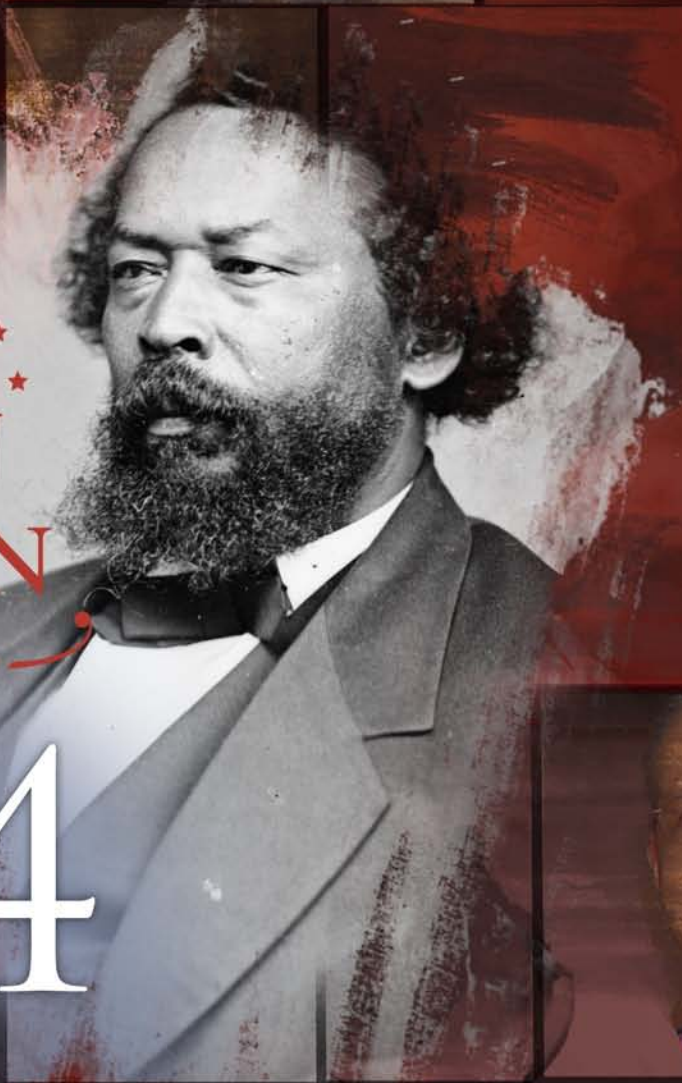


Alabama  
 AFRICAN  
 AMERICAN  
*History Calendar*

2014



Presented by





# A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

## Fred McCallum

This year marks the fourth edition of the Alabama African American History Calendar presented by AT&T. Like its predecessors, the 2014 history calendar is a testimonial to the hard work and dedication of the people honored in the calendar. I am very pleased that AT&T, along with our valuable partners, is once again presenting this inspirational calendar to the children of Alabama.

The Alabama Department of Education's use of the History Calendar as an educational resource tool has allowed thousands of students across Alabama to learn more about our state's rich history. Additionally, the individuals featured in the Alabama African American History Calendar are shining role models for all of our children.

The History Calendar has been accessed worldwide thanks to advanced technologies that are reshaping how we learn, work, and play. The continued

transition from wired to wireless and the movement to IP (Internet Protocol) services has spurred the development of new products and services such as the Wireless Home Phones (WHP), the proliferation of 4G & LTE networks, and the ability to instantly collaborate with individuals around the world from almost anywhere. AT&T is continuing to invest in our Alabama networks, so all of our children have the opportunity to learn and compete in the digital age.

AT&T is proud to once again give back to the communities where we live and work with our 2014 History Calendar. A special thanks to all of our partners for their contributions and commitment to making the History Calendar a resource that encourages and inspires all of us.



President  
AT&T - Alabama



# RESOURCES

Visit the Alabama African American History Calendar web site at [www.alafricanamerican.com](http://www.alafricanamerican.com)

## Ralph David Abernathy:

Ralph David Abernathy Sr. The Biography Channel website. 2013. Available at: <http://www.biography.com/people/ralph-d-abernathy-9174397>. Accessed Jul 11, 2013.

Abernathy, Ralph David. *And The Walls Came Tumbling Down: An Autobiography*. New York: Harper & Row, 1989.

Encyclopedia of Alabama <http://www.encyclopediaofalabama.org/face/Article.jsp?id=h-1110>

## Richard Arrington:

Arrington, Richard. *There's Hope for the World: The Memoir of Birmingham, Alabama's First African American Mayor*. Tuscaloosa: University of Alabama Press, 2008.

The Encyclopedia of Alabama <http://www.encyclopediaofalabama.org/face/Article.jsp?id=h-3244>

## John LeFlore:

Encyclopedia of Alabama <http://www.encyclopediaofalabama.org/face/Article.jsp?id=h-2942>

Photograph courtesy of The Doy Leale McCall Rare Book and Manuscript Library, University of South Alabama: Erik Overbey Portrait Collection

## Thom Gossom, Jr.:

Thom Gossom, Jr. *Walk-On: My Reluctant Journey to Integration at Auburn University*. Borders Press, 2008.

Thom Gossom, Jr. & Best Gurl Inc. <http://www.bestgurl.com/home.html>

## Herschell Lee Hamilton:

University of Alabama Birmingham <http://www.uab.edu/development/momentum-summerfall-2009-issue/honoringthebattlesurgeon>

## Alexis Herman:

United States Department of Labor: <http://www.dol.gov/oasam/programs/history/herman.htm>

Brennan, Carol. "Herman, Alexis M. 1947-." Contemporary Black Biography. 1997. Retrieved August 22, 2013 from Encyclopedia.com: <http://www.encyclopedia.com/doc/1G2-2871700038.html>

## Henry Panion III:

Henry Panion III <http://hpanion.wix.com/henrypanioniii#!home/mainPage>

Dr. Henry Panion, III Featured on CBS Sunday Morning <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8Yxc7oudW8U>

