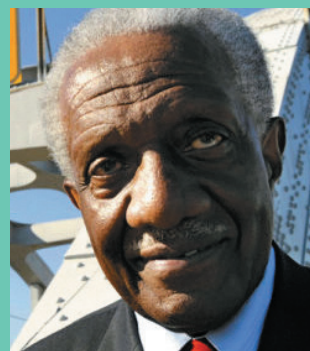
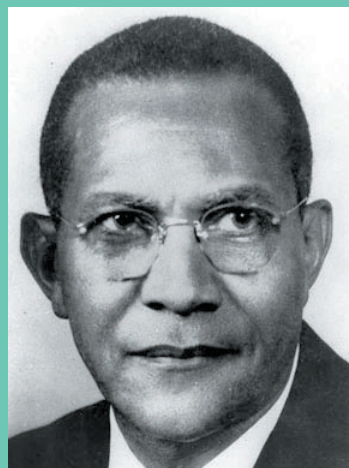


# 2017



Alabama  
AFRICAN  
AMERICAN  
*History Calendar*

[www.alafricanamerican.com](http://www.alafricanamerican.com)

PRESENTED BY





# Letter from The State President

# 2017 SPONSORS

**THE 2017 ALABAMA AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY CALENDAR** marks the seventh year AT&T has highlighted the achievements of 12 remarkable Alabamians. With this calendar, 84 African Americans have been honored and we have only scratched the surface. Throughout the years, the calendar has recognized an astronaut, civil rights activists, entrepreneurs, physicians, athletes, educators, rocket scientists, politicians, and the list goes on and on and on. Alabama's heritage is full of ordinary people who have achieved extraordinary feats. Our goal for the History Calendar is simple . . . to motivate the next generation – our future – to continue Alabama's great legacy of accomplishments.

**FOR NEARLY 140 YEARS**, AT&T has maintained a commitment to advancing education, connecting and strengthening our communities and improving the lives of our customers and employees across Alabama. As part of this commitment, AT&T is adopting broader external benchmarks on high school graduation and career readiness. For all the hours, expertise and dollars invested, success will be clear when nine out of 10 U.S. students graduate from high school, and when more workers come to their jobs prepared with the skills they need to flourish. To help achieve these goals, we plan to complete our investment of an additional \$250 million in 2017 across the nation to drive innovation in education, support effective local programs, and create collective impact. So, as we celebrate those who have shaped our present, we look with excitement to our future.

**A SPECIAL THANKS TO ALL OF OUR PARTNERS AND VOLUNTEERS** for their support and commitment to making the History Calendar a resource that encourages and inspires us all.



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



## THE HONOREES

### JANUARY Arthur Alexander

ALLMUSIC ([allmusic.com/artist/arthur-alexander-mn0000931202/biography](http://allmusic.com/artist/arthur-alexander-mn0000931202/biography))  
*Encyclopedia of Alabama* ([encyclopediaofalabama.org/article/h-2496](http://encyclopediaofalabama.org/article/h-2496))  
Slate.com ([slate.com/blogs/browbeat/2013/02/11/arthur\\_alexander\\_and\\_the\\_beatles\\_forgotten\\_songwriter\\_also\\_inspired\\_the.html](http://slate.com/blogs/browbeat/2013/02/11/arthur_alexander_and_the_beatles_forgotten_songwriter_also_inspired_the.html))

### FEBRUARY Browder v. Gayle (The Montgomery 4)

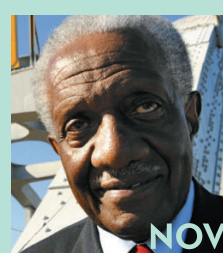
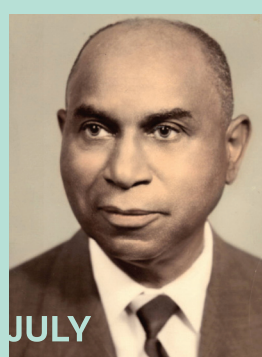
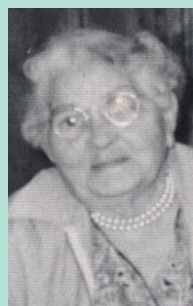
William Dickerson-Waheed Cosmo-D Productions L.L.C.  
Teaching Tolerance ([tolerance.org/article/browder-v-gayle-women-rosa-parks](http://tolerance.org/article/browder-v-gayle-women-rosa-parks))  
Finding Dulcinea, Librarian of the Internet ([findingdulcinea.com/news/on-this-day/November/Supreme-Court-Outlaws-Bus-Segregation.html](http://findingdulcinea.com/news/on-this-day/November/Supreme-Court-Outlaws-Bus-Segregation.html))  
Wikipedia ([en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Browder\\_v.\\_Gayle](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Browder_v._Gayle))

### MARCH James H. Finley Sr.

Karlos F. Finley, Board Member, Friends of the African-American Heritage Trail ([maaht.org/tour2/index.html?id=b&point=8](http://maaht.org/tour2/index.html?id=b&point=8))

### APRIL Charles Gomillion

*Encyclopedia of Alabama* ([encyclopediaofalabama.org/article/h-3064](http://encyclopediaofalabama.org/article/h-3064))  
Tuskegee University Archives and Museums (<http://192.203.127.197/archive/bitstream/handle/123456789/120/Charles%20Gomillion%20Finding%20Aid-FINAL.pdf?sequence=1>)  
*King Encyclopedia* ([kingencyclopedia.stanford.edu/encyclopedia/encyclopedia/enc\\_gomillion\\_charles\\_goode\\_1900\\_1995.1.html](http://kingencyclopedia.stanford.edu/encyclopedia/encyclopedia/enc_gomillion_charles_goode_1900_1995.1.html))



### MAY Vanzetta Penn McPherson

The History Makers ([thehistorymakers.com/biography/honorable-vanzetta-penn-mcpherson](http://thehistorymakers.com/biography/honorable-vanzetta-penn-mcpherson))

### JUNE Charles Eric Lincoln

*Encyclopedia of Alabama* ([encyclopediaofalabama.org/article/h-3089](http://encyclopediaofalabama.org/article/h-3089))  
BlackPast.org ([blackpast.org/aah/lincoln-charles-eric-1924-2000](http://blackpast.org/aah/lincoln-charles-eric-1924-2000))  
Wikipedia ([en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charles\\_Eric\\_Lincoln](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charles_Eric_Lincoln))

