

Alabama
AFRICAN
AMERICAN
History Calendar
2013



AT&T ALABAMA A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

For the third year, I am very pleased that AT&T, along with our valuable partners, is presenting the Alabama African American History Calendar. The past two years have been a stunning success. With the help and support of our educators and the larger community, we have been able to reach thousands of students with inspiring stories of some of Alabama's best known, and sometimes unknown, heroes.

And for the third year, the Alabama Department of Education will present a comprehensive curriculum for use in schools across Alabama. I feel that this is one of the most important parts of this project: leveraging the incredible teachers in the classroom to make sure we are reaching students in a meaningful way. And of course the fact that we are making it available on the internet using modern communications technology is important as well.

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.

REFERENCES & RESOURCES

Birmingham Civil Rights Institute – Birmingham, Alabama

Alabama State University – Montgomery, Alabama

Alabama A&M University – Huntsville, Alabama

Alabama Department of Archives and History – Montgomery, Alabama

Encyclopedia of Alabama

Biography.com

January - Jesse Lewis, Sr.

Birmingham Times, Birmingham, Alabama; The Lewis Group, Birmingham, Alabama

February - Rosa Parks

Rosa and Raymond Parks Institute for Self Development, Detroit Michigan

March - Nat King Cole

Nat King Cole Generation Hope, Inc. Boca Raton, Florida; South Bay Music, Redondo Beach, California

April - Cudjo Lewis

Photograph courtesy of Lewis Family

May - William Hooper Council

BlackPast.org, Seattle, Washington (Contributor Christopher Thomas Blue); Alabama A&M University, Huntsville, Alabama; Rayford W. Logan and Michael R. Winston, eds., Dictionary of American Negro Biography (New York: Norton, 1982); August Meier, Negro Thought in America 1880-1915, Racial Ideologies in the Age of Booker T. Washington, (University of Michigan Press, 1964); Vivian Gunn Morris, Curtis L. Morris and Asa G. Hilliard, III, The Price They Paid: Desegregation in an African American Community (New York: Teachers College Press, 2002).

June - Sonia Sanchez

Beacon Press, Boston, Massachusetts

July - Satchel Paige

Photograph courtesy of the National Baseball Hall of Fame Library, Cooperstown, New York.

August - Angelia D. Walker

National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), Marshall Space Flight Center, Huntsville, Alabama

September - 4 Little Girls 16th Street Baptist Church

Carole Robertson Center for Learning, Chicago, Illinois - Contributor Dianne Robertson Braddock; The Family and Friends of Denise McNair; The Family and Friends of Addie Mae Collins; The Family and Friends of Cynthia Wesley; The Family and Friends of Carole Robertson

October - Joseph E. Lowery

Joseph E. Lowery Institute for Justice and Human Rights at Clark University

November - James T. Rapier

Image courtesy of Collection of the U.S. House of Representatives

December - Lonnie Johnson

Johnson Research and Development Co., Inc.





JANUARY

JESSE LEWIS, SR.

From High School drop-out to recipient of 4 college degrees, Jesse Lewis, Sr. has earned many titles including World War II Veteran, College President, Author, Advertising Executive, and Newspaper Publisher. From the very beginning Dr. Jesse J. Lewis, Sr. has always lived by the motto, “The harder you work, the luckier you get.” And for Lewis, hard work has brought him a lot of luck as a businessman and entrepreneur.

Lewis was born on January 3, 1925, in Tuscaloosa, Alabama. At the age of 16, he dropped out of high school and joined the United States Army. He served as an infantry soldier during World War II and participated in the European Operation. After leaving the Army, Lewis finished high school and enrolled at Miles College earning a degree in accounting and business administration. While at Miles, Lewis was introduced to the world of marketing and advertising, which started his journey on a path that few African-Americans had taken, and during a time when marketing in the black community was virtually nonexistent. Lewis continued his education and received his master’s from Troy State University and doctorate from Atlanta University. He later became president of Lawson State Community College.

In 1954, Lewis opened Jesse J. Lewis and Associates advertising agency, one of the first black-owned agencies in the United States. In 1963, Lewis started the Birmingham Times, a weekly black-oriented newspaper. Needing revenues to support this new venture, in true entrepreneurial spirit, Lewis negotiated a deal with Joe Bruno, founder of Bruno’s Grocery Store to run a full-page weekly ad in the Birmingham Times for \$40 per week and to ensure that the printing presses kept rolling he requested payments in advance. After more than 30 years of running the Birmingham Times, Lewis sold the newspaper to his son James in 1994, but he continues to work as a contributing writer for the Times. In addition to his work in the advertising and publishing arenas, Lewis was a principal owner of the first Black-owned Walgreen Drug Store in Alabama, founder and president of Lewis Mortgage Investment Company, author of three books, and is currently President and CEO of The Lewis Group, a political, project and policy consulting firm.

Dr. Jesse J. Lewis, Sr. is a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. He is married to Helen M. Lewis and the father of two sons.

JANUARY



2013

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		<p>1 George Washington Carver was born in 1864.</p>	<p>2 Emancipation Proclamation issued in 1863.</p>	<p>3 William Loyd Garrison began publishing The Liberator, an abolitionist newspaper, in 1831. Jesse Lewis, Sr. was born in 1925</p>	<p>4 Adam Clayton Powell, Jr. was elected chairperson of the House Committee on Education and Labor in 1961.</p>	<p>5 George Washington Carver died in 1943. Grace Brumby, opera singer, was born in 1937.</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>		





FEBRUARY

ROSA PARKS

The birth of the Modern Civil Rights Movement began December 1, 1955, the day Rosa Parks, a seamstress and Youth Director of the NAACP, refused to give up her bus seat to a white male passenger. Her refusal spurred the Montgomery Bus Boycott, as well as sparked a nationwide movement that ended legal segregation in America.

Born Rosa Louise McCauley on February 4, 1913, in Tuskegee, Alabama, she attended a one room school house in Pine Level, Alabama until the fifth grade and then the Montgomery Industrial School for Girls at age 11 in Montgomery, Alabama. Later, she attended Alabama State Teachers College (a high school). Rosa McCauley had to drop out of high school to care for her ill grandmother and later her mother. Following her marriage to Raymond Parks in December, 1932, she returned to Alabama State Teachers College in 1933, with her husband's encouragement, and received her diploma. They both joined the local chapter of the NAACP to help improve the plight of African-Americans in the South.