## Lawrence Pijeaux, Jr.:

The Birmingham Civil Rights Institute <http://bcri.org/index.html>

BlackPast.org <http://www.blackpast.org/?q=contributor/pijeaux-jr-lawrence>

## Amelia Boynton Robinson:

Amelia Boynton Robinson Foundation <http://ameliaboynton.org/index.html>

Encyclopedia of Alabama <http://www.encyclopediaofalabama.org/face/Article.jsp?id=h-2018>

## Arthur Shores:

*The Gentle Giant of Dynamite Hill: The Untold Story of Arthur Shores and His Family's Fight for Civil Rights* by Helen Shores Lee, Barbara Sylvia Shores Release Date: 08/28/2012

The Encyclopedia of Alabama <http://www.encyclopediaofalabama.org/face/Article.jsp?id=h-1644>

## Benjamin Turner:

Encyclopedia of Alabama <http://www.encyclopediaofalabama.org/face/Article.jsp?id=h-3271>

"Benjamin Sterling Turner" in *Black Americans in Congress, 1870-2007*. Prepared under the direction of the Committee on House Administration by the Office of History & Preservation, U. S. House of Representatives. Washington: Government Printing Office, 2008

## Dinah Washington:

Rock & Roll Hall of Fame <http://www.rockhall.com/inductees/dinah-washington/bio/>

Alabama Music Hall of Fame <http://www.alamhof.org/inductees/timeline/1991/dinah-washington/>



# JANUARY


## Thom Gossom

Athlete, Actor, Author, Entrepreneur, Speaker are a few of the titles listed on Thom Gossom's resume. Born Thomas Gossom, Jr. on January 21, 1952, in Birmingham, Alabama, Gossom decided to follow his dream of playing football at Auburn University and walked-on, changing his life and the mindset of many in the early years after integration. He was the second African American to play football at Auburn, reportedly the first to walk-on and earn a scholarship in the Southeastern Conference, and the first African American athlete to letter (3-time letterman) and graduate from Auburn University.

In 1970 there were only a few African Americans at Auburn and only 2 scholarship athletes. Because integration in Alabama public universities was just 7 years old and the image of Governor George Wallace's defiant "Stand in the Schoolhouse Door" at the University of Alabama was still fresh in the minds of many white Alabamians, Gossom faced many challenges on and off the field during his stay at Auburn University. However, later Gossom stated, "My time at Auburn really made me the man I am today and I am truly thankful." Gossom received his Bachelor of Arts in Communication from Auburn University and later earned a Master of Arts in Communication from The University of Montevallo.

After a brief career in the World Football League and the NFL, Gossom hung up his cleats and landed a job with a Birmingham television station in the news department. Later he joined Bellsouth in the office of Public Relations and in 1987 Gossom started his own PR Firm - Thom Gossom Communications.

In 1981 Gossom was bitten by the acting bug. After performing in a couple of plays and experiencing the same passion and excitement that



inspired him on the grid-iron, but this time on a much tamer stage, Gossom turned his attention to acting. His TV resume includes performances in several popular series including: *In the Heat of the Night*, *Boston Legal*, *Chicago Hope*, *Touched by an Angel*, *NYPD Blue*, *CSI*, *Without A Trace*, *The West Wing* and *ER*. Gossom's film credits include: *Miss Evers' Boys*, *XXX 2*, *Fight Club*, *Jeepers Creepers II*, and *Miracle in the Woods*. And his theatrical roles include: *My Children! My Africa!*, *Fences*, *American Buffalo* and *Glengary Glen Ross*.

As an author Gossom has written several pieces. His memoir, *Walk-On: My Reluctant Journey to Integration at Auburn University* was featured on CNN and HBO's *Breaking the Huddle*. When asked what motivated him to write *Walk-On* Gossom said, "Walk-On is for all those people who've ever walked on to anything, who decided they wanted to do something and set their minds to do it. Maybe they were uninvited. Maybe the odds were against them. Maybe they got knocked down. But they got up and they achieved." Gossom has also written and performed a critically acclaimed one-man play, *Speak of Me As I Am*.

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# FEBRUARY

## Benjamin Sterling Turner



Benjamin Sterling Turner was born on March 17, 1825, in North Carolina to slave parents. At age 5 he was taken to Selma, Alabama with his mother. As a slave Turner was prohibited from receiving any formal education as a youth, but despite this major obstacle and others placed before him, he went on to become an entrepreneur, business executive, civic leader, and legislator. In 1870 Turner became the first African American from Alabama elected to the United State Congress. Turner represented the State of Alabama from March 4, 1871 - March 3, 1873.

Turner was an ingenious man. Although Alabama law prohibited slaves from participating in any formal education classes and learning to read or write, by the time Turner was 20 he was an educated man able to read and write with ease. While still a slave, Turner managed the Saint James Hotel in Selma and ran a livery stable from which he kept a small portion of the earnings. Immediately following the end of the Civil War, he began to purchase property and became a teacher, co-founding the first school in Selma for African American children.

In 1867 Turner turned toward politics and was elected tax collector of Dallas County and in 1869 Turner became the City of Selma's first African American city councilor. In the 1870 Census Turner had reported assets of over \$12,000, which made him one of the wealthiest African Americans in Alabama. Additionally, in 1870 Turner was unanimously nominated to be the Republican candidate from Alabama's First Congressional District, which included Selma and a large portion of the Black Belt region in west-central Alabama. On November 8, 1870, Turner defeated Democrat Samuel J. Cummings to claim his seat in the Forty-second Congress of the United States.

While serving in the U.S. House of Representatives, Turner sought financial aid for Alabama to rebuild the devastation caused by the War Between the States. He introduced bills to remove legal and political restrictions imposed on former Confederates and the elimination of the tax on cotton, arguing that the tax was unconstitutional because it singled out a specific cash crop. He also fought for reparations for former slaves and aid for impoverished black farmers.

In 1872 Turner made an unsuccessful bid for reelection to the Forty-third Congress. Two years later Turner purchased a 300-acre farm near Selma where he would pursue a career in agriculture many years later. Turner remained active in politics for several years following his defeat. He served as an election official for municipal elections in 1875, 1877, and 1891. He served as a delegate to the Republican National Convention in Chicago and as a republican presidential elector in the 1880 election. Turner ran and was elected for the second time to the Selma City Council in 1885. In early 1894 Turner suffered a stroke and died on March 21, 1894, in Selma, Alabama.

