



# BLACK PRESS

SEE PAGES B10-B11

# BLACK HISTORY

Celebrate Black History Month with Special Articles on Black History Pioneers

SEE PAGES A4-A5 & SECTION B



# 'I HAVE A DREAM'

Martin Luther King's Electrifying 1963 Speech

SEE PAGE B12

50 cents

The California

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# ADVOCATE

Fresno's African American Community Newspaper



Erica Hubbard, Julie Gonzalo and Kady Cole in Warner Brothers' "A Cinderella Story."

## Erica Hubbard Takes Her Career to Higher Levels in Television

CALIFORNIA - Erica Hubbard started her career doing voice-overs, theater, modeling and starring in commercials such as: McDonald's, MCI, Reebok and Sears. She has worked in many markets, including Chicago, New York and California.

Ms. Hubbard has performed in feature films distributed by Paramount, Warner Bros., and 20th Century Fox. She has starred in television shows on various networks such as: CBS, NBC, MTV, UPN and the WB. Recently, she guest starred with David Caruso on CSI: Miami and Everybody Hates Chris.

In addition, she has graced the pages of many popular magazines, including Seventeen, Honey,

Ebony and YM (as the Noxzema Girl).

While living and performing in Chicago, Erica had her own television show on WPWR (a UPN affiliate). Before Erica's third season was aired, she received a Regional Emmy and also earned a Service To America Award from the National Association of Broadcasters. This was a result of hosting the children/teen series Up 'N Running.

Erica's dynamic resume includes credits such as Save The Last Dance, A Cinderella Story with Hillary Duff and Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants (a New York Times Best Selling Novel). Erica also portrayed Kiana An- gning

Continued on Page 7

## Road to the White House Comes Straight Through the Black Community

BY NOBLE JOHNS

ILLINOIS (BNW) - Sen. Barack Obama is considered by many to be the first African-American candidate with a realistic chance of winning the White House. Today Obama stood before the Capitol in his home state of Illinois and he announced he would seek the 2008 Democratic nomination for president.

While Obama is considered Black by most standards, he is not really Black in that he does not share the history and culture of American slavery. Nor does any other candidates in the race for president. Be that as it may Black, white or in between, the road to the White House come straight through the Black com-

munity!

You got to get the Democratic nomination to run for president, and in many states in the South, like South Carolina, North Carolina, Virginia, Mississippi Georgia, and Alabama where Blacks make up over 50% of the voters in the Democratic primaries, if you can get that vote in a block and a reasonable number of white and Hispanics the White House could be yours. In other words, if you can get a block of Black voters during the Democratic primary election, you can win the nomination and go on to

Continued on Page 7

RIGHT: Sen. Barack Obama is considered by many to be the first African-American candidate with a realistic chance of winning the White House. (AP Photo/Meet The Press, Alex Wong)



## Sudan Divestment Movement Growing

BY JAMES WRIGHT

WASHINGTON (NNPA) - The movement to encourage local and state governments to pull out their investments in corporations that do business with the Sudan is making progress. The effort has been fueled by a bill sponsored by Rep. Barbara Lee (D-Calif.), which make Sudanese divestment a viable weapon to stop the genocide that is taking place in the Darfur region of the North African country.

Lee's Bill, the Darfur Accountability and Divestment Act of 2007, was originally introduced on Sept. 21, 2006, but never made its way in the Republican Congress. Lee re-introduced the bill on Jan. 4 in the same form and the bill will likely get a hearing because the chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee is Rep. Tom Lantos (D-Calif.) and the subcommittee that will handle the bill is led by Rep. Donald Payne (D-N.J.), a Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) member.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) was a sponsor of the bill and still supports it, according to her spokesman.

The bill would bar international companies whose business in Sudan directly or indirectly sup-



A bill sponsored by Rep. Barbara Lee (D-Calif.), would make Sudanese divestment a viable weapon to stop the genocide that is taking place in the Darfur region of North Africa.

ports the genocide in Darfur from receiving taxpayer-funded federal contracts. The legislation would also require the Securities and Exchange Commission to compile and publish a list of all companies listing securities on United States capital markets whose business has direct or indirect contacts with the Khartoum-based government.