On December 1, 1955, after a long day at Montgomery Fair Department Store where Mrs. Parks worked as a tailor's assistant, she boarded the Cleveland Avenue bus to go home. She sat in the first of many rows that were designated for "colored" passengers. When a white man entered the bus, the driver (following the standard practice of segregation) told four African-Americans to give up their seats to the white passenger because the white section was full. Parks refused. The bus driver called the police and Parks was arrested. Later at her trial, she was found guilty of violating the city ordinance (the Montgomery Bus Code), received a suspended sentence and was fined \$10.00 plus \$4.00 in court costs.

On the night of her arrest, the local NAACP chapter began to organize a boycott of Montgomery's city buses in protest of Parks' arrest. Handbills were distributed and ads were placed throughout the African-American community asking blacks not to ride buses on December 5, 1955. Parks helped with the organization and collaborated with civil rights leaders, including Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., a new minister who gained national prominence in the Civil Rights Movement. The Montgomery Bus Boycott lasted for 381 days, producing a serious economic impact on the transit company. On November 13, 1956, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that segregation laws in public accommodations were unconstitutional, thereby, ending segregation on public buses in Montgomery, Alabama. On December 20, 1956, the Supreme Court Order was finally implemented and citizens of color returned to the buses the next day.

The bus boycott sparked the most successful nonviolent movement in support of civil rights in the United States.

Throughout her lifetime Parks received many accolades, including the NAACP's Springarn Medal, the Martin Luther King award, the Presidential Medal of Freedom and the Congressional Gold Medal. Parks was named one of Time magazine's 20 Most Influential People.

On October 24, 2005, Rosa Parks, 92, died at her home in Detroit. Several memorial services, including one in Montgomery, were held honoring her decades of unwavering dedication to fighting inequalities. Her body laid in honor at the Capitol Rotunda in Washington, D.C., the first woman and the first person of color to lie in honor at the US Capitol. She was returned to her final resting place in Detroit (her home of 51 years) to a chapel renamed the Rosa L. Parks Freedom Chapel.

Following her death, in 2006, the Rosa Parks Bill was introduced and passed by the Alabama State House in Montgomery, removing the 1955 charges from her police record. Parks' simple act of disobedience inspired the Modern Civil Rights Movement.

FEBRUARY



2013

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 First organized emigration of blacks back to Africa in 1820, NY to Liberia aboard the Elizabeth nicknamed the "Mayflower of Liberia"	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.		





MARCH

NAT KING COLE

Known as Nat King Cole, Nathaniel Adams Coles was born in Montgomery, Alabama, on March 17, 1919. When he was four years old, he and his family moved to Chicago. Cole learned to play the organ from his mother, Perlina, the church organist. His first performance was of "Yes! We Have No Bananas." Cole began formal lessons at the age of 12. He eventually learned not only jazz and gospel music, but European classical music as well.

Inspired by the performances of his role model, Earl Hines, Cole began his performing career in the mid-1930s while still a teenager. He dropped the 's' and took the name "Nat Cole." He went on to join a band that his older brother, Eddie, a bass player, formed. They made their first recording in 1936 and were regular performers at clubs. Cole, in fact, acquired his nickname, "King," performing at a jazz club. He also was a pianist in a national tour of Broadway theatre legend Eubie Blake's revue, "Shuffle Along."

Cole and two other musicians formed the King Cole Swingsters. The group later became known as the King Cole Trio. They played together throughout the late 1930s and recorded many radio transcriptions.

The King Cole Trio signed with the raw Capitol Records in 1943. Revenues from Cole's record sales fueled much of Capitol Records' success during this time frame. The revenue is believed to have played a significant role in financing the distinctive Capitol Records building in Los Angeles. Completed in 1956, it was the world's first circular office building and became known as "The House that Nat Built."

On November 5, 1956, The Nat King Cole Show debuted on NBC-TV. The show was the first of its kind hosted by an African-American. Beginning as a 15-minute pops show on Monday night, the program was later expanded to 30-minutes. The show eventually ended due to lack of a national sponsorship.

The last episode of "The Nat King Cole Show" aired December 17, 1957. The show had survived for over a year, and it was Cole, not NBC, who ultimately decided to pull the plug on the show. Commenting on the lack of sponsorship his show received, Cole quipped shortly after its demise, "Madison Avenue is afraid of the dark."

In 1964, Cole discovered that he had lung cancer. He succumbed to the disease on February 15, 1965, at the age of 45. After his death, Cole was inducted into both the Alabama Music Hall of Fame and the Alabama Jazz Hall of Fame. In 1990, he was awarded the Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award, and in 1997 was inducted into the Down Beat Jazz Hall of Fame. In 2007, he was inducted into the Hit Parade Hall of Fame.

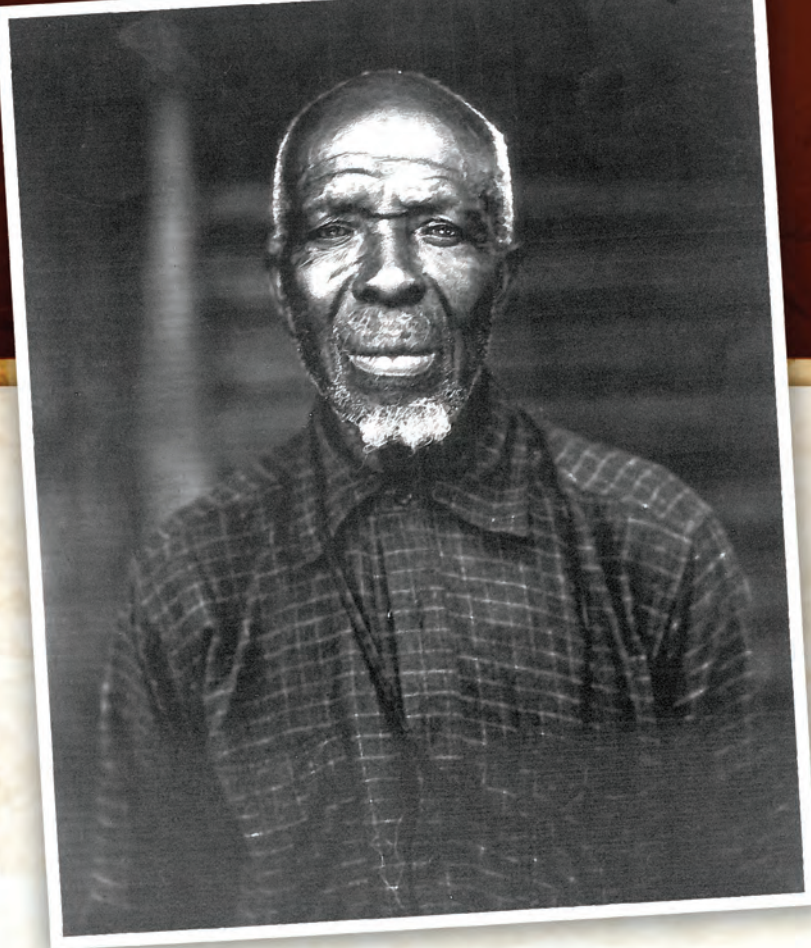
MARCH



2013

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 Tuskegee Airmen pilots graduate from flying school and earn their wings in 1942.	8 Senate refuses to seat P.B.S. Pinchback of Louisiana in 1876. Fred Shuttlesworth was born in 1922.	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. Nat King Cole was born in 1919	18 Charlie Pride, country singer, born in 1938.	19 Comedian, Jackie "Moms" Mabley was born in 1894.	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.						