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# MARCH

## Ralph David Abernathy

Pastor, Veteran, Author, Advisor, Co-founder of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, and Civil Rights Activist were only a few of the titles Reverend Ralph David Abernathy held during his lifetime. Abernathy was born on March 11, 1926, in Linden, Alabama. From organizing the historic yearlong Montgomery bus boycott, to leading the Poor People's Campaign of 1968, he was deeply involved with leveling the playing field and improving the lives of African Americans throughout the country.

Ironically, Abernathy was first called upon to defend the constitution and the civil rights of all U.S. citizens when he served in the U.S. Army during World War II. However, when he returned to Alabama and to civilian life, he realized that his fighting days were long from over. Abernathy attended Alabama State University and graduated with a degree in mathematics in 1950. He continued his education receiving a master's degree in sociology from Atlanta University.

In 1951 Abernathy became the pastor of the First Baptist Church in Montgomery, Alabama and Dean of Students at Alabama State. On August 31, 1952, Abernathy married Juanita Odessa Jones of Uniontown, Alabama, who also played a major role in the civil rights movement. In 1954 a young minister from Atlanta came to Montgomery to lead a nearby church and Abernathy became an advisor to Martin Luther King, Jr. Abernathy and King's friendship grew over the years and together they organized protests, sit-ins, and marches. Abernathy was arrested with King 17 times and was always by King's side, including when he was assassinated on April 4, 1968, in Memphis, Tennessee.

In 1955, after the arrest of Rosa Parks for not relinquishing her bus seat to a white patron, Abernathy and King organized a boycott of the Montgomery bus system that forced the system's racial desegregation in 1956. This nonviolent boycott marked the beginning of the civil rights movement that changed American society. Unfortunately, Abernathy's nonviolent methods to achieve equality were rewarded with threats and the bombings of his church and home.

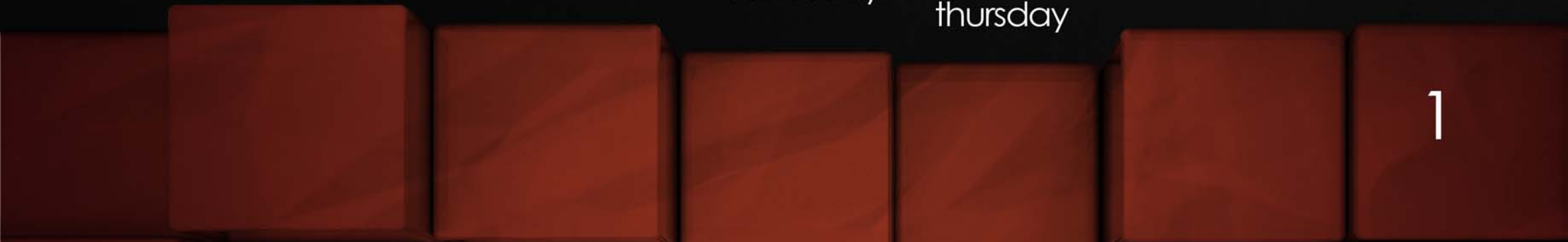
In 1957 Abernathy worked with King and others to establish the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, the most prominent civil rights organization in the south. King was the first president to lead the new organization. Abernathy served as secretary-treasurer, vice president, and president.

In 1963 Abernathy was one of four African American ministers sued for supporting a New York Times ad criticizing Alabama police. In the landmark *New York Times v. Sullivan* decision, the Supreme Court reversed the guilty verdict, thus, limiting public officials' right to seek damages from critics. In 1968 Abernathy led the Poor People's Campaign, which included a march on Washington that led to the creation of the Federal Food Stamps Program. In 1989, his autobiography *And the Walls Came Tumbling Down* was published. Ralph David Abernathy died on April 17, 1990, in Atlanta, Georgia.





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# APRIL

## Herschell Hamilton

Herschell Lee Hamilton, M.D., F.A.C.S., was born in Pensacola, Florida. During the 1960s, Dr. Hamilton became known as “Battle Surgeon” and “Dog-Bite Doctor” because he treated numerous injuries suffered by foot soldiers of the Civil Rights Movement in Birmingham, Alabama. Hamilton’s office, at the historic Ballard House, not only served as his medical office, at times it served as a triage unit for civil rights activists who were injured during the demonstrations. Under his direct care, many sick and injured Civil Rights participants and their families received free medical and surgical care. In 1965, he served as a medical coverage team member on the first day of the Selma to Montgomery March. Two of his well known patients included Rev. Fred Shuttlesworth and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

In 1949, Hamilton graduated from Florida A&M University with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Biology. After serving in the U.S. Armed Forces during World War II, he earned his Doctor of Medicine Degree in 1954 from Meharry Medical College in Nashville and completed a General Surgery Residency at Homer G. Phillips Hospital in St. Louis. Hamilton came to Birmingham in 1959, becoming the first African-American Board-Certified General Surgeon in the city. In 1968, Hamilton became the first African-American Board-Certified General Surgeon at University Hospital in Birmingham.

Hamilton committed his life to the advancement of civil rights and the health and well-being of all people, but particularly African-Americans, who often were denied adequate medical care. Hamilton practiced medicine for over 40 years in Birmingham, never turning away a single patient because of their inability to pay. In addition to his membership in

many professional and civic organizations, he continued his contributions to the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, NAACP, and served as a Founding Board Member of the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute.

Dr. Hamilton passed away in 2003. Reverend Fred Shuttlesworth said of his friend, Dr. Hamilton, “He was a great believer in civil rights and human rights, but he didn’t talk about the work he did. He gave the credit to others.” His life mission to help others lives on through scholarships in his name. His alma mater, Florida A&M University, established the *Herschell L. Hamilton, MD Scholarship* to assist deserving high school seniors from the greater Birmingham area. In June 2013, the University of Alabama System Board of Trustees approved the establishment of the *Herschell Lee Hamilton, M.D. Endowed Scholarship in Medicine*, supporting African-American students attending the University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Medicine.





