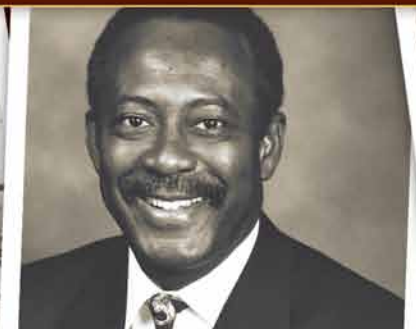
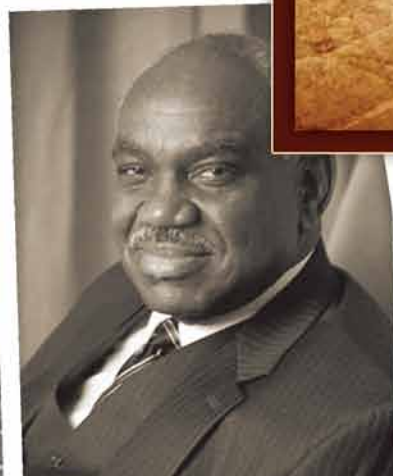
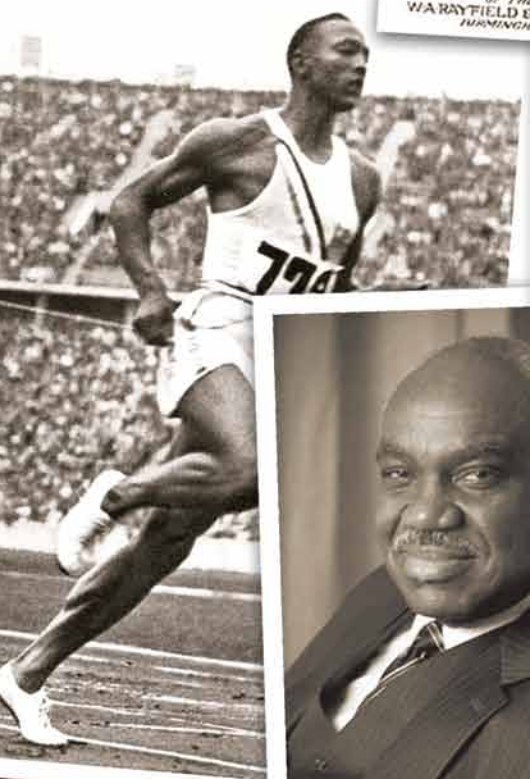


Alabama
AFRICAN
AMERICAN
History Calendar

2012

PRESENTED BY  at&t





A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



This year marks the second year that AT&T and our partners have teamed up to present the Alabama African American History Calendar. Last year's inaugural edition was a stunning success. Not only did we have an overflow crowd for the unveiling event and distribute calendars to classrooms around the state, we also had teachers from all over the United States hearing about it and asking for copies for their classrooms.

Once again this year, the Alabama Department of Education will present a comprehensive curriculum for use in schools across Alabama. That curriculum will be distributed via the Internet, a perfect example of how broadband technologies enable us to leverage educational opportunities in a very cost efficient manner. You can access the curriculum, electronic versions of the calendar, and other resources at www.alafricanamerican.com.

Not only have all the honorees featured in this year's calendar made a mark on the history of our state and our nation, they also serve as role models for children of all races. The organizing committee deserves tremendous credit choosing leaders from education, business, entertainment, sports, public service and community leadership. AT&T is proud to once again give back to the communities where we live and work with this remarkable effort. A special thanks also to all our partners for their contributions and commitment to this calendar.

FRED MCCALLUM
President of AT&T Alabama



RESOURCES & PHOTOGRAPH CREDITS

*Birmingham Civil Rights Institute
Birmingham, AL*

*Tuskegee University
Tuskegee, AL*

*Alabama Public Television
Montgomery, AL*

*Alabama Department of Archives and History
Montgomery, AL*

*Alabama State University
Montgomery, AL*

Gee's Bend Quilters:

Gee's Bend Quilters photograph courtesy of Tinwood
The Freedom Quilting Bee by Nancy Callahan (University of Alabama Press, 1987)
Gee's Bend Quilters Collective web site (<http://www.quiltsofgeesbend.com>)
Gee's Bend: The Women and Their Quilts (Tinwood, 2002)

Odessa Woolfolk:

Odessa Woolfolk photograph courtesy of Woolfolk Family
Flynt, Wayne; Alabama In The Twentieth Century
"Birmingham News" and "Birmingham Post Herald"
"The Birmingham Magazine"
McWilliams, Tennant S.; New Lights In The Valley: The Emergence of UAB
Edited by Horace Huntley and David Montgomery with the Afterword by Odessa Woolfolk;
Black Workers' Struggle for Equality in Birmingham

Jesse Owens:

Jesse Owens photograph courtesy of The Jesse Owens Foundation
Jesse Owens Memorial Park, Danville, Alabama (<http://www.jesseowensmuseum.org>)
Jesse Owens: An American Life by William J. Baker (University of Illinois, 2006)
New York Times obituary of Jesse Owens by Frank Litsky (April 1, 1980)

Wallace Rayfield:

Wallace Rayfield photograph courtesy of G. P. Hamilton's 1911 compilation of biographical sketches of notable African Americans entitled "Beacon Lights of the Race". Memphis, E. H. Clarke & Brother.

Dorough, Allan R. (2010) The Architectural Legacy of Wallace A. Rayfield: Pioneer Black Architect of Birmingham, Alabama. Tuscaloosa: University of Alabama Press

Percy Lavon Julian:

Percy Lavon Julian photograph courtesy of DePauw University Archives and Special Collections
The National Academies
The Black Inventor Online Museum

W.C. Handy:

W.C. Handy photograph courtesy of ATSA: Florence, Alabama
University of North Alabama
City of Florence Arts and Museums
U.S. National Parks Service, Trail of the Hellhound: W.C. Handy

Coretta Scott King:

Coretta Scott King photograph courtesy of CSK Legacy, LLC
CSK Legacy, LLC: Atlanta, Georgia

Tuskegee Airmen:

Tuskegee Airmen photograph courtesy of The Air Force Historical Research Agency
The Air Force Historical Research Agency
Tuskegee University

Marva Collins:

Marva Collins photograph courtesy of Marva Collins Seminars
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U.W. Clemon:

U.W. Clemon photograph courtesy of White, Arnold & Dowd P.C.
White, Arnold & Dowd P.C.
Federal Judicial Center
Encyclopedia of Alabama

Michael A. Figures:

Michael A. Figures photograph courtesy of Figures Family
Alabama Elections: Flashback Friday – Remembering Michael Figures
Helping School Tags – Michael A. Figures Legacy Education Fund

A.G. Gaston:

A.G. Gaston photograph courtesy of The A.G. Gaston Boys and Girls Club
A.G. Gaston Boys and Girls Club
A.G. Gaston Conference



THE GEE'S BEND QUILTERS

The Gee's Bend Quilters have gained national and international acclaim for their work in carrying on the domestic tradition, now considered an artistic tradition, of quilt making.

Gee's Bend is a small community located in Wilcox County near Selma, Alabama. The community was founded by the Gee family in the 19th century and later became a plantation maintained by more than a hundred slaves. Gee's Bend is now home to a small citizenry of African Americans who trace their roots there back through six generations. The ladies who have become known for their quilts are part of that heritage.

Quilters from Gee's Bend were first recognized nationally during the late 1960s when an article about an early economic collective known as the Freedom Quilting Bee appeared in *The New Yorker magazine*. The Freedom Quilting Bee grew out of the quilting tradition of the Gee's Bend area and the involvement of some of the quilters in the Civil Rights Movement. Gee's Bend quilters' work rose to further prominence in the 1980s when cultural and economic organizations began to recognize and market Gee's Bend and its quilters, eventually garnering commercial contracts for quilters.

For the women of Gee's Bend, quilting always provided a means of expressing themselves while providing needed warmth for their families. Older quilters trained younger women, passing the tradition across generations. Today, many of the quilts and their stories have become part of what is called the Gee's Bend Quilter's Collection. The quilters' masterpieces are in great demand and have developed a worldwide market of collectors.

In recent years, members of the Quilters have traveled nationwide to talk about Gee's Bend's history and their art. Many of the ladies have become well known for their wit, engaging personality and, in some cases, singing abilities. In 2003, fifty living quilters in this artistic community founded the Gee's Bend Quilters' Collective, the exclusive marketing outlet for their creations. The women of the community own and operate the Collective. Their efforts have helped to revive what was once a dying community.

The Gee's Bend quilts have been shown in prominent museums including the Museum of Fine Arts in Houston, the Philadelphia Museum of Art, the Whitney Museum in New York, and the Smithsonian. In 2006, the U.S. Postal Service honored the quilt makers' work and tradition by issuing a sheet of ten commemorative stamps bearing images of striking Gee's Bend quilts.