APRIL CUDJO LEWIS

Cudjo Lewis is recognized as the last person born on African soil to have been enslaved in the United States when slavery was still lawful.

The last recorded slave ship importing slaves from Africa to the United States was the Clotilda. Fifty-two years after the country abolished the international slave trade, this ship arrived, illegally, in Mobile, Alabama on Sunday, July 8, 1860.

Cudjo Lewis was the last survivor of this ship. Lewis helped found the settlement of Africatown – outside of Mobile – with former slaves from the Clotilda.

Lewis was born as Oluale Kossola in the West African country currently known as Benin. He was a member of the Yoruba people and was the second of four children.

At the age of 14 he began training as a soldier. He learned the essential skills of hunting and tracking animals and defending his town. Lewis was inducted into the Oro, a secret Yoruba male society, charged with the role of policing and controlling society.

In April 1860, King Ghezo, of Dahomey, and his army attacked the town, killing the king and many of the townspeople. Survivors of the attack, including Lewis, were taken captive.

Lewis and other members of his tribe were sent to Abomey, the capital of Dahomey. They were then held in Ouidah for three weeks in a barracoon (a prison where captives were held before being sent across the Atlantic).

Lewis and 109 others from various regions of current-day Benin and Nigeria boarded the Clotilda to travel on the dangerous journey across the Atlantic known as the Middle Passage. Mobile ship builder, William Foster captained the ship.

During the 45-day journey, Lewis and the other captives were faced with thirst and the humiliation of being on board naked.

Once in Mobile, James Meaher, a wealthy ship captain and brother of Timothy Meaher, the man who organized the expedition, bought Lewis.

Meaher was unable to pronounce Lewis's name, so he told his owner to call him 'Cudjo,' a name given by the Fon and Ewe peoples of West Africa to boys who are born on Monday.

When emancipated in 1865, he took on the surname Lewis. During the last years of his life, Lewis's story became known when journalists interviewed him about his life.

Lewis died July 26, 1935. It is estimated that he was about 94.

