

EVERY MONTH IS BLACK HISTORY MONTH

AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY 365

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JANUARY

- 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 United States, was born in Philadelphia, 1898.
- 3** William Tucker, the first recorded African American born 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.



Douglas Wilder, the first popularly-elected African American to hold a U.S. state's highest office, being sworn in as governor of Virginia, January 13, 1990, outside the state capitol in Richmond. AP

- 8** Charles Deslondes leads slave revolt in Louisiana, 1811.
- 9** Earl Gilbert Graves, Sr., publisher, entrepreneur, philanthropist, and founder of *Black Enterprise* 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 United States 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 (Ebony and Jet 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 *Roots: The Saga of an American Family*, 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 the launch of the Space Shuttle *Challenger*, 1986.



Left to right: Hiram R. Revels, first African American to serve in the U.S. Senate. Rosa Parks' booking photo. Congressman John Lewis. Credits/ Revels: Library of Congress; Parks: Universal History Archive; Lewis: CNN

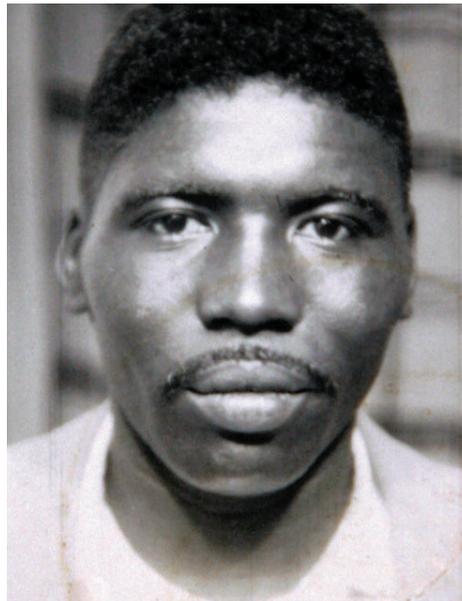
FEBRUARY

- 1** National Freedom Day. President Abraham 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, 1926. Negro History Week later became Black History Month.
- 8** Debra Janine "Debi" Thomas became the first African American to win the United States National Ladies' Figure Skating title, 1986.
- 9** Bernard 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 "Eddie" 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 *Beloved*, 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 bandleader, arranger and composer, was born in Mobile, Alabama, 1881.
- 23** William Edward Burghardt DuBois, 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 dies after being shot by state police in Marion, Alabama, 1965.
- 27** Marian Anderson, world-renowned opera singer and civil rights activist, was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, 1897.



Jimmie Lee Jackson. Family photo



"Bloody Sunday," March 7, 1965. The first Selma to Montgomery march ends violently at the Edmund Pettus Bridge. Future congressman John Lewis is in the light-colored coat on the right. Photo: Spider Martin

28 Michael Jackson, musician and entertainer, wins eight Grammy Awards, 1984.

MARCH

- 1** The Civil Rights Act of 1875 was signed into law by President Ulysses Grant, 1875.
- 2** David Satcher, physician, United States 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 *Dred Scott v. Sandford*. 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-

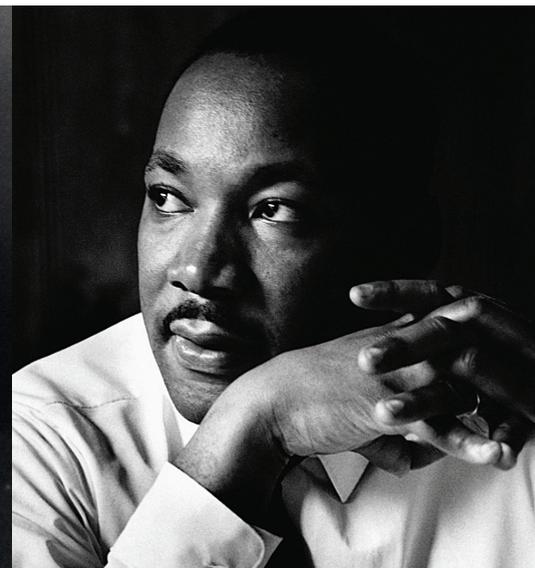
ranking African American officer in the Union Army, born in Norfolk, Virginia, 1825.

- 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. Tubman was buried with military honors, 1913.
- 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, PA, 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.



Dr. Charles R. Drew. Courtesy of Moorland-Spingarn Research Center.



Martin Luther King Jr. Public domain

- 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 song-

writer, 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 15th 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.

