



*Alabama*  
**AFRICAN  
AMERICAN**  
*History Calendar*

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—|2016|—

PRESENTED BY



## Letter from the President



**Fred McCallum**  
President, AT&T Alabama

**ALABAMA IS FULL OF NATURAL DIVERSITY** — the Appalachian Mountains, the fertile Black Belt, and the white beaches along the gulf coast to name a few. However, it is our cultural diversity and how we learned to work together that has made Alabama great. As I write this letter, my thoughts are with our friends in South Carolina, who lovingly demonstrated how a diverse community can come together in a time of tragedy and, through their actions, inspire a nation.

**AT AT&T, WE UNDERSTAND THE IMPORTANCE OF DIVERSITY** and the power of inclusion to bring about positive changes in communities. Every day we challenge ourselves and others to rethink possibilities and seize opportunities to create a more promising future. AT&T's commitment to providing opportunities for all people is part of our core principles.

**OUR 50-STATE WORKFORCE IS 35 PERCENT FEMALE** and 41 percent people of color. Our managers are 37 percent female and 35 percent people of color. In 2014, we spent \$16.5 billion with minority, women, and disabled veteran-owned business enterprises, representing 27% of our total expenditures. We believe that our success begins with a diverse and inclusive workforce that benefits our business, employees, customers, and communities.

**FOR THE SIXTH YEAR, WE ARE PLEASED TO HIGHLIGHT THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF AFRICAN AMERICANS** who have contributed to Alabama's rich heritage. A special thanks to all of our partners for their contributions and commitment to making the History Calendar a resource that encourages and inspires us all.



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Photo Courtesy of Eric Shultz/AL.com

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Visit the Alabama African American History website at [www.alafricanamerican.com](http://www.alafricanamerican.com)  
For more information on AT&T Alabama, visit [alabama.att.com](http://alabama.att.com)



# Dr. Sonnie Wellington Hereford III

previously all-white public school in Alabama.

Understanding the importance of education and with the desire to become a physician, Hereford worked hard and graduated number one in his class. He applied to the University of Alabama with the hope of entering their pre-med program and, although he was his class valedictorian, his application was rejected because of his race. Hereford enrolled at Alabama A&M University, graduated in 2 years, and went on to receive his medical degree from Meharry Medical College.

In 1956, Hereford began his medical practice in Huntsville, Alabama. At Huntsville Hospital, the African American doctors—both of them—were not allowed to eat in the hospital cafeteria. Only one room was available to African American patients; it served as the delivery room, the operating room and the emergency room. A patient who had been prepped for surgery would sometimes have to be taken off the table and wait while an emergency, such as a woman in labor, was attended to. During his 40+ years of practicing medicine, Hereford delivered over 2,200 babies and served as the attending physician at both Oakwood College and Alabama A&M University. He also provided medical care to marchers during the Selma to Montgomery march and performed the medical exam for Vivian Malone as she prepared to matriculate at the University of Alabama.

On January 3, 1962, the Congress on Racial Equality (CORE) came to Huntsville to help end segregation in the city. It only took a few days of sit-ins and protests before more than 15 students had been arrested. In response to the arrests and the lack of interest by Mayor Searcy to assist with ending segregation in Huntsville, members of the community formed the Community Service Committee (CSC). Hereford was selected as one of the leaders of the new organization. The CSC raised thousands of dollars to bail out jailed students and organized prayer marches and picket lines at stores

that discriminated against African Americans. The CSC also worked with Mayor Searcy to create a biracial committee and made sure students remained nonviolent at lunch counters and on the streets.

The CSC's attempts to end segregation weren't very successful initially. In an effort to gain national attention, Dr. John Cashin and Hereford devised a bold plan. On April 11, 1962, Hereford's pregnant wife, Martha, Dr. Cashin's wife, Joan, and their 4 month old daughter, along with Alabama A&M student, Frances Sims (now Washiri Ajanaku) staged a sit-in at the Walgreens' lunch counter. They were all arrested, but as planned they refused to pay bail and remained in jail for two days. The headlines in the *Huntsville Times* read, "Pregnant Woman Sentenced to Jail". Their story was picked up by the national media, and with a national audience, the CSC's sit-ins and their Easter Boycott, also called "Blue Jeans Sunday Boycott", gained traction. Within a few weeks local establishments had lost over \$1 million in profits. On July 9, 1962, the Huntsville city council began a three-day desegregation trial. Later that month, Huntsville became the first racially integrated city in Alabama.

On March 11, 1963, Hereford filed a lawsuit in his son's name to integrate the public schools in Huntsville. As a leader of Huntsville's civil rights movement and the named plaintiff in the school desegregation lawsuit, Hereford was the target of death threats and other intimidation. On August 13, 1963, in federal court in Birmingham, Judge H.H. Grooms of the Northern District ruled from the bench, citing the *Brown vs. Board of Education* ruling and ordered Huntsville public schools to integrate. On Monday, September 9, 1963, Hereford enrolled his son at Fifth Avenue School and public school integration in Alabama had begun. Fifty-one years later, on December 16, 2014, Hereford and his son attended the groundbreaking ceremony of the Sonnie Hereford Elementary School in Huntsville, Alabama.

**D**r. Sonnie Wellington Hereford III was born on January 7, 1931, in Huntsville, Alabama. Despite growing up in a house without running water or electricity and having to walk 7 miles to a school located next to the city dump with no library or cafeteria, Hereford overcame these and many other obstacles to become a medical doctor, educator, and civil rights activist.

On September 3, 1963, Hereford and his six year-old son were met by a mob of angry parents and students when he tried to enroll his son in an all-white school. He returned over the next several days only to find the school locked and guarded by armed state troopers dispatched by Governor George Wallace. Seeking help, Hereford contacted the federal judge that issued the order to desegregate Huntsville City Schools. The following week, on Monday, September 9, 1963, Hereford successfully enrolled his son at Fifth Avenue School making Sonnie Hereford IV the first African American student admitted to a

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# JANUARY

FEBRUARY	S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
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## Sunday

## Monday

## Tuesday

## Wednesday

## Thursday

## Friday

## Saturday

					<b>1</b> President Abraham Lincoln issues Emancipation Proclamation, 1863.	<b>2</b> Sadie Tanner Mossell Alexander, the first African American woman to receive a Ph.D. in the US, was born in Philadelphia, 1898.
<b>3</b> William Tucker, the first recorded African American birth in the American colonies, was born in Jamestown, Va., 1624.	<b>4</b> Grace Bumbry, opera singer, was born in St. Louis, Missouri, 1937.	<b>5</b> Alvin Ailey, Jr., hall of fame choreographer and activist, was born in Rogers, Texas, 1931.	<b>6</b> Louis Allen Rawls, soul, jazz and blues singer, died in 2006.	<b>7</b> Zora Neale Hurston, author and playwright, was born in Notasulga, Alabama, 1891.	<b>8</b> Charles Deslondes leads slave revolt in Louisiana, 1811.	<b>9</b> Earl Gilbert Graves, Sr., publisher, entrepreneur, philanthropist, and founder of <i>Black Enterprise</i> magazine was born in Brooklyn, New York, 1935.
<b>10</b> George Washington Carver, agricultural scientist, inventor, and educator born in 1864.	<b>11</b> Reuben V. Anderson, first African American to be appointed to Mississippi Supreme Court, 1985.	<b>12</b> U.S. Supreme Court rules that African Americans have the right to study law at state institutions, 1948.	<b>13</b> Douglas Wilder becomes first African American U.S. governor (Virginia) since Reconstruction, 1990.	<b>14</b> Dudley Randall, founder of Broadside Press, was born in Washington, D.C, 1914.	<b>15</b> Martin Luther King, Jr., clergyman, activist and leader of the Civil Rights Movement, was born in Atlanta, Georgia, 1929.	<b>16</b> Marcelite Jordan Harris, the first African American female general in the U.S. Air Force, was born in Houston, Texas, 1943.
<b>17</b> Three-time heavyweight boxing champion Muhammad Ali was born in Louisville, Kentucky, 1942.	<b>18</b> Dr. Daniel Hale Williams, pioneer heart surgeon, was born in Hollidaysburg, Pennsylvania, 1856.	<b>19</b> John Harold Johnson, publisher ( <i>Ebony</i> and <i>Jet</i> magazines), author, and businessman was born in Arkansas City, Arkansas, 1918.	<b>20</b> Colin Luther Powell became the first African American United States Secretary of State, 2001.	<b>21</b> Leonard Roy Harmon, the first African American to have a navy ship named in his honor, was born in Cuero, Texas, 1917.	<b>22</b> Susan Rice confirmed as U.S. Ambassador to the U.N., the first African American female to hold that position, 2009.	<b>23</b> "Roots" the television miniseries based on Alex Haley's book <i>Roots: The Saga of an American Family</i> , began airing on ABC, 1977.
<b>24</b> Jackie Robinson is first African American elected to Baseball Hall of Fame, 1962.	<b>31</b> Benjamin Lawson Hooks, attorney, minister and civil rights leader, was born in Memphis, Tennessee, 1925.	<b>25</b> Black Entertainment Television began broadcasting, 1980.	<b>26</b> Angela Yvonne Davis, political activist and educator, was born in Birmingham, Alabama, 1944.	<b>27</b> Leontyne Price made her Metropolitan Opera debut, 1961.	<b>28</b> Ronald Ervin McNair, physicist and NASA astronaut, died, along with six other crew members, during launch of the Space Shuttle Challenger, 1986.	<b>29</b> Violette Nealy Anderson becomes the first African American woman admitted to practice before the U.S. Supreme Court, 1926.
						<b>30</b> Franklin Thomas named president of Ford Foundation, 1979.

Photo courtesy of WHNT.com



## Dr. Frank Eaton Adams, Sr.

but he turned it down, choosing to remain instead in the classroom. He remained at Lincoln for 27 years, and then became the Birmingham City Schools Supervisor of Music for another 20 years, shaping the lives of thousands of youth over his lifetime. In 1978, Adams was inducted as a charter member of the Alabama Jazz Hall of Fame and eventually became its Executive Director.

