



Alabama

 AFRICAN

 AMERICAN

History Calendar

alafricanamerican.com

2018

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AT&T

Letter from AT&T Alabama

FOR EIGHT YEARS, AT&T has proudly published the *Alabama African American History Calendar*, honoring remarkable individuals who have excelled in their professional careers, spearheaded civic and social movements and dedicated their time and resources to improve the quality of life for others. The individuals featured in the *Alabama African American History Calendar* are shining role models for all.

As in previous calendars, the 2018 *Calendar* is a testament to the strength, courage, hard work and dedication of those featured. We hope their stories will inspire the children of Alabama and you.

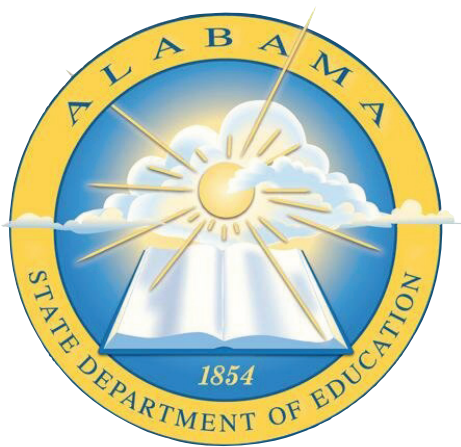
Over the years, the calendar has grown from an educational and inspirational resource created for Alabamians to a resource for people across the globe.

A special thanks to our partners for their contributions and commitment to helping us share the lives of these extraordinary individuals, motivating the next generation – our future – to continue Alabama's great legacy of accomplishments.

Be inspired.

—AT&T Alabama

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ALABAMA STATE UNIVERSITY



2018 HONOREE REFERENCES



JANUARY
Jeanette Scissum
NASA: nasa.gov/centers/marshall/history/jeanette-a-scissum.html

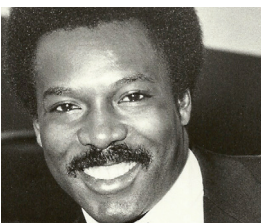
al.com/news/huntsville/index.ssf/2017/02/black_female_and_essential_to.html

Photo: NASA/MSFC



FEBRUARY
Vernon Z. Crawford
Alabama State University: alasu.edu/news/news-details/index.aspx?nid=43

Alabama Bar Association: alabar.org/membership/alabama-lawyers-hall-of-fame/2008-lawyers-hall-of-fame/



MARCH
Wilson Pickett
Wilson Pickett Foundation: wilsonpickett.com

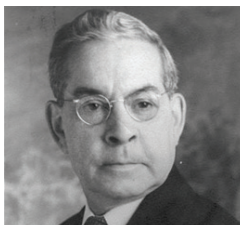


APRIL
Kenyen Brown
Maynard Cooper: maynardcooper.com/attorneys/kenyen-brown



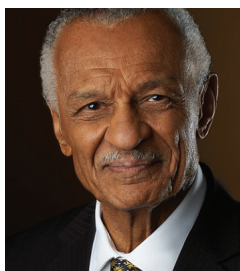
MAY
Helen Shores Lee
Samford University: alumni.samford.edu/s/1575/gid2_alumni/16/interior.aspx?sid=1575&gid=2&pgid=1062

Vulcan Park & Museum: youtube.com/watch?v=mbmrBHmv3QI



JUNE
A.H. Parker
Bhamwiki: bhamwiki.com/w/A._H._Parker

Birmingham Public Library: bplonline.org/resources/exhibits/ParkerA.H/gallery/parker/index.html



JULY
C.T. Vivian
C.T. Vivian Leadership Institute: ctvli.org/ctvivian.php

Facebook: facebook.com/RevDoctorCTVivian/
Wikipedia: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/C._T._Vivian



AUGUST
Erskine Hawkins
Encyclopedia of Alabama: encyclopediaofalabama.org/article/h-1365



SEPTEMBER
Willie Ruff
willieruff.com



OCTOBER
Isaac White, Sr.
Allstate *Worth Telling*: allstateworthtelling.com

AL.com: al.com/living/index.ssf/2016/07/alabama_barber_96_still_workin.html



NOVEMBER
Nell Carter
Encyclopedia of Alabama: encyclopediaofalabama.org/article/h-2171



DECEMBER
Shelia Nash-Stevenson
NASA Marshall Center: youtube.com/watch?v=UkL7pcl-UAw

NASA: nasa.gov/centers/marshall/about/star/star160323.html

The Madison Record: themadisonrecord.com/2017/01/27/nash-stevenson-earns-nasas-modern-figure-award/

Alabama
AFRICAN
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History Calendar

Jeanette Scissum

Trailblazing mathematician reached for the stars, landed on the moon

“YOU’RE GOING TO COLLEGE.” Many parents have spoken these words to their children, but when Mr. Alexander made this statement to his daughter, Jeanette, he never envisioned that one day, she would attend meetings with renowned rocket scientist Dr. Wernher Von Braun, help to shape America’s space program, and eventually land a man on the moon. Jeanette Scissum, the daughter of a sharecropper farmer, was the first African American female mathematician and scientist at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Marshall Space Flight Center located in Huntsville, Alabama. Like her *Hidden Figures* counterparts, Jeanette Scissum was more than a “human computer.” She was a pioneer and problem solver.

As an African American female growing up in rural Alabama during the 1940s and 50s, college was not in the mix for the typical sharecropper’s daughter. However, there was nothing typical about Scissum. Her parents made education a top priority. Scissum attended segregated schools with very few teachers and no higher level science or mathematics books. Additionally, African Americans were not allowed to go the public library where these resources were available, so the odds of going to college and becoming a mathematician and scientist were definitely stacked against her.

Despite these obstacles, Scissum worked hard and received a partial scholarship to attend Alabama A&M University, where she earned both a bachelor’s and master’s degree in mathematics.

After receiving her bachelor’s in mathematics, in 1964, Scissum joined NASA’s Marshall Space Flight Center as an entry-level mathematician. By 1967, she had published a NASA report,



“Survey of Solar Cycle Prediction Models,” which put forward techniques for improved forecasting of the sunspot cycle. Scissum also worked on the Apollo Moon project, co-writing a computer program to determine the landing site for the lunar module. In the mid-1970s, she worked as a space scientist in the Space Environment Branch of Marshall’s Space Sciences Laboratory, and later led activities in Marshall’s Atmospheric, Magnetospheric, and Plasmas in Space project.

Although Scissum was a brilliant mathematician, she experienced many of the same discriminatory policies African Americans and women faced in the 1960s. Similar to the issues highlighted in the movie *Hidden Figures*, Scissum had to overcome the biases against African Americans and women in professional, managerial, and technical roles. “Why do you need a promotion? Your husband is a teacher,” one supervisor asked her.

To help level the playing field for minorities and women, Scissum volunteered and served as an Equal Opportunity officer at NASA. In 1975, Scissum wrote an article for the National Technical Association, “Equal Employment Opportunity and the Supervisor – A Counselor’s View,” which argued that many discrimination complaints could be avoided “through adequate and meaningful communication.”