JANUARY



2012

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>1 Emancipation Proclamation issued in 1863. George Washington Carver was born in 1864.</p>	<p>2 William Loyd Garrison began publishing The Liberator, an abolitionist newspaper, in 1831.</p>	<p>3 Adam Clayton Powell, Jr. was elected chairperson of the House Committee on Education and Labor in 1961.</p>	<p>4 Grace Brumby, opera singer, was born in 1937.</p>	<p>5 George Washington Carver died in 1943.</p>	<p>6 The World Anti-Slavery Convention opened in London, 1831. John Birks "Dizzy" Gillespie, famed musician, died in 1993.</p>	<p>7 Marian Anderson made her debut in the Metropolitan Opera House in 1955.</p>
<p>8 Fannie M. Jackson, educator and first African American woman college graduate in the US, was born in 1836. Butterfly McQueen, actress, born in 1911.</p>	<p>9 Fisk University established in 1866.</p>	<p>10 Southern Christian Leadership Conference founded in 1957.</p>	<p>11 Charles W. Anderson becomes first African American member of the Kentucky Legislature in 1936.</p>	<p>12 The Congressional Black Caucus organized in 1971.</p>	<p>13 Don Barksdale became first African-American person to play in an NBA All-Star Game in 1953.</p>	<p>14 John Oliver Killens, novelist, was born in 1916.</p>
<p>15 Martin Luther King, Jr. was born in 1929.</p>	<p>16 Jefferson Franklin Long took oath of office as first African American Congressman from Georgia, 1871.</p>	<p>17 Cassius Clay (Muhammad Ali) born in 1942.</p>	<p>18 Robert C. Weaver became first African American presidential cabinet member, 1966.</p>	<p>19 Freed Blacks organized Savannah, GA's first Baptist church in 1788.</p>	<p>20 Barack Obama is sworn in as the first African American President in 2009. Barbara Jordan, congresswoman, was born in 1936.</p>	<p>21 William Brown-Chappell, pioneer aviator, was born in 1906.</p>
<p>22 Nat Turner, leader of the Virginia slave revolt, was born in 1800.</p>	<p>23 Dr. Daniel Hale Williams, pioneer in surgery, founded Provident Hospital in Chicago, IL, in 1889.</p>	<p>24 Coach Clarence "Big House" Gaines won record 800th college basketball game in 1990.</p>	<p>25 Sojourner Truth addressed the first Black Women's Rights Convention, 1851.</p>	<p>26 Bessie Coleman, first African American woman aviator, born in 1893. Angela Davis, activist, born in 1944.</p>	<p>27 Leontyne Price, world-renowned opera singer, made her debut at the Metropolitan Opera House, 1961.</p>	<p>28 Astronaut Ronald McNair died in Challenger explosion in 1986.</p>
<p>29 Oprah Winfrey born in 1954.</p>	<p>30 William Wells Brown, novelist and dramatist, published first Black drama, "Leap to Freedom", 1858.</p>	<p>31 Jackie Robinson, first African American baseball player in the major leagues, was born in 1919.</p>				



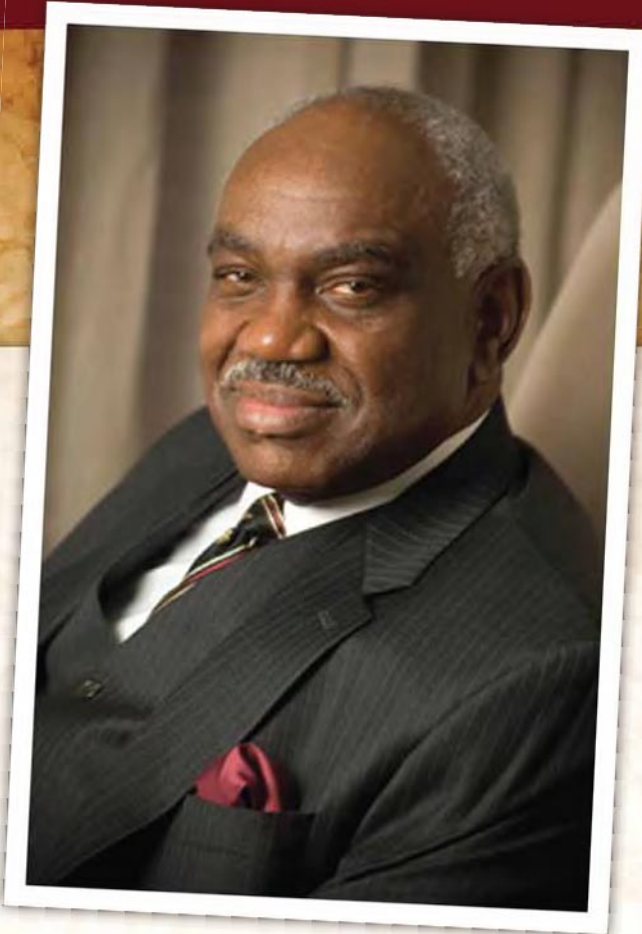
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FEBRUARY

U.W. CLEMON

U.W. Clemon, educated in the segregated public schools of Jefferson County, decided to become a civil rights lawyer at age thirteen. His early involvement in the 1962 boycott of Birmingham's downtown stores and his fight to end the segregation of the Birmingham Public Library earned him the designation of one of Dr. Martin Luther King's foot soldiers in the Birmingham civil rights movement. As a young lawyer, Clemon was a member of the Adams, Baker & Clemon law firm.

In 1974, Clemon became one of the first two blacks to be elected to the Alabama State Senate since Reconstruction. In his two terms, he chaired the Rules and Judiciary Committees, respectively, and vigorously opposed Governor George C. Wallace on various racial issues.

President Jimmy Carter appointed Clemon as Alabama's first black federal judge in 1980. He served as Chief Judge of the court from 1999-2006, and he is credited with addressing some of the most important issues of our time. Under his administration, the court adopted a more juror-friendly and representative jury plan, increased minority presence in the workforce of the court, and transitioned to electronic case filing and management. He has served on the executive committee of the Eleventh Circuit Judicial Council.

He and his wife of 44 years, Barbara Lang, are members of Sixth Avenue Baptist Church of Birmingham, where he serves as a deacon and member of the 100-voice Male Chorus. He is a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity.

FEBRUARY



2012

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 Langston Hughes was born in 1902.	2 Ernest E. Just, biologist, received the Spingarn Medal for pioneering research on fertilization and cell division, 1914.	3 Geraldine McCullough won the Widener Gold Medal for Sculpture in 1965.	4 Rosa Parks was born in 1913.
5 Henry "Hank" Aaron, the home run king of major league baseball, was born in 1934.	6	7 Eubie Blake, pianist, was born in 1883. Oscar Adams was born in 1925.	8 Oprah Winfrey became the first African American woman to host a nationally syndicated talk show in 1986.	9 In 1995, Bernard Harris became the first African American astronaut to take a spacewalk.	10 Roberta Flack, singer, was born in 1940.	11 Clifford Alexander, Jr., became the first African American Secretary of the Army in 1977.
12 Abraham Lincoln was born in 1809. Congress enacted the first fugitive slave law in 1793.	13 Joseph L. Searles became the first African American member of the New York Stock Exchange, 1970.	14 Frederick Douglass was born in 1817.	15 Henry Lewis was named director of the New Jersey Symphony in 1968.	16 Joe Frazier became World Heavyweight Boxing Champion by a knockout in 1970.	17 Michael Jordan, basketball player, born in 1963.	18 Author Toni Morrison (born Chloe Anthony Wofford) was born in 1931.
19 William "Smoky" Robinson was born in 1940.	20 Frederick Douglass died in 1895.	21 Malcolm X was assassinated in 1965.	22 George Washington was born in 1732. Julius Winfield "Dr. J" Erving was born in 1950.	23 W.E.B. DuBois born in 1868. Ethel Hall was born.	24 In 1864, Rebecca Lee became the first African American woman to receive an M.D. degree.	25 Cassius Clay (Muhammad Ali) won World Heavyweight crown in 1964.
26 Singer "Fats" Domino was born in 1928.	27 Marian Anderson, opera singer, was born in 1902.	28 Musician and entertainer Michael Jackson wins eight Grammy Awards. His album, "Thriller", broke all sales records to-date, and remains one of the top-grossing albums of all time.	29 Hattie McDaniel became the first black (male or female) to win an Oscar (for Best Supporting Actress) for her role as Mammy in "Gone With The Wind."			



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IMMORTAL

PERCY LAVON JULIAN

Percy Lavon Julian, born April 11, 1899, in Montgomery, Ala., was one of the premier scientists, business leaders, and humanists of his time. As the grandson of a slave, Julian was the eldest of six children born to James Sumner Julian, a railway mail clerk, and his wife Elizabeth Lena Adams.

When Julian finished the 8th grade, there was no public high school, which black children could attend, so Julian attended the State Normal School for Negroes in Montgomery, Ala. The curriculum at the State Normal School did not prepare Julian for the rigors of college work, so he entered DePauw University in Indiana as a sub-freshman, carrying college and high school courses simultaneously. Yet, he still managed to graduate valedictorian of his class.

Julian earned a master's degree from Harvard. He taught at Fisk University and West Virginia State College, as segregation denied him teaching positions at white universities. In 1931, Julian earned his Ph.D. in organic chemistry, from the University of Vienna in Austria.

Upon returning from Europe, Julian became head of Howard University's chemistry department. A year later, he returned to DePauw University, as a research fellow. At DePauw, he made his first great discovery by developing physostigmine, a drug used to treat glaucoma.

