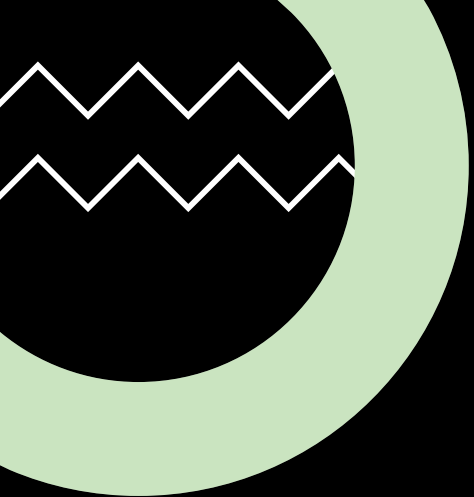




Cindy M. Saladin-Muhammad

- Brigadier General Cindy M. Saladin-Muhammad is the first Muslim and the fifth African-American woman in the history of the United States to be promoted to the rank of general.
- BG Saladin-Muhammad has nearly 40 years of service and currently serving as the Deputy Commanding General in a medical unit in America's Army Reserve.
- Brig. Gen. Cindy M. Saladin-Muhammad was born in Newark, New Jersey. She is an alumnus of Rutgers University, the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, the U.S. Army War College, and Temple University. She holds a joint Bachelor of Science in Clinical Laboratory Sciences and Toxicology, a Master of Business Administration specializing in Technology, a Master of Strategic Studies, and a Doctorate in Business Administration.



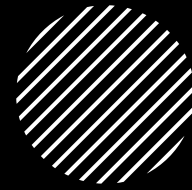


Gertrude Ederle

October 23, 1905- November 30, 2003

- Gertrude Caroline Ederle was an American competition swimmer, Olympic champion, and world record-holder in five events. On August 6, 1926, she became the first woman to swim across the English Channel. Among other nicknames, the press called her "Queen of the Waves".
- At the 1924 Summer Olympics in Paris, Ederle won a gold medal as a member of the first-place U.S. team in the 4×100-meter freestyle relay. Together with her American relay teammates Euphrasia Donnelly, Ethel Lackie and Mariechen Wehselau, she set a new world record of 4:58.8 in the event final. Individually, she received bronze medals for finishing third in the women's 100-meter freestyle and women's 400-meter freestyle races. The U.S. Olympic team had its own ticker-tape parade in 1924.
- In 1925, Ederle turned professional. The same year she swam the 22 miles (35 km) from Battery Park to Sandy Hook in 7 hours and 11 minutes, a record time which stood for 81 years before being broken by Australian swimmer Tammy van Wisse. Ederle's nephew Bob later described his aunt's swim as a "midnight frolic" and a "warm-up" for her later swim across the English Channel.

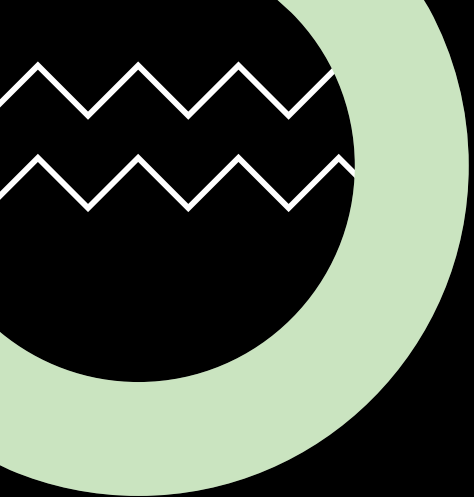




Lottie Dod

September 24, 1871-June 27, 1960

- Charlotte Dod was an English multi-sport athlete, best known as a tennis player. She won the Wimbledon Ladies' Singles Championship five times, the first one when she was only 15 in the summer of 1887. She remains the youngest ladies' singles champion.
- In addition to tennis, Dod competed in many other sports, including golf, field hockey, and archery. She also won the British Ladies Amateur Golf Championship, played twice for the England women's national field hockey team (which she helped to found), and won a silver medal at the 1908 Summer Olympics in archery. The Guinness Book of Records has named her as the most versatile female athlete of all time, together with track and field athlete and fellow golf player Babe Zaharias.