### JULY Dr. James A. Franklin Sr.

*Ebony Magazine* – December, 1954  
"The South Richest Negro Doctor".  
Franklin Primary Healthcare Centers ([franklinprimary.org](http://franklinprimary.org))  
African American Heritage Trail ([maaht.org/tour2/index.html?id=c&point=7](http://maaht.org/tour2/index.html?id=c&point=7))

### AUGUST Cleveland Eaton

Cleveland Eaton, Jazz Bassist Official Website ([clevelandeatonmusic.com/bio](http://clevelandeatonmusic.com/bio))  
Alabama Music Hall of Fame ([alamhof.org/inductees/timeline/2008/cleveland-eaton/](http://alamhof.org/inductees/timeline/2008/cleveland-eaton/))

### SEPTEMBER Autherine Lucy Foster

*Encyclopedia of Alabama* ([encyclopediaofalabama.org/article/h-2489](http://encyclopediaofalabama.org/article/h-2489))  
The Biography.com website ([biography.com/people/autherine-lucy-21397127](http://biography.com/people/autherine-lucy-21397127))

### OCTOBER John Calhoun Bishop Sr.

Dreamland Bar-B-Que ([dreamlandbbq.com/content/Dreamlandbbq/CustomPages/aboutus/Our\\_History.htm](http://dreamlandbbq.com/content/Dreamlandbbq/CustomPages/aboutus/Our_History.htm))  
Wikipedia ([en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dreamland\\_Bar-B-Que](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dreamland_Bar-B-Que))  
*New York Times* ([nytimes.com/1988/07/03/travel/at-dreamland-the-ribs-are-everything.html](http://nytimes.com/1988/07/03/travel/at-dreamland-the-ribs-are-everything.html))

### NOVEMBER Frederick D. Reese

Frederick D. Reese Biography - The Biography.com website ([biography.com/people/frederick-d-reese-21415883](http://biography.com/people/frederick-d-reese-21415883))  
Wikipedia ([en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Frederick\\_D\\_Reese](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Frederick_D_Reese))  
Honoring Civil Rights Activist Rev. Frederick D. Reese by Rep Terri Sewell ([capitolwords.org/date/2015/06/04/E847-3\\_honoring-civil-rights-activist-rev-frederick-d-ree/](http://capitolwords.org/date/2015/06/04/E847-3_honoring-civil-rights-activist-rev-frederick-d-ree/))

### DECEMBER Rickey Smiley

[therealrickeysmiley.com](http://therealrickeysmiley.com)



# Arthur Alexander

Singer, Songwriter, Music Industry Legend

Arthur Alexander was born on May 10, 1940, in Florence, Alabama. Alexander, a talented “country-soul” and rhythm & blues singer and songwriter, influenced numerous artists and played a significant role in the development of north Alabama’s Muscle Shoals music recording scene.

Many of Alexander’s songs were covered by some of the music industry’s legends, including the Beatles, Rolling Stones, Ike and Tina Turner, Percy Sledge, Jerry Lee Lewis, Bob Dylan, Otis Redding, and Elvis Presley. According to Ringo Starr, one of the advantages of being in Liverpool, a port city, was that “All these records were coming from America, so you could find out about Arthur Alexander and people like that.” Lennon idolized him in particular, and McCartney summed up his influence in 1987: “We wanted to sound like Arthur Alexander.”

In 1961, Alexander recorded “You Better Move On” produced by Rick Hall. The song reached number 24 on the pop charts in 1962 and became the first chart hit for Hall’s startup company. The song earned Hall enough money to begin work on a new Muscle Shoals Studio, the Florence Alabama Musical Enterprises (FAME) Studios, still located in Florence today. Another Alexander song that reached the top 100 in 1962 was “Anna (Go to Him),” which became an album track for the Beatles’ *Please, Please Me* debut album in 1963.

While his songs made many people rich, Alexander never profited greatly from his music. Throughout the 1960s he released several singles but his second album, *Arthur Alexander*, didn’t come together until 1972. Alexander’s self-titled



album included a song called “Burning Love,” which became a hit by another music legend. A few months after Alexander’s album was released, Elvis Presley recorded his own version of “Burning Love,” which became Presley’s last top-10 single, reaching No. 2 on the *Billboard* charts.

Alexander eventually did have a top 100 R&B hit with “Sharing the Night Together” in 1976.

By the 1980s, Alexander had abandoned the music business entirely and worked in Cleveland, Ohio driving a social services bus for a living. During this period, his recording legacy grew in reputation, especially in Great Britain, where his catalogue was constantly available through reissues. Alexander recorded a comeback album in 1992 entitled *Lonely Just Like Me*. The album, Alexander’s last, featured “If It’s Really Got To Be This Way,” covered later by Led Zeppelin frontman Robert Plant. The album included remakes of “Every Day I Have to Cry,” “In the Middle of It All,” “Genie in the Jug,” and several Alexander originals, including a searing rendition of “Mr. John.” Alexander would not live to enjoy this resurgence in popularity. He died on June 9, 1993, in Nashville from a heart attack, and was buried in Florence City Cemetery.

The Alabama Music Hall of Fame created the Arthur Alexander Songwriter’s Award, which celebrates songwriters who have achieved a high level of success. This award, originally open to all music achievers, is now dedicated to the scribes behind some of the most popular songs of the last century.

As the musical innovator who gave FAME Studios its first hit record, Alexander and his legacy are intertwined with that of Muscle Shoals music. Because many American music fans discovered Alexander through the “British Invasion,” a relationship between Muscle Shoals and British musicians was born, which remains strong to this day.

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# JANUARY

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## Sunday

## Monday

## Tuesday

## Wednesday

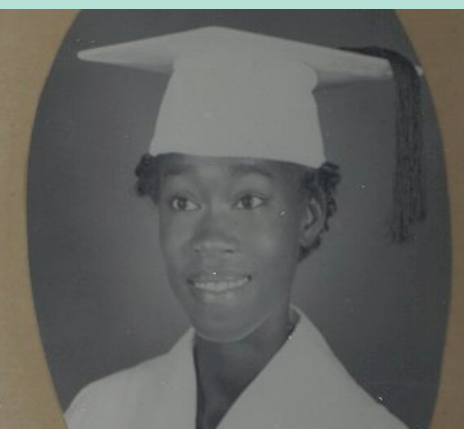
## Thursday

## 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>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 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.	<b>31</b> Benjamin Lawson Hooks, attorney, minister and civil rights leader, was born in Memphis, Tennessee, 1925.				