Although a brilliant chemist, several companies refused to hire Julian in a management position because of his race. Finally, in 1936 he became Director of Research at the Glidden Company, the first black scientist to hold such a position. Julian remained at Glidden for eighteen years, making numerous scientific breakthroughs.

Julian was dubbed the "soybean chemist," because soybeans were the resource for many of his discoveries. From soybeans, he developed a fire fighting foam, which was used during World War II to extinguish fires aboard ships. He synthesized cortisone, used in the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis, asthma, lupus and other inflammatory conditions. Prior to his synthesis, cortisone was obtained from oxen bile and only affordable to the very rich. With Julian's synthesis, cortisone became available to millions for pennies a drop. From soybeans, he also synthesized sex hormones. His synthesis of the female hormone progesterone went into the first birth control pill.

After leaving Glidden, Julian established his own companies in Illinois, Mexico and Guatemala, specializing in the production of synthetic cortisone. He found a greater resource than soybeans in a wild growing yam in the jungles of Guatemala. He sold his Illinois company in 1961 for \$2.3 million, becoming one of the nation's first black millionaires.

Julian won numerous awards. Most notable were his election to the National Academy of Sciences and the NAACP Spingarn Medal.

Percy Lavon Julian died on April 19, 1975. In 1990, he became one of the first African Americans inducted into the National Inventors Hall of Fame.

After his death, Governor George Wallace issued a proclamation commemorating Julian's achievements. Declaring Julian a favorite son of Alabama, he proclaimed April 11th, Percy Lavon Julian Day.

MARCH



2012

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 Writer Ralph Ellison was born in 1914.	2 Dr. Jerome H. Holland elected to the board of directors of the New York Stock Exchange in 1972.	3 Carole Gist was crowned first black Miss USA in 1990.
4 Garrett A. Morgan, scientist and inventor, was born in 1877.	5 Blanche Kelso Bruce of Mississippi elected to full term in U.S. Senate in 1975.	6 Dred Scott decision handed down by Supreme Court in 1857.	7 First cadets graduated from flying school at Tuskegee in 1942.	8 Senate refuses to seat P.B.S. Pinchback of Louisiana in 1876.	9 Clifton Wharton is sworn in as ambassador to Norway in 1961.	10 Harriet Tubman died in 1913.
11 Lorraine Hansberry play, Raisin in the Sun, opened on Broadway in 1959.	12 Andrew Young born in 1932.	13 Fannie Lou Hamer, activist, dies, 1977.	14 Quincy Jones, composer and musician, born, 1933.	15 Los Angeles Sentinel founded by Leon H. Washington in 1933.	16 Freedom's Journal founded in 1827.	17 Jackie Robinson made his professional debut as a member of the Montreal Royals in 1946.
18 Charlie Pride, country singer, born in 1938.	19 Nat King Cole was born in 1919.	20 Uncle Tom's Cabin by Harriet Beecher Stowe was published in 1852.	21 Selma march began in 1965.	22 Marcus Garvey, Black nationalist, arrived in America from Jamaica, 1916.	23 Slavery abolished in Puerto Rico in 1873.	24 AME Zion Church organized in S.C. in 1867.
25 Poll Tax ruled unconstitutional in 1966.	26 William H. Hastie confirmed as Federal District Judge of the Virgin Islands in 1937.	27 Arthur Mitchell, dancer and choreographer, born, 1934.	28 Slavery abolished in New York in 1799.	29 Pearl Bailey was born in 1918.	30 15th Amendment was enacted in 1870.	31 Toni Morrison wins Pulitzer Prize for "Beloved" in 1988.



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APPRIE

CORETTA SCOTT KING

Human Rights Leader. Wife. Peacemaker. Mother. Global Citizen. Alabama Native. Coretta Scott King.

Coretta Scott King was a messenger of nonviolence and the beloved community. She spoke at massive peace and justice rallies; supported democracy movements world-wide; counseled prime ministers and presidents; and participated in protests alongside working people of all races. In the role she embraced most passionately, she was the wife of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and the mother of their four children, Yolanda Denise, Martin Luther, III, Dexter Scott, and Bernice Albertine

On April 27, 1927, Mrs. King was born to Bernice McMurry Scott and Obadiah Scott. The third of four children, she was raised in a humble, hardworking family on her paternal grandfather's farm in Heiberger, Alabama.

The valedictorian of the 1945 class of Lincoln High School in Marion, Alabama, Mrs. King attended Antioch College on scholarship. While studying music and education, she was a member of the Antioch chapter of the NAACP and of the Race Relations and Civil Liberties Committees. Upon graduating, she was awarded a scholarship to study concert singing at New England Conservatory of Music in Boston, Massachusetts.

There, she met Martin Luther King, Jr., a charismatic young minister and doctoral candidate at Boston University's School of Theology. They married on June 18, 1953 on the lawn of her parents home near Marion, Alabama. After completing her degree in voice and violin at the New England Conservatory in September 1954, the Kings moved to Montgomery, Alabama, where Dr. King became pastor of Dexter Avenue Baptist Church.

The Kings were soon involved in the dramatic events of the modern Civil Rights Movement, which began in Montgomery. His bold leadership and advocacy of nonviolent civil disobedience made Dr. King the most recognizable face of the Movement.

Mrs. King's life-long convictions led her to continue to speak before church, civic, and peace groups and to convince Dr. King to publicly oppose the Vietnam War. These convictions also prompted Mrs. King to conceive and perform a series of freedom concerts to raise funds for the Movement. The freedom concerts combined prose and poetry narration with musical selections.

After Dr. King's assassination on April 4, 1968, Mrs. King devoted her life to preserving and advancing his legacy. In June 1968, she founded the Atlanta-based Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change as the official memorial to her husband and his nonviolent philosophy. Under her leadership, The King Center provided training on Dr. King's philosophy and methods of nonviolence to tens of thousands of people from many nations. Mrs. King guided the creation of the largest archive of documents from the Civil Rights Movement, including her husband's papers. She also spearheaded the immense educational and lobbying campaign to establish Dr. King's birthday as a national holiday, first celebrated in 1986 and now commemorated by millions of people in over 100 countries.

Mrs. King died on January 30, 2006. 14,000 people attended her televised funeral, including then President George W. Bush and former presidents George H. W. Bush, Carter and Clinton. The first woman and black person to lie in state in the Georgia State Capital, Mrs. King now rests alongside her husband in a memorial tomb in The King Center's reflecting pool in Atlanta, Georgia.

A life well-lived for the benefit of the global community...Coretta Scott King.

APRIL



2012

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>1 Hampton Institute opened in 1868.</p>	<p>2 John Thompson became the first African American coach to win NCAA basketball tournament, 1984.</p>	<p>3 Carter G. Woodson, the father of African American history, died in 1950.</p>	<p>4 Maya Angelou, author and poet, was born in 1928.</p>	<p>5 Colin Powell was born in 1937. Booker T. Washington was born in 1856</p>	<p>6 Robert E. Perry and Matthew Henson reached the North Pole in 1909.</p>	<p>7 Billie Holliday, blues singer, was born in 1917.</p>
<p>8 Hank Aaron hit his 715th home run in 1974.</p>	<p>9 Civil Rights Bill granting citizenship passed in 1866.</p>	<p>10 Richard Allen was made Bishop of the AME Church in 1916.</p>	<p>11 Spelman College was founded in 1881. Percy L. Julian was born in 1899</p>	<p>12 Free African Society organized in 1787.</p>	<p>13 Thomas Jefferson's birthday.</p>	<p>14 The first abolition society in the U.S. was founded in Pennsylvania, 1775</p>
<p>15 Jackie Robinson made his Major League debut with the Brooklyn Dodgers in 1947.</p>	<p>16 Founding of Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee in 1960.</p>	<p>17 Rev. Ralph David Abernathy died in 1990.</p>	<p>18 Alex Haley won the Pulitzer Prize for Roots, 1977.</p>	<p>19 Cheyney State College, one of the oldest Black colleges in the U.S., was founded in 1837.</p>	<p>20 Harriet Tubman started working on the Underground Railroad, 1853.</p>	<p>21 Pvt. Milton L. Olive, III, was posthumously awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor in 1966.</p>
<p>22 Charles Mingus, bassist, composer, pianist and bandleader, was born in 1922.</p>	<p>23 Granville T. Woods, inventor of over 40 products, was born in 1856.</p>	<p>24 The United Negro College Fund was established in 1944.</p>	<p>25 Ella Fitzgerald, singer, was born in 1917.</p>	<p>26 William "Count" Basie, jazz pianist and musician, died in 1984.</p>	<p>27 Coretta Scott King, activist and wife of Martin Luther King, was born in 1927.</p>	<p>28 Samuel L. Gravelly became first African American admiral in the U.S. Navy in 1962.</p>
<p>29 "Duke" Ellington, musician and composer, was born in 1899.</p>	<p>30 Wallace Saunders wrote the song "Casey Jones" in 1900.</p>					



