

Celebrate Black History Month



Originally established as Negro History Week in 1926 by Carter G. Woodson, a noted African-American author and scholar, this event evolved into the establishment of February as "Black History Month" in 1976.

When Woodson established Negro History week, he realized the importance of providing a theme to focus the attention of the public. The intention never has been to dictate or limit the exploration of the Black experience, but to bring to the public's attention important developments that merit emphasis.



Since 1926, The Association for the Study of Afro-American Life and History (ASALH) has established the national theme for the month long celebration. The theme for 2008 is "Carter G. Woodson and the Origins of Multiculturalism."

Watch these short videos about some local leaders:

- Emma Booker
- Jerome Dupree
- Sandra Washington
- Annie McElroy
- Cornell McKenzie
- Henry Porter

Did you know?

February 1 - Black History Month, was first celebrated on this date as Negro History Week by Carter G. Woodson. It became a month long celebration in 1976.

February 2 - William Ellsworth is born in Washington, North Carolina. Educated at Syracuse University, he was a student of Florida artist Augusta Savage. His works were exhibited at Atlanta University, the Whitney Museum, the Two Centuries of Black American Art exhibit, Fisk University, Hampton University, the North Carolina Museum of Art and private collectors.

February 3 - Six time All-Star Bill White was named president of National League IN 1989. He is the first African American to head a major sports league.

February 4 - Today in 1986, a stamp of **Sojourner Truth** is issued by the U.S. Postal Service.

February 5 - Henry "Home Run King" Aaron, baseball superstar was born in 1934.



February 6 - Robert Lewis Douglas founder and coach of the Rens, is inducted into the Basketball Hall of Fame in 1972.

February 7 - Negro History week originated by Carter G. Woodson is observed for the first time in 1926.

February 8 - Figure skater Debi Thomas became the first African American to win the Women's Singles of the U.S. National Figure Skating Championship competition, was a pre-med student at Stanford University in 1986.

February 9 - Baseball Hall of Fame inducts **Leroy "Satchel" Paige** in 1979.

February 10 - 1907 Civil rights activist and politician Grace Towns Hamilton was born in Atlanta, Georgia. Hamilton made her most lasting mark by becoming the first African-American woman elected to the Georgia General Assembly in 1965. She served in Georgia House of Representatives until 1984.

February 11 - today in 1996, Penn's Baccalaureate Speaker was the Right Reverend Barbara Clementine Harris, a Philadelphian who was the first woman ever to become a bishop in the Anglican Communion.

February 12 - Birthday of William Felton Russell, better known as "Bill" Russell, he was player-coach of the Boston Celtics basketball team in 1968 and 1969. Russell was born in Monroe, Louisiana in 1934.

February 13 - The first Black professional basketball team "The Renaissance" organized 1923.

February 14 - In 1867, Morehouse College organized in Augusta, Georgia.

February 15 - In 1848, Sarah Roberts barred from white school in Boston. Her father, Benjamin Roberts, filed the first school integration suit on her behalf.

February 16 - In 1951, the New York City Council passed bill prohibiting racial discrimination in city-assisted housing developments.

February 17 - James Nathaniel Brown, 63, Pro Football Hall of Fame Fullback, Born February 17, 1936 in St. Simons Island, GA, Michael Jeffrey Jordan, Basketball player, former minor league baseball player, Born





New York, New York, February 17, 1963.

February 18 - today in 1913, the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority was incorporated at Howard University.

February 19 - **Vonetta Flowers** became the first black gold medalist in the history of the Winter Olympic Games. She and partner Jull Brakken won the inaugural women's two-person bobsled event in 2000.

February 20 - Charles Wade Barkley, basketball player, born Leeds, AL, February 20, 1963.

February 21 - On this day in 1936, Barbara Jordan, who will be the first African American woman elected to the House of Representatives, is born.

February 22 - Julius Winfield("Dr.J") Erving, former basketball player, born Roosevelt, NY, Feb 22, 1950.

February 23 - Baseball catcher Elston Gene Howard was born in St. Louis, Missouri. In 1965, Howard signed a \$70,000 contract with the NY Yankees and became the highest paid player in the history of baseball at the time in 1929.

February 24 - In 1870 Hirman R. Revels of Mississippi sworn in as first Black U.S. senator and first Black representative in Congress.

February 26 - Theodore "Georgia Deacon" Flowers wins middleweight boxing title in 1926.

February 27 - 1869 the U.S. Congress adopted the 15th constitutional amendment, making it illegal for the US or any single government to deny or abridge the right to vote "on account of race, color or previous condition of servitude."

February 28 - In 1932, Richard Spikes invents the automatic gear shift.