

## This Week in History

### JULY 29

1909 - Chester Himes is born in Jefferson City, Mo. He will become a noted crime novelist whose books *If He Hollers, Let Him Go*, *Come Back Charleston Blue*, and *Cotton Comes to Harlem* explore the underbelly of the American dream and introduce "Gravedigger Jones" and "Coffin Ed Johnson" to the reading public.

1919 - The first convention of the National Association of Negro Musicians is held in Chicago, Ill. NANM's charter members include Clarence Cameron White, who called for formation of the association. R. Nathaniel Dett, Nora Holt, Florence Cole Talbert among others. NANM will be active in furthering African-American music and performers, and award its first scholarship to a young Marian Anderson.

1991 - Physician Bernard A. Harris, Jr., becomes a full-fledged astronaut. Harris joined NASA's Johnson Space Center in 1987 - as a clinical scientist and flight surgeon.

### JULY 30

1822 - James Varick is consecrated as the first bishop of the African Methodist Episcopal Church Zion (AMEZ). Varick had formed the first African-American church in New York City in 1796 when forced to sit in segregated seating in the white John Street Methodist Episcopal Church and had established the first AMEZ church in New Haven, Conn.

1885 - Eugene Kinckle Jones is born in Richmond, Va. He will become a social worker and first executive secretary of the National Urban League. During his 30-year tenure with the league, he will be instrumental in its expansion to 58 affiliates and a budget of \$2.5 million as well as expanding its fellowship program to train social workers.

1967 - Eight days of rioting ends in Detroit, Mich. The uprising, the worst of its kind in the 20th century, kills 43 people, injuries 2,000, and results in over 5,000 arrests and over 1,400 fires.

1970 - Author, television columnist, and Hofstra University professor Louis E. Lomax dies in a car accident near Santa Rosa, N.M.

1988 - The first National Black Arts Festival opens in Atlanta, Ga. The biennial festival includes over 50 architectural and art exhibits including the works of Romare Bearden, Edwin Harleston, Camille Billops, David Driskell, and over 140 others.

### JULY 31

1874 - Patrick Francis Healy, a Jesuit priest, is inaugurated as president of Georgetown University in Washington, D.C. Healy is the first African-American to head a predominantly white university and is credited with the modernization of the university's curriculum and the expansion of its campus.

1921 - Whitney Young, Jr. is born in Lincoln Ridge, Ky. He will be dean of Atlanta University's School of Social Work before becoming executive director of the National Urban League. A 1969 recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom, Young will speak out against government and business's lack of commitment to African-Americans.

1960 - At a New York meeting of the Nation of Islam, the Honorable Elijah Muhammad calls for the creation of a black state in America.

### AUGUST 1

1834 - Slavery is abolished in British colonies by the royal assent of the King of England after having been voted by Parliament the previous year.

1879 - Mary Eliza Mahoney graduates from the nursing program at the New England Hospital for Women and Children. She is the first African-American to graduate from a nursing school.

1914 - Marcus Garvey establishes the Universal Negro Improvement Association and African Communities' League, a.k.a. UNIA. In New York City, six years later to the day, the UNIA will meet in Madison Square Garden as Garvey presents his "Back to Africa" plan and a formal Declaration of Rights for black people worldwide.

1925 - The National Bar Association, dedicated to "advance the science of jurisprudence, uphold the honor of the legal profession... and protect civil and political rights of all citizens of the several states of the United States," is formally organized in Des Moines, IA, by 12 African-American legal pioneers including George H. Woodson, S. Joe Brown, and Gertrude E. Rush.

1963 - Arthur Ashe is selected as the first African American  
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## NAACP

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Carolina as a meeting place. The Southern Christian Leadership Conference canceled a convention there because the state still flies the Confederate flag.

"South Carolina was the breakaway state from the union during the civil war. They still fly the confederate flag as a symbol of their secession and because they wanted slavery. Anywhere else, that's called treason," Collins said. "Why should we continue to spend our money in a state that supported our oppression and still carries the symbol of it?"

Though Collins came back recharged, some questioned the \$6,000 price tag to send



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two people to New York for the convention.

"I'm not going to even address that," he said. "Someone's splitting hairs. When a hotel room in New York is \$1,800 for the week for two people, that's most of the money right there. That's not including airfare. You cannot go to any convention

as a president and not afford to be there. I didn't waste any branch money."

Moreover, Collins said, he returned with a new vision for the local chapter.

"The NAACP is not only out to save ourselves, we're going to save the world. We're getting back to civil rights and we're going to take the lead in education, economics, social and health issues," he said.

Collins plans to attack poor education in Las Vegas. The state ranks near the bottom in high school graduation rates and routinely scores in the lower-third of U.S. states on standardized tests. The NAACP will adopt Academic Cultural Technological Scientific

Olympics, ACTSO, programs in schools, promote after-school tutoring programs and raise money for scholarships.

The group also plans to make plans to tackle HIV and AIDS, an issue put in the forefront by the billboards touting West Las Vegas as one of the nation's most AIDS-plagued communities. The billboard claiming the Westside was "finally put on the map" for having one of the nation's highest rates of HIV infection, outraged Collins. He agreed with the point — to find treatment for the victims and encourage prevention.

Collins said he will unveil the economic and social portion of his plans later.

## NOTICE

### Solicitation for Nominations from Community Based Organizations for the Southern Nevada Workforce Development Board

The Southern Nevada Job Training Board is soliciting nominations for members to sit on the Workforce Investment Board as mandated by the Workforce Investment Act signed into law August 8, 1998. This board will set policy in the Southern Nevada Workforce area, consisting of the counties of Clark, Nye, Esmeralda, and Lincoln and the cities of Las Vegas, North Las Vegas, Henderson and Boulder City. The majority of the board will be composed of representatives from local business with the balance derived from educational entities, labor organizations, community based organizations, economic development agencies, and a group of social service agencies including welfare, employment security, veterans administration, and vocational rehabilitation.

In order to insure the board functions with power and authority sufficient to fulfill the intent of the act, persons nominated "shall be individuals with optimum policy making authority within the organizations, agencies, or entities" they represent.

The Southern Nevada Workforce Investment Board has eight primary functions:

1) The responsibility for the development of a local strategic workforce investment plan.

2) The selection and certification of one-stop centers; the identification of eligible providers of youth activities, based on recommendations of the Youth Council; the identification of eligible providers of training services for adult and dislocated workers; the identification of eligible

providers of intensive workforce development intensive services.

3) The development and administration of budgets for the purposes of carrying out the duties of the local Board.

4) The conducting of oversight activities with respect to local programs of youth activities and local employment and training activities for adults and the one-stop delivery system.

5) Negotiate and reach agreement on local performance measures with elected officials and the Governor.

6) Assist the Governor in the development of the statewide employment statistics system.

7) Coordinate the workforce investment activities carried out in the local area with economic development strategies and develop other employment linkage.

8) Promote the participation of private sector employers in the statewide workforce investment system and ensure connecting, brokering and coaching activities through intermediaries such as the one-stop operations in the local area or through other organizations.

Nomination forms may be obtained from Nevada Business Services at 920 West Owens, Las Vegas or may be downloaded from the Internet at [nbsworks.org](http://nbsworks.org). Please forward nomination forms along with the resumes of persons you feel meet this criteria by August 8, 1999 to:

**Southern Nevada Job Training Board**  
c/o Nevada Business Services  
P.O. Box 270429  
Las Vegas, NV 89127

For questions, please call 638-8750.