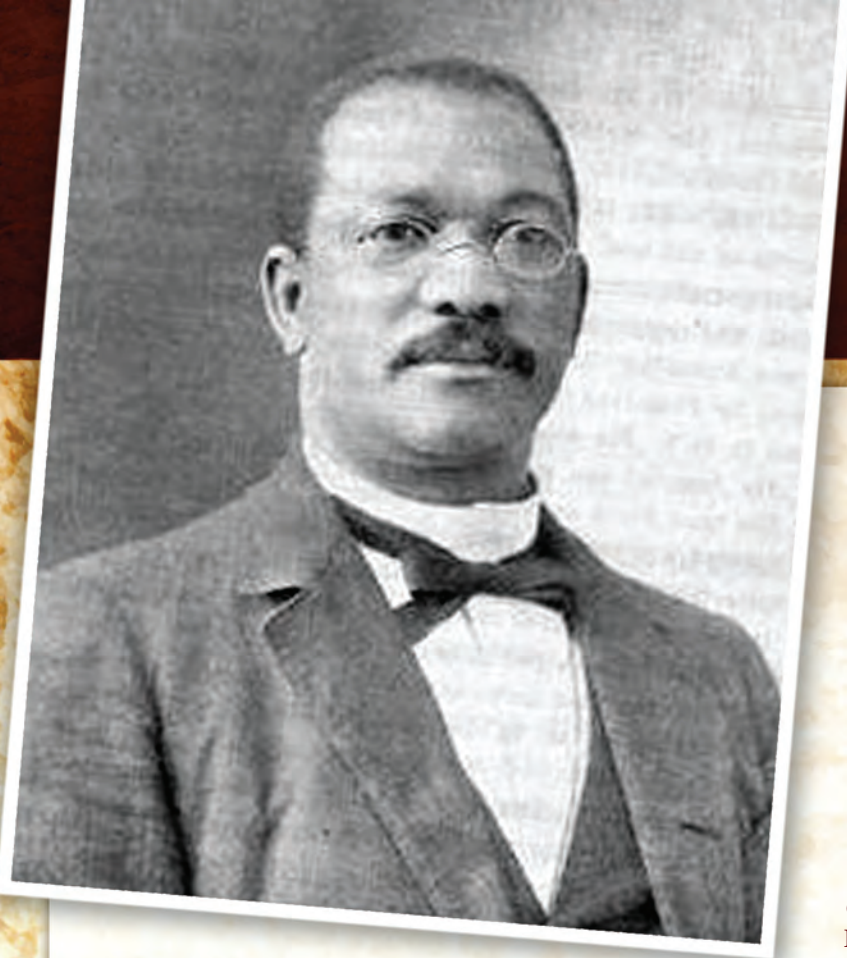
APRIL



2013

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 Hampton Institute opened in 1868.	2 John Thompson became the first African American coach to win NCAA basketball tournament, 1984.	3 Carter G. Woodson, the father of African American history, died in 1950.	4 Maya Angelou, author and poet, was born in 1928.	5 Colin Powell was born in 1937. Booker T. Washington was born in 1856	6 Robert E. Perry and Matthew Henson reached the North Pole in 1909.
7 Billie Holliday, blues singer, was born in 1917.	8 Hank Aaron hit his 715th home run in 1974.	9 Civil Rights Bill granting citizenship passed in 1866. U.W. Clemon was born in 1943	10 Richard Allen was made Bishop of the AME Church in 1916.	11 Spelman College was founded in 1881. Percy L. Julian was born in 1899	12 Free African Society organized in 1787.	13 Thomas Jefferson's birthday.
14 The first abolition society in the U.S. was founded in Pennsylvania, 1775	15 Jackie Robinson made his Major League debut with the Brooklyn Dodgers in 1947.	16 Founding of Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee in 1960.	17 Rev. Ralph David Abernathy died in 1990.	18 Alex Haley won the Pulitzer Prize for Roots, 1977. Addie Mae Collins: Artist, Loved Softball, Attended Hill Elementary School, Beloved Daughter, Sister & Friend, Devoted member of 16th Street Baptist Church was born in 1949	19 Cheyney State College, one of the oldest Black colleges in the U.S., was founded in 1837.	20 Harriet Tubman started working on the Underground Railroad, 1853.
21 Pvt. Milton L. Olive, III, was posthumously awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor in 1966.	22 Charles Mingus, bassist, composer, pianist and bandleader, was born in 1922.	23 Granville T. Woods, inventor of over 40 products, was born in 1856.	24 The United Negro College Fund was established in 1944. Carole Rosamond Robertson: Girl Scout, Jack & Jill of America Member, A.H. Parker HS Student, Clarinet Player, Beloved Daughter, Sister & Friend, Usher and Devoted member of 16th Street Baptist Church was born in 1949	25 Ella Fitzgerald, singer, was born in 1917.	26 William "Count" Basie, jazz pianist and musician, died in 1984.	27 Coretta Scott King, activist and wife of Martin Luther King, was born in 1927.
28 Samuel L. Gravely became first African American admiral in the U.S. Navy in 1962.	29 "Duke" Ellington, musician and composer, was born in 1899.	30 Wallace Saunders wrote the song "Casey Jones" in 1900. Cynthia Wesley: Ullman High School Student, Excelled at Math, Reading and Member of the Ullman HS Band, Beloved Daughter & Friend, Devoted member of 16th Street Baptist Church was born in 1949				





MAY WILLIAM HOOPER COUNCILL

William Hooper Councilll, educator and race leader, was born into slavery in Fayetteville, North Carolina, on July 12, 1849. His parents were both slaves on the Councilll plantation. When William was five, his father escaped to Canada and tried unsuccessfully to obtain freedom for his family. In 1857, William, his mother, and his brother, Cicero, were sold at the Richmond slave market to a trader, who in turn sold them on to a planter in Alabama. His two other brothers were sold separately.

When Union troops occupied Chattanooga during the Civil War, Councilll and his family escaped through Union lines to the North. He returned to Alabama in 1865 to attend a school for freedmen started by Quakers. This would be Councilll's only formal schooling. He worked and studied for three years before graduating in 1867.

For several years Councilll worked as a teacher in the black public schools in Alabama while moonlighting as a porter in hotels and restaurants. In 1869, at the age of 22, he opened Lincoln School in Huntsville for black children in the region. In addition to his teaching duties, he attended night school where he studied chemistry, mathematics, law and Latin. Councilll was admitted to the Alabama bar, but he never practiced law in the state.

Councilll's ambitions extended into politics and he became the chief enrolling clerk of the Alabama House of Representatives between 1872 and 1874. He also served as secretary of a national civil rights convention in 1873. In 1874 Councilll ran unsuccessfully for a legislative seat. One year later he was offered the federal patronage position as receiver of public lands for northern Alabama. Councilll declined the post.

In 1875, the Alabama legislature appointed 26 year old Councilll as the first principal of the State Colored Normal School at Huntsville, which is now known as Alabama A&M University. The school opened on May 1, 1875 with an appropriation of \$1,000 in the basement of a Huntsville church. The Colored Normal School would train black teachers to work in Alabama's segregated school system. By the mid 1880s, it rivaled Tuskegee Institute in central Alabama as a premier vocational-industrial training facility.

Despite his achievements, Councilll had his critics. As a contemporary of Booker T. Washington, he and the Tuskegee principal often competed for favors and funds from the Alabama legislature and northern philanthropists. Councilll went even further than Washington in his attempt to win the favor of southern whites by appealing to the upper class's sense of paternalism and racial superiority.

In 1877 Councilll founded the Huntsville Herald, which he published and edited until 1884. The following year he established St. John African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church in Huntsville. Councilll also wrote several books including, *Lamp of Wisdom* (1898), *Negro Development in the South* (1901), and *The Bright Side of the Southern Question* (1903).

In 1887, William Hooper Councilll attracted wide attention when he filed a lawsuit with the Interstate Commerce Commission for being ejected from a first-class coach while traveling on an Alabama railroad. That action later prompted his superiors to relieve him of his duties as president of the State Normal School, only to reappoint him in 1888.

The next two decades saw Councilll becoming more publicly conciliatory and accommodating toward whites. His stance on race relations was unclear: he regularly praised whites, approved of the "separate but equal" legal principle, and even declared that no people were "better suited for domestic and personal service than the Negro." Despite his earlier lawsuit, he now endorsed segregation, believing it provided opportunities for black businessmen, teachers, and professionals to work among their own people.

On April 9, 1909, following a long illness, William Hooper Councilll died in Huntsville at the age of 61.



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.	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.	



JUNE

SONIA SANCHEZ



Poet. Mother. Professor. National and International lecturer on Black Culture and Literature, Women's Liberation, Peace and Racial Justice. Sponsor of Women's International League for Peace and Freedom. Board Member of MADRE.

Sonia Sanchez, born in Birmingham, Alabama on September 9, 1934, is the author of over 20 books including *Homecoming*, *We a BaddDDD People*, *Love Poems*, *I've Been a Woman*, *A Sound Investment and Other Stories*, *Homegirls and Handgrenades*, *Under a Soprano Sky*, *Wounded in the House of a Friend* (Beacon Press 1995), *Does Your House Have Lions?* (Beacon Press, 1997), *Like the Singing Coming off the Drums* (Beacon Press, 1998), *Shake Loose My Skin* (Beacon Press, 1999) and most recently, *Morning Haiku* (Beacon Press, 2010).

In addition to being a contributing editor to *Black Scholar* and *The Journal of African Studies*, she has edited an anthology, *We Be Word Sorcerers: 25 Stories by Black Americans*. BMA: *The Sonia Sanchez*

Literary Review is the first African American Journal that discusses the work of Sonia Sanchez and the Black Arts Movement. A recipient of a National Endowment for the Arts, the Lucretia Mott Award for 1984, the Outstanding Arts Award from the Pennsylvania Coalition of 100 Black Women, the Community Service Award from the National Black Caucus of State Legislators, she is a winner of the 1985 American Book Award for *Homegirls and Handgrenades*, the Governor's Award for Excellence in the Humanities for 1988, the Peace and Freedom Award from Women International League for Peace and Freedom (W.I.L.P.F.) for 1989, a PEW Fellowship in the Arts for 1992-1993 and the recipient of Langston Hughes Poetry Award for 1999. *Does Your House Have Lions?* was a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award. She is the Poetry Society of America's 2001 Robert Frost Medalist and a Ford Freedom Scholar from the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History. Her poetry also appeared in the movie *Love Jones*.