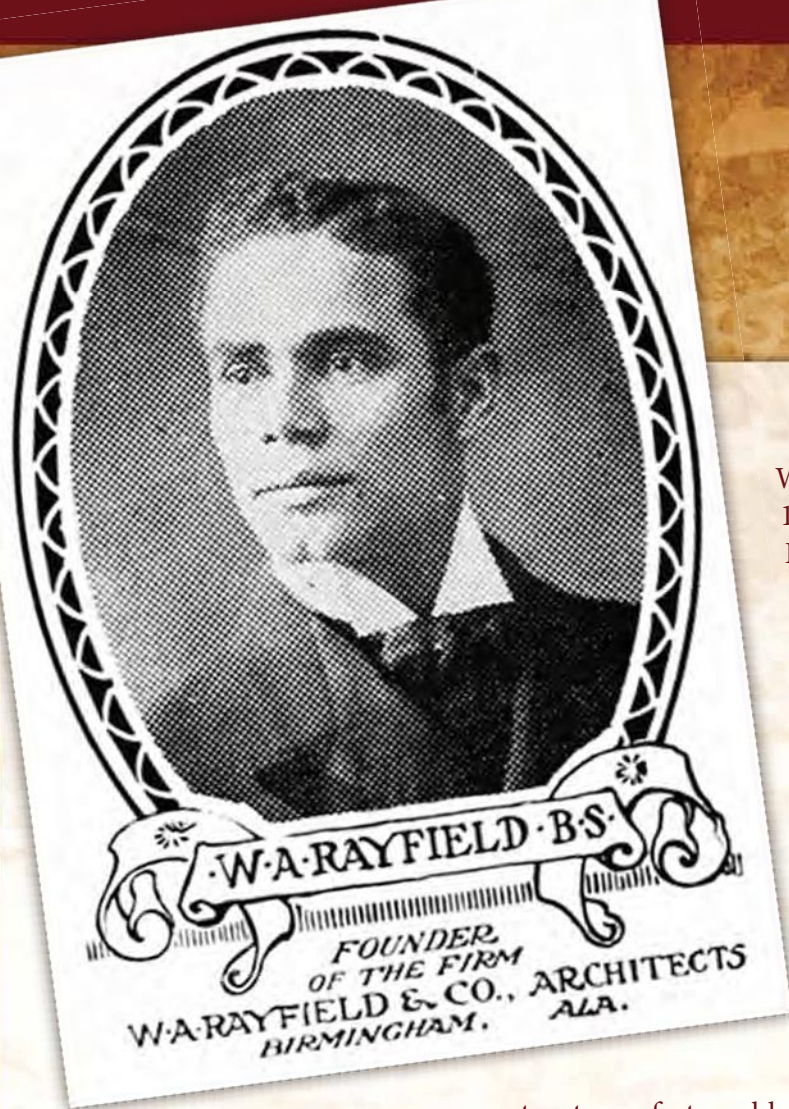
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MAY WALLACE RAYFIELD

Wallace Rayfield was a pioneer in the field of architecture. The Macon, Georgia native was born in May 1872 and received his early education there. Following his mother's death, Rayfield moved to Washington, DC, where he secured a position as an apprentice with a prominent architectural firm while also attending Howard University. To pursue his interest in architecture, Rayfield moved to New York. After earning a graduation certificate from the Pratt Polytechnic Institute, he completed his education with a bachelor of architecture degree from Columbia University, one of the nation's premier schools of architecture.

Following Rayfield's graduation from Columbia, Booker T. Washington recruited him to become director of the Architectural and Mechanical Drawing Department at Tuskegee Institute, where Rayfield worked until 1908. He opened his first private architectural office in Tuskegee in 1907, with branch offices in Alabama and Georgia. In 1908, he moved his practice to Birmingham, where his business began to expand. He designed buildings for clients throughout the South and in Africa. While his company handled many different types of structures, Rayfield's specialty was church buildings, including the historic Sixteenth Street Baptist Church in Birmingham.

Rayfield's records include files for 140 different projects in Alabama alone, including homes, commercial structures, fraternal buildings, and churches. His Alabama work also included six projects at Miles College, two at Tuskegee Institute, two at Alabama A & M, and single projects at Payne University, Selma University, and the West Alabama Normal and Industrial Institute. Rayfield's work outside of Alabama includes a long list of projects in Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, and West Virginia.

Rayfield enjoyed a successful career as an architect for more than twenty years until the construction slowdown, caused by the Great Depression of the 1930s, forced him to close his business. He suffered a stroke and died in February of 1941. In 2010, the University of Alabama Press published a book by Allen R. Dorough that contains an overview of Rayfield's life, with numerous photographs of buildings he designed and illustrations from drawings he used in his industrial drawing classes at Tuskegee. This book, and the collection of Rayfield's papers on which it is based, have confirmed his standing as a pioneer African American architect.

MAY



2012

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 Howard University in Washington, D.C. opened in 1867.	2 Elijah McCoy, inventor and holder of more than fifty patents, was born in 1844.	3 James Brown, Godfather of Soul, was born in 1933. Sugar Ray Robinson, middleweight boxing champion, was born in 1920.	4 Freedom Rides began in 1961.	5 Gwendolyn Brooks became the first Black Pulitzer Prize winner for Annie Allen in 1950. Cinco de Mayo.
6 Civil Rights Act signed by President Eisenhower in 1960.	7 J.R. Winters patented the fire escape, 1878.	8 Rev. Henry McNeal Turner died in 1915.	9 Slaves in Georgia, Florida and South Carolina were freed, 1862.	10 P.B.S. Pinchback, first Black state governor, was born in 1837. Wallace Rayfield was born in 1872	11 Dancer Martha Graham was born in 1854.	12 Robert Smalls seized Confederate warship in 1862.
13 Boxer Joe Louis was born in 1914.	14 In 1804, a slave known only as "York", accompanied Lewis and Clark on their expedition.	15 Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, founded at Indiana University, was incorporated in 1911.	16 Sammy Davis Jr. died in 1990.	17 Brown vs. Board of Education made "Separate But Equal" in public schools unconstitutional in 1954.	18 Reggie Jackson, baseball player, was born in 1946.	19 Malcolm X was born in 1925.
20 Robert N.C. Nix was elected to U.S. Congress in 1958.	21 Lowell W. Perry was confirmed as chairman of the Equal Opportunity Commission (EEOC) in 1975.	22 Claude McKay, poet, died in 1948.	23 Bob Marley, reggae legend, died in 1981.	24 Hal McRae was named manager of the Kansas City Royals in 1991.	25 Madame C.J. Walker, entrepreneur, died in 1919.	26 Althea Gibson won the French Open, becoming the first Black tennis player to win a major tennis title, 1956.
27 Louis Gossett Jr., actor, was born in 1936.	28 Eliza Ann Gardner, Underground Railroad conductor was born in 1831.	29 Thomas Bradley was elected mayor of Los Angeles in 1973.	30 Countee Cullen, poet, was born in 1903.	31 NAACP held first conference (as the National Negro Committee) in 1909.		



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THE TUSKEGEE AIRMEN

The Tuskegee Airmen flew into the history books during World War II. They were pioneers in the integration of the armed forces.

During WWII, the U.S. military was racially segregated. Most black service members were restricted to labor battalions and other support positions. The United States Army Air Forces (USAAF) launched an “experiment” to give blacks an opportunity to train to become pilots and leaders.

The airmen received primary training at Moton Field (Tuskegee University) and basic, advanced, and transitional training at Tuskegee Army Air Field. The USAAF built special facilities for the future pilots. They trained in the heart of the segregated South in the teeth of the Jim Crow era. When they left base, they were restricted to the laws of segregation; yet each volunteered to serve his country to defeat the forces of Fascism. Despite the hardships of dealing with crowded classrooms and some racist instructors, the black fliers became some of the most decorated pilots in the USAAF.

They became known as the Tuskegee Airmen, a title that has been given to all of the over 14 thousand participants who were trained or worked in the program at Tuskegee. Their ranks included pilots, bombardiers, navigators, doctors, nurses, mechanics, weathermen, parachute riggers, and other support personnel.

The Tuskegee Airmen were known for their courage under fire. While they could not train alongside their white counterparts, the black pilots were nicknamed “Red Tail Angels” because of the protection that they provided as escorts on bombing missions.

The first class completed training in March 1942. From that date until 1946, 992 pilots graduated from Tuskegee Army Air Field. Of these, 450 pilots served overseas in either the 99th Pursuit Squadron or the 332nd Fighter Group. The first class included George Roberts, Benjamin Davis Jr., Charles BeBow Jr., Mac Ross, and Lemuel Curtis. Captain Benjamin O. Davis Jr., was a 1936 West Point graduate. As a Colonel, Davis was the first black officer to command the 332nd. He later rose to the rank of Lt. General and in retirement was awarded a fourth star by President Clinton in 1993.

The airmen amassed an impressive military record. They flew 1578 missions for the 15th and 12th Air Forces during WWII, and destroyed or damaged more than 400 enemy aircraft, 950 ground units, and sank a destroyer. Sixty six pilots lost their lives in combat. The pilots also earned numerous honors for their courageous efforts: 96 Distinguished Flying Crosses, 8 Purple Hearts, 14 Bronze Stars, 744 Air Medals and Clusters, and 3 Distinguished Unit citations.

Over the years, the Tuskegee Airmen have become legends. They have been honored by United States Presidents and in 2007 the airmen were presented the Congressional Gold Medal for service during WWII. Their story has been told in numerous publications, and in movies and documentaries.