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# MAY

## John LeFlore

John L. LeFlore was born in Mobile, Alabama on May 17, 1903. Like most African Americans growing up in the Deep South at the beginning of the 20th century, LeFlore experienced many indignities. But LeFlore refused to accept the status quo and for more than 50 years he was the voice and face of the civil rights movement along the Gulf Coast. LeFlore played a key role in the desegregation of the Mobile public schools and changing the at-large election format in Mobile to ensure African Americans had a voice in government.

After a confrontation with the police in 1925, LeFlore's leadership turned the beleaguered and inactive Mobile branch of the NAACP into one of the most productive branches in the state. He was named executive secretary and held that position until 1956, when the state of Alabama secured an injunction against the NAACP prohibiting the organization from operating in the state. However, the ban did not stop LeFlore from continuing his fight for equal rights. In 1936 he helped establish the NAACP's Regional Conference of Southern Branches and became its first chairman. In the 1940s and 50s, LeFlore, serving as a news correspondent for the *Chicago Defender*, the *Pittsburgh Courier*, and the *Associated Negro Press*, reported on numerous civil rights violations occurring in the South.

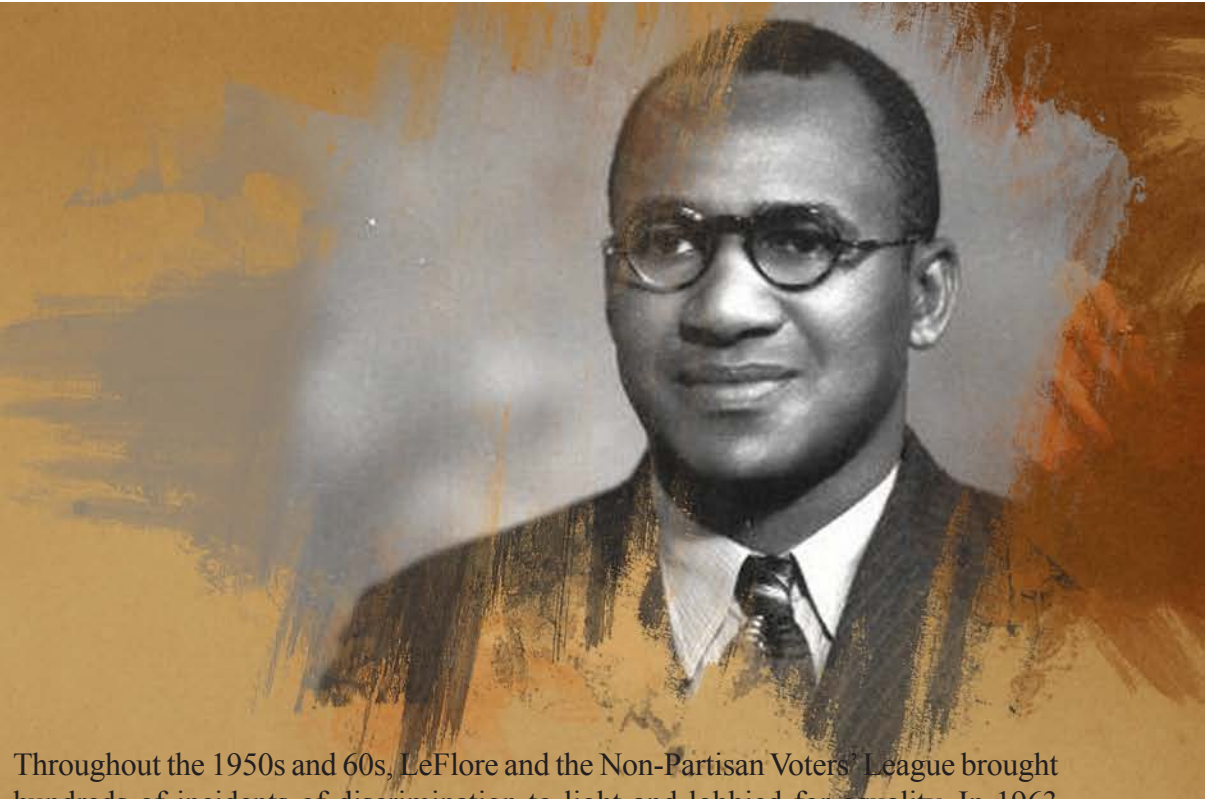
LeFlore recognized that the only chance African Americans had to achieve true equality and justice in Alabama would be through active participation in the political process. Beginning in 1957 the Non-Partisan Voters' League, an organization LeFlore and other activists reorganized after the banning of the NAACP in Alabama, began publishing the "Pink Sheets." The Pink Sheets listed state and local candidates who were considered advocates of the civil rights movement. Candidates listed on the Pink Sheets carried the majority of the African American votes during the 12 years they were published. Although pink in color, the Pink Sheets caused candidates to finally see the colors "black and brown" in a different light.

Throughout the 1950s and 60s, LeFlore and the Non-Partisan Voters' League brought hundreds of incidents of discrimination to light and lobbied for equality. In 1963 working with the NAACP Legal Defense Fund, LeFlore filed a suit to desegregate Mobile's public schools. Thirty-four years later *Birdie Mae Davis v. Mobile County Board of Education* was finally dismissed, making it the longest-running secondary school desegregation case in American history.

In the early 1960s LeFlore successfully desegregated several downtown businesses, restaurants, and the city-owned golf course. Mobile's desegregation process appeared to be on a smoother path than other Alabama cities. LeFlore was praised for leading a peaceful transition throughout such a turbulent time. However, LeFlore did not escape the terror tactics that many civil rights leaders experienced. In 1967 LeFlore's home was fired bombed.

In 1966 LeFlore was the first African American appointed to the Mobile Housing Board. In 1973 LeFlore made an unsuccessful bid for the U.S. Senate, but the following year LeFlore and Gary Cooper, became the first African Americans elected to the state legislature from Mobile since Reconstruction.

In addition to LeFlore's civil rights activities, he also supported numerous organizations and served on several committees. Some of the issues he worked on included prison reform, health and family planning, veterans' rights, labor unions, and public education. On January 31, 1976, LeFlore died of a heart attack.