Other highlights include giv-

Continued on Page 7

## Texan Becomes First Black House Speaker

BY TUALA WILLIAMS

DALLAS (NNPA) - Nancy Pelosi, the first female Speaker of the House, made another unprecedented move recently, when she announced that she would appoint her senior advisor, Lorraine Carroll Miller, as the first African-American Clerk of the House of Representatives. This native of Fort Worth makes not only

the third woman, but also the first Texan ever to hold the position.

In a statement, Pelosi she said, "Lorraine Miller has dedicated her career to the noble calling of public service, with her vast experience in both the House of Representatives and White House preparing her for this vital role. With the management and leadership skills she has gained at the highest

levels of government, Miller will ensure, as Clerk, that the House has the support necessary to effectively carry out our legislative responsibilities," Pelosi said. "Diversity has long been one of the greatest strengths of our nation, and as the first African American official of the House, Lorraine will bring that strength to the Office of the Clerk." In addition to her duties as

clerk, Miller will oversee several important offices for the government, including: the House Page Program, the Legislative Resource Center, the Office of Legislative Operations, the Office of History and Preservation, the Office of Public Services, the Official Reporters (which transcribe House proceedings verbatim for publication in the Con-

Continued on Page 7

## Black is...



By Rolinda Golden

Black is - Being free  
Not owned by anyone else.  
Working for that dollar  
And keeping it for yourself.

Black is - Getting your education  
Earning your Master's degree  
Being proud to say "I'm Black,  
I'm educated, and yes, I'm free."  
Black is Beautiful  
For the world to see.  
Black Is - You and Black is Me.

We Thank You Lord...  
For setting Us free  
Black is anything you want to be.

Black is - You  
my brother and sister  
And yes...Black is Me!

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# LOCAL NEWS

## ACOP Ministry, Inc. Presents Gospel Artist Kelly Price In Concert



The exciting gospel recording artist Kelly Price, along with the popular Vicki Winans are scheduled to appear in a musical concert at Clovis Hills Community Church, 10590 N. Willow Ave., Clovis, Ca. Special guests include "The Sounds of Zion," "Predestined in Christ Praise Team," and "Spirit & Truth." Fresno's Jackie O is concert coordinator. No admission charge, thanks to numerous community sponsors.

Sponsored by  
ACOP Ministry, Inc.

## Fresno Youth Extravaganza Includes 'Youth Job Fair' for Ages 16-24

A Youth Job Fair will be held February 24, 2007, 9 a.m.-10 a.m., at Fresno Convention Center, Exhibit Hall #3, Downtown Fresno (Ventura and M Streets). Employers will be on site to accept applications for employment. The all-day Youth Extravaganza (9 a.m.-5 p.m.) will also offer workshops: "How to Complete a Job Application," "Applying for Financial Aid," "Multi-cultural Youth Performing Arts session, speakers: Congressman Jim Costa, Judge Greg Mathis, Praise teams, Teen Pregnancy Crisis, and more. No charge. complimentary lunch provided. For info: 559-292-4877. Website registration [www.acoalitionofpeople.org](http://www.acoalitionofpeople.org). Sponsored by ACOP Ministry, Inc.



## Congratulate Your Graduate

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Fresno Convention Center

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Filing Deadline is February 26, 2007, 5:00 p.m.

Street Maintenance Superintendent  
\$5,820 - \$7,076/mo.

Filing Deadline is February 23, 2007, 5:00 p.m.

For more information, call the City of Fresno Jobline at (559) 621-6999. Postmarks are not accepted. Job bulletin and employment applications are available on the City of Fresno website at: [www.fresno.gov](http://www.fresno.gov). EOE

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# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## What's Going On in Our Community

### Celebrate Black History

Providence Community Baptist Church is celebrating Black History month the theme "Shattered Dreams, Broken Promises" Joshua 1:5. On February 22nd & 23rd at 7:00 pm and Sunday February 25th at 3:00 pm they are inviting congregations to come join the celebration and fellowship with them. If your choir would like to participate with an A&B selection of Black Negro Spirituals call Sis. Lois Ward at 559-266-6102 or Bro. David Haynes at 559-264-2571.