Left to right:  
Aurelia Browder;  
Claudette Colvin;  
Mary Louise Smith;  
Susie McDonald

## Browder v. Gayle Case Struck Down Montgomery's Segregated Public Transportation System

On November 13, 1956, the United States Supreme Court upheld a lower court ruling that found segregated bus laws in Montgomery, Alabama were in violation of U.S. Constitution laws of “due process and equal justice under the law.” Four brave African American women, Claudette Colvin, Aurelia Browder, Susie McDonald, and Mary Louise Smith, served as plaintiffs in *Browder v. Gayle*, the case that struck down Montgomery’s segregated public transportation system and ended bus segregation throughout the land. The case also ended the 381-day Montgomery Bus Boycott, and put another nail in the “separate but equal” coffin. All four women had been either arrested for refusing to give up their seats to white passengers or harmed by being forced to comply with segregation codes several months prior to Rosa Parks’ famous arrest on December 1, 1955.

The catalyst for this historic case began on March 2, 1955, when Claudette Colvin, a 15-year old student at Booker T. Washington High School, refused to give up her seat to a white man. Colvin was handcuffed, arrested, and forcibly removed from the bus as she screamed that her constitutional rights were being violated. Colvin was the first person in 1955 to challenge the City of Montgomery and State of Alabama’s bus segregation ordinances and laws. Her defiance,

and those of a few other courageous men and women that followed, eventually led to the Montgomery Bus Boycott which started on December 5, 1955. In a city of 20,000 bus riders, these heroic women (Claudette Colvin, Aurelia Browder, Susie McDonald, and Mary Louise Smith) were among a handful of riders willing to endure the physical and psychological threats associated with being a plaintiff.

Shortly after the Montgomery Bus Boycott began, the city of Montgomery refused to meet the bus passenger terms created by the Montgomery Improvement Association (MIA), which included courteous treatment by bus operators; first-come, first-served seating; and employment of Negro bus drivers. This refusal prompted Montgomery leaders to start determining the best strategy to end Alabama bus seating laws. Attorney Fred Gray proposed to the MIA that the best way to attack segregation laws would be in federal court. NAACP Attorneys Robert Carter and Thurgood Marshall; Birmingham Attorneys Arthur Shores, Ozell Billingsley, and Peter Hall; Clifford Durr of Montgomery; and the Howard University Law School assisted Gray and Co-Counsel Charles Langford in preparing the case to challenge the constitutional legitimacy of Montgomery and Alabama bus segregation laws.

On February 1, 1956, Gray filed the case, *Browder*

*v. Gayle*, in U.S. District Court. The specific legal question before the court was whether the segregation of the Whites and African Americans on “privately” owned buses operated by the City of Montgomery violated the Fourteenth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, which guarantees equal protection and treatment under the law. On June 19, 1956, the three-judge panel of the United States District Court for the Middle District of Alabama ruled that Montgomery segregation codes “deny and deprive plaintiffs and other Negro citizens similarly situated of the equal protection of the laws and due process of law secured by the Fourteenth Amendment.” The federal court essentially decided that the precedent of *Brown v. Board of Education* (1954) could be applied to *Browder*.

The State of Alabama and the City of Montgomery appealed to The U.S. Supreme Court. The U.S. Supreme Court while agreeing with the reasoning of *Brown*, attached their ruling to the *Plessy v. Ferguson* ruling of 1896. *Brown* did not argue the 14th Amendment; it merely said there was no room for *Plessy* in the field of Education, thereby leaving *Plessy* intact. The highest court in the land upheld the decision on November 13, 1956, outlawing bus segregation laws. *Browder v. Gayle* rivaled *Plessy* and set the stage for Civil Rights Legislation in the 1960s and beyond.

JANUARY

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# FEBRUARY

MARCH

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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 bandleader, 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, after being shot by state police, dies 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.				





# James Herbert Finley, Sr.

Groundbreaking Business Owner, Civil Rights Advocate

James Herbert Finley, Sr. owned and operated the first chain of African American drug stores in the state of Alabama. He was also a dedicated civil rights advocate during the sixties and seventies, serving as Vice-President of the Neighborhood Organized Workers (NOW), a grass roots organization that utilized Dr. Martin Luther King's nonviolent strategies of boycotting, picketing, and marching. Finley and NOW leadership were plaintiffs in the landmark lawsuit that led to the dismantling of at-large local elections in the City of Mobile. At-large elections were used to ensure no person of color would be elected to public office. The court's ruling forced elected officials to run from the district where they reside.

After graduating from Xavier University School of Pharmacy, Finley returned home in 1956 to work with his brother, John, at Finley's Pharmacy, which opened in 1950. The brothers decided to go into partnership and open a drug store at the corner of Marmotte Street and Davis Avenue. They later dissolved the partnership and their brother-in-law, Ben Jackson, bought out and assumed that drug store.

Finley's Drug Stores, Incorporated

was formed on July 1, 1966, and filed with the Alabama Secretary of State. The first store in the chain of Finley's drug stores was opened at the ground level of the Franklin Building on the corner of Davis Avenue and Cleveland Street in Mobile, Alabama. Finley later opened an additional four drug stores in Mobile at Happy Hill, Davis Avenue and Hospital Street, Costarides Street, and Stanton Road and King Street.

Like many Civil Rights activists in the 1960s and 1970s, Finley was arrested on a series of conspiracy charges in August 1973. For the first time in Mobile's history, a Federal Judge ordered night sessions during Finley's trial. The jury for Finley was all white. After nine days and nights of trial, the jury deliberated for only 40 minutes to find Finley guilty of one charge of income tax evasion. Finley spent 13 months in a federal penitentiary. Four months after his release, he died of a massive heart attack in his drug store on Costarides Street. Economic parity for African Americans in Mobile, Alabama came at a dear price.

On July 7, 2007, the City of Mobile honored James H. Finley, Sr. for his civic contributions by naming a street after him.

FEBRUARY S M T W T H F S  
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# MARCH

APRIL S M T W T H F S  
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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<b>1</b> The Civil Rights Act of 1875 was signed into law by President Ulysses Grant, 1875.	<b>2</b> David Satcher, 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 13th 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 Sup- porter 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.	