APRIL

- 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 the striking sanitation workers in Memphis, Tennessee, 1968.
- 4** Martin Luther King, Jr. was assassinated in Memphis, Tennessee, 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, Illinois, 1983.
- 13 Sidney Poitier became the first African American man to win the Academy Award for Best Actor for his role in the movie *Lilies of the Field*, 1964.
- 14 First abolitionist society in U.S. is founded in Philadelphia, 1775.
- 15 Jackie Robinson became the first African American major league



Hundreds of school students in Birmingham, Alabama skipped school to march in protest of segregation during the Birmingham civil rights campaign, May 2-5, 1963. Image: Wikipedia

- 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, Pennsylvania, 1823.
- 18 Alice Walker wins Pulitzer Prize for fiction for *The Color Purple*, 1983.
- 19 Stationed in Germany, Major General 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 (*The Wiz*), 1975.
- 21 Locksley Wellington "Slide" Hampton, jazz trombonist, composer and arranger, was born in Jeannette, Pennsylvania, 1932.
- 22 Catherine L. Hughes, business executive and 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, Ill., 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, 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.

MAY

- 1 Gwendolyn Elizabeth Brooks became the first African American to win the Pulitzer Prize for her book of poetry, *Annie Allen*, 1950.
- 2 The Children's Crusade began in Birmingham, Alabama, 1963.



In 2001, the Oklahoma Commission to Study the Tulsa Race Riot of 1921 concluded that between 100 and 300 people were killed and nearly 10,000 people made homeless. Photos: Oklahoma Historical Society

It has been estimated that rioters decimated more than \$200 million of Black property in today's dollars.

- 3** The United States Supreme Court decided in the case of *Shelley v. Kraemer* that courts could not enforce racial covenants on real estate, 1948.
- 4** Thirteen Freedom Riders set off from Washington D.C. to New Orleans, 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 United States, was born in Macon, GA, 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 Lafayette, Alabama, 1914.
- 14** Rosa Jinsey Young, “the mother of Black Lutheranism in Alabama,” was born in Rosebud, Ala., 1890.
- 15** Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity (the Boulé), the first African American Greek lettered organization, was founded in Philadelphia, Penn., 1904.
- 16** Dr. William Harry Barnes become first African American board-certified medical specialist, 1927.
- 17** U.S. Supreme Court declares segregation in public schools unconstitutional in *Brown v. Board of Education* decision, 1954.
- 18** *Plessy vs. Ferguson*: 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 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,



John Carlos and Tommie Smith with fists raised in protest, Mexico City Summer Olympics, 1968. AP



Alabama Gov. George Wallace blocking the door at the University of Alabama, June 1963. Wikipedia

Ohio, 1851.

- 30** Vivian Malone becomes the first African American to graduate from the University of Alabama, 1965.
- 31** The Tulsa Race Massacre in the Greenwood neighborhood of Tulsa, Oklahoma occurred. Rampaging Whites looted and burned nearly 40 blocks of homes and businesses, may have killed hundreds and left nearly 10,000 predominantly African American people homeless, 1921.