Fanny Blankers-Koen

April 26, 1918-January 25, 2004

- Francina Elsje "Fanny" Blankers-Koen was a Dutch track and field athlete, best known for winning four gold medals at the 1948 Summer Olympics in London. She competed there as a 30-year-old mother of two, earning her the nickname "the Flying Housewife", and was the most successful athlete at the event.
- Having started competing in athletics in 1935, she took part in the 1936 Summer Olympics a year later. Although international competition was stopped by World War II, Blankers-Koen set several world records during that period, in events as diverse as the long jump, the high jump, and sprint and hurdling events.
- Apart from her four Olympic titles, she won five European titles and 58 Dutch championships and set or tied 12 world records – the last, pentathlon, in 1951 aged 33. She retired from athletics in 1955, after which she became captain of the Dutch female track and field team. In 1999, she was voted "Female Athlete of the Century" by the International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF). Her Olympic victories are credited with helping to eliminate the belief that age and motherhood were barriers to success in women's sport.





Bessie Coleman

January 26, 1892-April 30, 1926

- Elizabeth Coleman was an early American civil aviator. She was the first African-American woman and first Native American to hold a pilot license and is the earliest known Black person to earn an international pilot's license.
- On June 15, 1921, Coleman became the first black woman and first Native American to earn an aviation pilot's license and the first black person and first self-identified Native American to earn an international aviation license from the Fédération Aéronautique Internationale. She is also the first American of any race or gender to be awarded these credentials directly from the FAI, as opposed to applying through the National Aeronautic Association. Determined to polish her skills, Coleman spent the next two months taking lessons from a French ace pilot near Paris and, in September 1921, she sailed for America. She became a media sensation when she returned to the United States.



Lula Owl Gloyne December 27, 1891-April 17, 1985

- Louisiana Leta "Lula" Owl Gloyne (née Louisiana Leta Owl; was a Native American nurse. She was the first member of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians and perhaps the first Native American to become a registered nurse. She was the only Eastern Cherokee to serve as an officer in World War I.
- Lula Owl attended Cherokee Boarding School on the Qualla Boundary, and in 1907 she began at the Hampton Institute in Virginia. Though founded as a school for African-Americans, from 1878 to 1923 over one thousand Native American students attended Hampton, including Owl and her siblings. Lula Owl graduated in 1914, then spent a year teaching Catawba children in Rock Hill, South Carolina.
- During World War I, Owl joined the Army Nurse Corps. Her seasickness prevented the journey to Europe to serve there as a field nurse, so instead she served at Camp Lewis in Washington as a second lieutenant and thereby became the only Eastern Cherokee to serve as an officer in World War I. She was also the first Cherokee to hold a position in healthcare on Qualla Boundary.
- After World War I, Gloyne worked as a nurse at the Bureau of Indian Affairs in Oklahoma.