Later, Scissum worked at NASA’s Goddard Space Flight Center outside Washington, D.C. and NASA Headquarters in Washington. While at NASA Headquarters, she was a computer systems analyst responsible for analyzing and directing NASA management information and technical support systems. Jeanette Scissum is a trailblazer, and we can truly say she reached for the stars and landed on the moon.

JANUARY 2018

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							31									

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

Vernon Z. Crawford

“Lawyer” Crawford’s groundbreaking court victories still resonate



VERNON Z. CRAWFORD was born in Mobile, Alabama in 1919 to Charles Crawford and Willie Ella Landrum. Following graduation from Mobile’s Josephine Allen Institute, Mr. Crawford served during World War II as a merchant seaman. In 1951, he graduated from Alabama State University with a Bachelor of Science degree. After college, Mr. Crawford attended Brooklyn Law School from which he graduated in 1956. Upon returning to Mobile, he established the city’s first African American law firm, which was located on Davis Avenue, the city’s center of African American life at the time.

Mr. Crawford’s law firm soon became an important force in using the legal system to bring social change. With a keen sense of legal precedent and the United States Constitution, Mr. Crawford confronted Jim Crow head on in the courtroom during the height of the civil rights movement with fierce determination. With his victories having ramifications still felt today, Mr. Crawford took on such groundbreaking issues as school desegregation, discriminatory jury selection, and minority vote dilution.

Some of the pivotal lawsuits handled by Mr. Crawford’s firm include the landmark constitutional law case, *New York Times v. L. B. Sullivan*, one of the key Supreme Court decisions supporting the freedom of the press. Because of this case, news organizations were free to report the widespread disorder and civil rights infringements at the time without fear of prosecution; *State of Alabama v. Willie Seals*, which had national ramifications and served as a precedent for the integra-

tion of juries throughout the South; *Bolden v. City of Mobile*, which challenged the constitutionality of Mobile’s commission form of municipal government and brought about the mayor-council system; *Birdie Mae Davis v. Mobile County School Board*, which brought about the desegregation of the Mobile County Public School System; and *Broughton v. City of Mobile*. While working pro bono for a white Kilby Prison inmate, Mr. Crawford successfully obtained the first writ of error coram nobis in the history of Mobile County.

“Lawyer” Crawford, as he was admirably known, is remembered as the “Dean of African American attorneys” in Mobile having mentored many of the city’s successful African American lawyers. Among his law partners and associates were A. J. Cooper, who served as Prichard, Alabama’s first African American mayor; the late Michael Figures, who served in the Alabama State Senate and who is an inductee of the Alabama Lawyer’s Hall of Fame; the late Cain Kennedy, who was a Mobile County circuit judge; and David Coar, a United States district court judge. Mobile’s Black Lawyer’s Association honored Mr. Crawford by renaming the organization the Vernon Z. Crawford Bay Area Bar Association.

In addition to his law practice, Mr. Crawford was a cooperating attorney with the NAACP Legal Defense Fund, a founder of the Gulf Federal Savings and Loan in Mobile, and was active in a number of civic organizations. He continued a successful law practice in Mobile until his death in 1986. His legal papers are preserved today in the University of South Alabama Archives.

FEBRUARY 2018

JAN	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	MAR	S	M	T	W	T	F	S

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

Wilson Pickett

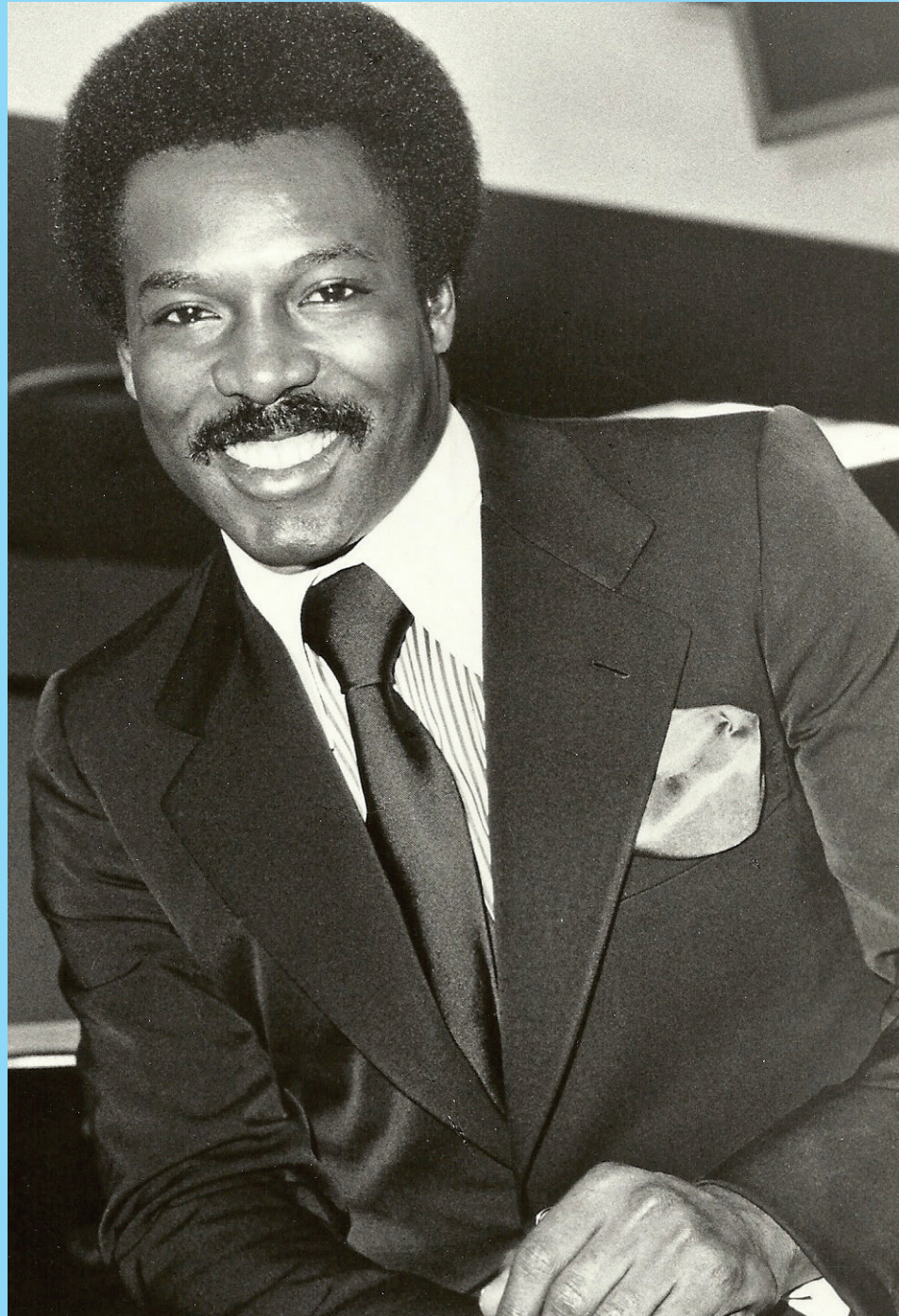
Hall of Fame singer/songwriter was hit-making soul, pop superstar

WILSON PICKETT was a rhythm & blues and rock & roll singer/songwriter. A major figure in the development of American soul music, Pickett recorded over 50 songs, which made the U.S. R&B charts, and frequently crossed over to the U.S. *Billboard* Hot 100. Among his best known hits are “In the Midnight Hour,” which he co-wrote, “Land of 1,000 Dances,” “Mustang Sally,” and “Funky Broadway.” The impact of Pickett’s songwriting and recording led to his 1991 induction into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, and in 1993, he was honored with a Pioneer Award by the Rhythm and Blues Foundation.