Adams grew up in the Smithfield neighborhood of Birmingham and was introduced to music early. His father, Oscar Adams, Sr. had been a trombonist for W. C. Handy's Alabama A&M University orchestra, and his older brother Oscar Adams, Jr. played clarinet. While attending Lincoln Elementary, Adams was a student of William Handy, nephew of W.C. Handy. At Industrial High School, he was a student of Fess Whatley. In high school, Adams played in Whatley's big band, performing across the South. He later joined a second big band led by his former schoolmate, Sonny Blount (later known as "Sun Ra"). In 1945, Adams enrolled at Howard University in Washington D. C. and founded the Howard Swingmasters, the school's first jazz band. He graduated in 1949 and began playing for some of the giants of jazz, but he didn't abandon his passion for learning, continuing his education with a series of degrees up to his PhD in education.

In 1950, while waiting to rejoin the Duke

Ellington Orchestra, Adams took a temporary teaching position at Lincoln Elementary, replacing his former teacher William Handy. Adams quickly realized that his calling was in teaching. In his 27-year career at Lincoln Elementary, he produced numerous top-rated school bands.

During the civil rights era, Adams led the integration of band competitions in segregated Birmingham. In 1963, during the children marches, Adams would turn his back to write on the chalkboard, allowing his students to slip silently out of the room to participate in the marches. He would follow from a short distance to make sure they were safe. He stated, "These, after all, were band children, you couldn't stop them from marching." During his 20-year stint as Supervisor of Music for Birmingham City Schools, he instituted a Strings Program in the schools, putting new and recycled instruments into the hands of hundreds of music students.

Adams joined the Birmingham Heritage Band in 1976 and later performed with the Alabama Jazz Hall of Fame All-Stars. He was a featured soloist in the 313th Army Band. From 1997 to 2001, he served as the Executive Director of the Alabama Jazz Hall of Fame, and for many years until his death he served as its Director of Education Emeritus, orchestrating an annual Student Jazz Band Festival, and providing free jazz classes every Saturday morning.

Adams passed away on October 29, 2014.

**D**r. Frank Eaton Adams, Sr. was born on February 2, 1928, in Birmingham, Alabama. Adams was an accomplished jazz musician, playing the clarinet and alto sax with a style and tone that was clear and instantly recognizable, but above all he was an educator and mentor. He played with some of the greatest jazz musicians to ever perform including Duke Ellington, Erskine Hawkins, Tiny Bradshaw, Lucky Millinder, and Sun Ra.

In 1950, he took a temporary teaching position at Lincoln Elementary School in Birmingham, Alabama. His plan was to rejoin the Duke Ellington Orchestra when they returned from a European tour, but he quickly discovered a passion for teaching and mentoring. Shortly after Adams started teaching, he was offered a permanent spot in the Count Basie Orchestra,

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# FEBRUARY

MARCH S M T W TH F S  
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### Sunday

### Monday

### Tuesday

### Wednesday

### Thursday

### Friday

### Saturday

	<b>1</b> National Freedom Day. President Lincoln signed resolution that proposed the 13th Amendment which would officially abolish slavery, 1865.	<b>2</b> Alfred L. Cralle received patent #576395 for a lever operated ice cream scoop, a design still widely used today, 1897.	<b>3</b> Eric H. Holder Jr. sworn in as the nation's first African American attorney general, 2009.	<b>4</b> Rosa Parks, civil rights pioneer, who sparked the 1955 Montgomery, Alabama bus boycott, was born in Tuskegee, Alabama, 1913.	<b>5</b> Henry Louis "Hank" Aaron, hall of fame baseball player, was born in Mobile, Alabama, 1934.	<b>6</b> Arthur Ashe Jr., hall of fame tennis player, humanitarian and activist, dies, 1993.
<b>7</b> The first day of Negro History Week, originated by historian Carter G. Woodson. Negro History Week later became Black History Month, 1926.	<b>8</b> Debra Janine "Debi" Thomas became the first African American to win the United States National Ladies' Figure Skating title, 1986.	<b>9</b> Benard Anthony Harris Jr. becomes first African American astronaut to walk in space, 1995.	<b>10</b> Mary Violet Leontyne Price, internationally acclaimed opera singer, was born in Laurel, Mississippi, 1927.	<b>11</b> Nelson Mandela of South Africa is released from prison after 27 years, 1990.	<b>12</b> National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) founded, 1909.	<b>13</b> Edward Gay Robinson, hall of fame football coach, was born in Jackson, Louisiana, 1919.
<b>14</b> Frederick Douglass, abolitionist, women's suffragist, editor, author and statesman, was born in Tuckahoe, Maryland, 1818.	<b>15</b> Henry Lewis becomes the first African American to lead a symphony orchestra in the United States, 1968.	<b>16</b> James Baskett, first African American male actor to receive an Oscar, was born in Indianapolis, Indiana, 1904.	<b>17</b> James Nathaniel "Jim" Brown, hall of fame football player and actor, was born in St. Simons Island, Georgia, 1936.	<b>18</b> Toni Morrison, recipient of the 1993 Nobel Prize for Literature and the 1988 Pulitzer Prize for her novel <i>Beloved</i> was born in Lorain, Ohio, 1931.	<b>19</b> Vonetta Flowers becomes Winter Olympics' first African American gold medalist, 2002.	<b>20</b> Sidney Poitier, actor, director, author and diplomat, was born in Miami, Florida, 1927.
<b>21</b> John Robert Lewis, civil rights leader, politician and author, was born in Troy, Alabama, 1940.	<b>22</b> James Reese Europe, ragtime and jazz band-leader, arranger and composer, was born in Mobile, Alabama, 1881.	<b>23</b> William Edward Burghardt Du Bois, civil rights activist, historian and author, was born in Great Barrington, Massachusetts, 1868.	<b>24</b> Rebecca Lee Crumpler becomes first African American woman to receive a medical degree (New England Female Medical College), 1864.	<b>25</b> Hiram R. Revels, first African American to serve in the U.S. Senate. He filled the seat once held by Jefferson Davis, 1870.	<b>26</b> Civil rights activist Jimmie Lee Jackson dies after being shot by state police in Marion, Alabama, 1965.	<b>27</b> Marian Anderson, world-renowned opera singer and civil rights activist, was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, 1897.
<b>28</b> Michael Jackson, musician and entertainer, wins eight Grammy Awards, 1984.	<b>29</b> Hattie McDaniel became the first African American to win an Oscar for her role as Mammy in "Gone with the Wind" 1940.					

The Birmingham Black Barons professional baseball team was a member of the Negro Leagues from 1920 to 1960 and was considered “the jewel of Southern black baseball.”

Racial segregation policies in the United States during most of the 20th Century barred African Americans from playing many professional sports. The Black Barons and the other teams of the Negro Leagues gave African Americans an opportunity to play baseball at the professional level.

From the 1920s to the 1940s, the Birmingham Black Barons were among the most successful baseball teams in the Negro League and featured some of the greatest players to ever play the game. Five Black Barons, George “Mule” Suttles, Leroy “Satchel” Paige, Willie Wells, Bill Foster, and Willie Mays were inducted into the National League Baseball Hall of Fame.

The first Black Baron team emerged in the years following World War I, primarily from players who competed in the Industrial League. Industrial League games between teams from ACIPCO, Connor Steel, Stockham Valve and Fittings, and other companies were huge in Birmingham and could easily draw 5,000 spectators. In 1920,



the Black Barons became charter members of the eight-team Negro Southern League, a minor league organization. In 1923, the Negro National League, organized by Rube Foster, granted Birmingham the opportunity to have a major league franchise, and the Black Barons joined the Negro Major League. In 1927, the Black Barons played for the National League title, losing to the Chicago American Giants. Due to financial problems caused by the Great Depression, the team moved back to the minor league for most of the 1930s.

The Black Barons played their home games at Rickwood Field when the white Barons were not playing and on alternate Sundays. Built in 1910, Rickwood Field is the nation’s oldest baseball park in use today.

Ballgames were important events, serving as a diversion to the evils of segregation and a source of pride and accomplishment in African American communities. Negro League ballplayers were considered role models and heroes. When the Black Barons played Sunday home games, local pastors would often dismiss their congregation before noon, telling their parishioners that they would meet them at the game.

In 1939, the Black Barons were purchased by a Memphis undertaker named Tom Hayes, and over the next decade, the greatest teams in the franchise’s history emerged, winning three Negro American League pennants in 1943, 1944, and 1948. Additionally, during that 10-year period, 12 different Black Barons played in

the annual Negro League East-West All-Star Game, played at Chicago’s Comiskey Park.

When Jackie Robinson broke baseball’s color barrier in 1946, the hard-fought goal of the Negro Leagues was finally realized. Unfortunately, it also ushered in the demise of the Negro Leagues. In 1948, the Black Barons and the Homestead Grays met in the last Negro League World Series. In 1959, after 3 unsuccessful attempts at winning the Negro League World Series, the Black Barons finally won the Negro League Championship. The Black Barons played their last season in 1963. The history of the Birmingham Black Barons and the Negro Leagues is showcased in the Negro Southern Leagues Museum located in Birmingham, Alabama.