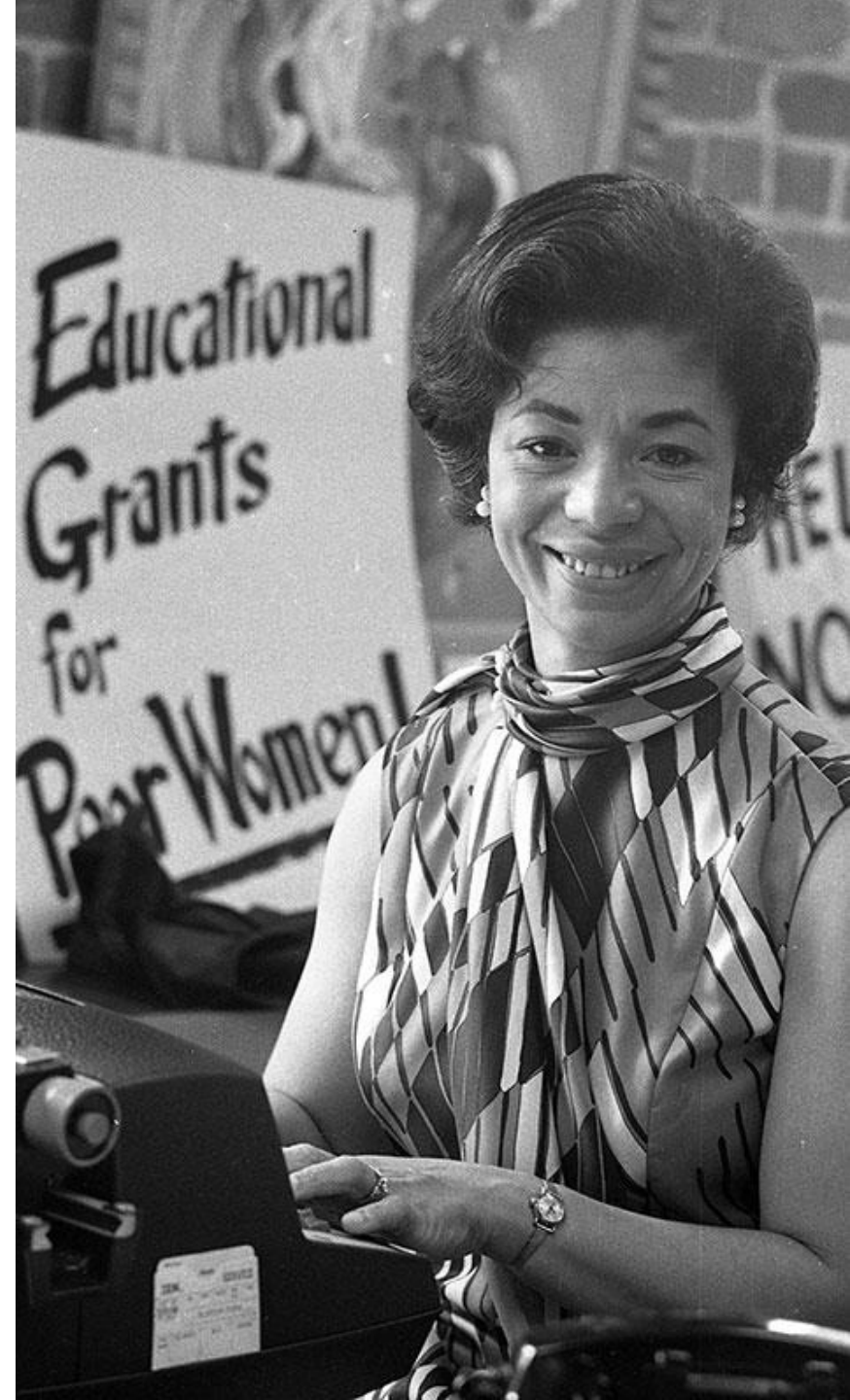




Aileen Hernandez

- Aileen Hernandez began her activism as a student leader at Howard University during World War II in then legally segregated Washington, D.C. In 1964, she became the first woman and the first African American to be appointed to the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC), from which she resigned because of its unwillingness to address sexual harassment. She was the first African American president of the National Organization for Women, which she left after it elected an all-white officer slate. She later co-founded the National Women's Political Caucus and Black Women Organized for Political Action. She also served on the San Francisco Human Rights Commission. A pioneer in issues concerning intersectionality of race, sex, and class, she was socially active for her entire life, until shortly before she died at age ninety in 2017.

Dr. Annette Tucker Osborne



Judy Richardson

- During her freshman year at Swarthmore College, she joined the Students for a Democratic Society (SDS) group on campus that was organizing against segregation in nearby cities. She left Swarthmore after her freshman year to join the staff of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC). Among many other duties, she helped to monitor SNCC's 24-hour, 800-like telephone line—literally a lifeline for SNCC activists. She later co-founded Drum and Spear bookstore and Drum and Spear Press in Washington, D.C., both of which were instrumental in publishing and promoting Black literature. She later became the series associate producer and education director for *Eyes on the Prize*, the seminal fourteen-hour PBS series on the Civil Rights Movement. She continues to lecture, write, and conduct teacher workshops about the Movement then and now.
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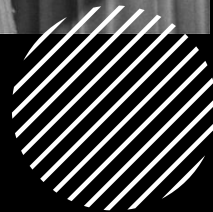




Kathleen Cleaver



- Her activism was inspired by her parents and their circle of friends and colleagues in Tuskegee, Alabama, where service and fighting for one's rights were expected. She was the first woman to serve on the Central Committee of the Black Panther Party, where she developed communications strategy and outreach to media. She and her then-husband Eldridge Cleaver spent four years in exile from the United States in Algeria and Korea, where their children were born. Kathleen Cleaver returned to the United States in 1973, and with her husband created the Revolutionary People's Communication Network. She later graduated from Yale University summa cum laude and went on to Yale Law School, graduating in 1989. She clerked for federal judge A. Leon Higginbotham and became a law professor.