JUNE



2012

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 Sojourner Truth began anti-slavery activist career in 1843.	2 T. Thomas Fortune, journalist, died in 1928.
3 Wesley A. Brown became the first Black graduate of Annapolis Naval Academy in 1949.	4 Arna Bontemps, writer and educator, died in 1973.	5 In 1955, Martin Luther King Jr. was awarded his doctorate from Boston University.	6 Congress of Racial Equality founded in 1942.	7 Pulitzer Prize winning poet Gwendolyn Brooks was born in 1917.	8 Supreme Court banned segregation in Washington, D.C. restaurants in 1953.	9 Meta-Vaux Warick Fuller, sculptor, was born in 1877.
10 Hattie McDaniel, the first African American to win an Oscar (for Best Supporting Actress in "Gone With The Wind"), (1940), was born in 1898.	11 Hazel Dorothy Scott, classical pianist and singer, was born in 1920.	12 Medger Evers, civil rights activist, was assassinated in 1963.	13 Thurgood Marshall appointed to U.S. Supreme Court in 1967.	14 Harold D. West was named president of Meharry Medical College, 1952.	15 Errol Garner, singer and musician, was born in 1923.	16 Denmark Vesey led slave rebellion in South Carolina in 1822.
17 Thomas Ezekiel Miller, congressman, was born in 1849.	18 Nannie Burroughs founded National Training School for Women, 1909.	19 Juneteenth - African-American Independence Day. Juneteenth lauds the end of slavery in the United States.	20 Dr. Lloyd A. Hall, pioneer in food chemistry, was born in 1894.	21 Arthur Ashe, tennis champion, led UCLA to NCAA tennis championship, 1965.	22 Joe Louis became youngest world heavyweight boxing champion in 1937.	23 Track star Wilma Rudolph was born in 1909.
24 John R. Lynch became first African American to preside over deliberations of a national political party in 1884.	25 Joe Louis defeated Primo Carnera at Yankee Stadium in 1935.	26 James Weldon Johnson died in 1938.	27 Paul Laurence Dunbar, poet and novelist, was born in 1872.	28 Organization for Afro-American Unity founded in 1964.	29 James Van Der Zee, photographer, was born in Lenox, MA in 1886.	30 Lena Horne, actress, vocalist and activist, was born in 1917.



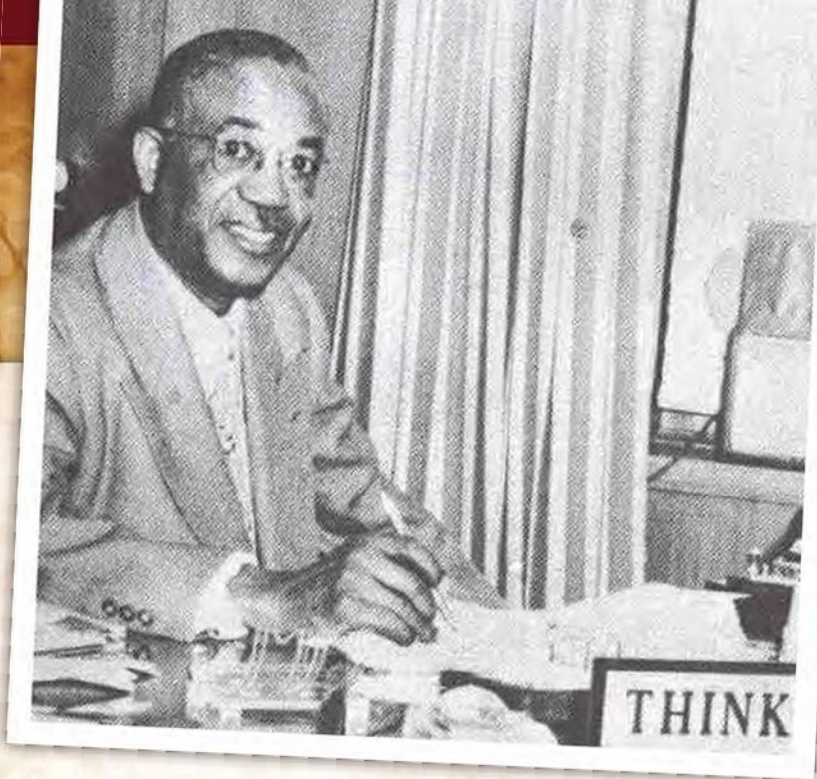
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JULY

A.G. GASTON

Birmingham businessman and entrepreneur A.G. Gaston (1892-1996), was one of the most successful African American business owners in Alabama. Overcoming humble beginnings and racial discrimination, Gaston built a \$40 million empire with an emphasis on diversified ventures.

Arthur George (A.G.) Gaston was born in Demopolis, Ala., on July 4, 1892, to Tom and Rosa Gaston. After his father's death, Gaston's mother worked as a cook for A. B. Lovemen, founder of the state's largest department store. When Gaston was 13, he and his mother moved to Birmingham with the Lovemans.

Shortly after arriving in Birmingham, Gaston's mother enrolled him in the Tuggle Institute, a privately run charitable school for African Americans, which adopted Tuskegee's Booker T. Washington's message of self-initiative in skilled trades and business. Washington, who periodically made speeches at the Tuggle Institute, became Gaston's role model. Inspired by his messages, Gaston grew restless and left the Tuggle Institute, taking odd jobs before enlisting in the military.

After returning to civilian life, Gaston opened the Booker T. Washington Burial Society which helped to make funerals more affordable for African Americans. He later established the highly successful Booker T. Washington Insurance Company, offering life, health, accident, and burial insurance, as well as undertaking, casket manufacturing and sales of burial plots.

Gaston continued to expand his empire. Seeing a shortage of black clerks and typist, he opened Booker T. Washington Business College. He added the Vulcan Realty and Investment Company, the A.G. Gaston Home for Senior Citizens, WENN-FM and WAGG-AM radio stations, S & G Public Relations Company and the A.G. Gaston Motel. He also opened Citizens Federal Savings & Loan Association, the first black-owned financial institution in Birmingham since Alabama Penny Savings Bank 40 years earlier. At the age of 94, Gaston again added to his empire by starting the A.G. Gaston Construction Company in 1986.

Although Gaston was not an outspoken advocate for Civil Rights, he supported the movement in many ways. He encouraged his customers to save money and register to vote. He managed to get the "Whites only" signs removed from fountains in First National Bank as a result of privately threatening to close his account with the bank. He provided a job to Autherine Lucy which gave her financial support to become the first black student to register at the University of Alabama. He provided space for Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Rev. Ralph David Abernathy at low rates to plan their protests. He also posted bail for Dr. King after his arrest in the Birmingham campaign. Gaston's motel was bombed in 1963, as well as his home.

Gaston died in 1996 at the age of 103.

JULY



2012

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>1 Carl Lewis, athlete, was born in 1961.</p>	<p>2 Civil Rights Act of 1964 signed. Thurgood Marshall was born in 1908.</p>	<p>3 First African American baseball player in the major leagues, Jackie Robinson, was named to Baseball Hall of Fame in 1962.</p>	<p>4 Tuskegee Institute established in 1881. A.G. Gaston was born in 1892</p>	<p>5 Arthur Ashe won the men's Wimbledon singles championship in 1975.</p>	<p>6 Althea Gibson won Wimbledon in 1957.</p>	<p>7 Margaret Walker, writer, was born in 1915.</p>
<p>8 Venus Williams wins Wimbledon in 2000.</p>	<p>9 Dr. Daniel Hale Williams performs first successful open-heart operation in 1893</p>	<p>10 Mary McLeod Bethune, educator, was born in 1875.</p>	<p>11 Civil rights activist W.E.B. Du Bois founded the Niagara Movement in 1905.</p>	<p>12 Bill Cosby, entertainer, was born in 1937.</p>	<p>13 Continental Congress excluded slavery from Northwest Territory in 1787.</p>	<p>14 George Washington Carver National Monument dedicated in Joplin, MO in 1951.</p>
<p>15 Pompey Lamb, noted spy, aids the American Revolutionary War effort, 1779.</p>	<p>16 V. A. Johnson, first Black female to argue before the U.S. Supreme Court, was born in 1882.</p>	<p>17 Billie Holliday, singer, died in 1959.</p>	<p>18 Lemuel Hayes, first Black Congregationalist minister, was born in 1753.</p>	<p>19 Patricia R. Harris named Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare in 1979.</p>	<p>20 First U.S. victory in Korea was won by African American troops in the 24th Infantry Regiment, in 1950.</p>	<p>21 The 14th Amendment was ratified in 1868. Billie Jean Young was born in 1947.</p>
<p>22 Abraham Lincoln read the first draft of the Emancipation Proclamation to his cabinet in 1861.</p>	<p>23 Louis Tompkins Wright, physician, was born in 1924.</p>	<p>24 Mary Church Terrell, educator, died in 1954.</p>	<p>25 Garrett T. Morgan, inventor of the gas mask, rescued six people from a gasfilled tunnel in Cleveland, Ohio, in 1916.</p>	<p>26 President Truman banned discrimination in the armed services in 1948.</p>	<p>27 Inventor A.P. Abourne was awarded patent for refining coconut oil in 1880.</p>	<p>28 The 14th Amendment was adopted in 1868.</p>
<p>29 The first National Convention of Black Women was held in Boston in 1895.</p>	<p>30 Adam Clayton Powell Jr., activist and politician, was elected congressman from Harlem in 1945.</p>	<p>31 Whitney Young, an executive director of the National Urban League, was born in 1921.</p>				



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AUGUST

MARVA COLLINS

The name Marva Collins has become synonymous with the title “educator.” Collins was born Marva Nettles in Monroeville, Alabama on August 31, 1936. She was raised in Atmore during the years of segregation and attended schools that had limited resources, few books, and no running water. But her family instilled in her a sense of pride and a desire for excellence. Her father, Alex Nettles, was himself a successful businessman. After graduating from Clark College in Atlanta, Collins taught for two years in Alabama. She then moved to Chicago and taught in the public school system there for fourteen years.