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# JUNE

## Lawrence J. Pijeaux, Jr.

Lawrence J. Pijeaux, Jr., Ed.D. is President and Chief Executive Officer of the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute (BCRI). Pijeaux began his tenure at BCRI in July 1995. BCRI brings to life both the anguish and the accomplishments of the long march to freedom through interactive, multi-media exhibits, along with an impressive archives and oral history collection that records first-hand accounts from over 400 of the Movement's courageous followers and celebrated leaders.

A native of New Orleans, Louisiana, Pijeaux received his Bachelor of Science Degree from Southern University in Baton Rouge, Louisiana; a Master of Arts in Teaching Degree from Tulane University in New Orleans, Louisiana; and a Doctor of Education Degree from the University of Southern Mississippi in Hattisburg. He completed post-graduate work at The Getty Leadership Institute for Museum Management on the campus of the University of California in Berkeley. Under his leadership, BCRI achieved full accreditation from the American Association of Museums in July 2005. The Birmingham Civil Rights Institute has received two consecutive national awards presented at the White House by former First Lady Laura Bush, for community service--the Coming Up Taller Award in 2007 and the inaugural National Medal for Museum Service in 2008. In April of 2007, BCRI was named an affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution.

Former Alabama Governor Bob Riley appointed Pijeaux to the boards of the Alabama School of Mathematics and Science and the Alabama Bureau of Tourism and Travel. In 2006, the Alabama Department of Tourism named Pijeaux as Alabama Tourism Executive of the Year. He is a member of Leadership Birmingham and Leadership Alabama, and is a past president of the Association of African American Museums.



Pijeaux was nominated by President Barack Obama to serve on the National Museum and Library Services Board on March 8, 2010. The United States Senate confirmed his nomination on June 22, 2010. Pijeaux currently serves on the board of the American Alliance of Museums (Formerly the American Association of Museums).

Locally and nationally, BCRI continues to be recognized for its excellent programs and award-winning exhibitions. In 2009, it was recognized as the Alabama Attraction of the Year, and again in 2012 (along with the Birmingham Civil Rights District). Also in 2012, BudgetTravel magazine named BCRI as one of the 15 places in the country that children should visit before they're 15. BCRI was also recognized as the #1 Birmingham attraction (out of 31) by TripAdvisor and one of the top ten attractions for the nation's children to visit by Yahoo!® Travel. In 2013, the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute was the first organization to receive the "I AM A MAN" award from the April 4<sup>th</sup> Foundation and was featured in National Geographic's book, "100 Places That Can Change Your Child's Life; From Your Backyard to the Ends of the Earth."



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# JULY

## Alexis M. Herman

Born in Mobile, Alabama, Alexis M. Herman began her career working for Catholic Charities helping young out-of-school men and women find work in the Pascagoula, Mississippi shipyard. At the age of twenty-nine, President Jimmy Carter's appointment made her the youngest director of the Women's Bureau in the history of the Labor Department. And on May 1, 1997, Alexis M. Herman was sworn in as America's 23rd Secretary of Labor and the first African American ever to lead the United States Department of Labor. She also served as a valued member of the National Economic Council.

As Secretary, she focused on a prepared workforce, a secure workforce, and quality workplaces. With that mandate in mind, she consolidated the Department's wide array of skills development programs into a simpler, more efficient system. She led the effort to institute a global child labor standard; moved people from welfare to work with dignity; and launched the most aggressive unemployed youth initiative since the 1970's. Under her tenure unemployment in the country reached a thirty-year low and the nation witnessed the safest workplace record in the history of the Department of Labor. Alexis Herman's actions as Secretary were a reflection of her understanding of the needs of America's workers and the challenges they faced as this nation approached the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

Currently, Ms. Herman serves as chair and chief executive officer of New Ventures, LLC. She has continued to lend her expertise and talent to a vast array of corporate enterprises and nonprofit organizations. A recipient of more than twenty honorary doctorate degrees from major colleges and universities around the country, Herman is a trustee of the National Labor College George Meany Center. Presently, she chairs the Toyota Diversity Advisory Board and the Sodexo Business Advisory

Board, is a member of the boards of directors of Cummins Inc., Entergy Inc., MGM Mirage, and The Coca-Cola Company, and is the former chairwoman of the The Coca-Cola Company's Human Resources Task Force. She Co-Chaired the Bush Clinton Katrina Fund and is presently a board member of the Clinton Bush Haiti Fund. Her nonprofit work includes serving as a Trustee for the National Urban League and Social Action for Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

While serving as Secretary of Labor, Alexis Herman met and married her life partner, Dr. Charles L. Franklin, Jr. She and Dr. Franklin reside in McLean, Virginia.





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# AUGUST

## Amelia Boynton Robinson

Amelia Boynton Robinson was born in Savannah Georgia on August 18, 1911, to George Platts and Anna Elizabeth Hicks Platts. From her parents, she and her siblings learned four life principles: daily prayer, always help and show compassion for others, stand up for the morally right, and become economically independent.

At the age of 9 Ms. Robinson began her amazing journey to secure the right to vote for all Americans. Traveling with her mother in a horse-and-buggy, she handed out leaflets for the Women's Suffrage Movement. At 16 Robinson enrolled at Tuskegee University and began her education with Dr. George Washington Carver. While at Tuskegee she also ran track and was the captain of the girls basketball team.


Ms. Robinson became a registered voter in 1932. She was one of the first African Americans not stopped by the Alabama Voter Literacy Test given to prevent African Americans from voting. In 1933 Robinson and Rev. Frederick Reece established the Dallas County Voters League to help excluded citizens become registered voters.

An accomplished writer, Ms. Robinson wrote her first stage play, *Through the Years*, in 1936 to raise funds for the construction of a community center in Selma, Alabama that would welcome African Americans. *Through the Years* debuted in Selma and went on to be performed around the world. With help from the Works Progress Administration (WPA) and First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt, the center was completed and opened.

Beginning in the 1940s, 1315 Lapsley Street Selma, Alabama, the home of Amelia and her husband Sam Boynton, became a meeting place and shelter for civil rights activists and supporters including: George Washington Carver, Rosa Parks, Martin Luther King Jr., Mary McLeod Bethune, Ralph Bunch, Robert Kennedy, Duke Ellington, Joan Baez, Dick Gregory, Dorothy Height, Count Basie, Bill Cosby, John Lewis, James Bevel, Joseph P. Lowery Jr., Andrew Young, foreign dignitaries, and many other well known, as well as lesser known heroes and heroines of the Civil Rights movement.