## Birmingham Black Barons

FEBRUARY

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# MARCH

APRIL

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### Sunday

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		<b>1</b> The Civil Rights Act of 1875 was signed into law by President Ulysses Grant, 1875.	<b>2</b> David Satchel, physician, U.S. Surgeon General and Assistant Secretary for Health, was born in Anniston, Alabama, 1941.	<b>3</b> Thomas L. Jennings, first African American to receive a U.S. patent (number 3306x) for a dry-scouring process, now known as dry-cleaning, 1821.	<b>4</b> Garrett Augustus Morgan, Sr., inventor and entrepreneur, was born in Paris, Kentucky, 1877.	<b>5</b> Crispus Attucks, one of the first casualties of the American Revolution, was killed in the Boston Massacre, 1770.
<b>6</b> The Supreme Court decided <i>Dred Scott v. Sandford</i> . This opinion declared that slaves were not U.S. citizens and could not sue in Federal courts, 1857.	<b>7</b> The first Selma to Montgomery march ended when marchers were attacked by state and local police at the Edmund Pettus Bridge “Bloody Sunday”, 1965.	<b>8</b> Alexander T. Augusta, surgeon, Civil War veteran, and highest-ranking African American officer in the Union Army, born in Norfolk, Va., 1825.	<b>9</b> Oscar Stanton De Priest, the first African American elected to Congress in the 20th century, was born in Florence, Alabama, 1871.	<b>10</b> Harriet Tubman, abolitionist, Union Army spy and suffragist, died, 1913. Tubman was buried with military honors.	<b>11</b> Ralph David Abernathy, minister and civil rights leader, was born in Linden, Alabama, 1926.	<b>12</b> Virginia Hamilton, children’s books author, was born in Yellow Springs, Ohio, 1936.
<b>13</b> Cowtown/Work to Ride polo team from Philadelphia, first African American team to win the National Interscholastic Polo Championship, 2011.	<b>14</b> Quincy Delight Jones, Jr., trumpeter, music conductor and arranger, record producer, and film composer, was born in Chicago, Illinois, 1933.	<b>15</b> Joseph Jenkins Roberts, the first President of the Republic of Liberia, was born in Norfolk, Virginia, 1809.	<b>16</b> Mississippi became the last state to ratify the Thirteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution which abolished slavery, 1995.	<b>17</b> Nathaniel Adams “Nat King” Cole, hall of fame jazz pianist and singer, was born in Montgomery, Alabama, 1919.	<b>18</b> Fred Shuttlesworth, minister and civil rights activist, was born Freddie Lee Robinson in Mount Meigs, Alabama, 1922.	<b>19</b> Rev. Leon Sullivan elected to board of directors of General Motors, 1971.
<b>20</b> Jan E. Matzeliger received patent 274,207 for his Automatic Method for Lasting Shoes, 1883.	<b>21</b> Lewis H. Latimer of New York City shared patent number 255,212 for a Globe Supporter for Electric Lamps, 1882.	<b>22</b> Joseph Paul Reason, the first African American four-star admiral in the United States Navy, was born in Washington, D. C., 1941.	<b>23</b> Maynard Holbrook Jackson, Jr., the first African American mayor of Atlanta, Georgia, was born in Dallas, Texas, 1938.	<b>24</b> Janet Harmon Waterford Bragg, the first African American female to hold a commercial pilot license, was born in Griffin, Georgia, 1907.	<b>25</b> Aretha Louise Franklin, hall of fame pianist, singer and songwriter, was born in Memphis, Tennessee, 1942.	<b>26</b> Thomas J. Martin of Dowagiac, Michigan received patent number 125,063 for improvements in the fire extinguisher, 1872.
<b>27</b> Arthur Mitchell, hall of fame dancer and choreographer, was born in Harlem, New York, 1934.	<b>28</b> William Christopher “W. C.” Handy, hall of fame blues composer and musician, died, 1958.	<b>29</b> Andrew Jackson Beard, hall of fame inventor, was born in Woodland, Alabama, 1849.	<b>30</b> The Fifteenth Amendment was adopted into the Constitution granting African American men the right to vote, 1870.	<b>31</b> Thomas M. Peterson of Perth Amboy, New Jersey, cast the first vote by an African American after the passage of the 15th Amendment, 1870.		



## Martha Reeves

where *To Run*,” and *“Dancing In The Street,”* one of the biggest Motown singles ever released.

In 1995, Reeves was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. She is also a member of the Alabama Music Hall of Fame. In 2005, Reeves turned her sights toward politics and won a seat on the Detroit City Council.

In 1962, Motown’s Artist and Repertoire (A&R) Director, William “Mickey” Stevenson, heard the voice that would become synonymous with “the sound of young America.” A young jazz/blues singer with the unlikely name of “Martha Lavaille” was bringing audiences to their feet at Detroit’s famed 20 Grand Nightclub, singing songs made popular by singers like Gloria Lynne and Della Reese. Stevenson invited her to audition at the new Motown Records headquarters, nicknamed “Hitsville, USA.”

Though the audition never happened, within a year, Reeves was working with Stevenson at Motown Records in the company’s A&R department. She was responsible for ensuring musicians showed up on time and got paid. She watched, learned, and whenever the opportunity presented itself, she sang. And when she did, everyone took notice. When Mary Wells couldn’t make a session, Reeves was called to the mic. With her group, the Del-Phis, she recorded *“I’ll Have to Let Him Go,”* and the rest is history.

Martha and the Vandellas backed Marvin Gaye on his first three releases and sang with him on stage. Soon, they emerged from the shadows with *“Come and Get These Memories,”* fol-

lowed by an enviable string of hits: *“Heat Wave,”* *“Quicksand,”* *“In My Lonely Room,”* *“Nowhere To Run,”* *“My Baby Loves Me,”* *“Love Makes Me Do Foolish Things,”* *“I’m Ready For Love,”* *“Jimmy Mack,”* and, of course, the Motown anthem, *“Dancing In The Street.”*

In 1972, Reeves left Motown Records seeking new artistic and musical horizons. She expanded her musical repertoire to include a myriad of styles such as rock, jazz, country, gospel, blues, and classical and performed with numerous artists including James Brown, Bruce Springsteen, opera diva Beverly Sills and gospel singer Bishop Rance Allen. Reeves headlined a national touring company of the musical *“Ain’t Misbehaving,”* and for three years toured the UK in the musical revue *“Dancing In The Street.”*

In 2004, Reeves produced her *“Home to You”* CD. It was named one of the year’s best by the *Asbury Park Press*. In 2005, Will Smith was searching the Motown vaults and discovered *“It’s Easy To Fall In Love,”* an unreleased gem by Reeves, and included it in the hit movie *“Hitch.”* Also in 2005, Motown released Reeves’ *“Lost and Found”* collection, which included the rare Smokey Robinson-penned *“Spellbound,”* her studio recording of *“For Once In My Life,”* and covers of hits by the likes of Aretha Franklin, the Marvelettes, Vikki Carr, Sam & Dave, and the Four Tops. Reeves was featured in the PBS special, *“Motown: The Early Years.”* Today, Reeves continues to thrill audiences around the world.

**M**artha Rose Reeves was born in Eufaula, Alabama on July 18, 1941. At a very young age, Reeves and her family moved to Detroit, Michigan, where her grandfather, Reverend Elijah Reeves, was a minister at Detroit’s Metropolitan Church.

In 1959, after graduating from high school, she joined a girl group called the Fascinations and a year later joined the Del-Phis. The Del-Phis (Martha Reeves, Annette Beard, and Rosalind Ashford) later became Martha and the Vandellas. Throughout the 1960s, Martha and the Vandellas scored hit after hit with songs such as *“Heat Wave,”* *“Quicksand,”* *“No-*

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					<b>1</b> Dr. Charles R. Drew, medical researcher who developed techniques for processing and preserving blood, died in a car accident, 1950.	<b>2</b> Georgetown coach John Thompson becomes first African American coach to win NCAA basketball tournament, 1984.
<b>3</b> Martin Luther King, Jr. delivered his “I’ve Been to the Mountaintop” speech in support of striking sanitation workers in Memphis, Tenn., 1968.	<b>4</b> Martin Luther King, Jr. was assassinated in Memphis, Tenn., 1968.	<b>5</b> Booker Taliaferro Washington, educator, author and political leader, was born enslaved on the Burroughs plantation in Virginia, 1856.	<b>6</b> Matthew A. Henson becomes one of the first people to reach the North Pole, 1909.	<b>7</b> Granville T. Woods patents (#315, 368) apparatus for transmission of messages by electricity, 1885.	<b>8</b> Hank Aaron hits his 715th career home run, surpassing Babe Ruth as Major League Baseball’s all-time home run leader, 1974.	<b>9</b> Marian Anderson performed her critically acclaimed concert on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial, 1939.
<b>10</b> Robert Lee Elder became the first African American to play in the Masters Golf Tournament, 1975.	<b>11</b> Percy Lavon Julian, research chemist and pioneer in the chemical synthesis of medicinal drugs from plants, was born in Montgomery, Alabama, 1899.	<b>12</b> Harold Washington becomes first African American mayor of Chicago, 1983.	<b>13</b> Sidney Poitier became the first African American man to win the Academy Award for Best Actor for his role in the movie “Lilies of the Field”, 1964.	<b>14</b> First abolitionist society in U.S. is founded in Philadelphia, 1775.	<b>15</b> Jackie Robinson became the first African American major league baseball player of the modern era, 1947.	<b>16</b> Slavery abolished in the District of Columbia, 1862.
<b>17</b> Mifflin Wistar Gibbs, businessman, politician and the first elected African American municipal judge, was born in Philadelphia, 1823.	<b>18</b> Alice Walker wins Pulitzer Prize for fiction for <i>The Color Purple</i> , 1983.	<b>19</b> Stationed in Germany, Major Gen. Frederic E. Davidson becomes first Black to lead an army division, 1972.	<b>20</b> George Faison became the first African American to win the Tony Award for Best Choreographer – “The Wiz”, 1975.	<b>21</b> Locksley Wellington “Slide” Hampton, jazz trombonist, composer and arranger, was born in Jeanette, Pennsylvania, 1932.	<b>22</b> Catherine L. Hughes, business executive and founder of Radio One and TV One, was born Catherine Elizabeth Woods in Omaha, Nebraska, 1947.	<b>23</b> Clatonia Joaquin Dorticus patents photographic print washer. Patent number 537,968. 1895
<b>24</b> David Harold Blackwell, the first African American inducted into the National Academy of Sciences, was born in Centralia, Illinois, 1919.	<b>25</b> The United Negro College Fund was founded to raise funds for private historically Black colleges and universities, 1944.	<b>26</b> Sarah Boone patents ironing board, patent number 473,653. 1892	<b>27</b> Coretta Scott King, civil rights leader and author, was born in Marion, Alabama, 1927.	<b>28</b> Sojourner Truth, abolitionist and women’s rights activist, is first African American woman to be honored with a bust in the U.S. Capitol, 2009.	<b>29</b> Edward Kennedy “Duke” Ellington, hall of fame pianist, composer and big band leader, was born in Washington, D.C., 1899.	<b>30</b> Michelle J. Howard, first African American woman to command a U.S. Navy ship and first female four-star admiral, was born in Riverside, California, 1960.



## Dr. Lucius Holsey Pitts, Sr.

Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges in 1969. In 1971, Pitts became the first alumnus and African American President of Paine College in Augusta, Georgia.

As President of Miles College, Pitts was a key figure in the community and played a major role in the Civil Rights Movement in Birmingham. With the extreme pressure of balancing his support of student activism and the safety of his students, in February 1962, Pitts organized meetings between Miles students and Birmingham business and community leaders in an attempt to avert a student led boycott of segregated businesses. After several meetings, a small number of stores integrated water fountains and elevators, but maintained segregation throughout most of their establishments. Because full integration was not implemented, Miles students began the "Selective Buying Campaign" in March 1962, boycotting businesses that supported segregation. This campaign was the precursor to other protests that eventually led to the end of segregation in Birmingham.