Gloria Richardson Dandridge
May 6, 1922-July 15, 2021



- Gloria Richardson Dandridge was an American civil rights activist best known as the leader of the Cambridge movement, a civil rights action in the early 1960s in Cambridge, Maryland, on the Eastern Shore.
- Recognized as a major figure in the Civil Rights Movement, she was one of the signatories to "The Treaty of Cambridge", signed in July 1963 with Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy, and state and local officials. It was an effort at reconciliation and commitment to change after a riot the month before.
- At the August 1963 March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom, Richardson and five other women were honored by being seated on the stage at the Lincoln Memorial, but none of the women were invited to speak to the crowd. The next year Richardson moved to New York City, where she worked locally in Harlem on civil rights and economic development.

Myrlie Evers-Williams

- Myrlie Louise Evers-Williams is an American civil rights activist and journalist who worked for over three decades to seek justice for the 1963 murder of her husband Medgar Evers, another civil rights activist. She also served as chairwoman of the Fund and has published several books on topics related to civil rights and her husband's legacy. On January 21, 2013, she delivered the invocation at the second inauguration of Barack Obama.
- From 1973 to 1975, Evers was the vice-president for advertising and publicity at the New-York-based advertising firm Seligman and Lapz. In 1975, she moved to Los Angeles to become the national director for community affairs for the Atlantic Richfield Company (ARCO). At ARCO she was responsible for developing and managing all the corporate programs. This included overseeing funding for community projects, outreach programs, public and private partnership programs and staff development. She helped secure money for many organizations such as the National Woman's Educational Fund and worked with a group that provided meals to the poor and homeless.
- Evers-Williams was the first black woman to serve as a commissioner on the board, a position she held for 8 years. Evers-Williams also joined the board of the NAACP. By the mid-1990s, the prestigious organization was going through a difficult period marked by scandal and economic problems. Evers-Williams decided that the best way to help the organization was to run for chairperson of the board of directors. She won the position in 1995, just after her second husband's death due to prostate cancer. As chairperson of the NAACP, Evers-Williams worked to restore the tarnished image of the organization. She also helped improve its financial status, raising enough funds to eliminate its debt. Evers-Williams received many honors for her work, including being named Woman of the Year by Ms. Magazine. With the organization financially stable, she decided to not seek re-election as chairperson in 1998. In that same year, she was awarded the NAACP's Spingarn Medal.



Fannie Lou Hamer

October 6, 1917-March 14, 1977

- Fannie Lou Hamer was an American voting and women's rights activist, community organizer, and leader of the civil rights movement. She was the vice-chair of the Freedom Democratic Party, which she represented at the 1964 Democratic National Convention.
- Hamer also organized Mississippi's Freedom Summer along with the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC). She was also a co-founder of the National Women's Political Caucus, an organization created to recruit, train, and support women of all races who sought election to government offices.
- Hamer began her civil rights activism in 1962, continuing it until her health declined nine years later. She was known for her use of spiritual hymns and quotes and her resilience in leading the civil rights movement for black women in Mississippi. She was extorted, threatened, harassed, shot at, and assaulted by racists, including members of the police, while she was trying to register to vote. She later helped and encouraged thousands of African Americans in Mississippi to become registered voters and helped hundreds of disenfranchised people in her area through her work in programs such as the Freedom Farm Cooperative. She ran for the U.S. Senate in 1964, losing to John C. Stennis, and the Mississippi State Senate in 1971. In 1970, she led legal action against the government of Sunflower County, Mississippi, for continued illegal segregation.



