

January

MONITOR

Historic Dates in Black History



- 1 — Last day of Kwanzaa.
1863—Emancipation Proclamation issued by Abraham Lincoln.
1916—First publication of the *Journal of Negro History*.
1960—Cameroun gained its independence from France.
- 2 — 1800—Philadelphia Blacks petition Congress for the abolition of slavery.
1831—Abolitionist paper, *The Liberator*, began publication in Boston.
1911—St. Clair Drake, anthropologist, born.
1915—John Hope Franklin, historian and author, born.
1977—Erroll Garner, pianist and composer, died.
- 3 — 1624—William Tucker became the first Black child born in America.
1793—Lucretia Mott, abolitionist, born.
1904—Dr. Charles Drew, inventor of plasma method of preserving human blood, born.
- 4 — 1971—Melvin H. Evans, Black physician, installed as first elected governor of U.S. Virgin Islands born.
1866—First Regiment Kansas Colored Volunteers organized.
1937—Grace Bumbry, opera singer, born.
- 5 — 1931—Alvin Ailey, dancer, born.
1943—Dr. George Washington Carver, agricultural scientist, died at Tuskegee Institute. Carver Day established by Act of Congress.
- 6 — 1831—World Anti-Slavery Convention opened in London.
1944—Van McCoy, musician, born.
- 7 — 1890—W.B. Purvis invented and patented the fountain pen.
1901—Zora Neale Hurston, author, born.
1949—Federal Court calls illegal an Alabama constitutional provision giving local registrars power to deny rights of citizenship.
1952—Howard Swanson, composer, received New York Critics Award.
1955—Marian Anderson becomes first Black to sing at the Metropolitan Opera in New York City.
- 8 — 1815—More than 500 free Black soldiers fought in the Battle of New Orleans.
1836—Fannie M. Jackson Coppin, first Black woman college graduate in America, born.
1922—Charles Young, first Black man to achieve rank of colonel in the U.S. Army, died.
1974—Maynard Jackson, Jr. became the first Black mayor of Atlanta, Georgia.
- 9 — 1770—Morris Brown, second bishop of the AME church, born.
1866—Fisk University founded.
1914—Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity founded.
- 10— 1768—James Varick, first bishop of the organized AME Zion church, born.
1915—Dean Dixon, first Black and youngest conductor of the New York Philharmonic Orchestra, born.
1946—Countee Cullen, poet and writer, died.
- 11— 1757—Alexander Hamilton, born.
1904—Dolly Adams, jazz pianist, born.
1946—Haitian independence from U.S. occupation.
1965—Lorraine Hansberry, author, died.
- 12— 1865—General Sherman met with free Black leaders in Savannah, Georgia to discuss their status and what they wanted.
1871—Commission appointed to inquire into the annexation of Santo Domingo.
1920—James Farmer, founder of CORE, born.
1957—Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) founded.
1970—Nigerian Civil War ended.
1971—Congressional Black Caucus organized.
- 13— 1822—Shiloh Presbyterian Church, first Black Presbyterian church, recognized and taken over by the New York Presbytery.
1869—National Convention of Colored Men founded in Washington, D.C.
1963—Louis "Satchmo" Armstrong, famous jazz trumpeter, died.
1966—Robert C. Weaver became the first Black appointed to President's Cabinet when named Secretary of HUD by President Johnson.
- 14— 1916—John Oliver Killens, novelist, born.
1924—Mabel Smith, blues singer, died.
1939—Ethel Waters, actress, acclaimed by critics for her role in "Mamba's Daughter."
1940—Julian Bond, civil rights leader, born.
1967—Lt. Col. Etienne Eyadema became President of Togo.
- 15— 1776—Free Blacks of Massachusetts authorized to enlist in the Revolutionary Army.
1881—William Pickens, author and fighter for equal rights, born.
1929—Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., civil rights leader, Nobel Peace Prize recipient and "Drum Major for Justice," born.
- 16— 1772—Continental Congress accepted enlistment of free Blacks.
1871—Jefferson Franklin Long took oath as the only Black Congressman from Georgia.
1974—Leon Bukasa, singer/composer of Zaire, died.
- 17— 1759—Paul Cuffee, owner of three ships and first Black colonizationist, born.
1917—The Virgin Islands (St. Thomas, St. John and St. Croix) purchased by U.S. from Denmark.
- 18— 1856—Daniel Hale Williams, physician and surgeon, first to perform a successful operation on the human heart, born.
1867—Congress enacted legislation granting suffrage to ex-slaves in the District of Columbia.
1942—Muhammad Ali, professional boxer, born.
- 19— 1788—First African Baptist Church organized in Savannah, Georgia.
1918—John H. Johnson, publisher, born.
- 20— 1788—Andrew Bryan ordained first pastor of the First African Baptist Church.
- 21— 1773—Phillis Wheatley's *Poems* published.
1824—Osai Tutu Kwamina defeated the British at Assamaka, Ashanti.
1923—Garett A. Morgan invented the traffic light and another life saving device, the gas mask.
- 22— 1793—Benjamin Banneker, inventor and scientist, joined team that surveyed and planned Washington, D.C.
1801—Toussaint L'Overture entered Santo Domingo.
- 23— 1821—Lott Carey, minister and pioneer leader in Liberia, sailed for that country.
1976—Paul Robeson, athlete, lawyer, singer and actor, died.
1977—"Roots," adapted from Alex Haley's historical novel, was first shown on national television, surpassing all previous viewing records.
- 24— 1885—Martin R. Delaney, physician, Pan-Africanist, died.
1962—Jackie Robinson, became first Black to be elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame.
- 25— 1806—Manumitted Blacks forbidden to remain in Virginia.
1863—First U.S. Colored Regiment organized.
1966—Constance Baker Motley became first Black woman appointed as a federal judge.
- 26— 1928—Eartha Kitt, singer/entertainer, born.
1944—Angela Davis, political activist, born.
1948—President Truman issues Executive Order 998 ending segregation in U.S. Armed Forces.
- 27— 1869—Will Marion Cook, composer and conductor, born.
1972—Mahalia Jackson, gospel singer, died.
- 28— 1787—Free Africa Society organized in Philadelphia.
1863—H.C. Smith, journalist, born.
1901—Richmond Barthe, sculptor, born.
- 29— 1837—Aleksandr Pushkin, "Father of Russian Literature," died.
1901—George H. White of North Carolina, the last Black elected to Congress during Reconstruction, made his final address before Congress.
- 30— 1823—U.S. Statute declaring slave trade as piracy made perpetual.
1865—Congress passed 13th Amendment to the Constitution which upon ratification abolished slavery in the U.S.
1965—Satchel Paige named all-time outstanding player by the National Baseball Congress.
- 31— 1919—Jackie Robinson, first Black to break the racial barrier in organized professional sports in America, born.
1921—Whitney Young, internationally renowned civil rights leader and builder of the National Urban League, born.