In 1963, Pitts became a member of the "Central Committee" formed by the leaders of the Alabama Christian Movement for Human Rights (ACMHR), the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, and other civil rights activists to create mass protests in 1963. The movement's joint "Central Committee" met regularly at the A. G. Gaston Motel to coordinate plans and issue state-

ments to the press. The Alabama Christian Movement for Human Rights coordinated boycotts and sponsored federal lawsuits aimed at dismantling segregation in Birmingham and across Alabama through the 1950s and 1960s. Fred Shuttlesworth, pastor of Bethel Baptist Church, served as president of the group from its founding in 1956 until 1969. The ACMHR was responsible for inviting Martin Luther King, Jr. and Ralph Abernathy to come to Birmingham to lead mass demonstrations in 1963. On the day after the 1963 mayoral election, won by Albert Boutwell, the ACMHR distributed the "Birmingham Manifesto", outlining the purpose and demands of the "Birmingham Campaign." In 1969, Pitts was appointed co-chair of a biracial community relations committee organized through Operation New Birmingham to respond to ongoing concerns of the African American community. The committee, named Community Affairs Committee (CAC), continues to meet each Monday morning under the auspices of REV Birmingham.

In 1971, Pitts returned to his alma mater, Paine College, to become its 9th President, the first alumnus and African American to lead the college. At Paine he led the efforts to rebuild Haygood Hall, built in 1899 and destroyed by fire in 1968. Pitts died on February 25, 1974, in Augusta, Georgia. He was buried on the campus of Paine College next to Gilbert-Lambuth Memorial Chapel.

**D**r. Lucius Holsey Pitts, Sr. was born on February 28, 1915, in James, Georgia. Pitts served as President of Miles College in Fairfield, Alabama from 1961-1970. Throughout the 1960s, Pitts provided guidance and support to Miles College students, faculty, and staff as they championed many of the civil rights marches, boycotts, and protests in Birmingham, Alabama. In addition to supporting the student's non-violent protests and actively participating and taking a leadership role in protest movements, Pitts successfully righted Miles College's finances and secured the college's accreditation by the

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<b>1</b> Gwendolyn Elizabeth Brooks became the first African American to win the Pulitzer Prize for her book of poetry "Annie Allen", 1950.	<b>2</b> The Children's Crusade began in Birmingham, Alabama, 1963.	<b>3</b> The Supreme Court of the United States decided in the case of <i>Shelley v. Kraemer</i> that courts could not enforce racial covenants on real estate, 1948.	<b>4</b> Thirteen Freedom Riders set off from Washington D.C. to New Orleans, LA, 1961.	<b>5</b> Eugene Marino becomes first African American installed as a Roman Catholic archbishop in the U.S., 1988.	<b>6</b> William Howard "Willie" Mays, Jr. hall of fame baseball player, was born in Westfield, Alabama, 1931.	<b>7</b> Joseph R. Winters patents first fire escape ladder, 1878.
<b>8</b> Matthew A. Cherry of Washington, D. C. received patent number 382,351 for improvements in velocipede (bicycle/tricycle), 1888.	<b>9</b> John Albert Burr received patent number 624,749 for an improved rotary blade lawn-mower, 1899.	<b>10</b> Pickney Benton Stewart Pinchback, the first African American to become governor of a state in the United States, was born in Macon, Georgia, 1837.	<b>11</b> William Grant Still, the "Dean of African American Classical Composers" was born in Woodville, Mississippi, 1895.	<b>12</b> Albert L. Murray, literary, music and social critic and novelist, was born in Nokomis, Alabama, 1916.	<b>13</b> Joe Louis, hall of fame boxer known as "the Brown Bomber," was born Joseph Louis Barrow in La Fayette, Alabama, 1914.	<b>14</b> Rosa Jinsey Young, "the mother of Black Lutheranism in Alabama," was born in Rosebud, Alabama, 1890.
<b>15</b> Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity (the Boulé), the first African American Greek lettered organization, was founded in Philadelphia, Penn., 1904.	<b>16</b> Dr. William Harry Barnes becomes first African American board-certified medical specialist, 1927.	<b>17</b> U.S. Supreme Court declares segregation in public schools unconstitutional in <i>Brown v. Board of Education</i> decision, 1954.	<b>18</b> <i>Plessy vs. Ferguson</i> : U.S. Supreme Court upholds the doctrine of "separate but equal" education and public accommodations, 1896.	<b>19</b> Malcolm X, was born Malcolm Little in Omaha, Nebraska, 1925.	<b>20</b> John Matthew Shippen, Jr., the first African American professional golfer, died, 1968.	<b>21</b> Katherine Mary Dunham, hall of fame dancer, choreographer, author, educator, activist and "Matriarch and Queen Mother of Black Dance," died, 2006.
<b>22</b> James Mercer Langston Hughes, poet, novelist and playwright, died, 1967.	<b>23</b> Sgt. William H. Carney becomes the first African American awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor, 1900.	<b>24</b> Coleman Alexander Young, the first African American Mayor of Detroit, Michigan, was born in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, 1918.	<b>25</b> Madam C.J. Walker, first African American woman to become a millionaire through her own business, died, 1919.	<b>26</b> Miles Dewey Davis III, hall of fame jazz trumpeter, bandleader and composer, was born in Alton, Illinois, 1926.	<b>27</b> Ernest Gideon Green became the first African American to graduate from Little Rock Central High School in Little Rock, Arkansas, 1958.	<b>28</b> Horace King, the most respected bridge builder in Alabama, Georgia, and northeastern Mississippi during the mid-1800s, died, 1885.
<b>29</b> Sojourner Truth delivered her famous "Ain't I a Woman" speech at the Ohio Women's Rights Convention in Akron, Ohio, 1851.	<b>30</b> Vivian Malone becomes the first African American to graduate from the University of Alabama, 1965.	<b>31</b> The Tulsa Race War in the Greenwood neighborhood of Tulsa, Oklahoma occurred, resulting in 35 city blocks of residences being destroyed and 10,000 pre-dominantly African American people left homeless, 1921.				



## Bryan Stevenson

have won reversals, relief or release for over 115 wrongly condemned prisoners on death row. Mr. Stevenson has initiated major new anti-poverty and anti-discrimination efforts that challenge the legacy of racial inequality in America, including major projects to educate communities about slavery, lynching and racial segregation. Mr. Stevenson is also a Professor of Law at the New York University School of Law.

Mr. Stevenson's work fighting poverty and challenging racial discrimination in the criminal justice system has won him numerous awards including the prestigious MacArthur Foundation "Genius" Prize, the National Medal of Liberty from the American Civil Liberties Union after he was nominated by United States Supreme Court Justice John Stevens, the Public Interest Lawyer of the Year by the National Association of Public Interest Lawyers, and the Olaf Palme Prize in Stockholm, Sweden for international human rights. The American Bar Association has honored Mr. Stevenson with its John Minor Public Service and Professionalism Award.

In 2002, he received the Alabama State Bar Commissioners Award. In 2003, the SALT Human Rights Award was presented to Mr. Stevenson by The Society of American Law Teachers. In 2004, he received the Award for Courageous Advocacy from the American College of Trial Lawyers and also the Lawyer for the People Award from the National Lawyers Guild. In 2006, New York University presented

Mr. Stevenson with its Distinguished Teaching Award. Mr. Stevenson won the Gruber Foundation International Justice Prize and has been awarded the NAACP William Robert Ming Advocacy Award, the National Legal Aid and Defender Association Lifetime Achievement Award, the Ford Foundation Visionaries Award and the Roosevelt Institute Franklin D. Roosevelt Freedom from Fear Award.

In 2012, Mr. Stevenson received the American Psychiatric Association Human Rights Award, the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute Fred L. Shuttlesworth Award, and the Smithsonian Magazine American Ingenuity Award in Social Progress. Mr. Stevenson was inducted into the American Academy of Arts and Science in 2014 and most recently won the Lannan Foundation Prize for Human and Civil Rights.

Mr. Stevenson has received 21 honorary degrees including degrees from Yale University, the University of Pennsylvania, Georgetown University, Washington University and Harvard University. He is the recent author of the critically acclaimed *New York Times* bestseller, *Just Mercy*, which was named by *Time Magazine* as one of the 10 Best Books of Nonfiction for 2014 and has been awarded several honors including the Carnegie Medal by the American Library Association for the best nonfiction book of 2014 and a 2015 NAACP Image Award.

**B**ryan Stevenson is the founder and Executive Director of the Equal Justice Initiative in Montgomery, Alabama. Mr. Stevenson is a widely acclaimed public interest lawyer who has dedicated his career to helping the poor, the incarcerated and the condemned.

Under his leadership, EJI has won major legal challenges eliminating excessive and unfair sentencing, exonerating innocent death row prisoners, confronting abuse of the incarcerated and the mentally ill and aiding children prosecuted as adults.

Mr. Stevenson has successfully argued several cases in the United States Supreme Court and recently won an historic ruling that mandatory life-without-parole sentences for all children 17 or younger are unconstitutional. Mr. Stevenson and his staff