In 1955 Ms. Robinson organized the first boycott by African Americans in Alabama after a Selma woman died due to injuries sustained from being dragged by a bus, and that same year she personally boycotted most of the Selma white-owned stores that did not hire African Americans.

In the 1960s the pace of Civil and Voting Rights activities reached its peak and Ms. Robinson was racing along with it. On February 29, 1964, Robinson became the first woman ever to seek a seat in Congress from Alabama, winning ten percent of the vote when only five percent of the registered voters in her district were African American.



Amelia and Sam made their offices and home a headquarters for the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC). Sit-ins, marches, campaigns, protests, and numerous other events were planned and evaluated at the Boynton home in Selma. The "Bloody Sunday" attempted march from Selma to Montgomery to protest African American exclusion from voting was planned at the Boynton home. Then on March 7, 1965, Ms. Robinson marched at the head of the demonstration. Selma Sheriff Jim Clark ordered officials to breakup the march and beat any protester who would not leave. Robinson was one of the first victims; she was struck down and presumed dead at the foot of the Edmund Pettus Bridge. In the days that followed, the famous photograph of Robinson aroused anger and disgust throughout the United States and the world.

After Ms. Robinson was released from the hospital, Martin Luther King, Jr and several US Congressmen met at 1315 Lapsley Street to produce the first draft of the Voting Rights Act of 1965; later that year Robinson was invited to the White House when President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the Act into law.

Ms. Robinson has served as a board member and vice-chairperson of the International Schiller Institute, an organization founded to defend the rights of all humanity. In her 60's Robinson wrote *Bridges over Jordan*, which was published by The Schiller Institute. Robinson was the co-founder of the International Civil Rights Solidarity Movement. Robinson has received numerous awards including the Martin Luther King, Jr. Foundation Medal of Freedom, the medal of Italy's Lombardy Region from President Roberto Formigoni, and the National Visionary Leadership Award.

Living by the principle given to her by her parents to always help and show compassion for others, in 2007 Ms. Robinson attended the funeral of Sheriff Jim Clark. Sheriff Clark was the man who gave the orders that resulted in her beating on "Bloody Sunday", as well as the beatings of countless other civil rights protestors on more than one occasion.



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friday

saturday

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# SEPTEMBER


## Arthur Shores

Called “Alabama’s Drum Major for Justice” Arthur Shores was born on September 25, 1904, in Wenonah Alabama. He was the oldest of nine children and like most first-born children he was a leader and defender of the rights of others. That “leader-defender” mentality led Shores to become one of the most successful African American and civil rights attorneys in Alabama and the nation. His landmark case, *Lucy v. Adams*, opened the doors at the University of Alabama for Ms. Autherine Lucy and all African Americans. The case was heard by the U.S. Supreme Court in 1955. The Court’s decision struck down the University of Alabama’s policy of denying admission based solely on race or color. Ms. Lucy became the first African American to attend the University of Alabama when she was admitted in 1956.

Shores graduated from Talladega College in 1927 with a teaching degree. However, Shores’ lifelong dream of becoming an attorney led him to enroll at the University of Kansas’ Law School in 1934 and then at La Salle Extension University where he was awarded his law degree. In 1937 Shores passed the Alabama State Bar exam, which was considered one of the toughest bar exams in the nation.

Combining his “leader-defender” mindset with a law degree, Shores became the first African American attorney in Alabama to represent his own clients in court. He took cases that appeared to have almost no chance of winning. One such case involved a white Birmingham police officer accused of police brutality against black labor leader Will Hall. To everyone’s astonishment, the police officer was found guilty of assaulting Mr. Hall. The Hall case, along with the altercation that resulted after the verdict, was the catalyst that secured Shores’ place among the great civil rights leaders.

Before Shores’ famous *Lucy v. Adams* case, he successfully argued before the Supreme Court of the United States in 1944 on behalf of the Colored Association

A portrait of Arthur Shores, an elderly African American man with a mustache, wearing a dark suit, white shirt, and patterned tie. He is looking slightly to the right of the camera with a calm expression. The background is a textured, warm-toned wall with a faint grid pattern.

of Railroad Employees in *Steele v. L. & N.R. CO*. The case dealt with a whites-only railroad union that excluded African Americans and then denied them better jobs because they were not union members.

Shores’ association with the NAACP allowed him to work on some of the landmark cases in the modern Civil Rights era and with the premier civil rights attorneys in the nation, including future Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall. Alabama’s ban of the NAACP in 1956 led Rev. Fred Shuttlesworth to form the Alabama Christian Movement for Human Rights, which carried on the mission of the NAACP with Shores leading many of the legal battles.

Shores’ courage and character were often tested living in the section of Birmingham nicknamed “Dynamite Hill.” But every threat and assault only inspired Shores to fight harder to secure equal justice for all. Risking his life and the lives of his family, in 1963, Shores supported the integration of Birmingham public schools. Later that same year the Shores’ home was bombed twice.

During his career, Shores represented many Civil Rights legends including Rev. Fred Shuttlesworth and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. In 1968 Shores became the first African American to serve on the Birmingham City Council, a position he held for 10 years. That same year he also served as Alabama’s first African American delegate to a Democratic National Convention. Arthur Shores died on December 16, 1996, at the age of 92.



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# OCTOBER

## Richard Arrington

“I know where we are, I know where we’ve come from, and I know where we have yet to go as a city.” On November 13, 1979, the beginning of a new political era in Birmingham was ushered in with these powerful words by Mayor Richard Arrington, Jr., the first African American to serve as the Chief Executive of Alabama’s largest city.

Dr. Richard Arrington, Jr. was born on October 19, 1934, the older of two sons born to Richard and Mary Ernestine Arrington, sharecroppers, who then lived in Livingston (Sumter County), Alabama. When he was five years old, the Arringtons moved to the Birmingham, Alabama, suburb of Fairfield.

