

MAY

## MONITOR



## Historic Dates in Black History

- 1— 1867—Howard University opened in Washington, D.C.  
1946—Emma Clarissa Clement named first Black “Mother of the Year.”  
1950—Gwendolyn Brooks became first Black winner of the Pulitzer Prize for *Annie Allen*, a book of poetry.
- 2— 1844—Elijah McCoy, inventor, born.  
1879—Nannie Helen Burroughs, educator, born.  
1920—First game of the National Negro Baseball League played in Indianapolis, Indiana.  
1925—Roscoe Lee Brown, actor, born.  
1968—Poor People’s March to Washington, D.C. began in Memphis, Tennessee.
- 3— 1770—First public school for Blacks opened in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.  
1845—Macon B. Allen became first Black formally admitted to the bar.  
1907—Canada Lee, actor, born.  
1921—Sugar Ray Robinson, boxer, born.  
1933—James Brown, the “God-father of Soul,” born.
- 4— 1942—Nick Ashford, singer and composer, born.  
1961—Thirteen Freedom Riders set out to desegregate southern bus terminals.
- 5— 1881—Josiah Henson, ex-slave, author and freedom fighter, died.  
1905—First issue of famous Black newspaper, the *Chicago Defender*, published.
- 6— 1787—First Black Masonic lodge founded by Prince Hall.  
1812—Martin Delany, abolitionist, author, explorer, physician and soldier, born.  
1931—Willie Mays, baseball player, born.  
1969—Howard Lee elected first Black mayor of Chapel Hill, North Carolina.
- 7— 1878—J.R. Winter patented a fire escape ladder.  
1977—Alex Haley won the Pulitzer Prize for *Roots*.
- 8— 1925—Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters organized by A. Philip Randolph.
- 10— 1837—P.B.S. Pinchback, U.S. Senator and Lt. Governor of Louisiana, born.  
1943—Judith Jamison, dancer, born.
- 11— 1807—Ira Aldridge, Shakespearean actor, born.  
1895—William Grant Still, composer, born.  
1981—Bob Marley, reggae singer, died.
- 12— 1926—Rep. Mervyn M. Dymally (D-Calif.) born.  
1951—Oscar DePriest, first Black elected to Congress from a northern state, died.
- 13— 1619—First Africans arrived in Jamestown, Virginia.  
1914—Joe Louis, the “Brown Bomber,” the greatest heavyweight boxer of all times, born.  
1950—Stevie Wonder, singer and composer, born.
- 15— 1866—George Henry Wanton, first Black to win the Congressional Medal of Honor, born.
- 16— 1929—James Conyers Jr. (D-Mich.) born.  
1979—A. Philip Randolph, labor leader and civil rights activist, died.
- 17— 1875—First Kentucky Derby won by Oscar Lewis, riding *Aristides*.  
1903—James “Cool Papa” Bell, Negro Baseball League Star, born.  
1954—Supreme Court handed down decision in *Brown v. Board of Education* ending segregation in U.S. public schools.  
1956—Sugar Ray Leonard, boxer, born.
- 18— 1946—Reggie Jackson, baseball player, born.  
1955—Mary McLeod Bethune, educator, died.
- 19— 1925—Malcolm X, civil rights activist, born.  
1930—Lorraine Hansberry, Playwright, born.
- 20— 1743—Toussaint L’Ouverture, Black liberator of Haiti, born.  
1945—Rep. Harold E. Ford (D-Tenn.) born.
- 21— 1833—Oberlin College (Ohio) accepted Black students to all classes.  
1904—Thomas “Fats” Waller, composer, born.  
1965—Martin Luther King Jr. led first march from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama.
- 22— 1941—Paul Winfield, actor, born.  
1948—Claude McKay, poet, died.  
1967—Langston Hughes, writer, died.
- 23— 1844—Rep. Charles E. Nash (R-La.) born.  
1900—Sgt. William H. Carey won the Congressional Medal of Honor.
- 24— 1854—Lincoln University (Pa.) founded as Ashmun Institute.  
1950—Nat “Sweetwater” Clifton became first Black professional basketball player.  
1974—Duke Ellington, musician, died.
- 25— 1874—William C. Nell, historian, died.  
1898—Bill “Bojangles” Robinson, dancer, born.
- 26— 1799—Aleksandr Pushkin, famous Russian poet, born.
- 27— 1936—Lou Gossett, actor, born.  
1942—Dorie Miller awarded Navy Cross of Courage.
- 28— 1851—First Women’s Rights Convention held with Sojourner Truth presiding.  
1944—Gladys Knight, singer, born.
- 29— 1942—Robert L. Allen, author, born.
- 30— 1903—Countee Cullen, poet, born.  
1965—Vivian Malone became the first Black graduate of the University of Alabama.
- 31— 1924—Patricia Roberts Harris, former Secretary of HUD, born.

“I am my mother’s daughter, and the drums of Africa beat in my heart. They will not let me rest while there is a single Negro boy or girl without a chance to prove his worth.”

Mary McLeod Bethune  
(1875-1955)