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			<b>1</b> Morgan Porterfield Freeman, Jr., actor and film director was born in Memphis, Tennessee, 1937.	<b>2</b> Charles Sifford, hall of fame golfer who helped to desegregate the PGA of America, was born in Charlotte, North Carolina, 1922.	<b>3</b> Josephine Baker, entertainer and actress, was born Freda Josephine McDonald in St. Louis, Missouri, 1906.	<b>4</b> Roland G. Fryer, Jr., youngest African American ever granted tenure at Harvard University, was born in Daytona Beach, Florida, 1977.
<b>5</b> John Wesley Carlos, hall of fame track and field athlete and 1968 Olympics medal ceremony protester, was born in Harlem, New York, 1945.	<b>6</b> Tommie Smith, hall of fame track and field athlete and 1968 Olympics medal ceremony protester, was born in Clarksville, Texas, 1944.	<b>7</b> Gail Fisher became the first African American to win an Emmy Award, 1970.	<b>8</b> William D. "Willie" Davenport, hall of fame track and field athlete, was born in Troy, Alabama, 1943.	<b>9</b> William Pinkney became the fourth American and the first African American to sail solo around the world, 1992.	<b>10</b> Marcus Mosiah Garvey, Jr., publisher, entrepreneur, orator and Black Nationalist, died, 1940.	<b>11</b> Alabama governor George Wallace stood in the doorway of Foster Auditorium blocking Vivian Malone and James Hood from enrolling at the University of Alabama, 1963.
<b>12</b> Medgar W. Evers, civil rights leader, is assassinated in Jackson, Mississippi, 1963	<b>13</b> Thurgood Marshall nominated to the U.S. Supreme Court by President Lyndon Johnson, 1967.	<b>14</b> Nat (pronounced Nate) Love, one of the most famous cowboys of the Old West, was born in Davidson County, Tennessee, 1854.	<b>15</b> Ella Jane Fitzgerald, hall of fame jazz and pop vocalist, also known as the "First Lady of Song," died, 1996.	<b>16</b> Eddie Levert, lead vocalist of the R&B vocal group The O'Jays, was born in Bessemer, Alabama, 1942.	<b>17</b> Minuteman Peter Salem fights in the Battle of Bunker Hill, 1775.	<b>18</b> Sallie Martin, the "Mother of Gospel Music" and entrepreneur, died, 1988.
<b>19</b> African Americans in Texas are notified of Emancipation Proclamation, issued in 1863. "Juneteenth," marks the event, 1865.	<b>20</b> Lionel Brockman Richie, Jr., singer, songwriter and record producer, was born in Tuskegee, Alabama, 1949.	<b>21</b> James Chaney, Andrew Goodman and Michael Schwerner, civil rights activists, were murdered near Philadelphia, Mississippi, 1964.	<b>22</b> Joe Louis knocked out Max Schmeling at 2:04 of the first round at Yankee Stadium, 1938.	<b>23</b> Wilma Rudolph, first American woman to win three Gold medals in track and field in an Olympic Games, was born in Clarksdale, Tenn., 1940.	<b>24</b> Jeanine Menze became the first African American female to earn United States Coast Guard aviation designation, 2005.	<b>25</b> James H. Meredith, the first African American student at the University of Mississippi, was born in Kosciusko, Mississippi, 1933.
<b>26</b> James Weldon Johnson, author, diplomat, poet, songwriter of "Lift Every Voice and Sing," and civil rights activist died, 1938.	<b>27</b> Paul Laurence Dunbar, poet, was born in Dayton, Ohio, 1872.	<b>28</b> U.S. Supreme Court overturned the conviction of Muhammad Ali for refusing to be inducted into the military, 1971.	<b>29</b> Charles Everett Dumas became the first person to high jump seven feet, 1956.	<b>30</b> Lena Mary Calhoun Horne, singer, actress, dancer and civil rights activist, was born in Brooklyn, New York, 1917.		





## Surpora Sparks-Thomas

Diploma in Nursing from Grady Memorial Hospital School of Nursing in Atlanta Ga, her BSN from The University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Nursing, and her MBA from Samford University.

In January 1962, Thomas began her career at Children's Hospital in Birmingham as a staff nurse. Her career, leadership, and involvement in transitioning Children's Hospital from a four-story, 100-bed hospital into a state of the art tertiary health system complex were chronicled in the *Birmingham News*. Thomas' visionary leadership, strategic planning, and decision-making skills are derived from her faith-based innovative approaches and successful application of biblical principles. Relying on her faith and wealth of experience, in 1985 she developed an acuity-based pricing system for nursing that transitioned the profession from a cost to a revenue center.

A luminary in Alabama, and nationally renowned, Thomas' name is synonymous with empowerment of communities and improvement in the health of children. She has been blessed with many professional, humanitarian, and civic awards. She is a Legend in White, a Leadership Legend, and a Lifetime Achiever. Thomas has been inducted into the Alabama Health Care Hall of Fame, the Alabama Nursing Hall of Fame, International Sigma Theta Tau Nursing Honor Society, and as a Fellow in The American Academy of Nursing. She was the first inductee

into the Pediatric Nursing Hall of Fame and the first recipient of The Surpora Thomas Nursing Excellence Award. In November 2001, Children's Hospital Board of Trustees and Executive Administrative Staff named and dedicated The Surpora Thomas Pediatric Nursing Education and Research Center in her honor. The Surpora Thomas Nursing Excellence Fund to support nursing research was established in December 2009. In 2014, she established Surpora Thomas, LLC (DBA Surpora Thomas Ministries), and her book *Equipped to Enjoy Life's Journey* was published.

Thomas retired on January 1, 2010. Receiving a personal letter from President Barack Obama, acknowledging her contributions to healthcare and congratulating her on a job well done, was a treasured recognition. He and first lady Michelle Obama included well wishes for the future.

After 52 years of marriage, Thomas continues to enjoy life with her husband, Jule Thomas III, who is also her best friend and confidante. They live in Birmingham, Alabama, and are blessed with four daughters, two sons-in-law, three granddaughters, two grandsons, one great grandson, and a large network of other family members and friends. Giving glory to God, Thomas' motto is: "May the life that I live be a living testimony to the God I serve."

**S**urpora Sparks-Thomas, MBA, BSN, RN, FAAN is Chief Nurse Executive Emeritus of Children's of Alabama. She is also a certified Christian life coach and a human behavior consultant. She is an evangelist, a published author, inspirational speaker, and teacher of Living Biblical Principles.

Thomas was the first born of eight to Mr. and Mrs. Charles C. Sparks, Sr. in Wylam, Alabama, on July 6, 1940. She attributes her successful leadership style to being the eldest child and growing up in a family of ten. She is a graduate of Westfield High School in Birmingham, Alabama. She received a

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# JULY

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### Sunday

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### Saturday

					<b>1</b> Frederick Carlton "Carl" Lewis, hall of fame track and field athlete, was born in Birmingham, Alabama, 1961.	<b>2</b> The Civil Rights Act of 1964 was signed into law by President Lyndon B. Johnson, 1964.	
<b>3</b> Macon Bolling Allen became the first African American licensed to practice law in the United States, 1844.	<b>4</b> Arthur George "A. G." Gaston, entrepreneur and businessman, was born in Demopolis, Alabama, 1892.	<b>5</b> Andrew Jackson Beard of Woodlawn, Alabama received patent number 478,271 for an improved rotary steam engine, 1892.	<b>6</b> Donnie L. Cochran, first African American to command the U.S. Navy Blue Angels, was born near Pelham, Georgia, 1954.	<b>7</b> Leroy Robert "Satchel" Paige, hall of fame baseball player, was born in Mobile, Alabama, 1906.	<b>8</b> The <i>Clotilda</i> , the last known United States slave ship to bring enslaved Africans to the U. S., arrived in Alabama with 110 African captives, 1860.	<b>9</b> Dr. Daniel Hale Williams performs first successful open heart surgery, 1893.	
<b>10</b> Mary Jane McLeod Bethune, hall of fame educator and civil rights leader, was born in Mayesville, South Carolina, 1875.	<b>11</b> W.E.B. DuBois and William Monroe Trotter organize the Niagara Movement, a forerunner of the NAACP, 1905.	<b>12</b> Frederick McKinley Jones received three patents (numbers 2,475,841 – 2,475,843). Patent 2,475,841 was for a portable air-cooling unit for trucks, 1949.	<b>13</b> Thurgood Marshall becomes first African American appointed U.S. solicitor general, 1965.	<b>14</b> Sarah E. Goode, first African American woman to receive a patent (322,177) for her invention of the cabinet bed, 1885.	<b>15</b> Maggie Lena Walker, hall of fame businesswoman, educator and the first female bank president, was born in Richmond, Virginia, 1864.	<b>16</b> Ida Bell Wells-Barnett, journalist and civil and women's rights activist, was born enslaved in Holly Springs, Mississippi, 1862.	
<b>17</b> Billie Holiday, hall of fame jazz singer and songwriter known as "Lady Day," died, 1959.	<b>18</b> Nelson R. Mandela, first South African president to be elected in a fully representative democratic election, was born in Mvezo, South Africa, 1918.	<b>19</b> William Henry Hastie was confirmed as Judge of the Third U. S. Circuit Court of Appeals, the first African American federal circuit judge, 1950.	<b>20</b> Violet Palmer, the first woman to officiate a National Basketball Association game, was born in Compton, California, 1964.	<b>21</b> The National Association of Colored Women's Clubs, Inc. was founded in Washington, D.C., 1896.	<b>22</b> Emlen Lewis Tunnell, the first African American inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame, died, 1975.	<b>23</b> Jackie Robinson becomes first African American baseball player in the major leagues inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame, 1962.	
<b>24</b> Alexander Dumas, playwright and novelist, was born Dumas Davy de la Pailleterie in Picardy, France, 1802.	<b>31</b> Whitney Moore Young, Jr., civil rights leader, was born in Lincoln Ridge, Kentucky, 1921.	<b>25</b> Garrett A. Morgan, Sr. used his gas mask to rescue men trapped in an underground tunnel, 1916.	<b>26</b> President Harry S. Truman issues Executive Order 9981, ending segregation in armed forces, 1948.	<b>27</b> The Chicago Race Riots, the worst of the country's riots during the Red Summer of 1919, began.	<b>28</b> 14th Amendment, granting African Americans full citizenship rights, becomes part of the Constitution, 1868.	<b>29</b> Keeth Thomas Smart, the first American to be named the top-ranked fencer internationally, was born in Brooklyn, New York, 1978.	<b>30</b> Elizabeth R. Haynes, first African American woman to serve on the national board of the YWCA, was born in Lowndes County, AL, 1883.



## Joanne Bland

**J**oanne Bland, born on July 29, 1953, in Selma, Alabama, is recognized as one of our great human rights activists and was one of the youngest persons jailed during the 1960s civil rights movement.

By the time she was 11 years old, Bland had been arrested at least 13 times, once for eight days serving time on a prison farm. As an educator, historian, and civil rights activist, she continues to travel the world, sharing her extraordinary experiences.

Bland is co-founder and director of the National Voting Rights Museum and Institute in Selma, Alabama, where she works to promote civil and human rights, and increased voter awareness.

During her lifetime, she has witnessed and participated in some of our nation's most consequential civil rights battles. She began her civil rights activism in the early 1960s. The Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) activists arranged for Bland and other area children and teenagers to participate in the Civil Rights Movement.

In the front lines of the struggle, the young Bland marched on "Bloody Sunday," witnessing

brutal beatings of fellow marchers by police. "It's the screams I remember the most – people just screaming and screaming and screaming." "The last thing I remember seeing on the bridge that day is this lady and this horse. I don't know if the horse ran over her, or if the officer on the horse hit her with the billy club, but I remember the sound of her head hitting that pavement – I'll never forget it. It was too much for me. I fainted."