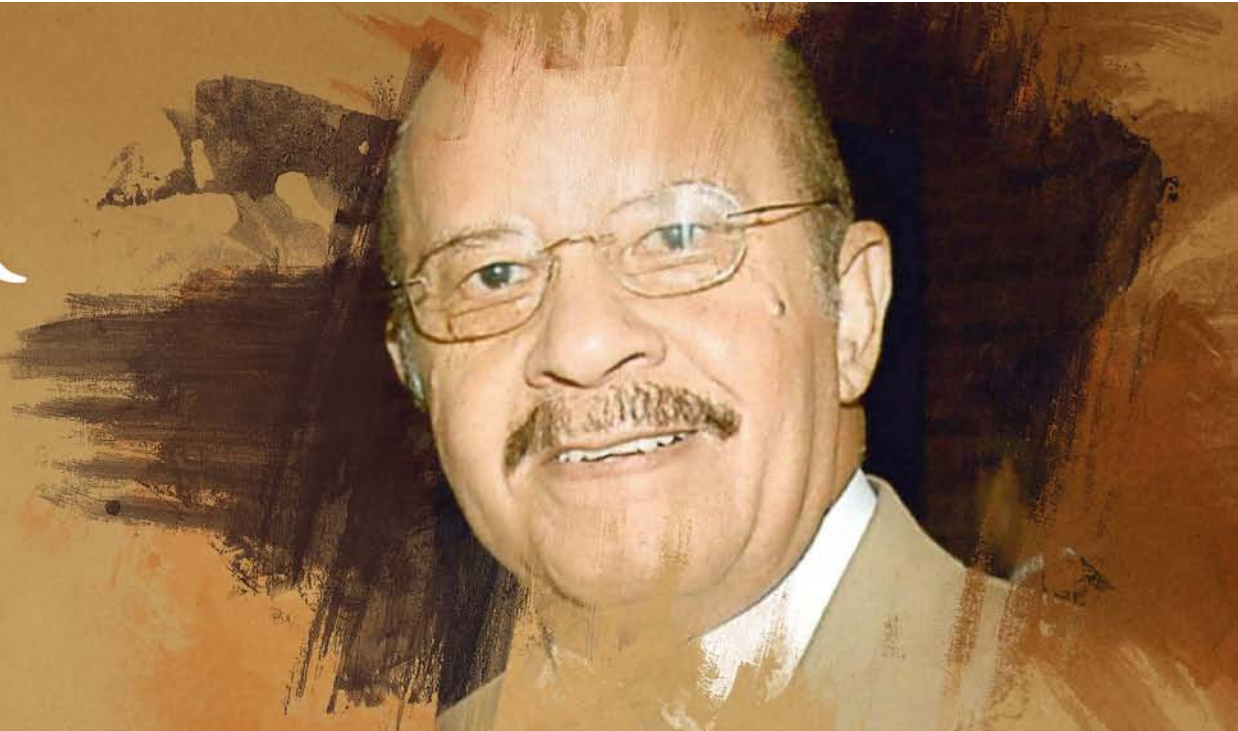
At the age of 16 Arrington graduated with honors from Fairfield Industrial High and then matriculated at Miles College where he earned his Bachelor’s Degree in Biology and minor in Chemistry. His desire of knowledge led him to obtain his Masters Degree in Biology from the University of Detroit in 1957 and a PhD in Zoology from the University of Oklahoma in 1966. He also did post-doctoral work in Higher Education Administration at Harvard University and the University of Michigan.

Arrington served as a National Science Foundation Research Fellow at the Medical College of the State University of Iowa (Iowa City) and at Washington University (St. Louis, Mo.) Eight institutions have awarded him honorary doctoral degrees for outstanding professional and civic services.

From 1966 - 1970 Arrington served as Chairman of the Science Department and Academic Dean at Miles College. From 1970 – 1979 he served as Executive Director of the Alabama Center For Higher Education, a consortium of the 8 four-year historically black colleges in Alabama and part-time Associate Professor of Biology at the University of Alabama-Birmingham.

Birmingham’s Arrington era began in 1971 when he was elected to the Birmingham City Council. He was re-elected to the City Council in 1975. On October 30, 1979, in a run-off election, Arrington was elected Mayor of Birmingham, the city’s first African American mayor. He was re-elected to 4 additional terms, giving him a total of 5 terms or 20 years as the Chief Executive of Alabama’s largest city. He retired from that office in July 1999 and became a Visiting Professor of Public Service at The University of Alabama-Birmingham (1999 – 2003)

Under his leadership Birmingham re-built its faltering steel-industrial economy which had been the city’s major economic source since its founding. At the time of his first



election as Mayor in 1979 the city had a 20% unemployment rate. He was at the helm of the city’s transition to the most-diversified economy in the southeast – an economy now led by biomedical research and healthcare, telecommunications, engineering and banking. When he left office in 1999 the city had a record number of jobs and the lowest unemployment rate in its history. The city also built the strongest tax base in Alabama, expanded its city limits by 60 square miles, reduced crime to its lowest level in 25 years, and funded a \$200 million school construction program.

Arrington served on dozens of community service boards including The United Negro College Fund, the Urban League, Boy Scouts of America, The Salvation Army, Goodwill Industries, the United States Conference of Mayors, and the National League of Cities.

He also served on the Executive Committee of the Alabama Democratic Party and chaired the National Democratic Party’s Platform Committee for the 1984 San Francisco Convention.

His honors and recognitions are numerous, including: 1984 and 1990 - chosen #1 leader in Birmingham in polls of corporate and civic leaders by The Birmingham News and The Birmingham Post; One of the nation’s top 20 city officials according to U. S. News and World Report Magazine; Ebony Magazine’s 100 Most Influential Black Americans from 1980 – 2000; 1987 U.S. News and Report list of the nation’s best mayors; 1982 the Alabama Society of Public Administrators cited him as “The Alabama Administrator of the Year”; 1988 “The Nation’s Most Distinguished Mayor” by the National Urban Coalition; and The first recipient of the National Alpha Phi Alpha Thurgood Marshall Award. In October 2008 The University of Alabama published Arrington’s memoir entitled, “There is Hope for the World.”

Dr. Arrington is currently a Distinguished Visiting Professor at Miles College and President of JennRo, LLC, a consultant firm in Municipal Affairs and Higher Education. He is a life-long member of the Crumbey Bethel Primitive Baptist Church of Fairfield, Alabama, a member of the Deacons Board, and father of seven.