Pickett, the fourth of 11 children, was born March 18, 1941 in Prattville, Alabama. In 1955, he left Alabama to live with his father in Detroit, Michigan where he joined the Violinaires, a gospel music group. After singing for four years with the Violinaires, Pickett, following the success of other gospel singers of the day, left gospel music for the more lucrative secular music market and joined the Falcons in 1959.

Pickett’s biggest hit with The Falcons came in 1962, when “I Found a Love” peaked at #6 on the R&B chart, and at #75 on the Hot 100. Soon after recording “I Found a Love,” Pickett cut his first solo recordings, including “I’m Gonna Cry.” Pickett’s first big success as a solo artist came with “It’s Too Late,” entering the charts on July 27, 1963. It eventually peaked at #7 on the R&B and #49 on the Pop charts. In 1964, Pickett signed with Atlantic Records and the next year recorded his smash hit “In the Midnight Hour,” at Stax Records’ recording studio in Memphis, Tennessee. The chart topping song hit #1 on the R&B chart, #21 on the Pop chart, and #12 in the U.K. It sold over one million copies, and was awarded a gold disc.

In December 1965, Pickett moved from Stax recording studio in Memphis to Fame Studios, located in Muscle Shoals, Alabama. There he recorded some of his biggest hits, including the highest charting version of “Land of 1,000 Dances,” which became Pickett’s third #1 R&B record, and his biggest pop hit, peaking at #6,



also selling a million copies. Other big hits from this era in Pickett’s career included “Mustang Sally” (reaching #6 on the R&B chart), and “Funky Broadway” (#1 R&B, #8 Pop). Both tracks sold a million copies. Throughout the remainder of the 1960s into the early 70s, Pickett kept churning out hit records, including million sellers “Don’t Let the Green Grass Fool You” and “Don’t Knock My Love, Part I.”

Pickett was a prolific songwriter, and his songs were recorded by artists like Led Zeppelin, Van Halen, The Rolling Stones, Aerosmith, The Grateful Dead, Booker T. & the MGs, Genesis, Creedence Clearwater Revival, Hootie & the Blowfish, Echo & the Bunnymen, Roxy Music, Bruce Springsteen, Los Lobos, The Jam, and Ani DiFranco, among others.

Outside of music, Pickett’s personal life was troubled with drug and alcohol abuse. In 1993, Pickett accidentally struck an 86-year-old pedestrian, who died later that year. Pickett pled guilty to driving under the influence charges and received a reduced sentence of one year in jail and five years probation.

Several years after his release from jail, Pickett returned to the studio and received a Grammy Award nomination for the 1999 album *It’s Harder Now*. The Blues Foundation in Memphis also honored him as Soul/Blues Male Artist of the Year. *It’s Harder Now* was voted Comeback Blues Album of the Year and Soul/Blues Album of the Year.

Pickett spent the twilight of his career performing dozens of concerts a year until 2004, when he developed health problems. While in the hospital, he returned to his spiritual roots and told his sister that he wanted to record a gospel album. However, his declining health prevented him from recording that album.

In 2005, Pickett was inducted into the Michigan Rock and Roll Legends Hall of Fame, and his recording of “Mustang Sally” was voted a Legendary Michigan Song in 2007. Pickett died from a heart attack on January 19, 2006, in Reston, Virginia.

MARCH 2018

FEB	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	APR	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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18	19	20	21	22	23	24			22	23	24	25	26	27	28
25	26	27	28						25	26	27	28	29	30	

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

Kenyen Brown

First African American appointed to serve as U.S. Attorney in state of Alabama

KENYEN BROWN IS AN ATTORNEY AND SHAREHOLDER at Maynard Cooper's Mobile, Alabama law office. His practice focuses primarily on white collar criminal litigation, complex civil litigation, internal and governmental investigations, as well as compliance counseling.

In 2009, President Barack Obama nominated Brown to serve as a United States Attorney, and in December 2009, the U.S. Senate confirmed his nomination. On January 15, 2010, Brown took the Oath of Office as U.S. Attorney, making him the first African American to serve in this position in the state of Alabama. For seven years, as U.S. Attorney, Brown directed the successful prosecution of a wide range of complex criminal and civil cases, with a particular emphasis on healthcare fraud.

Prior to his time as Southern Alabama's U.S. Attorney, Brown started his career in the Montgomery County, Alabama District Attorney's office in 1995. Shortly thereafter, in 1996, he joined the U.S. Attorney's Office in Mobile, Alabama as an Assistant U.S. Attorney (AUSA). As an AUSA, Brown prosecuted and tried large illegal drug distribution organizations; instances of bank fraud, bank and labor union embezzlement, violations of the Bank Secrecy Act, counterfeiting, credit card/access device fraud, mail fraud, tax fraud and evasion, telemarketing fraud, worker's compensation fraud, identity theft, and environmental crimes; as well as

violent crimes such as bank robbery, carjacking, and firearms related offenses.

In 1999, Brown moved to Washington, D.C., to join the staff of the U.S. Senate Ethics Committee, where he worked for eight years and conducted numerous high profile Congressional ethics investigations while also heading up the Committee's training and compliance efforts. Following his time with the U.S. Senate, he moved to the U.S. House Ethics Committee, where he served as the Acting Chief Counsel and Staff Director performing similar high profile work in the House until 2009, when he was called to serve as Alabama's first African American U.S. attorney in Mobile.

Prior to accepting the post of U.S. Attorney, in 2008, and again in 2009, Brown was listed by *Roll Call* (a Capitol Hill publication) as one of the "Fabulous Fifty" Hill staffers. This honor noted him as one of the top 50 "Movers and Shakers Behind the Scenes of Capitol Hill" among all the staffers working in both the U.S. House and Senate. Brown retains close personal ties to former colleagues still working in Congress, the Department of Justice, and his former U.S. Attorney colleagues across the nation.

A native of Detroit, Michigan, Brown received his Juris Doctor (J.D.) degree from the University of Tennessee College of Law and his Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Alabama. Brown and his wife Anna have a baby boy, Julius, and live in Mobile.



Kenyen Brown takes oath of office as a U.S. Attorney for South Alabama, January 15, 2010.