# Dr. Charles Gomillion *Renowned Educator, Activist*

**D**r. Charles Gomillion was born in Johnston, South Carolina on April 1, 1900. Gomillion, son of a former slave, was an educator and community activist, who worked at Tuskegee Institute from 1928-1971. Gomillion, a tireless activist for voting rights, was the lead plaintiff in *Gomillion v. Lightfoot*, the landmark case that outlawed racial gerrymandering and helped pave the way for passage of the 1965 Voting Rights Act. On November 14, 1960, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in *Gomillion v. Lightfoot* that Tuskegee city officials had unconstitutionally redrawn the city's boundaries to ensure the election of white candidates in the city's political races. The heart of the case dealt with the altering of the shape of Tuskegee from a square to an irregular 28-sided figure that eliminated from the city all but four or five of the 400 African American voters without eliminating any of the 1,300 white voters.

Although Gomillion's father never attended school or learned to read or write, and his mother had only gone through the third grade, they stressed the importance of education. However, it was very difficult for Gomillion to receive a quality education due to the fact that the African American school in Johnston was only open three months out of the year. Understanding that education was the path to a better life, Gomillion left home at 16 to attend secondary school at Paine College in Augusta, Georgia. He completed high school and some college before dropping out and returning



home to help his aging parents. Later he returned to Paine College to finish his degree and began teaching at Tuskegee Institute in 1928.

Gomillion continued his studies in sociology, eventually earning a Ph.D. from Ohio State

University. He also earned several honorary degrees from Howard University, Ohio State University, Tuskegee Institute, and Paine College.

During his 43 years at Tuskegee Institute Gomillion served as a professor of Sociology, Chairman of the Division of Social Sciences, Dean of Students, and Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. Gomillion's sociological theories and advice on race relations firmly established him as a world renowned researcher, writer, and civil rights advocate. He was very popular among his peers and students and was an active member on several prominent organizations including the NAACP, the Alabama Council, the Southern Regional Council, the Southern Council Educational Fund, and Tuskegee Civic Association. As president of the Tuskegee Civic Association, he worked with Martin Luther King, Jr. and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference to increase African American voter registration in the South.

Gomillion received numerous honors including the Charles S. Johnson Race Relations Award, the Lyndon B. Johnson Political Freedom Award, the Sociological Practice Association Distinguished Career Award, and the national Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Man of the Year Award.

Gomillion passed away on October 4, 1995, at the age of 95.

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# APRIL

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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 first African American man to win the Academy Award for Best Actor for his role in the movie <i>Lilies of the Field</i> , 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 - <i>The Wiz</i> , 1975.	<b>21</b> Locksley Wellington "Slide" Hampton, jazz trombonist, composer and arranger, was born in Jeannette, Pennsylvania, 1932.	<b>22</b> Catherine L. Hughes, business executive, 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.						





# Judge Vanzetta Penn McPherson

Scholarship. Leadership. Character. Service.

with honors from Howard University in Washington DC, and later attended Columbia University in New York City, from which she secured a Master's Degree in speech pathology in 1971 and a law degree in 1974.

Throughout her matriculating years, from elementary school through law school, Vanzetta McPherson embraced the four cornerstones of the National Honor Society, into which she was inducted at 16: Scholarship, Leadership, Character, and Service. Her parents, both English majors in college, insisted that their children become skilled in oral and written communication, embrace a mindset for excellence in all pursuits, and adopt an activist stance against discrimination in any form.

After spending a year at a Wall Street law firm, Judge McPherson returned to Montgomery in 1975 to become an Assistant Attorney General. For two years, she represented the State of Alabama in child support enforcement and criminal appeals. Her appearances before the Alabama Supreme Court attracted both law clerks and lawyers interested in learning the craft of oral argument.

During the course of 16 years in solo law practice, Attorney McPherson honed her expertise in domestic relations law, but she spent the majority of her time in federal court, helping clients to secure rights and remedies guaranteed by the Constitution and federal anti-discrimination laws. As a respected civil rights lawyer, she battled employment discrimination in public and private workplaces.

Her most consequential lawsuit, filed in 1987 against Montgomery County, targeted a white Sheriff, in office since 1954, who had promoted only one African American deputy and advanced all other African Americans only to court bailiff or jail duty, while maintaining an openly hostile, racially-abusive environment. Court-ordered remedies extended beyond individual claims to establish non-discriminatory policies and practices which transformed the Sheriff's Department. Within a decade, black deputies led several divisions, and the current elected sheriff is African American.

McPherson coupled her successful practice with service and leadership in bar associations: she is a former president of the Alabama Black Lawyers Association

and the Federal Bar Association's Montgomery Chapter, and she is a former chair of the Family Law Section of the Alabama State Bar.

In 1992, McPherson earned her own promotion with a merit-based appointment as a U.S. Magistrate Judge for the Middle District of Alabama. She served with distinction for 14 years, presiding over criminal and civil cases, including a nationally publicized challenge to the continued use of outdoor hitching posts as punishment for Alabama prisoners.

Judge McPherson has also led an active civic life, participating in the inaugural class of Leadership Montgomery, the 20th class of Leadership Alabama, and the boards of directors for the Alabama State Council on the Arts, Alabama Shakespeare Festival, Alabama Educational Television Foundation Authority, Southern Poverty Law Center, and the Alabama World Affairs Council. She has received numerous professional and civic awards, and she is a life member of the NAACP and the National Council of Negro Women.

In all of her endeavors, Judge McPherson has been lovingly supported by her devoted husband, Thomas McPherson, Jr., a retired district director of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. Judge McPherson has one son, Dr. Raegan W. Durant.

Vanzetta Penn McPherson devoted a 30-year career as a civil rights lawyer and a federal magistrate judge to the passionate pursuit of equal justice for all. Retirement ushered in her avocation, now spanning a decade, as a widely acclaimed columnist for *The Montgomery Advertiser*, writing bi-weekly commentary on public affairs with the same intellectual vigor, mastery of language, and analytical prowess that marked her legal career.

Judge McPherson was born in Montgomery on May 26, 1947, the second child of educators Luther L. Penn and Sadie Gardner Penn. She attended the Laboratory School of Alabama State College in Montgomery from nursery through high school, graduating in 1965 as valedictorian. In 1969, she graduated

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## Saturday

	<b>1</b> Gwendolyn Elizabeth Brooks became the first African American to win the Pulitzer Prize for her book of poetry <i>Annie Allen</i> , 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 lawnmower, 1899.	<b>10</b> Pickney Benton Stewart Pinchback, the first African American to become governor of a state in the U.S., 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 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 predominantly African American people left homeless, 1921.			