### Soul Food Dinner

Providence Community Baptist Church is having a Soul food dinner sale Saturday February 24th, 2007 at 2202 South Walnut Ave. starting at 9:00 am to 5:00pm. Diners cost: 3 Meat Combo \$12, 2 Meat Combo \$10, 1 Meat Combo \$10, Sandwich \$6. All combo dinners include 2 sides, cornbread and a desert. Sandwiches will include 1 side and extra side items are \$2. To order in advance call Sis. Lois Ward at 559-266-6102.

### "Move of God Broadcast"

Word of Life Ministry, Inc. announces its, "Move of God Broadcast," airs twice each Sunday on KIRV Radio 1510AM. Broadcast times are 8:30 - 9 am & 3 - 3:30 pm. For more information you may call the ministry office at, (559) 237-0072. Tune in and be blessed by God through this ministry.

### Black Gospel Mass and Luncheon

The African American Catholics ministry of the Diocese of Fresno Merced/Atwaters is hosting Black Gospel Mass and Heritage Luncheon on February 18th at 12:30 pm to 3 pm. At the St. Patrick's Catholic Church 671 E. Yosemite, Merced, Ca.. There will be Mass, soul food, entertainment, exhibits, raffle prizes and sale items. No Charge. To RSVP call Mary Neal at 559-224-2625.

### Real Men Cook for Education

Clovis West High School is hosting it's 15th Annual Real Men Cook For Education on February 25th, 2007 from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm in the east gym. The Clovis West African American Advisory Council utilizes this dinner as a fundraiser for scholarships. This year there are many seniors in need of financial assistance for college. If you have any questions please call Mrs. Simpson at 559-434-2015 or Mrs. Fowlkes at 559-327-2119.

### Christian Counseling Certification Caring

The Fresno School of Missions, in partnership with the American Association of Christian Counselors (AACC) is offering a 36 hour Christian Counseling Certification Program. This course will begin in February 2007 and is limited to 10 students. The cost of the program is \$200 which includes a one year AACC membership. For a application or info call Larry Cormier at 559-228-3392 or 443-6743.

### Celebrate Your Family Heritage

Celebrate your family heritage on Sunday, February 18th 2007 at 2:30 p.m. at MLK Middle School 601 Lilly Madera, Ca. For more information please call 559-674-7324 or 363-3598.

### Fresno Co-housing Information Meeting

Fresno Co-housing is a group of families, couples and individuals creating a socially and environmentally sustainable 28-home neighborhood on a 2.8 acre site in North Fresno. Community members own private self-sufficient 2, 3, & 4 bedroom homes and share extensive common facilities such as a community garden, pool, spa and large club house of "Common House" designed with future resident input. The Common House will include a gourmet kitchen, multi-purpose "Great Room" for optional community dinners and social events, children's play areas, a workshop space, overnight guest room, exercise area, and sitting room/library. The neighborhood will begin construction in the Spring of 2007 and is expected to be complete in 10-12 months. Sunday, February 18, 2 to 4 PM at 2658 East Alluvial between Willow and Chestnut. For more info and to RSVP please call 866-246-7717, email [info@fresnocohousing.org](mailto:info@fresnocohousing.org) or visit [www.FresnoCohousing.org](http://www.FresnoCohousing.org).

### Black American Entrepreneurs

San Joaquin Valley Black Chamber of Commerce Celebrates Black American Entrepreneurs on February 28, 2007 from 5:00 pm- 7:30 pm at the The Downtown Club, 2120 Kern Street, Fresno, CA 93721 (559-441-7929). Special Guest: The Governors Appointments Secretary Timothy A. Simon. A great business opportunity. Cocktails and hors d'oeuvres, business attire. To RSVP, please call Mary at (559) 441-7929.