She later marched on "Turn Around Tuesday" and the first leg of the successful March from Selma to Montgomery. Her early involvement in the struggle against "Jim Crow", America's apartheid, has been the foundation for her civil and human rights work throughout her life.

A much sought after speaker with a compelling personal story of civil rights activism, Bland has presented at conferences and workshops at the Smithsonian in Washington, DC and in 16 states throughout the country. Currently Bland is owner and operator of "Journeys For The Soul," an agency that specializes in Civil Rights tours with a major focus on Selma, Alabama. Bland received her bachelor's degree from the College of Staten Island and is a United States Army veteran.

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# AUGUST

SEPTEMBER S M T W TH F S  
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### Sunday

### Monday

### Tuesday

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### Saturday

	<b>1</b> Michael Duane Johnson became the first man to win Gold medals in the 200 and 400 meter races at the same Olympic Games, 1996.	<b>2</b> James Arthur Baldwin, novelist, playwright, poet, essayist, and civil rights activist, was born in Harlem, New York, 1924.	<b>3</b> Frank Godden, instrumental in the growth of the Santa Clarita Valley's Val Verde, known as "the black Palm Springs," died, 2012.	<b>4</b> Barack Hussein Obama II, the first African American President of the United States, was born in Honolulu, Hawaii, 1961.	<b>5</b> Shirley Jackson, first female and African American president of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, was born in Washington, D. C., 1946.	<b>6</b> President Lyndon B. Johnson signed into law the National Voting Rights Act, guaranteeing African Americans the right to vote, 1965.
<b>7</b> Ralph Johnson Bunche, Nobel Peace Prize winner, political scientist and diplomat, was born in Detroit, Michigan, 1904.	<b>8</b> William Augustus Hinton, bacteriologist, pathologist, educator, and first African American to publish a medical textbook, died, 1959.	<b>9</b> Jesse Owens wins fourth gold medal at Summer Olympics in Berlin, 1936.	<b>10</b> General Colin Powell is nominated chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff, the first African American to hold the post, 1989.	<b>11</b> Alex Haley, author of "Roots" and "The Autobiography of Malcolm X", was born in Ithaca, New York, 1921.	<b>12</b> Emma Ophelia DeVore, the first prominent African American model in the United States, was born in Edgefield, South Carolina, 1922.	<b>13</b> The Brownsville Raid of 1906, the "Brownsville Affair," resulted in the largest U.S. Army dismissal, 167 African American soldiers, 1906.
<b>14</b> Maria Halle Berry, first African American to win an Academy Award for Best Actress, was born in Cleveland, Ohio, 1966.	<b>15</b> Monroe Nathan Work, sociologist and bibliographer, and publisher of the "Negro Year Book", was born in Iredell County, North Carolina, 1866.	<b>16</b> Carol Elizabeth Moseley Braun, the first African American woman elected to the United States Senate, was born in Chicago, Illinois, 1947.	<b>17</b> Marcus Mosiah Garvey, Jr., publisher, entrepreneur, orator and Black Nationalist, was born in St. Ann's Bay, Jamaica, 1887.	<b>18</b> James H. Meredith became the first African American to graduate from the University of Mississippi, 1963.	<b>19</b> Benjamin Banneker, wrote a letter to then U.S. Secretary of State Thomas Jefferson pointing out the hypocrisy of slavery, 1791.	<b>20</b> The first 20 Africans were brought to what would become Jamestown, Virginia aboard a Dutch ship, 1619.
<b>21</b> George Franklin Grant, pioneering dentist and inventor of the golf tee, patent number 638,920, died, 1910.	<b>22</b> The Haitian Revolution began when slaves in Saint Domingue (Haiti) rose in revolt and plunged the colony into a 12-year war, 1791.	<b>23</b> The National Negro Business League was founded in Boston, Massachusetts with Booker T. Washington as its first president, 1900.	<b>24</b> Bayard Rustin, civil rights leader and the chief organizer of the 1963 March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom, died, 1987.	<b>25</b> Althea Gibson, first African American to win the French, Wimbledon, and U. S. Open tennis singles titles, was born in Silver, South Carolina, 1927.	<b>26</b> 19th Amendment to the Constitution ratified, giving women the right to vote, 1920.	<b>27</b> William Edward Burghardt Du Bois, civil rights activist, historian and author, died, 1963.
<b>28</b> March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom; Martin Luther King delivers his "I have a dream" speech, 1963.	<b>29</b> Michael Joseph Jackson, hall of fame singer and the "King of Pop," was born in Gary, Indiana, 1958.	<b>30</b> Guion Stewart Bluford Jr. becomes the first African American to travel in space aboard the space shuttle <i>Challenger</i> , 1983.	<b>31</b> Marva Collins, educator and author, was born in Monroeville, Alabama, 1936.			



## Horace King

Chattahoochee River. King, his mother, brother, and sister were also brought to Girard.

Between 1838 and 1840, King supervised construction of Godwin's massive toll bridges across the Chattahoochee River at West Point, Eufaula, and Florence (present-day Florence Marina), Georgia.

In the early 1840s, King built bridges in Columbus, Mississippi, and Wetumpka, Alabama, and in 1841, he supervised the construction of the Russell County Courthouse in Alabama. In 1845, King bridged the Tallapoosa River at Tallassee, Alabama. Later that year, he oversaw construction of three small bridges near Steens, Mississippi. In February of 1846, King gained his freedom through an emancipation bill introduced in the Alabama legislature, and by 1860, he was one of the wealthiest free African Americans in Alabama.

Because of his exceptional talents as an architect, engineer, and contractor, King was permitted to travel without restrictions throughout the Deep South, and in 1839, King was allowed to marry Frances Gould Thomas, a free African American woman. Her legal status guaranteed freedom for their children. During the early 1850s, the state of Alabama hired King to perform carpentry work, including elegant circular staircases, on

the new capitol building in Montgomery.

In the mid-1850s, King built Moore's Bridge over the Chattahoochee River on the road between Newnan and Carrollton, Georgia. By 1858, King and his family had moved near Moore's Bridge where his wife, Frances, and their children collected tolls and farmed until July 1864, when the bridge was burned by Union forces. Frances died in Girard about three months later, and in June 1865, King married Sarah Jane Jones McManus.

During the Civil War, King was forced to work for the Confederacy, creating blockades on the lower Apalachicola River in Georgia and the lower Alabama River in Alabama. King also erected a large mill structure and supplied wood products for Confederate naval facilities in Columbus. After the war he concentrated his efforts on the reconstruction of wagon and railroad bridges, grist and textile mills, and cotton warehouses. He also built the initial Lee County courthouse in Opelika in 1867.

During Reconstruction, he served two terms in the Alabama House of Representatives. In 1872, King and his family moved to LaGrange, Georgia, where King and his sons continued to build bridges, stores, houses, and college buildings until his death, on May 28, 1885.

**H**orace King was born on September 8, 1807, in Chesterfield District, South Carolina. He was born a slave but overcame the odds and became the most respected bridge builder in Alabama, Georgia, and northeastern Mississippi during the mid-nineteenth century.

In 1830, he was purchased by John Godwin, a contractor in Cheraw, South Carolina. Two years later, Godwin moved to Girard (present-day Phenix City), Alabama, where he was hired by the town to construct the first bridge across the lower

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# SEPTEMBER

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Sunday

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					<b>1</b> Halle Tanner Dillion Johnson becomes first woman of any race to practice medicine in Alabama, 1891.	<b>2</b> Joseph Hatchett, becomes first African American state Supreme Court justice in Florida, 1975.	<b>3</b> Dorothy Maynor, concert soprano and founder of the Harlem School of Arts, was born in Norfolk, Virginia, 1910.
<b>4</b> Lewis Howard Latimer, draftsman and hall of fame inventor, was born in Chelsea, Massachusetts, 1848.	<b>5</b> Claudette Colvin, civil rights pioneer, arrested for refusing to give up her bus seat on March 2, 1955, was born in Montgomery, Alabama, 1939.	<b>6</b> Lee Roy Young, Jr. became the first African American Texas Ranger in the police force's 165-year history, 1988.	<b>7</b> Earl Manigault, street basketball player known as "The Goat," was born in Charleston, South Carolina, 1944.	<b>8</b> Ruby Bridges Hall, first African American to desegregate a southern elementary school, was born in Tylertown, Mississippi, 1954.	<b>9</b> Sonia Sanchez, poet and playwright, was born in Birmingham, Alabama, 1934.	<b>10</b> Hoyt William Fuller, editor, critic and leading figure in the Black Arts Movement, was born in Atlanta, Georgia, 1923.	
<b>11</b> James Charles Evers, first African American elected mayor of a Mississippi city since Reconstruction, was born in Decatur, Mississippi, 1922.	<b>12</b> Mae Carol Jemison becomes first African American woman to travel in space, 1992.	<b>13</b> Nell Carter, singer and film, stage, and television actress, was born Nell Ruth Hardy in Birmingham, Alabama, 1948.	<b>14</b> Prince Hall, the founder of "Black Freemasonry," was born (approximate birth date), 1735.	<b>15</b> The 16th Street Baptist Church was bombed in Birmingham, Alabama, 1963.	<b>16</b> Frederick McKinley Jones became the first African American awarded the National Medal of Technology, 1991.	<b>17</b> Vanessa Williams becomes first African American woman named Miss America, 1983.	
<b>18</b> Booker T. Washington delivered his "Atlanta Compromise" speech at the Cotton States and International Expo in Atlanta, Georgia, 1895.	<b>19</b> The first International Congress of Black Writers and Artists was convened at the Sorbonne in Paris, France, 1956.	<b>20</b> Charles Howard Wright, physician, author and museum founder, was born in Dothan, Alabama, 1918.	<b>21</b> Clifford Leopold Alexander, Jr., lawyer, businessman and the first African American Secretary of the Army, was born in New York City, 1933.	<b>22</b> The Interstate Commerce Commission (ICC) ordered an end to segregation on interstate transportation and within transportation facilities, 1961.	<b>23</b> Nancy Green, born a slave, one of the first African Americans hired to promote a corporate trademark "Aunt Jemima", died, 1923.	<b>24</b> Executive Order 11246 was signed by President Lyndon B. Johnson requiring equal employment opportunity, 1965.	
<b>25</b> William Craft, subject of "Running... or, the Escape of William and Ellen Craft from Slavery", was born in Macon, Georgia, 1824.	<b>26</b> William Levi Dawson, professor, choir director, and composer, was born in Anniston, Alabama, 1899.	<b>27</b> Donald Cortez Cornelius, television show host and producer ( <i>Soul Train</i> ), was born in Chicago, Illinois, 1936.	<b>28</b> The National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc. was formed in Atlanta, Georgia, 1895.	<b>29</b> The Committee on Urban Conditions Among Negroes (The National Urban League) founded in New York City, 1910.	<b>30</b> Charles Sylvan "Cholly" Atkins, dancer and Tony Award-winning choreographer, was born in Pratt City, Alabama, 1913.		