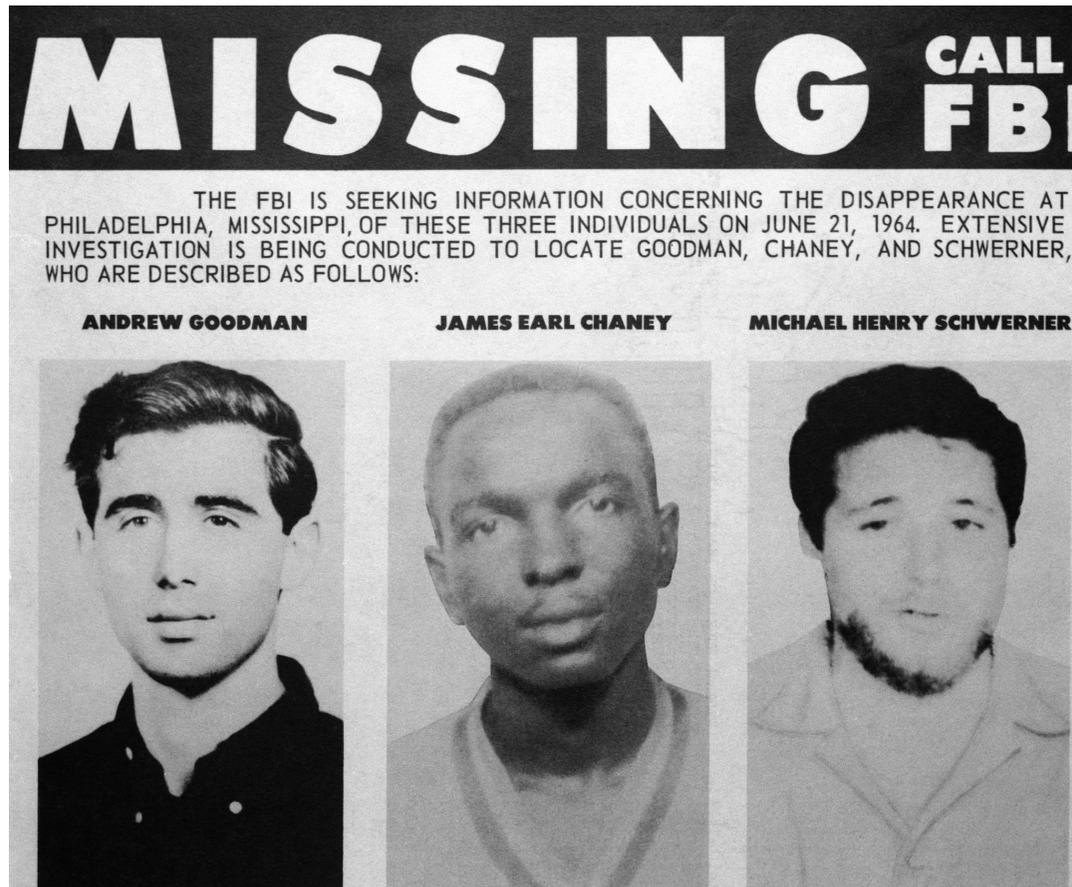
JUNE

- 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 Professional Golfers’ Association of America (PGA), 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 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** George Wallace stood in the doorway of Foster Auditorium blocking Vivian Malone and James Hood, from enrolling, 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 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. “June-teenth,” 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



Goodman, Chaney and Schwerner were kidnapped and killed for trying to register Black people to vote in Mississippi.

- and Michael Schwerner, civil rights activist, were murdered near Philadelphia, Mississippi, 1964.
- 22** Joe Louis knocked out Max Schmeling at 2:04 of first round at Yankee Stadium, 1938.
- 23** Wilma Rudolph, first American woman to win three gold medals in track and field in a single Olympic Games, was born in Clarksdale, Tennessee, 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 *Lift Every Voice and Sing*, 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 induction 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.

JULY

- 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 *Clotilda*, the last known American slave ship to bring enslaved Africans to the U.S., arrived in Mobile, 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.



Ida B. Wells-Barnett went from being born in slavery to being a leading voice for equality and women's rights. Jackie Robinson endured enormous pressure as the man who integrated Major League Baseball.

- 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 major league baseball player inducted into the 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, 1919.

- 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 the YWCA, was born in Lowndes County, Alabama, 1883.
- 31** Whitney Moore Young, Jr., civil rights leader, was born in Lincoln Ridge, Kentucky, 1921.

AUGUST

- 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



Barack Obama, official presidential portrait, 2012. Pete Souza/Public domain

- 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 *Roots* and *The Autobiography of Malcolm X*, 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, "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 *Negro Year Book*, was born in Iredell County, North Carolina, 1866.
- 16** Carol Elizabeth Moseley Braun, the first African American woman elected to the U.S. 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 French colony into a 12-year war, 1791.
- 23** The National Negro Business League was founded in Boston with Booker T. Washington as its first president, 1900.



LADIES' FIRSTS Althea Gibson won Wimbledon, the French and U.S. Open; Halle Tanner Dillion Johnson was the first woman of *any race* to practice medicine in Alabama; Claudette Colvin was arrested for refusing to give up her seat on a Montgomery, Ala. bus—nine months *before* Rosa Parks; Ruby Bridges integrated William Frantz Elementary School, New Orleans, 1960. Mae Jemison was the first Black woman in space. Images: Wikimedia Commons

- 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 Wimbledon, the French 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 *Challenger*, 1983.
- 31** Marva Collins, educator and author, was born in Monroeville, Alabama, 1936.

SEPTEMBER

- 1** Halle Tanner Dillion Johnson becomes first woman of any race to practice medicine in Alabama, 1891.
- 2** Joseph Hatchett, becomes first African American 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, 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 Birmingham, Alabama is bombed, 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, GA, 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



Thurgood Marshall, official Supreme Court portrait, 1976; Nat King Cole hosted a variety show on NBC from 1956 to 1957, but the show was cancelled for lack of a sponsor.