Sonia Sanchez has lectured at over 500 universities and colleges in the United States and has traveled extensively, reading her poetry in Africa, Cuba, England, the Caribbean, Australia, Europe, Nicaragua, the People's Republic of China, Norway, and Canada. She was the first Presidential Fellow at Temple University and she held the Laura Carnell Chair in English at Temple University. She is the recipient of the Harper Lee Award, 2004 Alabama Distinguished Writer, and the National Visionary Leadership Award for 2006. She is the recipient of the 2005 Leeway Foundation Transformational Award and the 2009 Robert Creeley Award.

Currently, Sonia Sanchez is one of 20 African American women featured in "Freedom Sisters," an interactive exhibition created by the Cincinnati Museum Center and Smithsonian Institution traveling exhibition. In December of 2011, Philadelphia Mayor Michael Nutter selected Sonia Sanchez as Philadelphia's first Poet Laureate, calling her "the longtime conscience of the city."

JUNE



2013

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.						





JULY

SACHEL PAIGE

Satchel Paige was the greatest pitcher in the history of the Negro League and one of the greatest players, black or white, of all time. His pitching was amazing and his showboating was legendary.

His feats included 64 consecutive scoreless innings, a stretch of 21 straight wins, a 31-4 record in 1933. In 1971, Paige became the first of the Negro League stars to be inducted into the National Baseball Hall of Fame.

Paige was in his 40s when he joined the Cleveland Indians during the 1948 pennant race; the oldest rookie in major league history.

Born Leroy Robert Page on July 7, 1906 (his birth year is uncertain), in Mobile, Alabama, he was the seventh of 12 siblings. In the mid-1920s his family changed their name from Page to Paige to distance themselves from John Page, their father, and to make themselves sound more "high toned."

He earned his nickname, Satchel, when he was a young boy carrying bags (and satchels) at the

Mobile railroad station for passengers.

When he was 12, he was incarcerated at the Industrial School for Negro Children in Mount Meigs, Alabama, for truancy and shoplifting. While there, he developed his pitching skills. When he left the school in 1923, he joined the Mobile Tigers, a semi-pro baseball team in the Negro League.

Paige played 22 years for numerous black teams in major cities before realizing his dream of playing in the major league.

In 1948, Paige finally got his chance when Cleveland Indians owner, Bill Veeck, signed Paige to play for the all-white team. After playing two seasons with the Indians, Paige played three years for the St. Louis Browns.

When Paige was about 60 years old, he threw his final three shutout innings with the Kansas City Athletics in 1965. His last appearance in a major-league uniform came when he was signed as a coach by the Atlanta Braves in 1968.

At the end of his major league career, Paige's record was 28-31 with a 3.29 ERA and 32 saves.

During his career, Paige became a national celebrity. He co-starred in the Western "The Wonderful Country" (1959) and had a best-seller with his autobiography "Maybe I'll Pitch Forever" (1962).

On June 8, 1982, Paige died of emphysema; he was believed to be 75. His death came three days after he attended the dedication of a ballpark in Kansas City, Missouri, that was named in his honor, the Satchel Paige Memorial Stadium.

JULY



2013

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 Carl Lewis, athlete, was born in 1961.	2 Civil Rights Act of 1964 signed. Thurgood Marshall was born in 1908.	3 First African American baseball player in the major leagues, Jackie Robinson, was named to Baseball Hall of Fame in 1962.	4 Tuskegee Institute established in 1881. A.G. Gaston was born in 1892.	5 Arthur Ashe won the men's Wimbledon singles championship in 1975.	6 Althea Gibson won Wimbledon in 1957.
7 Margaret Walker, writer, was born in 1915. Satchel Page was born in 1906	8 Venus Williams wins Wimbledon in 2000. Cudjo Lewis arrived in Mobile, Alabama in 1860	9 Dr. Daniel Hale Williams performs first successful open-heart operation in 1893.	10 Mary McLeod Bethune, educator, was born in 1875.	11 Civil rights activist W.E.B. Du Bois founded the Niagara Movement in 1905.	12 Bill Cosby, entertainer, was born in 1937. William Hooper Council was born in 1849	13 Continental Congress excluded slavery from Northwest Territory in 1787.
14 George Washington Carver National Monument dedicated in Joplin, MO in 1951.	15 Pompey Lamb, noted spy, aids the American Revolutionary War effort, 1779.	16 A. Johnson, first Black female to argue before the U.S. Supreme Court, was born in 1882.	17 Lemuel Hayes, first Black Congregationalist minister, was born in 1753. Billie Holliday, singer, died in 1959.	18 Patricia R. Harris named Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare in 1979.	19 First U.S. victory in Korea was won by African American troops in the 24th Infantry Regiment, in 1950.	20 Billie Jean Young was born in 1947.
21 The 14th Amendment was ratified in 1868.	22 Abraham Lincoln read the first draft of the Emancipation Proclamation to his cabinet in 1861.	23 Louis Tompkins Wright, physician, was born in 1924.	24 Mary Church Terrell, educator, died in 1954.	25 Garrett T. Morgan, inventor of the gas mask, rescued six people from a gas filled tunnel in Cleveland, Ohio, in 1916.	26 President Truman banned discrimination in the armed services in 1948.	27 Inventor A.P. Abourne was awarded patent for refining coconut oil in 1880.
28 The 14th Amendment was adopted in 1868.	29 The first National Convention of Black Women was held in Boston in 1895.	30 Adam Clayton Powell Jr., activist and politician, was elected congressman from Harlem in 1945.	31 Whitney Young, an executive director of the National Urban League, was born in 1921.			





AUGUST

ANGELIA WALKER

Leader, Engineer, Mentor, Rocket Scientist and Safety Guru are some of the references used to describe Ms. Walker. She has worked more than 24 years with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), Marshall Space Flight Center in numerous progressively responsible positions in the Safety and Mission Assurance (S&MA) and Engineering Directorates, such as: the Spacecraft and Vehicle Systems Chief of the Systems Engineering and Integration Division where she led 135 System Engineers in the development, design integration, and system analysis of the United States's next heavy lift capability launch vehicle that will carry humans and cargo into deep space and beyond. These missions are targeted for locations such as asteroids, the moon, Lagrange points and Mars. Currently she is Deputy Director of Safety and Mission Assurance.