### Renaissance Feast for Scholars

Tickets are now on sale for the State Center Community College Foundation's Renaissance Feast for Scholars on Saturday, March 10, 2007 at 6 p.m. in the Fresno City College Library. This is the third Renaissance Feast for Scholars. Period costumes are welcome or black tie attire would be appropriate. Tickets are \$125 a person. Sponsorship opportunities are also available. The evening will include dinner and wine with Her Most Gracious Majesty, Queen Elizabeth I, entertainment by the Queen's troupe of merry makers and a short, but lively, live auction. Auction items include a vacation apartment for four in Tuscany, Italy and other travel opportunities, special hosted dinners, a golf package and a gourmet wine package. Last year's Renaissance Feast for Scholars raised over \$75,000 to benefit students of the State Center Community College District which currently serves more than 35,000 students. The District includes Fresno City College, Reedley College and centers in Clovis, Madera and Oakhurst. The District serves a population area in excess of one million residents. For more information call (559) 244-5991 or email [raelyn.ruff@sc-ccd.edu](mailto:raelyn.ruff@sc-ccd.edu).

### Black Leadership Academy

The Black Political Council will host the Black Leadership Academy for High School Seniors and College Students, March 31, 2007 at Ashley Hall, Fresno Pacific University. Registration at 8:00 A.M. Continental breakfast and lunch will be served. Cost is \$25.00 per student. Seating limited to 50 students. For application or information, call (559) 222-0059 or send email to [bpcouncil@yahoo.com](mailto:bpcouncil@yahoo.com).

## Bill Honoring Sojourner Truth

**Celebrate the enactment of legislation requiring that a statue of Sojourner Truth be placed permanently in the United States Capitol to honor her contribution to our nation's history**

WASHINGTON, DC - Dr. E. Faye Williams, National Chair of the National Congress of Black Women (the organization that has promoted the effort for nearly 10 years beginning with the late Dr. C. DeLores Tucker and Congresswoman Cynthia McKinney) said, "We thank Senator Clinton for sponsoring this event in honor of Sojourner Truth. We are grateful to all who worked to pass Congresswoman Sheila Jackson-Lee's Bill to put 'Truth in the Capitol'. This is a great honor for all women, and especially for Black women, everywhere. Senators Hillary Rodham Clinton and Senator Arlen Specter carried Congresswoman Jackson-Lee's Bill in the Senate. While we have struggled for a very long time to keep Sojourner Truth's legacy alive, we recognize that it is through our struggles that we gain our victories. We

pray that some day, the original monument to the Women's Movement will be modified, and that Sojourner will take her rightful place on the same portrait with the women she mentored: Susan B. Anthony, Lucretia Mott & Elizabeth Cady Stanton."

NCBW has formed a "Commission for Truth" to insure the completion of the statue of Sojourner. Some of the early Commission members include Cicely Tyson, Janet Langhart Cohen, Dick Gregory, Assemblyman Mervyn Dymally, Assemblywoman Gwen Moore, Dr. Jynona Norwood, Danny Bakewell, Joe and Sherry Madison, Dr. Mary Frances Berry, Dr. Dorothy I. Height, Mark Planning, Darlene Young, Keith Tucker, Rev. Al Sharpton, Bishop Carolyn Guidry, Ellie Smeal, Dr. Thelma Daley, Dr. Wilma Roscoe, Patricia Means and Dr. Lorraine Cole.

# Community and Government Organizations Coming Together in Response to Growing Need of Workers Affected by Freeze

FRESNO — A growing number of workers are finding assistance at designated One Stop Assistance Centers in Fresno County and through two mobile units bringing a wide range of services directly to those most impacted by crop losses due to the freezing conditions that devastated the region in January.

The California Employment Development Department (EDD) is working with freeze coalitions in the affected areas and committing additional staff to the mobile operations to assist eligible workers in filing for Unemployment Insurance (UI), updating their resumes, and searching for new employment and training opportunities.

"The number of workers seeking assistance is growing in Fresno County and EDD is proud to partner with a number of other government and community based organizations in meeting their needs in locations that are most convenient to workers," said EDD Director Patrick Henning.