## Dora Finley

were both arrested along with hundreds of other activists during NOW's demonstrations in 1969. As a high school junior, Finley formed and was president of the United Student Action Movement. The organization addressed issues regarding African American youth.

Having developed a strong leadership foundation, Finley went on to have a successful career in corporate America, teach mathematics at John L. Leflore High School in Mobile, Alabama, and eventually spearhead the creation of the African American Heritage Trail in Mobile, Alabama.

After spending more than 30 years working in corporate America and raising a family, Finley's focus on the welfare of her community became laser sharp. The skills and talents she developed serving 25 years as a logistics manager would be put to good use as she volunteered through her church and various community associations. Finley became a magnet, attracting numerous requests for her support in various community based projects. Her close friend of 50 years, Sheila Flanagan, stated "She was an organizer, a diplomat and she just inspired people to work with her and for her." "I would tell everyone that I worked for Dora Finley. She inspired people to do what she wanted and she could get folks from all walks of life. I call them 'Dora converts.'"

In 2006, Finley was asked by the Mobile City Council to help establish the African American

Heritage Trail. Councilor William Carroll knew that in order to make the trail a reality, it would require a special person to lead and coordinate the effort that had so many different pieces, and Finley was that person. He said, "Without Dora, the African American Heritage Trail would have never been." Through Finley's leadership and efforts, forgotten and lost chapters of African American history in Mobile were discovered and preserved for all who visit the port city to enjoy. Today, there are more than 40 historic markers throughout Mobile County.

In 2011, Finley began working on the effort to restore the Cook's House, the detached kitchen and servants' quarters located on the Oakleigh Historic Complex and most likely one of the last remaining structures associated with Union Occupation and Emancipation in Mobile. Unfortunately, due to an illness, Finley passed away on June 8, 2012, before restoration had begun on the project. However, one of her last requests was that after her death, in lieu of flowers, her friends would donate to the Cook's House project.

Finley stated "I leave a legacy of an African American historic trail that is illuminated by stories of Courageous Contributors recognizing their determination and struggle for the inspiration and triumph of all generations to come." In her honor, the trail was renamed the Dora Franklin Finley African American Heritage Trail.

**D**ora Franklin Finley was born on October 18, 1952, in Mobile, Alabama. From an early age community service was instilled in her heart. Finley was the eldest daughter of the late James H. Finley, Sr. and Joycelyn Franklin Finley. Her parents were civil rights advocates who taught that each person must contribute to the physical and spiritual health of the community.

As a young woman, Finley participated in Neighborhood Organized Workers (NOW) marches, standing up to intolerance and advocating for equality. She and her mother, the first to teach black history in Mobile public schools,

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# OCTOBER

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Sunday

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Saturday

						<b>1</b> The 24th Infantry Regiment (the Deuce Four), the last all-Black military unit, was deactivated in Korea, 1951.
<b>2</b> Thurgood Marshall was sworn in as the first African American Justice of the Supreme Court, 1967.	<b>3</b> Nat King Cole becomes first African American to host his own TV show, 1956.	<b>4</b> Grace Bumbry, opera singer, was born in St. Louis, Missouri, 1937.	<b>5</b> Geoffrey S. Fletcher, first African American to receive an Academy Award for writing ( <i>Precious...</i> ) was born in New London, Connecticut, 1970.	<b>6</b> Fannie Lou Townsend Hamer, voting rights activist and civil rights leader, was born in Sunflower County, Mississippi, 1917.	<b>7</b> Toni Morrison became the first African American woman to win the Nobel Prize in Literature, 1993.	<b>8</b> Jesse Louis Jackson, Sr., clergyman and civil rights leader, was born Jesse Louis Burns in Greenville, South Carolina, 1941.
<b>9</b> Eugene Jacques Bullard, the only African American pilot in World War I, was born in Columbus, Georgia, 1894.	<b>10</b> Frederick Douglass Patterson, educator and founder of the United Negro College Fund, was born in Washington, D. C., 1901.	<b>11</b> Granville T. Woods patents telephone system and apparatus, patent number 371,241; 1887.	<b>12</b> Wilton Norman "Wilt" Chamberlain, only player in NBA history to score 100 points in a game and average 50 points per game in a season, died, 1999.	<b>13</b> Shirley Ann Caesar, hall of fame gospel singer and songwriter known as "First Lady of Gospel," was born in Durham, North Carolina, 1938.	<b>14</b> At age 35, Martin Luther King Jr. becomes youngest man ever to win Nobel Peace Prize, 1964.	<b>15</b> The Alabama Penny Savings Bank was founded in Birmingham. One of the first three African American-owned and operated U.S. financial institutions, 1890.
<b>16</b> Million Man March held in Washington, D.C., 1995.	<b>17</b> Mae Carol Jemison, hall of fame astronaut, physician and the first African American woman in space, was born in Decatur, Alabama, 1956.	<b>18</b> Terry McMillan, author, was born in Port Huron, Michigan, 1951.	<b>19</b> Richard Arrington Jr., the first African American Mayor of Birmingham, Alabama, was born in Livingston, Alabama, 1934.	<b>20</b> Fayard Antonio Nicholas, half of the hall of fame Nicholas Brothers dance team, was born in Mobile, Alabama, 1914.	<b>21</b> Valerie Thomas received patent number 4,229,761 for her invention of the Illusion Transmitter, 1980.	<b>22</b> The Supremes become the first all-female music group to attain a No. 1 selling album ( <i>The Supremes A' Go-Go</i> ), 1966.
<b>23</b> William A. Leidesdorff, one of the first black settlers in California, often called the first Black millionaire, was born in St. Croix, Virgin Islands, 1810.	<b>30</b> Richard Arrington Jr. elected first African American mayor of Birmingham, Alabama, 1979.	<b>24</b> Marjorie S. Joyner, inventor of the permanent wave machine, patent number 1,693,515, was born in Monterey, Virginia, 1896.	<b>31</b> Ethel Waters, hall of fame gospel, blues and jazz vocalist and actress, was born in Chester, Pennsylvania, 1896.	<b>25</b> Emmett W. Chappelle, hall of fame scientist and researcher, was born in Phoenix, Arizona, 1925.	<b>26</b> Regina Marcia Benjamin, former Surgeon General of the United States, was born in Mobile, Alabama, 1956.	<b>27</b> Benjamin O. Davis, Jr. becomes first African American general in U.S. Air Force, 1954.
					<b>28</b> Leonard Randolph "Lenny" Wilkens, hall of fame basketball player and coach, was born in Brooklyn, New York, 1937.	<b>29</b> Martha Minerva Franklin, hall of fame nurse and founder of the National Association of Colored Graduate Nurses, was born in New Milford, Connecticut, 1870.

Photo: mobile.org

# Alice Marie Coachman



**A**lice Marie Coachman was born in Albany, Georgia, on November 9, 1923. Coachman made history at the 1948 Olympics in London, England, when she high jumped 5 feet, 6 1/8 inches, setting an Olympic record, becoming the first African American woman to win an Olympic gold medal. Coachman was the only United States female athlete to win a gold medal at the 1948 Olympic Games.

At the 1996 Summer Olympic Games in Atlanta, Georgia, she was honored as one of the 100 greatest Olympians in history. She has been inducted into several halls of fame, including the National Track & Field Hall of Fame (1975) and

the U.S. Olympic Hall of Fame (2004).

Coachman was one of 10 children born to Fred and Evelyn Coachman. Growing up in the Deep South in the 1930s, she was frequently prevented from training or competing in organized sporting events. Coachman would often have to train barefoot in fields and on dirt roads, using ropes, sticks, and old equipment to practice her high jumping. In 1938, Coachman enrolled in Madison High School, where she immediately joined the track team.

Her achievements attracted the attention of Tuskegee Institute's athletic officials, and in 1939, they offered her a scholarship to attend both Tuskegee high school and college. Her parents, who initially did not support their daughter's athletic dreams, gave their blessing, and she moved to Tuskegee, Alabama.

She competed for the Golden Tigers' high school and college track and field programs from 1939-1946. She also played on three championship basketball teams. Coachman's success also extended to the classroom. She graduated from Tuskegee College in 1946 and received a B.A. from Albany State College in 1949.

In 1939, Coachman won her first Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) national championship high jump title. Over the next 9 years she dominated the event winning the AAU national championship high jump title 10 consecutive times, from 1939 to 1948. She also won the 50-meter outdoor title from 1943 to 1947 and

won national championships in the 100-meter dash and the 4x100-meter relay. Coachman was the only African American on each of the five All-American teams to which she was named.

Unfortunately for Coachman, World War II forced the cancellation of the 1940 and 1944 Olympic Games. In 1948, the Olympic Games were reinstated, and Coachman was ready to compete against the world's best athletes at the most prestigious sporting event on the planet. Despite nursing a back injury, on August 7, 1948, Coachman set an Olympic record in the high jump with a mark of 5 feet, 6 1/8 inches, making her the first African American woman to win an Olympic gold medal. King George VI personally presented Coachman her award.

Coachman retired from athletics after the Olympics. She became a teacher and coach and in 1952, Coachman became the first African American woman to earn an endorsement contract when the Coca-Cola Company tapped her to become their spokesperson. Later she established the Alice Coachman Track and Field Foundation, a non-profit organization, to help support young athletes and provide assistance to former athletes. The Alice Coachman Elementary School in Albany, Georgia, is named in her honor. Alice Coachman died on July 14, 2014, at the age of 90 in Albany, Georgia.