# Dr. C. Eric Lincoln

*Distinguished Scholar, Researcher of the African American Experience*

civil rights author, Alex Haley. The novel won the Lillian Smith Award for Best Southern Fiction in 1988, as well as the International Black Writers' Alice Browning Award in 1989.

At an early age Lincoln was abandoned by his parents and raised by his maternal grandparents, Mattie Sowell Lincoln and Charles Less Lincoln. He attended the Trinity School in Athens, an institution created by the New England-based Congregational Church to meet the secondary education needs of African Americans in that community. While there Lincoln picked cotton to earn money to pay for his tuition and school supplies. Lincoln was an excellent student and, in 1939, graduated valedictorian.

After high school Lincoln moved to Chicago to continue his studies, working during the day and taking night classes at the University of Chicago. In 1941, after the bombing of Pearl Harbor, Lincoln tried to enlist in the Navy but was refused enlistment because of his race. Ironically, in 1943, he was drafted into the United States Navy and served until the end of World War II. After the war he moved to Memphis, Tennessee to enroll in Lemoyne College where he earned a Bachelor of Arts in philosophy and sociology. Lincoln eventually earned five degrees, including a Bachelor of Divinity and Master of Education from the University of Chicago, Master of Philosophy from Fisk University, and a Doctor of Philosophy in Social

Ethics from Boston University. In 1957, he was ordained as a Methodist minister.

In addition to the many books, research studies, articles, and poetry Lincoln authored, he held both academic and administrative positions at Clark College (now Clark-Atlanta University) in Atlanta for 11 years. From 1962 to 1972, Lincoln served as adjunct or visiting professor at Portland State College (now Portland State University, Oregon), Union Theological Seminary (New York City), and Fordham University (New York City). In 1970, Lincoln became the founding president of the Black Academy of Letters. In 1973, he returned to Fisk as Professor of Religion and of Sociology and also as chairman of the Department of Religion and Philosophical Studies. In 1976, Lincoln accepted a position at Duke University as Professor of Religion and Culture and taught there until his retirement in 1993. In 1990, he was cited by Pope John Paul II for "scholarly service to the church" and in 1991, he was named the William R. Kenan, Jr. Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Religion and Culture.

Lincoln was diagnosed with diabetes in the 1980s and his health began to decline, but that did not keep him from continuing his research, publishing, and teaching. C. Eric Lincoln died on May 14, 2000, at the age of 75 in Durham, North Carolina.

**D**r. Charles Eric Lincoln was born on June 23, 1924, in Athens, Alabama. Lincoln is best known as a distinguished scholar, author, and lecturer on the Sociology of African American Religion, Race, and Ethnic Relations in the United States. He authored, co-authored, or edited numerous books and articles about the African American experience. Lincoln authored several landmark works including *The Black Muslims in America* (1961), *The Black Church Since Frazier* (1974), and *Race, Religion and the Continuing American Dilemma* (1984). In 1988, he wrote *The Avenue, Clayton City*, a novel dedicated to his friend, and fellow

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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 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. "June-teenth," 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 <i>Lift Every Voice and Sing</i> , 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.		





# Dr. James Alexander Franklin, Sr.

*Physician Dedicated His Life to Serving the Underserved*

tended Swift Memorial College and later went to Lincoln University in Pennsylvania, where he worked his way through school waiting tables. After two years at Lincoln University, he graduated in 1909 receiving a Bachelor of Arts Degree, Magna Cum Laude.

In 1911, Franklin entered the University of Michigan's School of Medicine. He worked his way through school shoveling ashes from the dormitory's furnaces. Although Franklin paid the same tuition, room, and board as white students, his room was located in the basement away from other students. Besides a cot, the only other furniture in his room was a trunk, that doubled as storage and desk, and a simple kerosene lamp for light. While at UM, Franklin was chosen to be a part of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. - Epsilon Chapter, and because he was a talented pianist, he served as the class musician. With an unbreakable spirit, Franklin graduated Magna Cum Laude in 1914. After graduation, Franklin returned to Tennessee and married Dora Alice Cochraham, a school teacher, on October 2, 1914.

During World War I, Franklin was a member of the Army medical unit in Kentucky. Although he was an Army Doctor, his highest rank was Sergeant. Franklin moved to Evergreen, Alabama in 1915 with his wife

and began his medical practice.

In 1919, a turning point in his career and life occurred when a poor white farmer approached him to request medical attention for his wife because he could not afford the medical fees charged by Conecuh County's white doctor. Franklin attended to the farmer's wife and she improved under his care. However, when the white citizens of Evergreen found out that an African American man had actually touched the body of a white woman, they were furious. They questioned the farmer and told him of their plans to lynch the black doctor. The farmer was loyal to Franklin for saving his wife and bought a train ticket for Franklin, his wife, and their two small children. The farthest destination from Evergreen afforded by the ticket was Plateau, Alabama, a small community outside of Mobile, also known as "Africa Town," the home of the last known illegal shipment of slaves brought to the United States.

Upon arrival to Plateau, the Shamburger Family took in the new doctor and his family. Franklin was penniless at this point. He sold his prize possession – a gold watch given to him by his uncle – for \$2. This incident caused Franklin to vow that he would never be broke again. He started a medical practice in Plateau that grew rapidly along with his good

reputation and healthy bank account.

In 1924, Franklin moved his family to Mobile, Alabama. Franklin's home became a safe haven for African Americans traveling in the south, including dignitaries such as Illinois Congressman Oscar DePriest, entertainer Paul Robeson, actress Dorothy Dandridge, opera singer Marion Anderson, and baseball great Jackie Robinson.

By 1954, *Ebony Magazine* named Franklin as "The South's Richest Negro Doctor." Franklin built a portfolio of two large office buildings, 17 houses, several vacant lots, and drug stores. His 13-room home still stands today as a historical landmark and a part of the Dora Franklin Finley African American Heritage Trail (named for his late granddaughter) and is occupied by his youngest and only surviving child of 10 children, Joseph A. Franklin.

On Friday, July 21, 1972, at the age of 85, Franklin – the physician, humanitarian and scholar – quietly passed away to his eternal home.