APRIL 2018

MAR S M T W T H F S
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18 19 20 21 22 23 24
25 26 27 28 29 30 31

MAY S M T W T H F S
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13 14 15 16 17 18 19
20 21 22 23 24 25 26
27 28 29 30 31

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

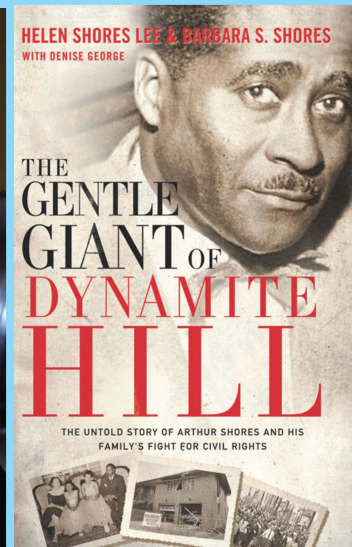


Helen Shores Lee

Daughter of prominent civil rights attorney learned early the importance of personal service for the benefit of others



"... I have found that giving of your time and service can be one of the most rewarding experiences in life."



The *Gentle Giant of Dynamite Hill* is an historical memoir that presents a firsthand account of what it was like growing up in Jim Crow-era Birmingham, Alabama as the daughters of a crusading civil rights attorney.

IN JANUARY 2003, THE HONORABLE HELEN SHORES LEE was appointed Circuit Judge of the Tenth Judicial Court of Alabama, becoming the first African American woman to serve in the civil division of Jefferson County Circuit Court. Judge Lee's desire to ensure equal justice for all was shaped by the events she witnessed and experienced growing up in Birmingham, Alabama during the racially charged 1960's and highlighted in the book *The Gentle Giant of Dynamite Hill, the Untold Story of Arthur Shores and His Family's Civil Rights*, which she co-authored with her sister Barbara Shores.

As the daughter of a prominent Civil Rights Attorney, Arthur Shores, Judge Lee's safety was always in danger. Between 1947 and 1965, approximately 50 dynamite explosions targeted at African Americans were detonated in Birmingham, earning the city the nickname "Bombingham." The Smithfield neighborhood where the Shores family lived, was targeted by the Ku Klux Klan so many times it was called

"Dynamite Hill." In addition to bullets being shot at their home, within a two-week period during the summer of 1963, the Shores' home was bombed twice, injuring Lee's mother, Theodora, and killing the family's pet.

Despite growing up with the constant threats and acts of violence targeted at the Shores family, Lee graduated from A.H. Parker High School and went on to receive her Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from Fisk University

in Nashville, Tennessee and her Masters of Arts in Clinical Psychology from Pepperdine University in Los Angeles, California.

After many years as a practicing clinical psychologist, Lee decided to follow in her father's footsteps, and in 1987 she earned her Juris Doctorate from Samford University, Cumberland School of Law in Birmingham, Alabama. After receiving her law degree, Lee began practicing law in Birmingham with her

father. From 1996-2000 she served on the Alabama State Ethics Commission, and as its chairwoman from 1999-2000.

In 2013, Lee was honored by the YWCA of Central Alabama with the Jeana P. Hosch Woman of Valor for her decades of commitment to civil rights and service to the community. In 2014, she was named Samford University Alumnus of the Year. In addition to her desire to make sure the scales of justice are balanced, Lee's commitment to her community is exemplified by the boards she serves on such as Blue Cross Blue Shield of Alabama, Camp Fire Inc., United Cerebral Palsy, and the American Red Cross. She also is a trustee of Leadership Birmingham and chair of the advisory council of the University of Alabama at Birmingham's Minority Health and Research Center. Lee is also a member of the Cumberland School of Law Advisory Board.

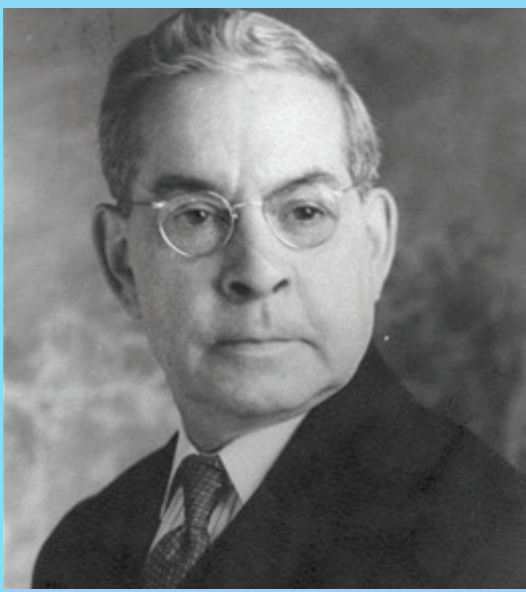
Lee and her husband, Bob, have three children: Arthur Shores Lee, Robert Lee, Jr., and Kiesha Jackson and five grandchildren Vincent, Ashlee, Trenton, Trevon, and Leah.

"As a child, I learned from my parents early the importance of giving back to the community. As an adult, I have found that giving of your time and service can be one of the most rewarding experiences in life. If I am to promote the welfare of my community and make my city a better place to live, then I must get involved and I must give of my time, my service, and myself for the benefit of others. This is the model I follow in my professional career and personal life." —Helen Shores Lee

MAY 2018

APR	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	JUNE	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	
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	29	30							24	25	26	27	28	29	30	

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



Arthur Harold Parker

Son of former slaves crafted legendary career as educator, became first principal of first high school for African Americans in Birmingham

ARTHUR HAROLD PARKER born May 7, 1870, in Springfield, Ohio was the son of former slaves. Under slavery many states prohibited slaves from learning to read and write, so like other freed slaves Parker's parents stressed the importance of education to their children. Parker was a good student and planned to attend Oberlin College in Oberlin Ohio after high school, but his plans changed when his father was injured. Despite that setback Parker went on to become an educator for more than 50 years and the first principal of Industrial High School in Birmingham, Alabama. Industrial High School was the first high school for African Americans in Birmingham and since his retirement in 1939 bears A.H. Parker's name.

After high school, Parker headed south to find work as a barber in Decatur Alabama, but decided to go to Birmingham, where two of his uncles were living, Arthur Sensabaugh, a Methodist pastor, and James Clayton, a school teacher. Parker's Uncle Clayton saw he was an intelligent young man and recognized his teaching talents and encouraged him to take the teacher's examination. After successfully passing the exam, Parker was offered a teaching position and became the 13th African American teacher in the Birmingham school system.



Statue of A.H. Parker in front of the high school named in his honor. Photo courtesy of al.com

Parker was assigned to the second graders of the new Slater School which opened in January 1888. He advanced to the third and fourth graders the next fall. As a sign of things to come, the Slater School had recently purchased an organ, so Parker spent his spare time there learning to play. He became such an accomplished organist he would play for school programs, as well as side jobs, and teach music classes.

After three years as a teacher Parker was determined to become a school principal. In 1891, he successfully completed the principal's examination and his first post came in September 1892, at the Cameron School. In addition to heading that growing school, Parker was superintendent of the Sunday school at 16th Street Baptist Church.