Shirley Sherrod



- Shirley Sherrod is the Executive Director for the Southwest Georgia Project and Vice President of Development for New Communities at Cypress pond. Sherrod is a civil rights activist who has devoted most of her life advocating for farmers and rural residents.
- Sherrod has been the recipient of various praises such as; The Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters from Sojourner-Douglas College, being inducted into the Cooperative Hall of Fame, and awarded the James Beard Leadership Award.
- On July 19, 2010, Shirley Sherrod was forced to resign from her USDA position[22] after blogger Andrew Breitbart posted a selectively-edited video of Sherrod's address to a March 2010 NAACP event onto his website. Reacting to these video excerpts, the NAACP condemned her remarks and U.S. government officials called on her to resign. However, upon review of the complete, unedited video in full context, the NAACP, White House officials, and Tom Vilsack, the United States secretary of agriculture, apologized for the firing, and Sherrod was offered a new position with the USDA.





Gay McDougall

- Gay Johnson McDougall is an American lawyer who has spent her career addressing international human rights and racial discrimination. She is currently a Distinguished Scholar-in-Residence at the Leitner Center on International Law and Justice of Fordham University Law School. She is currently a Distinguished Scholar-in-Residence at the Leitner Center on International Law and Justice of Fordham University Law School. She was executive director of Global Rights, Partners for Justice (from September 1994 to 2006). In August 2005, she was named the first United Nations Independent Expert on Minority Issues, serving until 2011.
- She was the first African American to integrate Agnes Scott College in Georgia, as well as a graduate of Yale Law School and the London School of Economics, she forged a storied career in international human rights. The first United Nations expert on minority issues, McDougall was instrumental in the Free South Africa Movement's protests against apartheid and was later named as one of five international members of the South Africa governmental body established to administer the country's first democratic, nonracial elections, resulting in the election of President Nelson Mandela. She accompanied Mandela when he voted for the first time and was the first American to be elected to oversee the United Nations International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. In 2015, the government of South Africa bestowed on her their national medal of honor for non-citizens for her extraordinary contributions to ending apartheid.



Diane Judith Nash

- Diane Judith Nash is an American civil rights activist, and a leader and strategist of the student wing of the Civil Rights Movement. Nash's campaigns were among the most successful of the era.
- Her efforts included the first successful civil rights campaign to integrate lunch counters (Nashville);[1] the Freedom Riders, who desegregated interstate travel;[2] co-founding the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC); and co-initiating the Alabama Voting Rights Project and working on the Selma Voting Rights Movement. This helped gain Congressional passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, which authorized the federal government to oversee and enforce state practices to ensure that African Americans and other minorities were not prevented from registering and voting.
- In July 2022, Nash was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom by President Joe Biden.



Dorothy Cotton

June 9, 1930-June 10, 2018

- Dorothy Cotton was an American civil rights activist, who was a leader in the Civil Rights Movement in the United States and a member of the inner circle of one of its main organizations, the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. As the SCLC's Educational Director, she was arguably the highest-ranked female member of the organization.
- In an interview done by the Library of Congress, Cotton recounts an instance when she was outside and a white boy rode his bike by and sang, "deep down in the heart of niggertown." She recounts the experience and says that this made her angry, and she never forgot it, having given her "a consciousness about the wrongness of the system" This would set up her mentality as she began her journey working with the Civil Rights Movement.
- Cotton's involvement with the movement dominated her life. That was so due to her feeling of obligation. In her autobiography, Cotton wrote, "our work with SCLC was not just a job, it was a life commitment." Perhaps her biggest achievement in the movement was the Citizenship Education Program: a program meant to help blacks register to vote.
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Septima Poinsette Clark

Septima Poinsette Clark was an African American educator and civil rights activist. Clark developed the literacy and citizenship workshops that played an important role in the drive for voting rights and civil rights for African Americans in the Civil Rights Movement.

Septima Clark's work was commonly under-appreciated by Southern male activists. She became known as the "Queen Mother" or "Grandmother" of the Civil Rights Movement in the United States. Martin Luther King Jr. commonly referred to Clark as "The Mother of the Movement". Clark's argument for her position in the Civil Rights Movement was one that claimed, "knowledge could empower marginalized groups in ways that formal legal equality couldn't."

Clark first heard of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) while she was teaching on John's Island from 1916 to 1919. There was no NAACP chapter on John's Island, but a meeting was held in which various preachers came and spoke about what the NAACP was and what exactly it was trying to do. The superintendent was in attendance to collect dues, and it was then that she decided to join the organization

Dr. Annette Tucker Osborne