In 1975, Dr. Marilyn Aiello and a group of concerned citizens recognized the need for quality healthcare in the underserved community close to Franklin's home and founded the Franklin Primary Healthcare Centers, named after Franklin, who served the community for more than 60 years. Today, Franklin Primary Health Centers has grown to 21 locations and one mobile unit to service Mobile communities and surrounding areas. Continuing the legacy of service to the community, Dr. Franklin's grandson – Dr. Coleridge T. Franklin is currently a physician at the Franklin Primary Healthcare Centers.

**D**r. James Alexander Franklin, Sr. was born on November 17, 1886, in Chattanooga, Tennessee to Edward Franklin and Rosa Calloway. As an African American physician practicing in the segregated Deep South, early in his career Franklin barely made enough to pay his rent. However, he never turned a patient away and would accept "in kind" payments of food and supplies from those who could not pay in cash. Franklin would walk an average of 20 to 30 miles a day to visit his patients. Because of his hard work, generosity, love, and respect for his patients, Franklin would later be recognized as "The South's Richest Negro Doctor."

Franklin's uncle, Reverend William H. Franklin, the first African American to graduate from Maryville College in Tennessee and the founder of Swift Memorial College, in Rogersville, Tennessee, inspired him to attend college and medical school. Franklin at-

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## Sunday

## Monday

## Tuesday

## Wednesday

## Thursday

## Friday

## 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 U.S. slave ship to bring enslaved Africans to America, 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 inducted into 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>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 YWCA, was born in Lowndes Co., AL, 1883.	<b>31</b> Whitney Moore Young, Jr., civil rights leader, was born in Lincoln Ridge, Kentucky, 1921.					





## Cleveland Josephus Eaton II

Hall of Fame Musician, Composer, Bandleader

**C**leveland “Cleve” Eaton II born August 31, 1939, in Fairfield, Alabama, is a legendary jazz bassist, who began his musical studies when he was only five years old. Eaton played with the Ramsey Lewis Trio and later with the Count Basie Orchestra. Eaton was dubbed “the Count’s Bassist” during his 16-year stint with the Count Basie Orchestra.

His 1975 recording *Plenty Good Eaton* is considered a classic in the funk music genre. Eaton is a member of the Alabama Jazz Hall of Fame and Alabama Music Hall of Fame. Over the years, Eaton became a consummate bassist, producer, composer, publisher, arranger, and head of his own Birmingham based record company. All together he has lent his talents on over 100 albums and composed about three times as many songs. He has played on four gold singles, including “Hang on Sloopy” and “Wade in the Water,” and four gold albums, including *Solar Wind* and *Sun Goddess*.

During Eaton’s childhood, he acquired an intense and comprehensive musical background. He was playing his mother’s piano at the age of 5, and by the time he was 8 he had turned his efforts toward the saxophone. Two years later he took up the trumpet and when he reached the age of 15, music teacher John Springer in-

troduced him to the tuba and string bass. Eaton played in a jazz group in college at Tennessee A&I State University, where he earned his bachelor’s degree in music, then moved to Chicago and toured with the Ike Cole Trio.

Eaton has played with music greats in nearly all genres including jazz with John Klemmer, Ike Cole, and Bunky Green; R&B with The Dells and Bobby Rush; pop with Minnie Riperton, Jerry Butler, and Rotary Connection; and big band music with George Benson, Henry Mancini, Frank Sinatra, Joe Williams, Billy Eckstein, Sarah Vaughan, and Ella Fitzgerald. Eaton has also performed with Nancy Wilson, Peggy Lee, Meme Hines, Sammy Davis, Jr., Julie London, Bobby Troupe, Brook Benton, Lou Rawls, Nipsey Russell, Morgana King, Gloria Lynne, Herbie Hancock, the Magic City Jazz Orchestra, The Platters (original), The Temptations, and The Miracles.

In 1974, he began performing and touring with his own group, Cleve Eaton and Co., and in 2004, his group became Cleve Eaton and the Alabama All Stars. Several other well-known Alabama jazz musicians, including pianist Ray Reach, drummer John Nuckols, trumpeter Tommy Stewart, and saxophonist Sam Williams, are frequent players with Cleve Eaton and the Alabama All Stars.

JULY S M T W T H F S  
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# AUGUST

SEPTEMBER S M T W T H F S  
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Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

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		<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 <i>Roots</i> and <i>The Autobiography of Malcolm X</i> , 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 <i>Negro Year Book</i> , was born in Iredell County, North Carolina, 1866.	<b>16</b> Carol Elizabeth Moseley Braun, 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 Challenger, 1983.	<b>31</b> Marva Collins, educator and author, was born in Monroeville, Alabama, 1936.		





# Autherine Lucy Foster

*First African American to Enroll at the University of Alabama*

**A**utherine Lucy Foster was born October 5, 1929, in Shiloh, Marengo County, Alabama. In 1952, Lucy became the first African American to enroll at the University of Alabama (UA). However, when school administrators discovered Lucy was African American, she was denied admittance. After a three-year court battle, in 1956 Lucy finally matriculated at UA. However, violent protest on campus led to Lucy's expulsion by university officials after she attended classes for only two days.

After Lucy graduated from Linden Academy High School in Marengo County, Alabama, she enrolled at Selma University and received a two-year teaching certificate. However, she was unable to get a job because the state of Alabama had recently begun requiring four-year degrees for full-time teaching posi-

tions. In 1949, she entered Miles College in Birmingham and graduated with a B.A. in English in 1952.

Shortly after graduating from Miles College, Lucy was contacted by her friend, Pollie Anne Myers, whom she had met in a public speaking class, about enrolling in graduate school at UA with her. Lucy decided to enroll with Myers and they both requested and received admission forms in early September. Lucy applied for the Master of Education program. After paying the \$5 dormitory deposit fee, on September 13, 1952, they both received letters welcoming them to the University of Alabama.

Anticipating the inevitable rejection of their enrollment, which occurred on September 19 when the Admissions Office discovered that they were African American, Lucy and Myers had retained a lawyer, Arthur Shores, who worked for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). When the women went to the Admissions Office on September 20, the Dean of Admissions, William F. Adams, told them that they could not enroll, although he would not state that it was because of their race. He also attempted to return their \$5 room deposit.