- 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 *Running...; or, the Escape of William and Ellen Craft from Slavery*, 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 (*Soul Train*), was born in Chicago, Illinois, 1936.
- 28** The National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc. was formed in Atlanta, Georgia, 1895.
- 29** The Committee on Urban Condi-

tions 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.

OCTOBER

- 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 television show, 1956.
- 4** Geoffrey S. Fletcher, first African American to receive an Academy Award for writing *Precious...* was born in New London, Connecticut, 1970.
- 5** Autherine Juanita Lucy, the first African American student to attend the University of Alabama, was born in Shiloh, Ala., 1929.
- 6** Fannie Lou Townsend Hamer, voting rights activist and civil rights leader, was born in Sunflower County, Miss., 1917.



MORE FIRSTS Toni Morrison: First Black woman to win Nobel Prize for literature (she's got a Pulitzer, too); The Supremes' *A' Go-Go* becomes the first album by an all-female group to reach #1 on the U.S. *Billboard 200*, knocking the Beatles' *Revolver* out of the top spot; Benjamin O. Davis Jr., first African American general in the U.S. Air Force. His father, Benjamin O. Davis Sr. was a general in the Army. Credits / Morrison: Michael Lionstar; Supremes: Motown; Davis: Defense Department.

- 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 have an album (*The Supremes A' Go-Go*) reach *Billboard* No. 1, 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 the National Association of Colored Graduate Nurses, was born in New Milford, CT, 1870.

30 Richard Arrington elected first African American mayor of Birmingham, Alabama, 1979.

31 Ethel Waters, hall of fame gospel, blues, jazz vocalist and actress, was born in Chester, Pennsylvania, 1896.

NOVEMBER

1 John H. Johnson published the first issue of *Ebony* 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 Chisolm of Brooklyn, N.Y., becomes the first African American woman elected to Congress, 1968.

6 James Weldon Johnson and



Left to right: Shirley Chisholm would run for president in 1972. Samuel Younge Jr. was murdered by a White gas station attendant in Tuskegee while trying to desegregate a Whites only restroom. Images: Wikipedia

J. Rosamond Johnson compose *Lift Every Voice and Sing*, widely regarded as the Black national anthem, 1901.

7 Douglas Wilder becomes the first African American to be elected governor in the U.S., 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, comedian and activist, was born Caryn Elaine Johnson in 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.

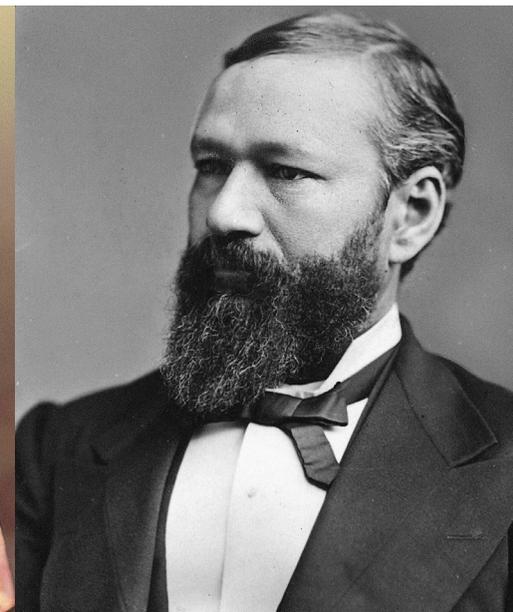
17 Samuel L. Younge, Jr., first African American college student to die in the Civil Rights Movement, was born in Tuskegee, Alabama, 1944.

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 (*The Hemingses of Monticello...*) born in Livingston, Texas, 1958.

20 Dominique M. Dawes, member of the first U.S. women's team to win an Olympic Gold 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 and founder of Motown Records, was born in Detroit, Michigan, 1929.
- 29** Coleman Alexander Young, the first African American Mayor of



Left to right: One of the great writers of the 20th century, James Baldwin explored racial and social issues in his many works, especially the Black experience in America. Although Jimi Hendrix’s mainstream career spanned only four years, he is widely regarded as one of the most influential electric guitarists in the history of popular music. After P.B.S. Pinchback, there would not be another Black governor in the U.S. for 117 years.
 Images / Baldwin: Public domain; Hendrix: David Redfern; Pinchback: Library of Congress

Detroit, Michigan, died, 1997.

- 30** James Arthur Baldwin, novelist, playwright, poet, essayist and civil rights activist, died, 1987.

DECEMBER

- 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 *North Star*, 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.