In 1899, the Birmingham Board of Education agreed to create a high school for African American students. Superintendent J.H. Phillips selected Parker to become the sole teacher for the Industrial High School when it opened, on the second floor of the Cameron School, in September 1900. The next year Parker rose with his students and J. R. Coffey took charge of the entering freshmen and Parker's role as principal was secured. He emphasized practical instruction in woodworking and sewing as the focus of instruction, supplemented by grammar, literature and mathematics. Parker presided over the school's first graduation ceremony, held June 3, 1904 at 16th Street Baptist Church.

In 1905, Parker was elected president of the

Alabama State Teacher's Association. He delivered an address to the assembled body at their next annual meeting in Mobile in April 1906. In September 1910, Industrial High moved to the Lane's Auditorium building at 11th Street and 8th Avenue North. New specialized instructors were added to the faculty to teach cooking, sewing, and manual training. The next year a night school for adults was started, and then a summer school for teachers. Parker also participated in the first of a series of statewide summer institutes for teachers in each county. In 1914, the school building was condemned by the city and a deal was struck to purchase the former United Presbyterian School at 8th Avenue and 9th Street North. Soon after a cluster of 14 cottages on an adjacent lot was purchased and converted for classroom use.

In 1915, Parker started teaching summer classes at Tuskegee Institute. In the fall of 1918, Industrial High School was temporarily closed to serve as an infirmary during an influenza epidemic. Beginning with the purchase of property in 1920 and culminating with the completion of the present A. H. Parker High School in 1924, the construction of a modern, well-equipped school for African Americans set Birmingham apart as a progressive city. Parker was awarded the Negro Citizens' Loving Cup for "that citizen that had done the most for his race in 1924."

Parker retired as principal of Industrial High School in 1939 and died later that year. Funeral services were held in the school's auditorium, with burial at Oak Hill Cemetery. The school was later renamed A. H. Parker High School in his honor. A statue of Parker is located on the lawn in front of the school.

JUNE 2018

MAY	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	JULY	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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	27	28	29	30	31					29	30	31			

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

Cordy Tindell 'C.T.' Vivian

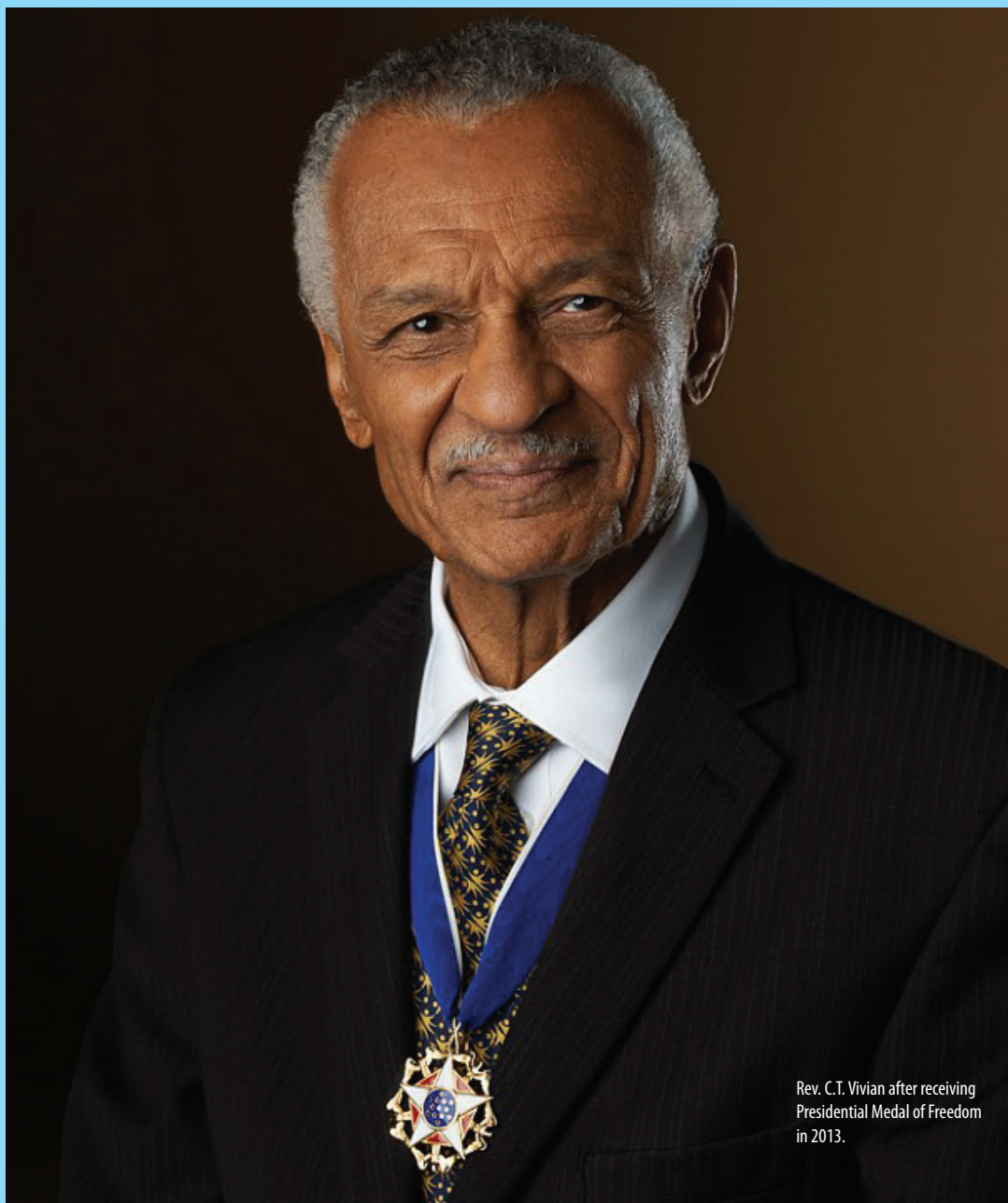
The "greatest preacher to ever live" has been a man of vision, leadership, activism

In 2007, Senator Barack Obama spoke at historic Brown Chapel A.M.E. church in Selma, Alabama, recognizing and honoring Dr. C.T. Vivian by quoting the words of Dr. Martin L. King Jr., who called Vivian "the greatest preacher to ever live." Six years later, in November 2013, President Barack Obama, again honored Dr. C.T. Vivian for his vision and leadership in the fight for justice by awarding him with the Nation's highest civilian honor - The Presidential Medal of Freedom.

Vivian, once known as a Christian journalist, is best known for his work with Martin Luther King, Jr. As National Director of Affiliates and strategist for every Southern Christian Leadership Conference (S.C.L.C.) organization, he truly helped change the nation. In Birmingham, his work helped to enact the Civil Rights Bill, and in Selma, the Voting Rights Bill. Vivian was deeply involved in other movements including those in Nashville, Tennessee; Danville, Virginia; St. Augustine, Florida; and Chicago, Illinois.

Vivian won his first non-violent direct action movement in 1947 by integrating restaurants in Peoria, IL. The summer following the Selma Movement, Vivian developed, organized, and launched Vision, an educational program that assisted over 700 Alabama students to attend college on scholarship. Vision would later be known as Upward Bound. In 1970, Vivian authored the first book written by a member of King's staff entitled *Black Power and the American Myth*.