Before the retiring of the United States Space Shuttle, she supported the hardware propulsion elements readiness for flight for twenty years. She was NASA's first African American female Quality Engineer for the Solid Rocket Booster and Space Shuttle Main Engine (SSME) Elements as well as its first African American Female to serve as the Space Shuttle Propulsion Elements Deputy Chief Engineer.

She was the Senior Safety and Mission Assurance Resident Manager for the Space Shuttle Main Engine Alternate Turbopumps, at Pratt & Whitney, West Palm Beach, Florida, and the International Space Station Resident Office, at Boeing, Huntsville, Alabama.

She led the safety team in the development of the Alternate LOX (liquid oxygen) and fuel high-pressure turbopumps for the main engines—assuring clear requirements definition and verifying the design adequacy to accommodate safe delivery of astronauts to low earth orbit and the International Space Station. These missions enabled scientific discovery and human exploration that will benefit life on earth.

She was the Safety, Reliability, & Quality Assurance Policy and Assessment Department Manager conducting independent assessments and continuous risk management of NASA spacecrafts and propulsion elements while influencing the core competencies of safety, quality, reliability and software assurance for the Marshall Space Flight Center. She has also made significant contributions to several Agency Independent Assessment Teams both post Challenger and Columbia Accidents and supported NASA's ability to safely return to crewed space flight missions.

At NASA, Ms. Walker has been the recipient of numerous honors and awards such as: Supervisor of the Year, the Space Flight Awareness Honoree, the Astronaut's Silver Snoopy Award, a number of Director's Commendation Honor Awards, and many Special Service and Group Achievement Awards. She received the Iota Phi Lambda Sorority 2004 Woman of Distinction Award. In 2011, she was named and awarded a 'Technology All-Star' at the 16th Women of Color Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) Conference.

Ms. Walker, married to Dr. Sam J. Walker with one daughter Kristen, an ordained minister and pastor, still finds time to mentor youth in the Alabama public schools in the area of STEM with speaking engagements and by participating in and with judging student competitions in the fields of science and design. It is her passion to inspire the next generation of scientist and engineers that will leave their legacy by making life better for all people.

Ms. Walker was born in Columbus, Georgia and spent all of her childhood years in Phenix City, Alabama with her parents, Jimmie and Lillie Goodwin and her six siblings. She attended Central High School where she graduated with honors and was voted her senior class 'Most Likely to Succeed'.

Ms. Walker earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering from Tuskegee University; is a graduate of the Federal Executive Institute; and a 2005 Fellows graduate of Harvard University School of Business Executive Managers Development Program. She also attended Columbia Theological Seminary in Atlanta, Georgia.

She is listed in the registry of Outstanding Young Women of America and a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

AUGUST



2013

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 Whitney Young named executive director of the National Urban League in 1961. Benjamin E. Mays was born in 1895.	2 James Baldwin, writer, was born in 1924.	3 The Congress of African Peoples convention was held in Atlanta in 1970.
4 "Long" John Woodruff won an Olympic gold medal in the 800-meter run in 1936. Barack Obama, 44th President of the United States born in 1961.	5 Nelson Mandela, South African freedom fighter, imprisoned in 1962. He was not released until 1990.	6 Voting Rights Act signed by President Johnson in 1965.	7 Ralph J. Bunche, diplomat and first African American winner of the Nobel Peace Prize, was born in 1904.	8 Matthew A. Henson, explorer and first to reach the North Pole, was born in 1865.	9 At the 1936 Summer Games, Jesse Owens becomes first American to win four gold medals in one Olympics.	10 Clarence C. White, composer and violinist, died in 1880.
11 Thaddeus Stevens, abolitionist, died in 1868.	12 Frederick Douglass' home in Washington D.C. was declared a national shrine in 1922.	13 Baltimore Afro-American Newspaper was founded in 1892.	14 Ernest Everett Just, scientist, was born in 1883.	15 Liberia established by freed American slaves in 1824. Assumption Day.	16 Louis Lomax, author, was born in 1922.	17 Marcus Garvey was born in 1887.
18 The first African American admitted to the University of Mississippi, James Meredith, graduated in 1963.	19 Benjamin Banneker published his first Almanac in 1791.	20 Richard Allen chaired the first National Negro Convention in Philadelphia in 1830.	21 William "Count" Basie, jazz pianist and musician, was born in 1904.	22 John Lee Hooker, blues singer and guitarist, was born in 1917.	23 National Negro Business League founded in 1900.	24 Edith Sampson was appointed first African American delegate to the United Nations by Harry S. Truman in 1950.
25 Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters organized in 1925.	26 William Dawson elected Black Democratic Party vice-presidential candidate in 1943.	27 W.E.B. DuBois died in 1963.	28 March on Washington in 1963.	29 Charlie "Bird" Parker, jazz musician, was born in Kansas City in 1920.	30 Lt. Col. Guion S. Bluford Jr. became the first African American astronaut in space in 1983.	31 Eldridge Cleaver was born in 1935. Marva Collins was born in 1936. Angelia D. Walker was born in 1964



SEPTEMBER

4 LITTLE GIRLS

16TH STREET BAPTIST CHURCH



On September 15, 1963, around 10:22 a.m., 26 children walked to the basement of the three-story 16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, Alabama. They were headed to Sunday school to hear the day's lesson, "The Love That Forgives." Suddenly, an explosion rocked the building, destroying the rear wall of the church and all but one stained-glassed window on the lower level. Ironically, the scene in that window depicted Christ leading a group of little children.

Addie Mae Collins (14), Carole Robertson (14), Cynthia Wesley (14) and Denise McNair (11) were killed in the bombing; 22 additional congregants were severely injured. The young girls were the victims of racial terrorism, their lives cut short because their church was a central location for civil rights meetings and rallies led by Martin Luther King, Jr., Ralph David Abernathy and Fred Shuttlesworth.

Members of hate groups, particularly the Ku Klux Klan, were angered that a federal court had ordered the integration of Birmingham city schools and that Birmingham city officials had reached settlements with demonstrators to integrate public places. The settlements led to a series of bombings and other violent activities. But none of the retaliatory acts touched the heart of the nation, and ultimately the world, as much as the one that led to the deaths of the four innocent girls.

After the church bombing, tensions ran high in the city. Angry blacks rioted and civil authorities responded violently. Two people were killed in the aftermath of the bombing, one of them a teenage boy.

When local authorities showed no real concern for solving the crime, the Federal Bureau of Investigation stepped in. Their investigation led to the arrest of Ku Klux Klan member Robert Chambliss, who was charged with murder and illegal possession of dynamite. Chambliss was found not guilty of murder and received a \$100 fine and six months in jail for the dynamite possession charge.