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## Sunday

## Monday

## Tuesday

## Wednesday

## Thursday

## Friday

## Saturday

		<b>1</b> John H. Johnson published the first issue of <i>Ebony</i> Magazine, 1945.	<b>2</b> President Ronald Reagan signed the legislation creating a federal Martin Luther King Jr. holiday, 1983.	<b>3</b> John Baxter Taylor Jr., the first African American to win an Olympic Gold medal, was born in Washington, D. C., 1883.	<b>4</b> Barack Obama was elected the first African American President of the United States, 2008.	<b>5</b> Shirley Chisolm of Brooklyn, New York, becomes the first African American woman elected to Congress, 1968.
<b>6</b> James Weldon Johnson and J. Rosamond Johnson compose "Lift Every Voice and Sing", widely regarded as the Black national anthem, 1901.	<b>7</b> Douglas Wilder becomes the first African American to be elected governor in the United States (Virginia), 1989.	<b>8</b> Crystal B. Fauset, elected state representative in Pennsylvania, becoming the first African American woman to serve in a state legislature, 1938.	<b>9</b> Benjamin Banneker, mathematician, inventor, astronomer, surveyor and almanac author, was born in Ellicott's Mills, Maryland, 1731.	<b>10</b> Benjamin Thornton received patent number 1,831,331 for an Apparatus for automatically recording telephone messages, 1931.	<b>11</b> George R. Carruthers awarded patent 3,478,216 for his Image Converter for Detecting Electromagnetic Radiation, 1969.	<b>12</b> The National Negro Opera Company was founded in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania by Mary Cardwell Dawson, 1941.
<b>13</b> Whoopi Goldberg, actress, comedienne and activist, was born Caryn Elaine Johnson in New York City, 1955.	<b>14</b> Condoleezza Rice, professor, diplomat and national security expert, was born in Birmingham, Alabama, 1954.	<b>15</b> Lydia Newman of New York City received patent number 614,335 for a new and improved hair brush, 1898.	<b>16</b> William Christopher "W.C." Handy, hall of fame blues composer and musician, was born in Florence, Alabama, 1873.	<b>17</b> Samuel L. Younge Jr., first African American college student to die in the Civil Rights Movement, was born in Tuskegee, Alabama, 1944.	<b>18</b> Harold W. Moon, one of only two people to be enshrined in the Canadian and the Pro Football Hall of Fame, was born in Los Angeles, California, 1956.	<b>19</b> Annette Gordon-Reed, first African American to win the Pulitzer Prize for History ( <i>The Hemingses of Monticello . . .</i> ), born in Livingston, Texas, 1958.
<b>20</b> Dominique M. Dawes, member of first U.S. women's team to win an Olympic gold medal in gymnastics, was born in Silver Spring, Maryland, 1976.	<b>21</b> George Branham, III, the first African American to win a Professional Bowlers Association title, was born in Detroit, Michigan, 1962.	<b>22</b> William J. Powell, the first African American to design, build and operate his own golf course, was born in Greenville, Alabama, 1916.	<b>23</b> John L. Love, received patent 594,114 for a pencil sharpener that used a crank to sharpen pencils, 1897.	<b>24</b> Oscar Palmer Robertson "The Big O," hall of fame basketball player, was born in Charlotte, Tennessee, 1938.	<b>25</b> Percy Sledge, hall of fame R&B and soul performer, was born in Leighton, Alabama, 1940.	<b>26</b> Sojourner Truth, abolitionist and women's rights activist, died, 1883.
<b>27</b> James Marshall "Jimi" Hendrix, hall of fame guitarist, singer and songwriter, was born in Seattle, Washington, 1942.	<b>28</b> Berry Gordy Jr., hall of fame record producer, founder of Motown Records, was born in Detroit, Michigan, 1929.	<b>29</b> Coleman Alexander Young, the first African American mayor of Detroit, Michigan, died, 1997.	<b>30</b> James Arthur Baldwin, novelist, playwright, poet, essayist and civil rights activist, died, 1987.			



# Jimmie Lee Jackson

Civil Rights Movement in Marion, Alabama after returning from serving his country and fighting in the Vietnam War. In the few years following his return to Marion, several life-changing events would lead to Jackson's eventual date with his destiny. He became the youngest deacon in the history of Marion's St. James Baptist Church, fathered a daughter, led voter registration drives, participated in protest marches, and attempted to register to vote on numerous occasions.

On the night of Thursday, February 18, 1965, Jimmy Lee Jackson became a martyr in the Civil Rights Movement when he joined a group of African Americans protesting the jailing of James Orange, a local Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) official.

That night, the town's streetlights were turned off; under the cover of darkness, police and state troopers attacked the protesters with clubs, sending them fleeing in all directions.

Jackson and other demonstrators fled to Mack's Café. Inside the café, Jackson came to the defense of his mother, Viola, and his 82 year-old grandfather, Cager Lee Jackson, who were being beaten by law enforcement officers. Jackson was shot in the stomach by James Bonard Fowler, a state trooper. He was taken to Perry County Hospital and later transferred to Good Samaritan Hospital in Selma. On February 26, 1965, after eight days of excruciating pain and suffering, Jackson died.

Jackson's death was eulogized by Martin Luther

King, Jr., who admonished President Lyndon Johnson over the wanton, and evidently legally sanctioned, police brutality. Minister James Bevel of SCLC and other movement leaders called for a march to Montgomery to protest Jackson's death and advocate for voting rights.

The March 7, 1965 protest march for Jackson ended abruptly when law enforcement officers attacked the marchers at the Edmund Pettus Bridge. This event became known as "Bloody Sunday" and eventually prompted federal lawmakers to pass the 1965 Voting Rights Act. This act struck down state and local laws that restricted African Americans' right to vote in Alabama and across the nation. After the act was passed, Jimmie Lee Jackson's grandfather Cager Lee, who had marched with him in February 1965 in Marion, voted for the first time at the age of 84.

At the time of the shooting, James Fowler was never questioned and received no punishment or disciplinary action, and he remained an Alabama State Trooper. Forty-two years later, in 2007, Fowler was arrested for the murder of Jimmie Lee Jackson and accepted a plea bargain for misdemeanor manslaughter. In 2010, he was sentenced to six months in jail, making him the first law enforcement officer to serve time for a civil rights slaying.

**J**immie Lee Jackson was born on December 16, 1938, in Marion, Alabama. At the young age of 26, Jackson was killed by an Alabama state trooper while peacefully participating in a protest march. His death was the catalyst for the "Bloody Sunday" Selma to Montgomery voting rights march, which eventually led to the 1965 Voting Rights Act. At his funeral, Martin Luther King, Jr. said that Jackson had been "murdered by the brutality of every sheriff who practices lawlessness in the name of law."

Jackson was a farmer and woodcutter who lived in poverty with his sister, mother, and grandfather in a house with no running water. He joined the

NOVEMBER

S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
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27	28	29	30			

# DECEMBER

JANUARY

S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
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29	30	31				

## Sunday

## Monday

## Tuesday

## Wednesday

## Thursday

## Friday

## Saturday

				<b>1</b> Rosa Louise McCauley Parks refused to give up her seat on a Montgomery, Alabama city bus, 1955.	<b>2</b> Odetta Holmes, singer, actress, songwriter, human rights activist, "The Voice of the Civil Rights Movement," died, 2008.	<b>3</b> Frederick Douglass publishes first issue of <i>North Star</i> , 1847.
<b>4</b> The American Anti-Slavery Society was founded to abolish slavery in the U.S. under the leadership of William Lloyd Garrison, 1833.	<b>5</b> Montgomery, Alabama bus boycott began, 1955.	<b>6</b> The Thirteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution was adopted, 1865.	<b>7</b> Comer Cottrell, businessman and founder of Pro-Line cosmetics, was born in Mobile, Alabama, 1931.	<b>8</b> Sammy Davis Jr., singer, dancer, film and stage actor, was born in New York City, 1925.	<b>9</b> P.B.S. Pinchback of Louisiana becomes first African American governor in U.S., 1872.	<b>10</b> Ralph J. Bunche becomes first African American awarded the Nobel Peace Prize, 1950.
<b>11</b> Henrietta Bradberry, received patent number 2,390,688 for a waterproof pneumatically operated way to fire torpedoes under water, 1945.	<b>12</b> George Franklin Grant received patent number 638,920 for his invention of the golf tee, 1899.	<b>13</b> Jamie Foxx, stand-up comedian, actor and singer, was born Eric Marlon Bishop in Terrell, Texas, 1967.	<b>14</b> Ernest Davis, hall of fame college football player and the first African American to win the Heisman Trophy, was born in New Salem, Pennsylvania, 1939.	<b>15</b> William A. Hinton, first African American on Harvard Medical School faculty, developer of Hinton test to detect syphilis, was born in Chicago, Illinois, 1883.	<b>16</b> Andrew Jackson Young Jr., first African American to be nominated as the Ambassador to the United Nations, 1976.	<b>17</b> Condoleezza Rice became the first female to hold the position of United States National Security Advisor, 2000.
<b>18</b> Raiford Chatman "Ossie" Davis, actor, director, playwright and social activist, was born in Cogdell, Georgia, 1917.	<b>19</b> Carter Godwin Woodson, "father of Black history", educator, historian, author and journalist, was born in New Canton, Virginia, 1875.	<b>20</b> South Carolina becomes the first state to secede from the Union, 1860.	<b>21</b> Josh Gibson, hall of fame Negro League baseball player, was born in Buena Vista, Georgia, 1911.	<b>22</b> Jerry Pinkney, award-winning illustrator of children's books, was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, 1939.	<b>23</b> Madam C.J. Walker, businesswoman and America's first self-made female millionaire, was born Sarah Breedlove in Delta, Louisiana 1867.	<b>24</b> Ernest Nathan "Dutch" Morial, the first African American Mayor of New Orleans, Louisiana, died, 1989.
<b>25</b> Cabell "Cab" Calloway III, hall of fame jazz singer and bandleader, was born in Rochester, New York, 1907.	<b>26</b> John A. "Jack" Johnson, becomes first African American World Heavyweight Boxing Champion with a 14th round TKO of Tommy Burns, 1908.	<b>27</b> Ruth Carol Taylor, nurse, journalist and the first African American airline stewardess in the United States, was born in Boston, Massachusetts, 1931.	<b>28</b> Oscar-winning actor Denzel Washington, was born in Mount Vernon, New York, 1954.	<b>29</b> Thomas J. Bradley, the first African American Mayor of Los Angeles, California, was born in Calvert, Texas, 1917.	<b>30</b> Eldrick Tont "Tiger" Woods, one of the most successful golfers of all time, was born in Cypress, California, 1975.	<b>31</b> Gabrielle "Gabby" Douglas, first African American gymnast to win the Olympic individual all-around Gold medal, born in Virginia Beach, Virginia, 1995.