After leaving Dr. King's Executive Staff, Vivian trained ministers and developed the urban curriculum for seminaries throughout the nation at the Urban Training Center in Chicago. He returned to the realm of seminary education as the Dean of Divinity at Shaw University Seminary. There, he orig-



Rev. C.T. Vivian after receiving Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2013.

inated and acquired funding for an unprecedented national level program, the basis of his doctoral work, Seminary Without Walls.

Vivian's many leadership roles include serving on the boards of the Center for Democratic Renewal and the National Voting Rights Museum, and was the Board Chair of BASIC Diversity, Inc., the nation's oldest diversity consulting firm. He has provided civil rights counsel to Presidents Johnson, Carter, Reagan, Clinton, and Obama, and has lectured on racial justice and democracy throughout the world.

The New School for Social Research named Vivian "... spiritual leader, apostle of social justice, strategist of the civil rights movement ... For decades he has been in the vanguard of the struggle for racial equality in America," as they presented him with one of his many honorary doctorates.

Vivian is featured throughout PBS's acclaimed documentary, *Eyes On The Prize* (1987 & 2006). PBS later produced a full-length presentation, *The Healing Ministry of the Rev. Dr. C.T. Vivian*. He is also featured as both an activist and analyst in the series *The People's Century* (PBS/WGBH, 1998), and in the Tom Brokaw documentary, *King* (History Channel, 2008).

In 2008, Vivian founded the C.T. Vivian Leadership Institute, Inc. to create a model leadership culture for the purpose of training and educating the next generation of grassroots leaders inspired to mobilize a constituency. The Institute is based out of Atlanta, Georgia.

Dr. Vivian received an Honorary Doctorate from Morehouse College (2010), served as National President of S.C.L.C. (2012), and most recently served as Dean of The Urban Institute at The Interdenominational Theological Center in Atlanta, GA.

JULY 2018

JUNE	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	AUG	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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	24	25	26	27	28	29	30		26	27	28	29	30	31	

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

Erskine Hawkins

Hall of Fame trumpeter, composer and bandleader scored big with musical homage to his hometown

ERSKINE HAWKINS, born in Birmingham, Alabama on July 26, 1914, was a renowned trumpeter, big bandleader, and composer. Nicknamed the “Twentieth-Century Gabriel,” because of his heavenly trumpet play, Hawkins gained fame as a member of the ‘Bama State Collegians, one of the finest college bands in the 1930s. In 1938, Hawkins formed Erskine Hawkins & His Orchestra, which became a popular dance band, packing venues across the country and prestigious clubs such as the Roseland and Savoy in New York City. Hawkins had several hit recordings, including his signature song “Tuxedo Junction,” “Tippin’ In,” “Don’t Cry Baby,” and “After Hours.” Some of the vocalists who were featured with his orchestra include Ida James, Delores Brown, and Della Reese. Hawkins is a member of the Alabama Music and Alabama Jazz Halls of Fame.

At age six Hawkins started school at Tuggle Institute (now Tuggle Elementary School), excelling in music and athletics. Under the direction of the school’s band director, he first played drums, trombone, and saxophone, before concentrating his talents on the trumpet. He was nearly always at the school, either playing music or on an athletic team playing basketball, football, and tennis. As a young child, Hawkins played music in the local park and was inspired by the sounds he heard. As a teenager, Hawkins attended Birmingham Industrial High School under famed music educator John T. “Fess” Whatley. He also formed a band with Bob Range, Haywood Henry, and other boys from the school, eventually playing in Birmingham’s clubs.

Hawkins spent many hours developing his craft at Tuxedo Junction, a streetcar intersection on the Ensley-Fairfield line in Birmingham that

was a center of nightlife for African Americans from the 1920s through the 1950s. Tuxedo Junction was comparable to Harlem in New York City. In 1930, at the age of 16, Hawkins graduated from Birmingham Industrial and moved to Montgomery to attend State Teachers College (now Alabama State University) on a tennis scholarship, but gave that up to major in music and join the Collegians, one of the college’s three bands. In the early 1930s, the three bands toured to make money for the school. While touring the South and Midwest, the Collegians gained a reputation as one of the best college bands in the country. Led by J. B. Sims, it played jazz and dance tunes, but also military music and symphonic pieces. Hawkins graduated in 1934, but stayed on to teach music and play with the band.

Hawkins and the Collegians first earned fame in 1934, when touring the Northeast. While in Asbury Park, New Jersey, musicians from New York City came to hear them play, and the band was invited to the Harlem Opera House and Brooklyn’s Fox Folly. When the opportunity came to turn professional, Hawkins and most of the band members decided to stay in New York.

After turning professional, Hawkins became the bandleader and, in 1935, started recording for Vocalion Records as the ‘Bama State Collegians featuring Erskine Hawkins. In 1938, the band changed its name to Erskine Hawkins & His Orchestra and signed with RCA Victor Records. Because of their increasing popularity, the group was signed as the house band at the Savoy Ballroom in Harlem and would often compete in “battle of the bands” competitions with guest bands, including Glenn Miller, Duke Ellington, and Lionel Hampton.



Hawkins scored his first hit in 1939 with “Tuxedo Junction,” and the tune became the band’s signature song. During his career, Hawkins recorded dozens of songs. His last recording was an album featuring a reunion of his old bandmates in 1971. In 1978, Hawkins was inducted into the Alabama Jazz Hall of Fame. In 1989, he was given a Lifework Award for Performing Achievement by the Ala-

bama Music Hall of Fame.

Hawkins’ birthday is celebrated each July at the “Function in the Junction” in Birmingham. The event takes place at a park near the old Tuxedo Junction, which was renamed Erskine Hawkins Park in his honor. Hawkins died on November 11, 1993, and is buried in Elmwood Cemetery in Birmingham.

AUGUST 2018

JULY	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	SEP	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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	29	30	31						23	24	25	26	27	28	29
									30						

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

Dr. Willie Ruff

Alabama Jazz Hall of Famer has had distinguished career as performer, educator and writer

DR. WILLIE RUFF, THE RECENTLY-RETIRED YALE SCHOOL OF MUSIC PROFESSOR and founder of the Duke Ellington Fellowship at Yale, is a musician, writer and educator of wide-ranging interests and influences. Ruff was born and raised in Sheffield, Alabama, a city across the river from Florence, Alabama, the birthplace of W. C. Handy, the “father of the blues.” As a six-year-old second grader, Ruff met Handy and was excited to shake his hand; many years later he became one of the founders of the W. C. Handy Music Festival in Florence, Alabama.

In 1991, Ruff published *A Call to Assembly: The Autobiography of a Musical Storyteller*, a critically acclaimed memoir for which he won The American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers (ASCAP) Deems Taylor Award for Music Writing. In 1994, he was inducted into the Alabama Jazz Hall of Fame, and in 2001, he was elected an International Horn Society Honorary Member. Ruff received the Connecticut Governor’s Arts Award in 2000 for his work with the Duke Ellington Fellowship Program. In 2013, Ruff was awarded with the Sanford Medal. The Sanford Medal is the highest honor from Yale University’s School of Music.