More than a decade passed before any other actions were taken in the case. When Bill Baxley became Alabama's attorney general in 1977, he reopened the case and found that the FBI had accumulated a great deal of evidence against Chambliss that had not been used in the original trial. Baxley successfully prosecuted the 73-year-old Chambliss, who was sentenced to life in prison, where he died on October 29, 1985.

In May of 2000, the FBI announced that three other men also were involved in the church bombing: Herman Cash, Thomas Blanton and Bobby Cherry. Cash had died, but Blanton and Cherry were arrested and later prosecuted for the murder of the four girls. They each received life sentences.

Today, the 16th Street Baptist Church has become a landmark of the Civil Rights Movement, just as the girls who died there on that tragic day in 1963 have become symbols of the high price that was paid by many during the struggle for racial equality.

SEPTEMBER



2013

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>1 General Daniel "Chappie" James Jr. named Commander-in-Chief of North American Air Defense Command in 1975.</p>	<p>2 Frank Robinson, professional baseball player, named MVP of the American League, 1966.</p>	<p>3 Charles Houston, NAACP leader, was born in 1895.</p>	<p>4 Louis Latimer, inventor and engineer, was born in 1848.</p>	<p>5 George Washington Murray was elected to Congress from South Carolina in 1895.</p>	<p>6 The National Black Convention met in Cleveland in 1848.</p>	<p>7 Integration in public schools began in Washington, D.C. and Baltimore in 1954.</p>
<p>8 Althea Gibson became the first African American athlete to win a U.S. national tennis championship in 1957.</p>	<p>9 Carter G. Woodson founded the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History in 1915. Sonia Sanchez was born in 1934</p>	<p>10 Mordecai Johnson, first Black president of Howard University, died in 1976.</p>	<p>11 "Duke" Ellington won Spingarn Medal for his musical achievements in 1959.</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>13 Alain L. Locke, philosopher and first black Rhodes Scholar, was born in 1886.</p>	<p>14 U.S. Cabinet member Constance Baker Motley was born in 1921.</p>
<p>15 Dr. Mae Jemison became first African American female astronaut in space in 1992. 50 year anniversary of the bombing of the 16th Street Baptist Church in 1963</p>	<p>16 Claude A. Barnett, founder of the Associated Negro Press, was born in 1889.</p>	<p>17 United States Constitution signed in 1787.</p>	<p>18 Booker T. Washington delivered "Atlanta Compromise" address in 1895. In 2006, State ferry service reopens after 44 years in Gee's Bend, AL.</p>	<p>19 Atlanta University was founded in 1865.</p>	<p>20 First episode of 'The Cosby Show' aired in 1984.</p>	<p>21 F.W. Leslie, inventor, patented the envelope seal in 1891.</p>
<p>22 Ralph Bunch awarded Nobel Peace Prize in 1950.</p>	<p>23 John Coltrane, innovative and famed jazz musician, was born in 1926.</p>	<p>24 Nine African American students integrated Little Rock High School in 1957.</p>	<p>25 Barbara W. Hancock became the first African American woman named a White House Fellow, 1974.</p>	<p>26 Bessie Smith, blues singer, died in 1937.</p>	<p>27 'Memphis Blues' published in 1912.</p>	<p>28 'Appeal to the Colored Citizens of the World' published in 1929.</p>
<p>29 Hugh Mulzac, first African American captain of a U.S. merchant ship, launched the 'Booker T. Washington' in 1942.</p>	<p>30 Johnny Mathis, singer, was born in 1935.</p>					





OCTOBER

JOSEPH LOWERY

The name Joseph Lowery is nearly synonymous with the words civil rights. For most of his life, Lowery was a key figure in national civil rights activities dating back to the 1950s. A Methodist minister, Lowery worked beside the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., serving as a visionary whose contributions were pivotal to the success of the Civil Rights Movement. His contributions earned him the title “Dean of the Civil Rights Movement” because of his diligence and determination to create equality for all races and ethnicities.

Joseph Echols Lowery was born on October 6, 1921, in Huntsville, Alabama, to Leroy and Dora Lowery. He experienced the extreme hatred toward blacks living in the Deep South at an early age. After graduating from William Hooper Council High School, he attended Knoxville College, Alabama A&M College and graduated from Paine College. From Ku Klux Klan altercations to police brutality, Lowery endured decades of racism. These experiences led him to the ministry and to become a leader in the Civil Rights Movement.

In 1952, Lowery became the pastor of Warren Street Methodist Church in Mobile, Alabama, where he quickly became involved in the Civil Rights Movement. In 1957, he co-founded the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) with Martin Luther King, Jr., Fred Shuttlesworth, Ralph Abernathy and several other leaders. He presided over the SCLC chapter in Atlanta for many years and was the national president from 1977 to 1997. Relying on their faith, these men worked together to create equality within the United States through peaceful actions. Lowery secured a place in the history of the Civil Rights Movement by being a strong advocate for several peaceful acts such as the Montgomery Bus Boycott and the Selma to Montgomery March.

During his fight for equality, the state of Alabama filed a libel suit against Lowery and the SCLC. Although clearly innocent, they were found guilty and ordered to pay \$3 million. This legal attack, however, did not deter Lowery and the SCLC who used the libel suit, harassment, disrespect, and even abuse they endured to fuel their hunger for equal rights. Lowery’s journey in the Civil Rights Movement was difficult, yet he persevered and remained strong when his people needed him most.

Lowery’s contributions to equality and civil rights did not go unappreciated. To this day, he receives recognition for his leadership and dedication during the Movement. He has been awarded several honorary doctorates from noted historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs). Organizations such as the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and the Urban League have honored him with Lifetime Achievement awards. One of his most recent awards is the Presidential Medal of Freedom presented to him by President Barak Obama in 2009.