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# NOVEMBER

## Henry Panion

Henry Panion, III, PhD, holds degrees in music education and music theory from Alabama A & M University and the Ohio State University, respectively. He is most known for his work as conductor and arranger for superstar Stevie Wonder, for whose performances and recordings he has led many of the world's most notable orchestras, including the Royal Philharmonic, the Bolshoi Theater Orchestra, the Birmingham (England) Symphony, the Orchestra of Paris, the Melbourne (Australia) Symphony, the Rio de Janeiro Philharmonic, the Ra'anana Philharmonic, the Nice Symphony, the Gothenburg Symphony, and the Boston Pops Orchestra. The two-CD set *Natural Wonder* features Panion conducting his arrangements of many of Stevie Wonder's award-winning, chart-topping songs with Stevie and the Tokyo Philharmonic.

The creative force behind *Gospel Goes Classical* featuring Juanita Bynum, Jonathan Butler, and the GGC Symphony Orchestra and Choir, Panion made history topping the Billboard charts on both the Gospel and Classical Crossover Charts simultaneously. Other artists for whom Panion has had the opportunity to conduct and/or arrange include The Winans, Chet Atkins, Eugenia Zuckerman, Aretha Franklin, The Blind Boys of Alabama, Chaka Khan, the Lionel Hampton Orchestra, and American Idol winners Carrie Underwood and Ruben Studdard.

Panion's own works are programmed throughout the United States by many of this country's major orchestras, including the Atlanta Symphony, Cincinnati Pops, Cleveland Symphony, Philadelphia Orchestra, Detroit Symphony, Baltimore Symphony, San Francisco Symphony, Houston Symphony, and the National Symphony. A select list of other orchestras performing Panion's works includes San Antonio, Nova Scotia, Columbus, Charlotte, San Diego, Louisville, North Carolina, Indianapolis, Arkansas,

Jacksonville, Alabama, and the former Birmingham Metropolitan Orchestra, for which he served as Music Director from 1995-1997.

As a producer, composer, arranger, and orchestrator, Panion's work has produced two Grammy Awards, two Dove Awards, and a host of other national music awards and nominations. From 1994 to 2000, Panion served as chair of the Department of Music at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. Other honors include a 1995 Distinguished Alumni Award from Alabama A & M University and a 1996 Distinguished Alumni of the Year Award from the Ohio State University. He is the 1996 recipient of the Caroline P. and Charles W. Ireland Award for Scholarly Distinction and the 2009 recipient of the Congressional Black Caucus' Civic and Cultural Advancement Award. Panion was inducted into the Alabama Jazz Hall of Fame in 1995, as well as the Alabama A & M University Hall of Fame in 2000. The University of Alabama System Board of Trustees has honored Panion for his many contributions to the field of music by bestowing upon him the distinguished appointment of University Professor. In 2009, Dr. Panion was appointed to the post of Cultural Ambassador for the City of Birmingham, AL.





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# DECEMBER

## Dinah Washington

Born Ruth Lee Jones on August 29, 1924, in Tuscaloosa Alabama, Dinah Washington, an Alabama Jazz and Rock & Roll Hall of Fame member, was known as the “Queen of the Blues.” With a string of hits during the 1950s, she became the most popular African American female recording artist of the decade. Washington had three songs - *Unforgettable*, *Teach Me Tonight*, and *What A Diff'rence A Day Makes* inducted into the Grammy Hall of Fame. In 1993 the United States Postal Service issued the Dinah Washington commemorative postage stamp and in 2009 the city of Tuscaloosa, Alabama, renamed the section of 30th Avenue between 15th Street and Kaulton Park “Dinah Washington Avenue.”

Like many great singers, Washington’s music career started in the church where spirituals comprised most of her singing repertoire during her early years. However, Washington’s passion and future musical success was in Jazz, R&B and the Blues. She learned to play the piano from her mother, who played at St. Luke’s Baptist Church in Chicago. At the age of 15, Washington won an amateur talent contest at the Regal Theatre and began performing in nightclubs as a jazz pianist and vocalist. The following year Washington became a member of the Sallie Martin Gospel Singers.

In 1942 after listening to a Washington performance at the Garrick Stage Bar talent agent Joe Glaser recommended her to Lionel Hampton and the following year Washington joined the Lionel Hampton Orchestra. During her time at the Garrick Stage Bar a patron of the bar could listen to Washington perform upstairs and stroll downstairs to hear Billie Holiday, Washington’s idol, perform. From 1943 to 1946 Washington toured with the Lionel Hampton Orchestra and had her first hit *Evil Gal Blues*, which was followed by *Salty Papa Blues*, both appearing on Billboard’s Harlem

Hit Parade. Washington signed as a solo artist with Mercury Records in 1946, cutting her ties with the Lionel Hampton Orchestra.

Washington’s first record at Mercury Records was *Ain’t Misbehavin’*, which landed her at number 6 on the R&B charts. *Ain’t Misbehavin’* was the first of many hits for Washington. From 1948 to 1955 she produced 27 Top Ten hits on the R&B charts, with 2 hitting number one: *Am I Asking Too Much* and *Baby Get Lost*. In 1959 Washington crossed over into the mainstream pop market with *What A Diff'rence A Day Makes* and at the 2nd Annual Grammy Awards *What A Diff'rence A Day Makes* earned Washington a Grammy for best Rhythm & Blues Performance. Washington’s success continued into the 1960’s, scoring 2 more number 1 R&B hits: *Baby (You’ve Got What It Takes)* and *A Rockin’ Good Way (To Mess Around and Fall in Love)*. Both songs were duets with Brook Benton.

Washington worked with some of the world’s greatest musicians including Count Basie, Duke Ellington, Lionel Hampton, Quincy Jones, Brook Benton, and drummer Max Roach just to name a few. Her talents landed her performances at the most prestigious national and international Jazz festivals and a royal performance at the London Palladium before Queen Elizabeth.

Unfortunately, On December 14, 1963, at the young age of 39, Dinah Washington’s life and her magical voice ended due to an accidental overdose of alcohol and diet pills.





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