After becoming a modestly competent drummer and “Boogie Woogie” piano player, Ruff lied about his age and enlisted in an army band at 14. Failing to keep up with the older professionals there, he was summarily fired. But, having noticed that competent French horn players are always in high demand, he talked his bandmaster into letting him learn that unforgiving child-killer instrument. By the time he was sixteen, he was good enough to be accepted into the 766 Army Air Corps band in Columbus, Ohio among the famed Tuskegee Airmen. There he met the resident nineteen-year-old piano playing genius named



Ivory Dwiki Mitchell who taught him to play the bass fiddle.

While in the Army, Ruff and Mitchell formed a duo that lasted throughout their entire military stint. Only when both musicians got out of the army did they part ways.

Following his military service, Ruff completed his bachelor of music degree in 1953 and his master of music degree in 1954. As fate would have it when both men completed their educations, Ruff at the Yale School of Music, and Mitchell at the Philadelphia Musical Academy, they re-united

in Lionel Hampton’s band.

In 1955, the two friends struck out on their own as the Mitchell-Ruff Duo, working the U.S. nightclub and concert circuits, often as the opening attraction for luminaries such as Louis Armstrong, Duke Ellington, Miles Davis, Count Basie, Sarah Vaughn, and Dizzy Gillespie. Later they began recording and introducing jazz to new audiences, from Russia to China and beyond.

The duo performed off and on for more than 50 years. With the death of Dwiki Mitchell in 2012, Ruff refocused his efforts on teaching, make musical documentaries, and appearing on the global concert and lecture circuit, which he continues today.

Below: Willie Ruff receiving the Sanford Medal from Yale University, May 20, 2013. Photo courtesy of Yale University



SEPTEMBER 2018

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

Isaac White, Sr.

Humble barber teaches valuable skills, shares love and friendship

ISAAC WHITE, SR. WAS BORN TO SHARECROPPERS in Wilkerson County, Mississippi, in 1919. When he arrived in Mobile, Alabama in 1942, he didn't realize he would become a pillar in the community, but that is exactly what happened. In 1960, he opened White's Barber College and for the next six decades, he taught, mentored, and served as a role model to hundreds of students. When a student completes the program at the college's red brick building on the corner of Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue, they leave with a valuable skill, invaluable life lessons, and no student debt. White's barbering course fees are waived for all students who meet the requirements to receive a barber's license and secure a job by the end of the program.

During the Great Depression, White joined the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), President Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal jobs program. While working in Georgia, White picked up a pair of scissors and began his barbering career. In 1944, two years after he moved to Mobile, Alabama to work as a truck driver at Brookley Air Force base, White opened his first barber shop with only one chair.

From the beginning, White's parents instilled in him the importance of putting God at the forefront of his life. For 10 decades he has embodied that value through his words and actions, and every Sunday, since 1945, White has been walking through the doors of Stone Street Baptist Church. For White, the only way to serve God is through helping people, and he has been serving God for almost 100 years. One of his favorite pearls of wisdom that he gives to his students and the young people in the community is, "Don't catch the devil's ball. He'll



Isaac White has spent six decades mentoring and teaching people in Mobile, Alabama to cut hair at White's Barber College, a vocation he considers his ministry.

strike you out every time." This means stay focused on your goals, and don't let outside distractions make you lose your way.

White, viewed as a loving but strict grandfather by his students, has three simple rules: Come to school, follow instructions, and be honest. In order to receive the tuition waiver, students must adhere to a dress code, complete the 1,500 hours of training, pass all tests, and work for a minimum three months after graduation in a licensed barber shop.

Although White is approaching the century mark, he still rises early in the morning, dresses in a coat and tie, and drives to work so he can open the school's doors promptly at 8 a.m. White views the barber

college as his ministry, so each student gains more than a skill. They also receive a lot of love and a friend for life.

In 2015, the City of Mobile added the street sign "Honorary Isaac White, Sr." at the intersection of Martin Luther King, Jr. Avenue and Peach Street, the site of White's Barber College, to recognize his exceptional work in the community. In 2017, during Black History Month, White was recognized by Allstate Insurance Company in their national *Worth Telling* campaign for creating career opportunities for the underserved.

A humble man, White credits God for all his blessings. "I thank God for the opportunity to minister this way. I couldn't have done this myself; I'm from the backwoods of Mississippi. God gave me what I need. I just thank God for it, and for these students under my supervision."



OCTOBER 2018

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	23	24	25	26	27	28	29		25	26	27	28	29	30	
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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 The 24th Infantry Regiment (the Deuce Four), the last all-Black military unit, was deactivated in Korea, 1951.	2 Thurgood Marshall was sworn in as the first African American Justice of the Supreme Court, 1967.	3 Nat King Cole becomes first African American to host his own TV show, 1956.	4 Geoffrey S. Fletcher, first African American to receive an Academy Award for writing (<i>Precious...</i>) was born in New London, Connecticut, 1970.	5 Autherine Lucy Foster, the first African American to attend the University of Alabama, was born in Shiloh, Alabama, 1929.	6 Fannie Lou Townsend Hamer, voting rights activist and civil rights leader, was born in Sunflower County, Mississippi, 1917.
7 Toni Morrison became the first African American woman to win the Nobel Prize in Literature, 1993.	8 Jesse Louis Jackson, Sr., clergyman and civil rights leader, was born Jesse Louis Burns in Greenville, South Carolina, 1941.	9 Eugene Jacques Bullard, the only African American pilot in World War I, was born in Columbus, Georgia, 1894.	10 Frederick Douglass Patterson, educator and founder of the United Negro College Fund, was born in Washington, D. C., 1901.	11 Granville T. Woods patents telephone system and apparatus, patent number 371,241; 1887.	12 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.	13 Shirley Ann Caesar, hall of fame gospel singer and songwriter known as "First Lady of Gospel," was born in Durham, North Carolina, 1938.
14 At age 35, Martin Luther King Jr. becomes youngest man ever to win Nobel Peace Prize, 1964.	15 The Alabama Penny Savings Bank was founded in Birmingham. One of the first three African American-owned and operated U.S. financial institutions, 1890.	16 Million Man March held in Washington, D.C., 1995.	17 Mae Carol Jemison, hall of fame astronaut, physician and the first African American woman in space, was born in Decatur, Alabama, 1956.	18 Terry McMillan, author, was born in Port Huron, Michigan, 1951.	19 Richard Arrington Jr., the first African American mayor of Birmingham, Alabama, was born in Livingston, Alabama, 1934.	20 Fayard Antonio Nicholas, half of the hall of fame Nicholas Brothers dance team, was born in Mobile, Alabama, 1914.
21 Valerie Thomas received patent number 4,229,761 for her invention of the Illusion Transmitter, 1980.	22 The Supremes become the first all-female music group to attain a No. 1 selling album (<i>The Supremes A' Go-Go</i>), 1966.	23 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.	24 Marjorie S. Joyner, inventor of the permanent wave machine, patent number 1,693,515, was born in Monterey, Virginia, 1896.	25 Emmett W. Chappelle, hall of fame scientist and researcher, was born in Phoenix, Arizona, 1925.	26 Regina Marcia Benjamin, former Surgeon General of the United States, was born in Mobile, Alabama, 1956.	27 Benjamin O. Davis, Jr. becomes first African American general in U.S. Air Force, 1954.
28 Leonard Randolph "Lenny" Wilkens, hall of fame basketball player and coach, was born in Brooklyn, New York, 1937.	29 Martha Minerva Franklin, hall of fame nurse and founder of National Association of Colored Graduate Nurses, was born in New Milford, Connecticut, 1870.	30 Richard Arrington Jr. elected first African American mayor of Birmingham, Alabama, 1979.	31 Ethel Waters, hall of fame gospel, blues and jazz vocalist and actress, was born in Chester, Pennsylvania, 1896.	1	2	3