OCTOBER



2013

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		<p>1 Colin Powell was appointed first African American Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff in 1989.</p>	<p>2 Thurgood Marshall was sworn in, becoming the first African American Supreme Court Justice in 1967.</p>	<p>3 Nat King Cole was the first black performer to host his own television show in 1956.</p>	<p>4 National Black Convention met in Syracuse, N.Y. in 1864.</p>	<p>5 Congresswoman Yvonne Burke was born in 1932.</p>
<p>6 Fisk Jubilee Singers began national tour in 1871. Joseph E. Lowery was born in 1921 Lonnie Johnson was born in 1949</p>	<p>7 Toni Morrison became first African American to win Nobel Prize in literature.</p>	<p>8 Jesse Jackson was born in 1941.</p>	<p>9 O.B. Clare patented the rail trestle in 1888.</p>	<p>10 Singer Ben Vereen was born in 1946.</p>	<p>11 A. Miles patented the elevator in 1887.</p>	<p>12 Richard ("Dick") Gregory was born in 1932.</p>
<p>13 Arna W. Bontemps, noted poet, was born in 1902. Michael A. Figures was born in 1947.</p>	<p>14 Martin Luther King, Jr. awarded Nobel Peace Prize in 1964.</p>	<p>15 Clarence Thomas confirmed to the U.S. Supreme Court in 1992.</p>	<p>16 John Brown led attack on Harper's Ferry in 1859.</p>	<p>17 Capital Savings Bank opened in Washington, D.C. in 1888. Mae Jemison was born in 1956.</p>	<p>18 Novelist Terry McMillan was born in 1951.</p>	<p>19 The U.S. Navy was opened to African American women in 1944.</p>
<p>20 John Merrick organized North Carolina Mutual Life Insurance Company in 1898.</p>	<p>21 "Dizzy" Gillespie was born in Cheraw, S.C. in 1917.</p>	<p>22 Clarence S. Green became the first African American certified in neurological surgery.</p>	<p>23 The NAACP petitioned the United Nations on the issue of racial injustice in 1947.</p>	<p>24 Jackie Robinson died in 1972.</p>	<p>25 Benjamin O. Davis became the first African American general in the U.S. Army in 1940.</p>	<p>26 Inventor T. Marshall patented the fire extinguisher in 1872. Regina Benjamin was born in 1956.</p>
<p>27 P. B. Downing, inventor, patented his street letter box in 1891.</p>	<p>28 Founder of The Underground Railroad, Levi Coffin, was born in 1798.</p>	<p>29 The Supreme Court ordered end to segregation in schools "at once" in 1969. Vonetta Flowers was born in 1973.</p>	<p>30 Richard Arrington was elected the first Black mayor of Birmingham, Ala., in 1979.</p>	<p>31 Ethel Waters, actress and singer, was born in 1900.</p>		





NOVEMBER

JAMES RAPIER

During the time known as the Reconstruction Era in the United States, a young man from Alabama rose to political prominence, becoming one of three African-Americans elected to represent Alabama in Congress.

James T. Rapier was born on November 13, 1837, in Florence, Alabama. The son of a successful and wealthy barber, Rapier was afforded the opportunity to be educated by private tutors. At an early age, Rapier moved to Nashville, Tennessee, where his grandmother raised him. He later migrated to Canada and settled on his uncle's land in Buxton, Ontario, a community that had been established by former slaves who had escaped via the Underground Railroad. He received educational instruction at the Buxton Mission School and went on to pursue his interest in law at Montreal College.

In 1865, Rapier returned to Tennessee and started a career in cotton farming. He became an activist for the black community, particularly for voting rights. By 1866, Rapier was back in Alabama, where he became a major player in state politics, serving as the only black delegate to the Alabama Constitutional Convention in 1867. By diplomatically appealing to both Republican blacks and whites, he was able to advance the Republican platform successfully. After serving at the Constitutional Convention, Rapier became involved with the National Negro Labor Union (NNLU), serving as its vice president in 1870. The following year, he established the first branch of the NNLU in Alabama and led it as president and executive chairman. As Rapier gained political clout, he set his sights on being elected to state office. He made an unsuccessful bid for Secretary of State in 1870, but his efforts gained him a measure of notoriety since his candidacy marked the first time an African-American had run for statewide office in Alabama.

Two years later, the relationships he developed in his cotton planting career helped give him an edge over his opponent in the election for Alabama's 2nd Congressional District Representative. During his only term in Congress, he was an advocate for the newly freed slaves in the hostile post-Reconstruction South. He championed allocating federal funds to establish schools, to create a land bureau in order for freedmen to access Western lands and most notably, he fought for passage of the Civil Rights Bill of 1875.

On May 31, 1883, Rapier died of tuberculosis at the age of 45 in Montgomery, Alabama.

NOVEMBER



2013

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. James T. Rapier was born in 1837	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. Denise McNair: Brownie, Center Street Elementary School Student, Actress, Dancer, Read Poetry, Played Baseball, Beloved Daughter, Sister & Friend, Devoted Member of 16th Street Baptist Church was born in 1951.	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 Alruthus 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.



DECEMBER

LONNIE JOHNSON



With over 100 patents, Lonnie Johnson has secured his place as one of the greatest inventors of his generation. Johnson was born on October 6, 1949, in Mobile, Alabama. He was exposed to inventing at an early age when his father taught him and his siblings how to repair various household items. This encouraged the boys to create their own toys. They once made a go-kart out of household items and a lawn mower motor.

Johnson was inspired by George Washington Carver and was motivated to pursue his goal of becoming an inventor. During one of his first experiments he used sugar and saltpeter to create a rocket fuel, which exploded and burned part of the family's kitchen. By the time he reached high school, his talents were more refined. As a senior at Williamson High School in 1968, he took part in a national science competition sponsored by the University of Alabama. He presented a remote controlled robot named "Linex," which he built from scraps found at a junkyard and parts of his siblings' toys. He placed first in the competition.

Johnson attended Tuskegee University on a mathematics scholarship. He earned a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering in 1973 and a master's in nuclear engineering in 1975.

After graduating, Johnson worked at Savannah River National Laboratory and later became a research engineer, developing cooling systems at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory in Tennessee. After joining the Air Force, Johnson was placed with the Air Force Weapons Laboratory in Albuquerque, New Mexico, serving as chief of the space nuclear power safety section. In 1973, he left the Air Force and took over as senior systems engineer at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California, where he worked on the Galileo Mission to Jupiter. Upon returning to his military career in 1982, Johnson worked at the Strategic Air Command facility in Bellevue, Nebraska, and then moved to the SAC Test and Evaluation Squadron at Edwards Air Force Base in Edwards, California, where he worked on the Stealth Bomber.

In 1982, while working on developing a heat pump that would work by circulating water rather than expensive and environmentally unfriendly Freon, Johnson stumbled upon his biggest invention, the Super Soaker water gun. After several years of perfecting it, the gun was released in 1989. Within 10 years, more than 200 million Super Soakers had been sold, making it the toy of the decade.

Propelled by the success of the Super Soaker, Johnson founded his own company, Johnson Research & Development, and acquired more than 100 patents. For his contributions to science and his great success with the Super Soaker, Johnson was inducted into the Inventors Hall of Fame in 2000. His company has continued to innovate, creating improved radon detectors, heat pumps and lithium battery products, as well as new toy concepts.

DECEMBER



2013

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



 #itcanwait

Don't text and drive...
it can wait

www.itcanwait.com