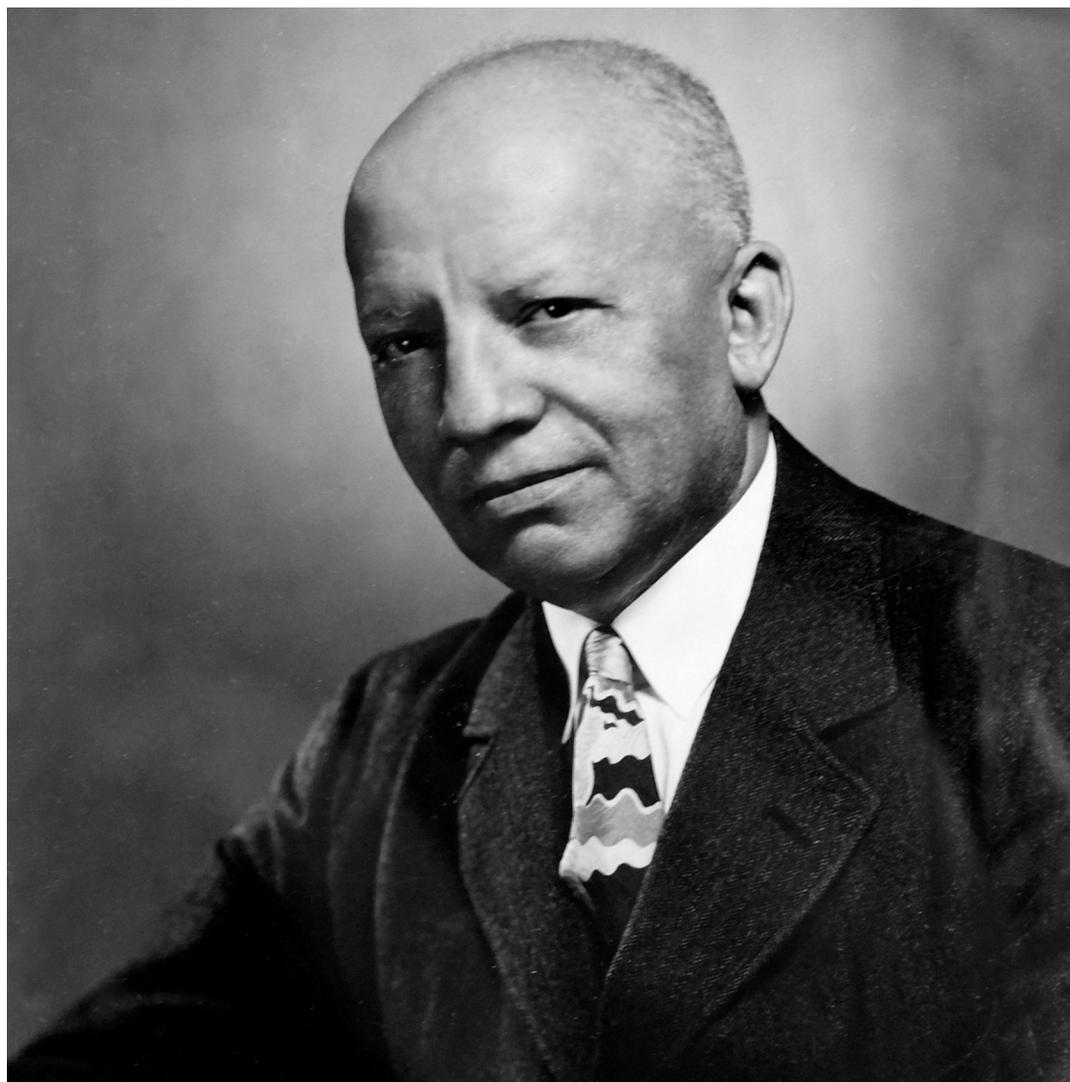
- 9** Pinckney Benton Stewart Pinchback of Louisiana becomes first African American governor in U.S., 1872.

- 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, comedian, actor and singer, was born Eric Marlon Bishop in Terrell, Texas, 1967.
- 14** Ernest Davis, hall of fame college football player and the first African American to win the Heisman Trophy, was born in New Salem, Pennsylvania, 1939.
- 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.



Carter G. Woodson was also the founder of the Association for the Study of African American Life and History. He was one of the first scholars to study the history of the African diaspora, including African-American history. Image: Library of Congress

- 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, 1989.

- 25** Cabell “Cab” Calloway III, hall of fame jazz singer and band-leader, 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 United States, 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.