In 1954, when the *Brown vs. Board of Education* decision outlawing segregation

came down from the U.S. Supreme Court, the NAACP decided that the Myers/Lucy case would be the first test. On June 29, 1955, federal Judge Harlan Grooms ruled that UA had to admit the two women. Although the institution denied Myers's admission on the grounds that she had been pregnant out of wedlock, Lucy decided to attend by herself and, on February 1, 1956, became the first African American student to enroll at UA. Unfortunately, due to mob violence on campus, the University of Alabama's Board of Trustees voted to expel Lucy from the university, allegedly for her own safety.

On April 22, 1956, Lucy married Hugh Lawrence Foster, a divinity student at Bishop College in Tyler, Texas, whom she had known from Miles College. They moved to Texas where they would have four children, two of whom eventually attended the University of Alabama. The couple returned to Alabama in 1974. In 1988, the University of Alabama's Board of Trustees voted to overturn its expulsion of Lucy, and she enrolled and received her master's degree in education on May 9, 1992. The university has named an endowed scholarship after her and placed her portrait in the Ferguson Center on campus.

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# SEPTEMBER

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**Sunday**

**Monday**

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**Saturday**

					<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 <i>Running...; or, the Escape of William and Ellen Craft from Slavery</i> , 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.





# John Calhoun Bishop, Sr.

“Ain’t Nothin’ Like ‘Em Nowhere”

**J**ohn Calhoun Bishop, Sr. was born October 15, 1921, in Duncanville, Alabama, a small community 12 miles southeast of Tuscaloosa. Thirty-seven years later, two big events happened in Tuscaloosa. Paul “Bear” Bryant became the head football coach at the University of Alabama, and in the Jerusalem Heights neighborhood, Bishop, also known as “Big Daddy,” opened his first Dreamland Café.

A brick mason for many years, Bishop longed for another way to support his family. He had narrowed it down to opening either a mortuary or a restaurant when he got down on his knees and prayed for guidance. Legend has it that God told him in a dream that night to build a café on the land next to his home, and on October 3, 1958, Bishop made that dream a reality.

With his brick mason experience, Bishop, his brother, and some friends built the original Dreamland Café with their own hands. The first Dreamland Café is located about two miles from the intersection of Hwy 82 and Interstate 59 just south of Tuscaloosa in an area known

as Jerusalem Heights. In the beginning, it wasn’t just ribs and white bread. Lillie Brant Bishop, Bishop’s wife, came up with the first menu, which included several items in addition to ribs, such as fried fish sandwiches, cheeseburgers, and hamburgers. Ms. Lillie, an excellent cook, worked side-by-side with Bishop. Although there were several delicious items on the menu, what kept customers coming back were the mouthwatering ribs, made with the Bishops’ secret sauce, and the warmth customers felt every time they passed through the doors.

In the restaurant’s early days, because of segregation, Dreamland was a place where African Americans would go to have a good time and good food. The only whites that would dine at Dreamland were Bishop’s food and restaurant supplies vendors. Bishop didn’t discriminate. “Everyone’s green to me,” he liked to say. Bishop and Ms. Lillie made their café décor warm and inviting with a big bar, a few tables and booths, and a potbellied stove. They made diners feel like they were attending a big family reunion with ribs and white bread. Bishop always said, “You should be good to the grandparents,” so his own children, Jeannette and John, Jr., would help customers to their cars and open the door for them. The point is that Bishop didn’t just open a café; he made a place that was home to his children and family and extended that feeling of love to everyone that came by.

During the 1970s and 1980s, when the

University of Alabama football teams played in Tuscaloosa, sports broadcasters often visited Dreamland for a sample of the local flavor. Many times they would end up bragging about their Dreamland experience during their national telecasts. As a consequence of these on-air mentions, and the grass roots marketing ability of Bishop’s son, John, Jr., Dreamland’s notoriety and revenues began to grow. Also during that time, John Jr. and UA’s head football coach, Ray Perkins, developed a great friendship. To further improve the family business, in 1987, Bishop’s daughter, Jeannette Bishop-Hall, returned from Chicago where she was working for Mayor Harold Washington and took over the day to day operations of the restaurant. Under her leadership, Dreamland experienced an unmatched period of growth.

Dreamland’s achievements in the restaurant industry have been recognized in such national publications as *Southern Living*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *Sports Illustrated*, and *Rolling Stone* to name a few. Today there are nine Dreamland restaurants across five states, seven concession locations located in stadiums such as Bryant-Denny (University of Alabama), Jordan-Hare (Auburn University), Davis-Wade (Mississippi State University), and a mail order retail facility.

As John “Big Daddy” Bishop was known for saying, “Ain’t Nothing Like ‘Em, Nowhere!” And there hasn’t been anyone like Big Daddy, nowhere!

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# OCTOBER

NOVEMBER	S	M	T	W	T	H	F	S		
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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	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> Geoffrey S. Fletcher, first African American to receive an Academy Award for writing ( <i>Pre-cious...</i> ) was born in New London, Connecticut, 1970.	<b>5</b> Autherine Lucy Foster, the first African American to attend the University of Alabama, was born in Shiloh, Alabama, 1929.	<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>24</b> Marjorie S. Joyner, inventor of the permanent wave machine, patent number 1,693,515, was born in Monterey, Virginia, 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 National Association of Colored Graduate Nurses, was born in New Milford, Connecticut, 1870.	<b>30</b> Richard Arrington Jr. elected first African American mayor of Birmingham, Alabama, 1979.	<b>31</b> Ethel Waters, hall of fame gospel, blues and jazz vocalist and actress, was born in Chester, Pennsylvania, 1896.				





## Dr. Frederick D. Reese *Courageous Educator, Civil Rights Advocate*

sity, where he majored in both math and science. He then earned his Masters in Education degree from Livingston University. He also studied at the University of Alabama, Southern University, and Auburn University before receiving his Doctorate of Divinity and an Educational Specialist degree from Selma University.

By the mid-1960s, Reese was the president of the Dallas County Voter's League, which became the major Selma freedom organization after the State of Alabama banned the NAACP in 1956. Reese was also a member of *The Courageous Eight*, the name given to the eight trustee board members of the Dallas County Voter's League in Selma for their work fighting segregation and voting rights in Selma. *The Courageous Eight* received international attention in the 1960s and became a pivotal point to the Voting Rights Act of 1965 and Civil Rights Act of 1968. Members included Mr. Ulysses Blackmon, Dr. Amelia Boynton-Robinson, Mr. Earnest L. Doyle, Mrs. Marie Foster, Mr. James Edward Gildersleeve, Rev. J. D. Hunter, Dr. Reese, and Rev. Henry Shannon, Jr.

