

# History

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## SEPTEMBER 19

1931 - Brook Benton is born in Camden, S.C. He will amass 16 gold records and be best known for the songs "A Rainy Night in Georgia" and "It's Just a Matter of Time."

1945 - Freda Payne is born in Detroit, Mich. She will become a singer whose hits will include "Band of Gold" in 1970.

1989 - Gordon Parks's film *The Learning Tree* is selected among the first films to be registered by the National Film Registry of the Library of Congress. The National Film Registry was formed by an act of Congress the previous year to recognize films that are "culturally, historically, or aesthetically significant." Parks's 1969 movie joins other classic films such as *Casablanca*, *Gone With the Wind*, and *The Wizard of Oz*.

1989 - The first issue of *Emerge* magazine goes on sale. *Emerge*, founded by Wilmer C. Ames, Jr., covers domestic and international news and issues from an African-American perspective.

## SEPTEMBER 20

1830 - The National Negro Convention, a group of 38 free African-Americans from eight states, meet in Philadelphia, Pa., with the expressed purpose of abolishing slavery and improving the social status of African-Americans. They will elect Richard Allen president and agree to boycott slave-produced goods.

1915 - Hughie Lee-Smith is born in Eustis, Fla. He will become a painter known for such surrealistic landscapes as *Man with Balloons*, *Man Standing on His Head* and *Big Brother*.

1984 - *The Cosby Show*, starring Bill Cosby, Phylicia Ayers-Allen (now Rashad), and an ensemble of child actors, premieres on NBC. The series, which had been rejected by other network television executives, will become one of the most popular in television history, and help launch the careers of several talented actors, including Rashad, Malcolm Jamal Warner, Keisha Knight Pullam, and Raven-Symone.

1987 - Alfre Woodard wins an Emmy for outstanding guest performance in the dramatic series *L.A. Law*. It is her second Emmy award, her first having been for a supporting role in *Hill Street Blues* in 1984.

## SEPTEMBER 21

1814 - Black troops cited for bravery in Battle of New Orleans.

1905 - Atlanta Life Insurance Company is founded by Alonzo F. Herndon.

1909 - Kwame Nkrumah is born in Nkroful, Ghana. A leader in African colonial liberation, Nkrumah will be the first prime minister of Ghana but be forced into exile following a coup.

1967 - Walter Washington is nominated by President Lyndon B. Johnson as first mayor of the newly reorganized municipal government of Washington, D.C. In 1974, he will be elected to the post, another first for an African-American.

1989 - Army General Colin Powell receives Senate confirmation as Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the highest military position in the United States. He is the military's highest-ranking African-American.

## SEPTEMBER 22

Independence Day - Republic of Mali

1853 - George Washington Murray is born near Rembert, S.C. A two-term congressman from his home state, Murray will also be an inventor and holder of eight patents for agricultural tools.

1915 - Xavier University of Louisiana opens in New Orleans, the first African-American Catholic college in the U.S.

1941 - Chester Lovelle Talton is born in Eldorado, Ark. At 49, he will become the first African-American Episcopalian bishop to be ordained in the western U.S. As suffragan bishop of the diocese of Los Angeles, he becomes the religious leader of Episcopalians in the fourth-largest diocese in the U.S.

1985 - Robert Guillaume wins an Emmy for best leading actor in a comedy for *Benson* while *The Cosby Show* wins for best comedy series.

1989 - Edward Perkins, the first African-American ambassador to the Republic of South Africa, becomes director-general of the U.S. Foreign Service. The first African-American named to the post, Perkins will be credited with bringing more minorities into the foreign service.

# "Pretty Boy" Floyd batters Gerena

Huel Washington

Special to Sentinel-Voice

While Hurricane Floyd was deciding to spare Puerto Rico from its 100 mile an hour winds, one of the country's native sons was taking a ferocious pummeling from boxing's latest sensation, "Pretty Boy" Floyd Mayweather at the Mandalay Bay Resort last week.

Mayweather, who has moved to Las Vegas from Grand Rapids, Michigan, battered his opponent, Carlos Gerena, so relentlessly in his defense of his World Boxing Council Super Featherweight title, that Dr. Flip Homansky ordered referee Richard Steele to halt the proceedings at the end of the seventh round. Most of the more than 2,000 spectators wondered to themselves and their neighbors just how much punishment "El Toro" from Bayamon, Puerto Rico could take.

Very few thought the fight would last seven rounds due to the two knockdowns Gerena suffered in the first round. He was lucky to last out the first stanza and had to be escorted back to his corner by his handlers after the bell rang.

Nevertheless, after surviving the barrage, Gerena stayed on his feet the remainder of the bout, many times encouraging the champion to take his best shot.

The 28-year-old Gerena came into the bout with a record of 34 wins and two losses with 28 knockouts and he proved to everyone present



Sentinel-Voice photo by Jonathan Olsen/Front Row Photos

Carlos Gerena, left, tries to counter punch Floyd Mayweather's left jab at Saturday's World Boxing Council Super Featherweight title bout. Mayweather retained his title with a seventh round TKO at the Mandalay Bay Resort.

he could take a punch.

According to the final punch statistics, Mayweather connected on 166 power punches out of 220 punches that connected. Gerena connected on 80 of 99 power punches thrown.

Not even Hurricane Floyd, with winds ranging up to 155 miles an hour could rain blows on the Florida shores, with the same intensity that Mayweather landed on Gerena. And still Gerena came forward, tapping his chest and saying, "Bring it."

"Enough is enough," said Dr. Homansky at the end of the seventh round, after he thought Gerena had really

come under a severe attack during the final round.

"Thit him with everything I had," said the 22-year-old Mayweather after the fight.

"He just kept coming back. I thought he was finished after the two knockdowns in the first round but he wasn't."

Also on the card, Freddie successfully defended his World Boxing Association featherweight title against Juan Manuel Marquez in one of the worst exhibitions of pugilism ever fostered on the Las Vegas boxing community.

Although both fighters thought they won the fight, it should have scored, No

Contest. These two boxers embarrassed themselves and the profession, largely because they were both afraid to get hit.

Having heard so much about the latest sensation, Mayweather, Roy Jones, Jr., Mike Tyson, and Felix Trinidad were all present to see for themselves if Mayweather being chosen the Fighter of the Year for 1998 is perhaps the best pound for pound even if he only weighs 130 pounds.

Mayweather said he wants to win five titles before he retires and he appears on his way. Who's next, Stevie Johnson?

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