To date, Fresno County has the second highest num-

ber of Unemployment Insurance (UI) claims related to the devastating winter weather, 816 out of a total of 3,864 claims in the state. EDD and its partners have increased the number of phone lines available to workers for the purpose of filing for UI.

The Governor has also waived the one-week waiting period for filing for UI benefits. That allows eligible workers unemployed due to the freeze to collect more of their benefits faster, earning two weeks worth of benefits on their first check instead of one of those weeks serving as the customary waiting period.

In addition to expanded services provided through the mobile units and the One Stop Center in Reedley designated by Governor Schwarzenegger to provide immediate assistance to those impacted by the freeze in Fresno County, affected workers and employers will also find expanded services at three other One Stop Workforce Connection Centers in the county system, in addition to a temporary center in Orange Cove. Those

locations are:

**1900 Mariposa Mall, Suite 130**  
Fresno  
(559) 263-1102

**3302 N. Blackstone Ave., Ste. 155**  
Fresno  
(559) 230-3600

**720 Oller Street**  
Mendota  
(559) 655-3711

**1705 S. Anchor Avenue**  
Orange Cove  
(559) 637-4327

The Small Business Administration is present in the center making information available to employers on Economic Injury Disaster Loans. In addition to the UI and Job Services available to eligible workers in the centers, a variety of other services include Food Stamps, CalWORKS assistance, Medi-Cal information, locations of food banks and primary care clinics, low-income energy assistance programs, Women, Infants and Children (WIC) referral services, and information on community-based organizations providing food, emergency shelter, blankets and other needs.

## ADVOCATE SPORTS

# Notes on a Scorecard



BY CRAIG REID  
SPORTS WRITER

At 6:58 pm Pacific Standard Time, on February 4, Indianapolis Colts leader Tony Dungy became the first African American head coach to win the Super Bowl.

At 7:20 pm Pacific Standard Time, that same night Lovie Smith, the first African American head coach to lose a Super Bowl, emerged from the Chicago Bears locker room and talked about how his team felt.

During the first forty Super Bowls, no African American head coach had ever manned the sidelines. That's what made Super Bowl forty one so special.

Thus, when Dungy's Colts beat Smith's Bears

29 to 17, African American History Month was off to a roaring start.

However, let us never sleep on the fact that in 1975, two African American head coaches (Al Attles and K.C. Jones) collided in the National Basketball Association finals.

In one of the greatest upset victories in the history of pro sports, Attles guided the Golden State Warriors to a four game sweep of the heavily favored Washington Bul-

lets. The Bullets were a prohibitive favorite to beat the Warriors due, in large part, to Jones' masterful coaching job during Washington's wipeout win over the hallowed Boston Celtics in the Eastern Conference championships. However, Attles seemingly outsmarted Jones at every turn.

Then there was "Russ", as in the all-time great Boston Celtics center Bill Russell.

In 1968, Russell became the first African American head coach in any sport when Boston General Manager Arnold "Red" Auerbach handed the reigns of the storied Celtics over to him.

Russell, who may not have had the athletic abil-

ity of the likes of Muhammed Ali, Michael Jordan, Willie Mays, Gale Sayers, or Pele, is, for my money, the greatest player in the history of sports.

Playing in a city where attitudes towards African Americans were negative in general to say the least, Russell led the Celtics to 11 NBA championships in 13 years — a feat no team in any sport has ever accomplished and probably never will.

Then there was "Cito." In 1992 Toronto Blue Jays manager Cito Gaston became the first African American to guide a team into a World Series. By the way, Gaston's Toronto team won the World Series by upsetting the Atlanta Braves.

In 1993 Gaston gave an encore performance by managing Toronto to back-to-back championships by beating the Philadelphia Phillies in the World Series.

Thus, Dungy and Smith have knocked down the doors of indifference, exclusion, and racism for other African Americans now and in the future.

Yet, let Russell, Gaston, Jones, Attles and others like Lenny Wilkens did likewise for Dungy and Smith.

THANKS GUYS!