Reese was a teacher at Hudson High School and presided over the Selma Teachers Association. On January 22, 1965, Reese, Margaret Moore, and a few other organizers mobilized almost every African American teacher in Selma to march to the courthouse to register to vote. Their mindset was, "How can we teach American civics if we ourselves cannot vote?" The teachers climbed the steps but were barred from entering to register. They were pushed down the steps twice, the police jabbing them with nightsticks. Officials reportedly urged against the teachers'

arrest, "Don't arrest these people because what you going do with the 7,000 students that we have running around here when they go back to school Monday?" It was the first time in the Civil Rights Movement that teachers in the South publicly marched as teachers; they were the largest black professional group in Dallas County, and their actions inspired involvement from their students and others who were unsure about participating in demonstrations.

Later, Reese became a principal and a city councilman, serving 12 years on the Selma City Council. He ran for mayor of Selma in 1984, and led a campaign to motivate Walmart executives to hire African Americans as store managers. Reverend Reese served as pastor of Selma's Ebenezer Missionary Baptist Church for over 50 years.

In 2000, in honor of his civil rights work, a stretch of more than three miles of U.S. Route 80, where he marched to Montgomery, was named the Frederick D. Reese Parkway. The F.D. Reese Christian Academy in Kokomo, Indiana, was also dedicated to him.

On February 24, 2016, Reese received the Congressional Gold Medal on behalf of the Selma to Montgomery marchers. The first Gold Medal was awarded in 1776 by the second Continental Congress to General George Washington. Since the American Revolution, Congress has commissioned gold medals as its highest expression of national appreciation for distinguished achievements and contributions by individuals or institutions.

**D**r. Frederick D. Reese was born on November 28, 1929, in Dallas County, Alabama. Reese, a minister, educator, and civil rights activist, became a national figure on March 7, 1965. On that infamous day Reese and hundreds of other activists attempted to march across the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Alabama. The day would come to be known as Bloody Sunday after protestors were beaten and sprayed with tear gas. After Bloody Sunday, Reese received a call from Martin Luther King, Jr. offering his support, and on March 21, 1965, 300 protestors (the number of protestors allowed by authorities) began the 50-mile march from Selma's Brown Chapel AME Church to Alabama's state capitol in Montgomery. By the time they reached Montgomery on March 25, the number of marchers had swelled to over 25,000. These events eventually led to the passage of the Voting Rights Act, which was signed into law by President Lyndon B. Johnson on August 6, 1965.

Reese graduated from Alabama State Univer-

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# NOVEMBER

DECEMBER S M T W TH F S  
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Sunday

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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 <i>Lift Every Voice and Sing</i> , 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 Electro-magnetic 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 Heminges 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.		





# Rickey Smiley

*Celebrated Comic with a Desire to Impact, Motivate Others*

**B**orn August 10, 1968, in Birmingham Alabama, Rickey Smiley's rise to superstardom began when he was given the opportunity to be the opening act for several comedic titans, including Steve Harvey, George Wallace, and Carl Strong. With more than 25 years in the entertainment industry, Smiley has become one of the industry's most engaging entertainers and a true entrepreneur, building an impressive empire that has landed him preeminent roles on radio, television, film, and on-stage performances.

When Smiley was 6 years old his father was killed, but he had several wonderful role models who stepped in to help fill the void. His grandfather and uncles became his father figures and instilled values in him that made him the man he is today. Smiley didn't grow up in a wealthy family. However, the people who surrounded him gave him a great sense of self and morals that no amount of money could buy.

With this background, and a true desire to give back to the community, Smiley founded The Rickey Smiley Foundation, a nonprofit organization created to impact the lives of children and teens through programs that inspire, impact, and motivate young people to live life to their fullest potential, as well as celebrate the lives of seniors who are the fabric of the com-

munity.

Growing up in a church filled with colorful characters inspired Smiley's signature characters that have visibly become a part of his comedic trademark. Smiley is one of the few "clean" comics amongst the top tier of contemporary great comedians, and he has amassed a deeply loyal fan base of enthusiasts who gravitate to his quick-witted delivery and captivating energy. He has performed sold out shows where his diverse audiences are drawn to characters such as "Mrs. Bernice Jenkins," "Lil' Daryl," "Joe Willie," and "Beauford."

In 2000, Smiley started his climatic rise to stardom as the headlining host of BET's *ComicView* and became further distinguished as the only comedian who has had the honor of hosting two consecutive successful seasons, catapulting the show to its highest ratings in history. After achieving this milestone, BET then quickly signed Smiley to host *The Way We Do It* during the 2001-2002 season, which later became one of the networks top five shows. Smiley also delivered unforgettable appearances on *Showtime at The Apollo*, *Uptown Comedy Club*, HBO's *Def Comedy Jam* and *Snaps*.

In 2007, Smiley became the host of the *Rickey Smiley Morning Show*. Based in Atlanta, in over 55 markets and growing, the *Rickey Smiley Morning Show* is a blend of laughter, social issues, and celebrity news.

Each day, millions of fans faithfully tune in and listen to the show best known for its rib-

tickling prank phone calls, as Rickey delivers witty commentary and unpredictable humor. Using radio as an uplifting message vehicle, Rickey's insightful yet humorous interviews with A-list celebrities raise social and political awareness. Smiley's down-home southern charm and philosophy to use insight rather than vulgarity to evoke laughter, is one of the many reasons he forged a partnership with Radio One, one of the most respected urban broadcasting conglomerates in the country.

Smiley served as host of the prestigious Trumpet Awards in 2012, the 29th Annual Stellar Gospel Music Awards in 2014, and the 2014 NAACP Image Awards Dinner & Pre-Party. He was also a presenter at the NAACP Image Awards Ceremony. He has eight bestselling CDs including iTunes #1 Best Selling Comedy Album, *Rickey Smiley—Prank Calls Number 6*.

"I love what I do and enjoy getting up every day with the expressed purpose of bringing joy into the lives of others through laughter. The greatest satisfaction I can receive is knowing that my talents are a form of escapism that brings happiness into so many deserving lives. To be blessed with sold out tours, a successful radio show and two television platforms is more than I could ever have dreamed and I am committed to working harder than ever to continue to be a positive influence and all around best entertainer I can be."

—Rickey Smiley

NOVEMBER

S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
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5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
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# DECEMBER

JANUARY 2018

S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
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27	28	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, standup 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 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 U.S. 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.						