As an educator and a parent, Marva was appalled at what she saw in the school system. In 1975, with \$5,000 from her work retirement account, Collins opened her own school using the second floor of her home. She called it the Westside Preparatory School and it opened with only six students, including her two children. Collins’ school accepted students of all kinds, many of whom had been failed by larger school systems and many of whom had been diagnosed with learning disabilities. By the end of the first year, her students were already showing enormous improvements in their test scores. Her school quickly expanded into a new facility and became an important center of education on the south side of Chicago.

Collins’ teaching centered on the Socratic Method, and she emphasized phonics, math, reading, English, and the classics, such as Homer, Plato, Chaucer, and Shakespeare. She challenged her students, and they responded. Many went on to prominent colleges and universities across the United States and to successful professional careers. Because of her remarkable record, Collins quickly attracted wide attention, and in a short time she emerged as nationally recognized speaker, author, and educational mentor.

In 1981, she was the subject of a television movie, *The Marva Collins Story*, starring Cicely Tyson and Morgan Freeman that added further to her fame. In 1990, she wrote a highly acclaimed book about education entitled “*Marva Collins’ Way*”. She was also the subject of a major story on *Sixty Minutes*. Throughout these years, Collins traveled extensively as a speaker, sending most of her earnings back to her beloved school.

Collins has received numerous awards, including the Jefferson Award for Benefiting the Disadvantaged, the Humanitarian Award for Excellence, and in 2004, one of the highest honors awarded to an American citizen, the National Humanities Medal. Collins has also received honorary doctorates from Amherst, Dartmouth, and Notre Dame Universities.

Marva Collins continues to have a lasting and positive impact on the America’s educational system and the lives of hundreds of students.

AUGUST



2012

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			<p>1 Whitney Young named executive director of the National Urban League in 1961.</p> <p>Benjamin E. Mays was born in 1895.</p>	<p>2 James Baldwin, writer, was born in 1924.</p>	<p>3 The Congress of African Peoples convention was held in Atlanta in 1970.</p>	<p>4 "Long" John Woodruff won an Olympic gold medal in the 800-meter run in 1936.</p> <p>Barack Obama, 44th President of the United States born in 1961</p>
<p>5 Nelson Mandela, South African freedom fighter, imprisoned in 1962. He was not released until 1990.</p>	<p>6 Voting Rights Act signed by President Johnson in 1965.</p>	<p>7 Ralph J. Bunche, diplomat and first African American winner of the Nobel Peace Prize, was born in 1904.</p>	<p>8 Matthew A. Henson, explorer and first to reach the North Pole, was born in 1865.</p>	<p>9 Jesse Owens won four Olympic gold medals in 1936.</p>	<p>10 Clarence C. White, composer and violinist, died in 1880.</p>	<p>11 Thaddeus Stevens, abolitionist, died in 1868.</p>
<p>12 Frederick Douglass' home in Washington D.C. was declared a national shrine in 1922.</p>	<p>13 Baltimore Afro-American Newspaper was founded in 1892.</p>	<p>14 Ernest Everett Just, scientist, was born in 1883.</p>	<p>15 Liberia established by freed American slaves in 1824. Assumption Day.</p>	<p>16 Louis Lomax, author, was born in 1922.</p>	<p>17 Marcus Garvey was born in 1887.</p>	<p>18 The first African American admitted to the University of Mississippi, James Meredith, graduated in 1963.</p>
<p>19 Benjamin Banneker published his first Almanac in 1791.</p>	<p>20 Richard Allen chaired the first National Negro Convention in Philadelphia in 1830.</p>	<p>21 William "Count" Basie, jazz pianist and musician, was born in 1904.</p>	<p>22 John Lee Hooker, blues singer and guitarist, was born in 1917.</p>	<p>23 National Negro Business League founded in 1900.</p>	<p>24 Edith Sampson was appointed first African American delegate to the United Nations by Harry S. Truman in 1950.</p>	<p>25 Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters organized in 1925.</p>
<p>26 William Dawson elected Black Democratic Party vice-presidential candidate in 1943.</p>	<p>27 W.E.B. DuBois died in 1963.</p>	<p>28 March on Washington in 1963.</p>	<p>29 Charlie "Bird" Parker, jazz musician, was born in Kansas City in 1920.</p>	<p>30 Lt. Col. Guion S. Bluford Jr. became the first African American astronaut in space in 1983.</p>	<p>31 Eldridge Cleaver was born in 1935. Marva Collins was born in 1936</p>	



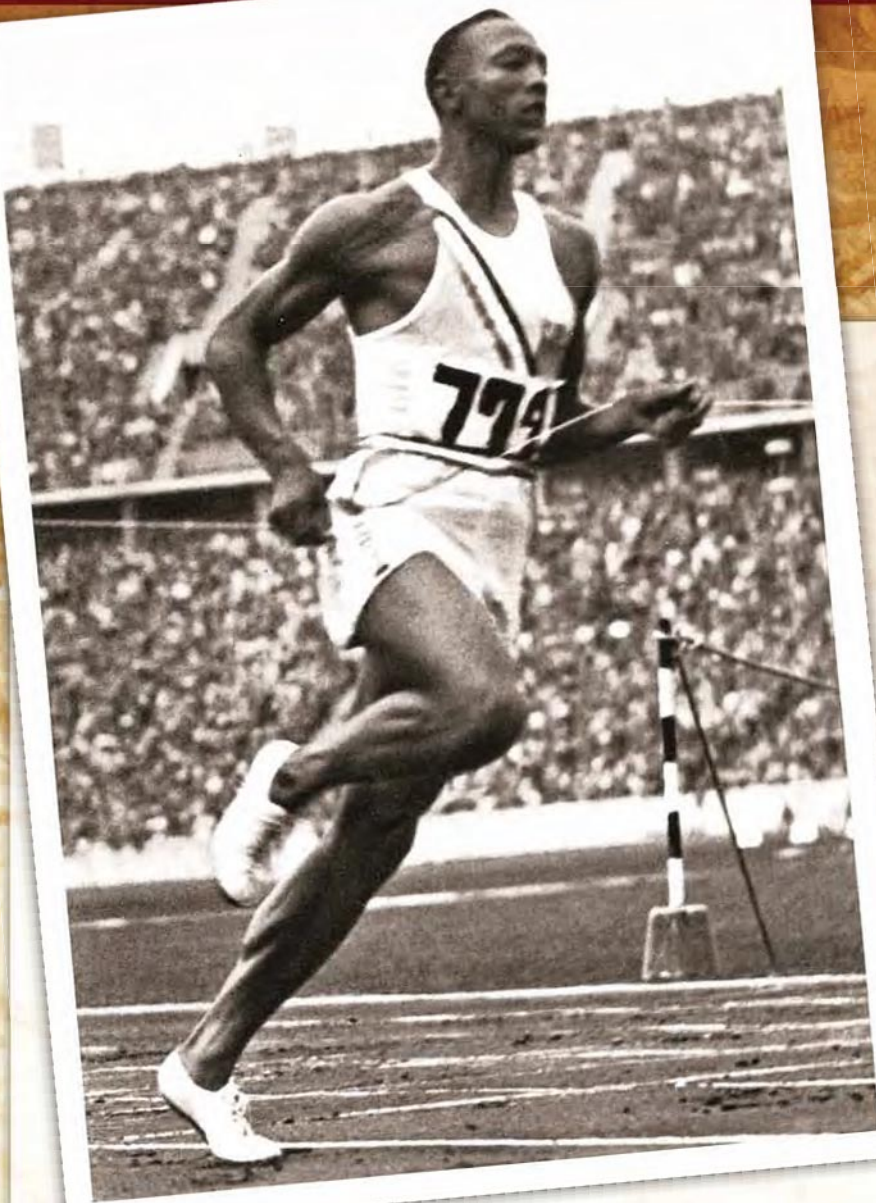
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SEPTEMBER

JESSE OWENS

Jesse Owens, born James Cleveland Owens on September 12, 1912, in Oakville, Alabama, achieved greatness in track and field by setting a seemingly unbreakable world record in the long jump event. That record stood for 25 years. Owens also won four gold medals in the 1936 Olympic Games in Berlin, after which he attained mythic status for defeating Nazi leader Adolf Hitler's idea of Aryan supremacy.

When Owens was nine years old, his sharecropping family left Alabama for Cleveland, Ohio where "J. C." soon became Jesse, and a star athlete. While working to pay his own way through school at The Ohio State University, Owens shattered world records in such events as the 220-yard dash, the 220-yard low hurdles and the long jump. But his Olympic performances in 1936 sealed his fate as an American legend when he jumped 26.4 feet and into the hearts of millions, something that had never been done before, let alone by an African American.