Nell Carter

Her love of music carried her to stardom on stage and screen

NELL CARTER WAS BORN NELLIE RUTH HARDY in Birmingham, Alabama, on September 13, 1948, to Edna Mae and Horace Lee Hardy. Carter, the fifth of nine children, loved music and sang in church groups around Alabama. After graduating from A.H. Parker High School, she moved to New York City to study acting. To earn income, she began to sing in night clubs throughout the city. It was there that people told her she should audition for musical theatre. During her very fruitful acting and musical career, Carter starred on stage, television, and in movies. She was the winner of a Tony and Emmy award, the highest honor an actor can receive for theater and television performances.

In 1971, she debuted in the short-lived musical *Soon*. She then appeared in several Off-Broadway shows before appearing in the original film *Jesus Christ Superstar* in 1973. She was originally cast as Effie in *Dream Girls*, but the play lacked financing, which led Carter to move to Los Angeles to appear in the soap opera *Ryan's Hope* where she played Ethel Green in 11 episodes.

The year 1978 proved to be the turning point for Carter's career. That year, she was cast in the Emmy and Tony Award musical *Ain't Misbehavin'*. The show opened in a small theater in 1978, but moved to the larger Longacre Theater on Broadway where it ran for four years. In 1978, Carter won a Tony Award for Best Featured Actress in a Musical, and in 1982 she won an Emmy for the television version of *Ain't Misbehavin'*.

Carter's big break came when she was cast as Nell Harper, an African American woman caring for the three daughters of a white widower. The show, *Gimme a Break*, debuted in 1981 and the final episode was aired in 1987.



Her performance in the series garnered her Emmy nominations in 1982 and 1983 and Golden Globe nominations in 1983 and 1985.

After *Gimme a Break*, Carter appeared on stage and in several television shows and movies. She appeared in the television show *Hanging with Mr. Cooper* from 1993-1995. Other memorable television shows include *Amen* (1986), *227* (1989), *Reba* (2001) and *Ally McBeal* (2002). Her movie roles included *Modern Problems* (1981), *Bebe's Kids* (1992), *The Grass Harp* (1995) and *The Proprietor* (1996). Additionally, Carter sang the national anthem at the fourth game of the World Series at San Francisco's Candle Stick Park in 1989.

During her time on *Gimme a Break*, Carter returned to Birmingham and recorded an album with the Parker High School Choir. The album, *Take Me Home*, was an opportunity to give back to the school that she loved and the school that educated her brothers, sisters, niece and nephews.

Throughout her life, Carter worked behind the scenes on various projects that helped those in need. Some of the organizations included domestic violence abuse agencies, HIV/AIDS organizations, breast cancer organizations, and programs that centered on the care of children.

Later in her career, Carter continued to perform on stage, becoming the first African American to play Miss Hannigan on Broadway in the musical *Annie*. Carter was the mother of three children, daughter Tracey and sons Joshua and Daniel. Ms. Carter passed away on January 23, 2003.

In 1978, Carter won a Tony Award for Best Featured Actress in a Musical for *Ain't Misbehavin'*, and in 1982 won an Emmy for the television version of *Ain't Misbehavin'*.

NOVEMBER 2018

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	28	29	30	31					23	24	25	26	27	28	29
									30	31					

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

Dr. Shelia Nash-Stevenson

NASA engineer is one of a select group of African American female physicists

DR. SHELIA NASH-STEVENSON MADE HISTORY IN 1994 when she became the first African American female from Alabama to earn a Ph.D. degree in physics. She was among the first African Americans to receive a Ph.D. in physics from Alabama A&M University and one of less than 20 African American females to hold a Ph.D. in physics in the entire United States.

Born and raised “in the country” of Lawrence County, Alabama, Dr. Nash-Stevenson lacked any science, technology, engineering, or mathematics (STEM) role models or mentors, but her love of math was one of the driving forces that led to her academic and professional success. She is a three-time Magna Cum Laude graduate of Alabama A&M University with a Bachelor of Science in Electrical/Electronic Engineering Technology and Master of Science and Ph.D. degrees in Physics.

Dr. Nash-Stevenson’s employment history includes the US Army Ballistic Missile Defense Systems Command, Nichols Research Corporation, Huntsville Engineering Center, Hughes Aircraft Company, and Alabama A&M University. She is currently employed with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Alabama as an engineer with the Discovery, New Frontiers, Lunar Quest Programs Office. The main objective of this office is to enhance our understanding of the solar system by exploring the planets, their moons, and other small bodies such as comets and asteroids.

Dr. Nash-Stevenson has co-authored several papers in the area of Laser Upconversion and holds a patent for an Optical Fiber Holder. She has served on dissertation and thesis com-



mittees, and she also mentors graduate and undergraduate physics students at Alabama A&M University.

In addition to being a charter member of both the City of Madison Board of Education and the Madison Rotary Club, Dr. Nash-Stevenson is also a member of Leadership Alabama, Leadership Huntsville/Madison County Alumni Association, National Technical Association, Alabama A&M University Alumni Association, and Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated. She has been recognized by the NAACP Youth Council, Who’s Who Among U.S. Executives, Who’s Who Among Women Executives, and Outstanding Young Women in America. She was also named Top 50 Minority Women Scientists by the National Technical Association.

In 2013, The City of Huntsville honored Dr. Nash-Stevenson for her dedicated service and untiring effort to make the Huntsville/Madison County area a better community and for being the first African American to serve on the Madison City School Board. In 2016, NASA selected Dr. Nash-Stevenson to represent the agency as a “Modern Figure” at the Red Carpet Premiere of the movie *Hidden Figures* in New York City. In addition to walking the red carpet with the other celebrities, she also participated in numerous interviews encouraging girls and African Americans to pursue STEM degrees and careers.

Dr. Nash-Stevenson is an active member of the First Missionary Baptist Church of Huntsville, Alabama where she serves as a trustee, an usher and a greeter. She is married to Mr. Kirby Stevenson and is the proud mother of Kecenia and Keegan Stevenson. She resides in Madison, Alabama.

DECEMBER 2018

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	25	26	27	28	29	30			27	28	29	30	31		

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