For years, Owens either held alone or shared records held by members of the International Association of Athletics Federations. Once retired from competitive track, he became, among other things, an inspirational public speaker. In 1955, President Dwight Eisenhower named Owens an Ambassador of Sports, and he travelled the world promoting the virtues of amateur athletics. As a celebrated citizen,

Owens provided support to youth service organizations worldwide and authored two autobiographical books. As a businessman, he worked as a dry cleaner and DJ, toured with the Harlem Globetrotters and later owned a successful public relations and marketing firm.

Jesse Owens was inducted into the Alabama Sports Hall of Fame in 1970. Awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom by Gerald Ford in 1976, Owens died of cancer in Phoenix, Arizona on March 31, 1980. He was buried in Chicago, Illinois. In 1988, Owens' wife of 48 years, Ruth, was presented the Congressional Gold Medal on his behalf by President George Bush. And in 1996, sixty years after his triumph at the Berlin games, citizens in Owens' hometown of Oakville dedicated Jesse Owens Memorial Park and Museum in his honor.

SEPTEMBER



2012

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 General Daniel "Chappie" James Jr. named Commander-in-Chief of North American Air Defense Command in 1975.
2 Frank Robinson, professional baseball player, named MVP of the American League, 1966.	3 Charles Houston, NAACP leader, was born in 1895.	4 Louis Latimer, inventor and engineer, was born in 1848.	5 George Washington Murray was elected to Congress from South Carolina in 1895.	6 The National Black Convention met in Cleveland in 1848.	7 Integration in public schools began in Washington, D.C. and Baltimore in 1954.	8 Althea Gibson became the first African American athlete to win a U.S. national tennis championship in 1957.
9 Carter G. Woodson founded the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History in 1915.	10 Mordecai Johnson, first Black president of Howard University, died in 1976.	11 "Duke" Ellington won Spingarn Medal for his musical achievements in 1959.	12 Jackie Robinson, first Black baseball player in the major leagues, was named National League Rookie of the Year in 1947. Jesse Owens was born in 1912	13 Alain L. Locke, philosopher and first black Rhodes Scholar, was born in 1886.	14 U.S. Cabinet member Constance Baker Motley was born in 1921.	15 Dr. Mae Jemison became first African American female astronaut in space in 1992.
16 Claude A. Barnett, founder of the Associated Negro Press, was born in 1889.	17 United States Constitution signed in 1787.	18 Booker T. Washington delivered "Atlanta Compromise" address in 1895.	19 Atlanta University was founded in 1865.	20 First episode of 'The Cosby Show' aired in 1984.	21 F.W. Leslie, inventor, patented the envelope seal in 1891.	22 Ralph Bunch awarded Nobel Peace Prize in 1950.
23 John Coltrane, innovative and famed jazz musician, was born in 1926. 30 Johnny Mathis, singer, was born in 1935.	24 Nine African American students integrated Little Rock High School in 1957.	25 Barbara W. Hancock became the first African American woman named a White House Fellow, 1974.	26 Bessie Smith, blues singer, died in 1937.	27 'Memphis Blues' published in 1912.	28 'Appeal to the Colored Citizens of the World' published in 1929.	29 Hugh Mulzac, first African American captain of a U.S. merchant ship, launched with the 'Booker T. Washington' in 1942.



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OCTOBER

MICHAEL A. FIGURES

Senator Michael A. Figures was a trailblazer in Alabama's legal sphere as well as in the state legislature. He triumphed over racial barriers to become one of the most revered lawyers and state senators in recent history.

Figures was born in Mobile, Alabama, on October 13, 1947, as the youngest of three boys. In 1969, he received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Stillman College in Tuscaloosa. Three years later, he became one of the first three African Americans to earn his Juris Doctorate from the University of Alabama School of Law.

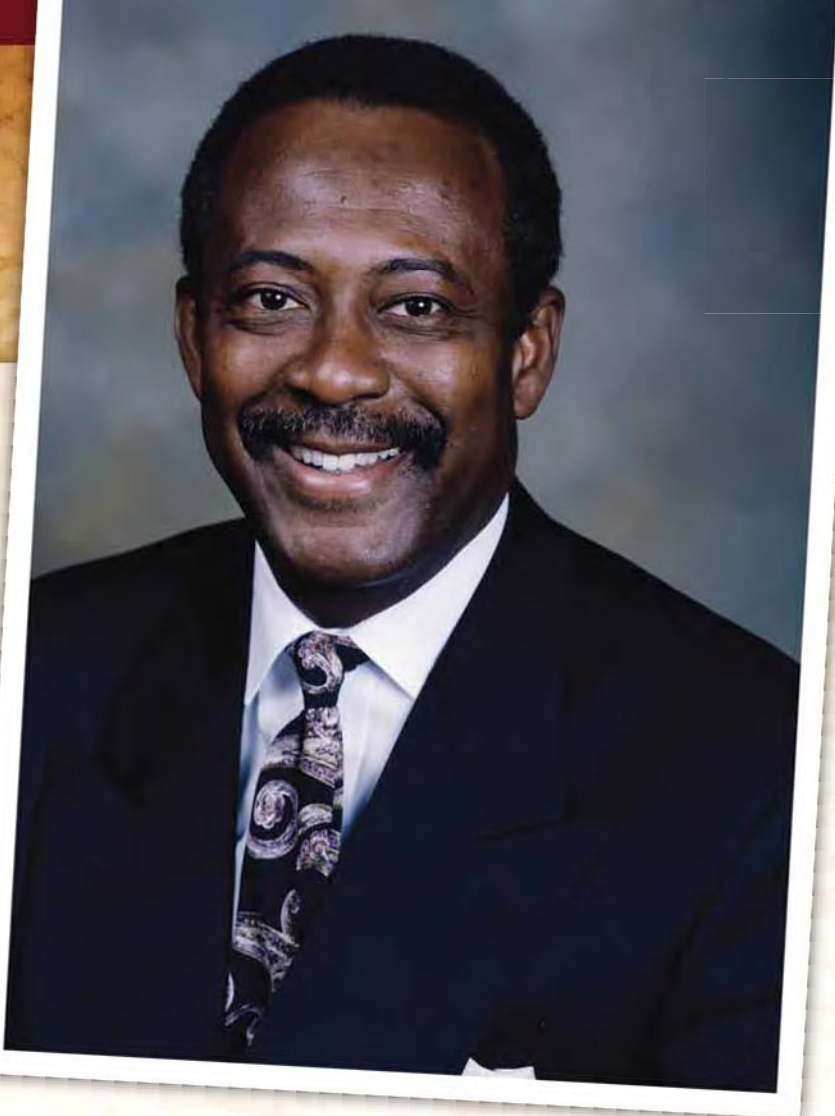
Figures began practicing public interest law, and in 1975, returned to Mobile to partner with the "Dean of Black Lawyers," Vernon Z. Crawford. He later established his own practice, taking up the cause of labor unions and small businesses, as well as the common man.

In 1987, Figures served as co-counsel with the Southern Poverty Law Center in winning a major victory against the United Klans of America that resulted in a \$7 million verdict against the organization and the two men charged with lynching Michael Donald, a black teenager. He was also instrumental in litigation that ended at-large elections in Mobile. His efforts in the courtroom earned him the Trial Lawyer of the Year designation in 1987.

Figures' legislative career began in 1978 when he defeated a white incumbent senator from Mobile County. This was the first time the citizens of Mobile County would have a black senator representing them in the State House. Figures held his seat for 18 years, during which time he was voted "Outstanding Legislator" (1986) and was elected President Pro-Tempore of the Senate, making him the highest-ranking African American in state government (1995).

During his time in the legislature he was instrumental in many initiatives, one of which was the "Helping School" tags campaign started in 1990. Because of his efforts, over \$600,000 is generated annually for local schools. His legislative interests were broad, ranging from the structure of Mobile city government to education reform. And he continued throughout his tenure as a legislative advocate for the rights of the less privileged, from helping protect the heirs of small farms to authoring and championing fair housing legislation.

The promise of an even brighter future was cut short with his untimely passing on September 13, 1996. He was posthumously inducted into the Alabama Lawyers Hall of Fame in 2009.



OCTOBER



2012

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 Colin Powell was appointed first African American Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff in 1989.	2 Thurgood Marshall was sworn in, becoming the first African American Supreme Court Justice in 1967.	3 Nat King Cole was the first black performer to host his own television show in 1956.	4 National Black Convention met in Syracuse, N.Y. in 1864.	5 Congresswoman Yvonne Burke was born in 1932.	6 Fisk Jubilee Singers began national tour in 1871.
7 Toni Morrison became first African American to win Nobel Prize in literature.	8 Jesse Jackson was born in 1941.	9 O.B. Clare patented the rail trestle in 1888.	10 Singer Ben Vereen was born in 1946.	11 A. Miles patented the elevator in 1887.	12 Richard ("Dick") Gregory was born in 1932.	13 Arna W. Bontemps, noted poet, was born in 1902. Michael A. Figures was born in 1947
14 Martin Luther King, Jr. awarded Nobel Peace Prize in 1964.	15 Clarence Thomas confirmed to the U.S. Supreme Court in 1992.	16 John Brown led attack on Harper's Ferry in 1859.	17 Capital Savings Bank opened in Washington, D.C. in 1888.	18 Novelist Terry McMillan was born in 1951.	19 The U.S. Navy was opened to African American women in 1944.	20 John Merrick organized North Carolina Mutual Life Insurance Company in 1898.
21 "Dizzy" Gillespie was born in Cheraw, S.C. in 1917.	22 Clarence S. Green became the first African American certified in neurological surgery.	23 The NAACP petitioned the United Nations about racial injustice in 1947.	24 Jackie Robinson died in 1972.	25 Benjamin O. Davis became the first African American general in the U.S. Army in 1940.	26 Inventor T. Marshall patented the fire extinguisher in 1872.	27 P. B. Downing, inventor, patented his street letter box in 1891.
28 Founder of The Underground Railroad, Levi Coffin, was born in 1798.	29 The Supreme Court ordered end to segregation in schools "at once" in 1969.	30 Richard Arrington was elected the first Black mayor of Birmingham, Ala., in 1979.	31 Ethel Waters, actress and singer, was born in 1900.			



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NOVEMBER

W. C. HANDY

A native of Florence, Alabama, W.C. Handy (1873-1958) was a songwriter, arranger, music publisher, and folklorist who became known as the “Father of the Blues.” One of the most important American songwriters between 1910 and 1925, Handy introduced Blues into mainstream popular culture by writing down and combining fragments of melodies and words, turning these into complete written compositions, and disseminating them via sheet music, performances, and recordings.

William Christopher Handy was born on November 16, 1873 to Charles Bernard Handy and Elizabeth Brewer. The son and grandson of ministers, Handy was discouraged from taking part in secular music but was exposed to it through neighborhood musicians in his early years.

After earning a teaching certificate from Huntsville Teachers Agricultural and Mechanical College (now Alabama A&M University) where he would later teach, Handy briefly worked for Bessemer Iron Works but the musical itch stayed with him. He later began traveling with different bands and minstrels where he journeyed from Mississippi and landed in Memphis, Tennessee, a city filled with aspiring musicians.

While in Memphis, Handy was commissioned to write a campaign song for mayoral candidate Edward Crump. The song, “Mr. Crump,” swept the city and Crump won the election. Three years later, Handy transformed the song into “Memphis Blues” which he published himself in 1912 with his publishing company, Pace & Handy Publishing Company, partnering with businessman Harry H. Pace. Handy and the company relocated to New York in 1917.

Between 1914 and 1921, Handy produced a string of hits including “Yellow Dog Blues,” “Joe Turner Blues,” “Aunt Hagar’s Children Blues,” and “Beale Street Blues.” His masterpiece, “St. Louis Blues,” is the most recorded composition in history. Handy co-wrote the film “St. Louis Blues” starring Bessie Smith.

He died in Yonkers, New York on March 28, 1958 at the age of 84. Approximately 150,000 people honored Handy at his funeral service.

NOVEMBER



2012

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 First issue of "Ebony" published in 1945. First issue of "Crisis" published in 1910.	2 President Ronald Reagan signed law designating the third Monday in January Martin Luther King Jr. Day in 1983.	3 South Carolina State College was established in 1896.
4 T. Elkins patented the refrigerating apparatus in 1879.	5 Walter E. Washington elected Mayor of Washington, D.C. in 1974.	6 Absalom Jones, minister, was born in 1746.	7 David Dinkins elected first Black Mayor of New York City in 1989.	8 Edward W. Brooke was elected first Black U.S. Senator (R- Mass.) in 85 years in 1966.	9 Benjamin Banneker, surveyor, was born in 1731.	10 Andrew Hatcher was named Associate Press Secretary to President John F. Kennedy, becoming the first Black Press Secretary in 1960.
11 Nat Turner, leader of a Virginia slave revolt, was hanged in 1831.	12 In 1775, General George Washington issued an order, later rescinded, which forbade recruiting officers to enlist Blacks.	13 Dwight Gooden won baseball's Cy Young Award in 1985.	14 Booker T. Washington died in 1915.	15 In 1979, the Nobel Prize in Economics was awarded to Professor Arthur Lewis of Princeton.	16 "Father of the Blues," W.C. Handy, was born in Florence, Ala. in 1873.	17 Omega Psi Phi was founded on the campus of Howard University in 1911.
18 Abolitionist and orator Sojourner Truth was born in 1797.	19 Roy Campanella was named the National League MVP for the second time in 1953.	20 Garrett T. Morgan patented the traffic signal in 1923.	21 Shaw University was founded in 1865.	22 Alrutheus A. Taylor, teacher and historian, was born in 1893.	23 J.L. Love put patents on the pencil sharpener in 1897.	24 Scott Joplin, composer, born in 1868.
25 Luther "Bill" Robinson, dancer, died in 1949.	26 Sojourner Truth, evangelist, died in 1883.	27 Richard Wright, author, died in 1960.	28 Ernie Davis became the first African American to win the Heisman Trophy in 1961.	29 Congressman Adam Clayton Powell, Jr. was born in 1908.	30 Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm was born in 1924.	



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DECEMBER ODESSA WOOLFOLK

Odessa Woolfolk is known for her work as an educator, public administrator and civic activist. Her professional experience includes: Birmingham High School teacher, and senior level administrative positions with the Jefferson County Committee for Economic Opportunity (JCCEO). The YWCA of Utica, New York, The Arbor Hill Interracial Council of Albany, New York, The New York State Urban Development Corporation, New York City, New York and the Urban Reinvestment Task Force of Washington D.C.

During her extensive career with the University of Alabama in Birmingham (UAB) Woolfolk directed the Center for Urban Affairs, taught urban history and served as Assistant to the President for Community relations. Her expertise was applying academic research to urban problem solving. At her retirement from UAB in 1993 the University established the Odessa Woolfolk Presidential Community Service Award to be given annually to a member of the faculty.

Woolfolk was frequently cited in local newspapers as one of the region's most influential citizens because of her service in the fields of housing, education, community development and public welfare. She continues to be known as one who crossed racial, ethnic, geographic and socio-economic boundaries to promote civic engagement, community leadership and race relations.

She was State Chair of the National Conference of Christian and Jews, first African American President of Operation New Birmingham's Board of Directors and founding member of Leadership Birmingham. She was the 'driving force' behind the establishment of the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute and is its Emerita President and Board Chair. The Institute named a gallery in her honor.

A Birmingham native she graduated from the A. H. Parker High School. She earned a B.A. Degree from Talladega College (Alabama) and a Master's from Occidental College (California). She pursued additional studies in political science at the University of Chicago, and as a National Urban Fellow at Yale University.

Woolfolk has received scores of honors including the Humanitarian Award from the Alabama Humanities Foundation and the Pioneer Award by the Alabama Shakespeare Theatre. She was inducted in the Birmingham Gallery of Distinguished Citizens and the Alabama Academy of Honor. She was awarded honorary doctorates by Talladega College, The University of the South at Sewanee and Birmingham-Southern College. Her personal credo is – Only enlightened intelligent personal concern for the world in which we live can solve the problems of our day.

DECEMBER



2012

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat on a public bus in 1955.
2 Historian Charles Wesley was born in 1891.	3 First issue of North Star newspaper published in 1847.	4 American Anti-Slavery Society organized in 1833.	5 Mary McLeod Bethune, educator, founded National Council of Negro Women, 1935.	6 In 1971 Lewis Franklin Powell was confirmed as U.S. Supreme Court justice.	7 Lester Granger was named executive director of the National Urban League in 1941.	8 Entertainer Sammy Davis Jr. was born in 1925.
9 Entertainer Redd Foxx was born in 1925.	10 Ralph J. Bunche becomes the first African American awarded a Nobel Peace Prize in 1950.	11 P.B.S. Pinchback became the first African American governor of an American state, Louisiana, in 1872.	12 Joseph H. Rainey (S.C.) first African American elected to Congress in 1870.	13 First black women complete officer training for the WAVES, 1944.	14 Congressman John Langston was born in 1829.	15 Maggie Lena Walker, banker, died in 1934.
16 Andrew Young of Georgia named ambassador and chief delegate to the United Nations in 1976.	17 Noble Sissle, lyricist and bandleader, died in 1975.	18 The 13th Amendment was ratified in 1865.	19 Carter G. Woodson, historian, was born in 1875. Odessa Woolfolk was born	20 South Carolina seceded from the Union in 1860.	21 Motown Records established in 1959 by Berry Gordy Jr.	22 Historian, and author of "Destruction of Black Civilization", Dr. Chancellor Williams was born in 1898.
23 Alice H. Parker patented the gas heating furnace in 1919. 30 Blues composer and singer Bo Diddley born in 1928.	24 Irwin C. Mollison, first African American Judge of the Customs Court, was born in 1898. 31 Odetta Felious Gordon, folk singer and activist, was born in 1930.	25 In 1971 Rev. Jesse Jackson organized Operation PUSH (People United to Save Humanity).	26 In 1924, DeFord Bailey, Sr. became the first African American to perform on the Grand Ole Opry.	27 Pioneer of blood plasma research, Dr. Charles Richard Drew, established a blood bank in New York City in 1941.	28 Earl "Fatha" Hines, famed jazz musician and father of modern jazz piano, was born in 1905.	29 Thomas Bradley was born in 1917.



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