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# The California Advocate BLACK HISTORY MONTH

## Fresno Pioneers: Some of the First Blacks to Work in these Positions

- **Floyd White**, Fireman
- **Charles Walton**, Policeman
- **John Long**, Policeman
- **James Watts**, Physician 1921-1927
- **Dr. Henry Wallace**, Physician
- **Dr. Harry Osborne**, Dentistry
- **Dr. George Furlow**, Dentistry
- **Charles Young**, High School & College All American
- **Woody Miller**, Radio Station Manager
- **John Davis**, Television Announcer
- **Alfred Boutte**, State Employee Manager
- **Jack Kelley**, Police Sergeant & Detective
- **Jesse McDonald**, County Planning Commission Member
- **George Marcus**, Pharmacist
- **Randy Williams**, Olympic Gold Medal Winner
- **Robert Trotter**, School Board Member
- **Claude Hurst**, FSU Student Body President
- **Reuben Ford**, Postmaster
- **Elma P. Sterling**, Appointed Councilwoman
- **Beatrice Owens**, County Teacher
- **Hugh W. Goodwin**, Attorney & Judge
- **Francis Goodwin**, Educator
- **Frank Johnson**, Superintendent of Schools in West Fresno School District
- **Odell Johnson Jr.**, High School Coach / Educator/ College President
- **Melvin Combs**, Fresno Bus Drivers
- **Rutherford "Bud" Gaston**, Principal Fresno Unified School District
- **Steven Mark Nichols**, Dancer/Performer

- **Joe Williams**, Elected to Fresno City Council
- **James Aldredge**, City Manager - Doctoral Degree in Public Administration
- **Ray Johnson**, Assistant City Manager City of Fresno
- **Jim Hendricks**, Redevelopment Agency Director
- **Omie Cormier**, Founded West Fresno Christian Academy
- **Cleofus Johnson**, United Parcel Service
- **Dr. Ned Doffoney**, President of Fresno City College
- **Les & Pauline Kimber**, Founded California Advocate Newspaper
- **Mary Curry**, Fresno Unified School District Board of Supervisors
- **Dezie Woods-Jones**, State President on Black Women Organized for Political Action /City Councilwoman and Vice Mayor of Oakland
- **Arthelma Johnson**, Supervising Nurse in the CSU System
- **Louise "Pat" Moon**, Stratford Elementary School Educator
- **Earl Bradley**, Photographer/TV
- **Florene Smith**, First Bank Teller

### Education...

- **Ernie Shelton**, CSUF
- **Loraine Wiley**, CSUF Botany
- **Willie Perry**, CSUF Counselor & Civic Leader
- **Velda Neal Boutte**, Fresno Unified School District

- **Rutherford "Bud" Gaston**, Principal
- **Joe Lee**
- **Felton Burns**, Education
- **Stanley McDonald**, Education
- **Nadene Mayo**, Education
- **Roland Johnson**, Superintendent of School

### Physicians...

- **Dr. Noel Smith** • **Dr. Harry Arvis**
- **Dr. Harry Osborne, DDS** • **Dr. James Watts**
- **Dr. Bryant** • **Dr. Ulysses Curry**
- **Dr. George Furlow, DDS** • **Dr. Ed Mosley**
- **Dr. Henry Wallace** • **Dr. Freddie Hayes**
- **Dr. Sydney Jackson, DDS**
- **Dr. George Bugg** • **Dr. Earl Meyers**
- **Dr. Willie Brown** • **Dr. Stain**

### Religion...

- **Rev. & Mrs. M.D. Dixon**
- **Rev. A.W. White**, Founded St. Rest Church 1937
- **Bishop Warren S. Wilson**, Fresno Temple
- **H Y Rogers**, Fresno Temple
- **Edward Lyndsey**, Founded 2nd Baptist Church 1888
- **Rev. Aaron & Solomon Walton Bethel**, African American Methodist Episcopal Church
- **Rev. Cecil Howard**, Carter Memorial
- **Rev. Elbert Williams**
- **Rev. Swillis**
- **Pastor James Seal**, First Trinity COGIC
- **Mr. Matthew L. Daw**, Second Baptist

- **Church**
- **Rev. Charles Henry Byrd**, Organized the San Joaquin Baptist Association
- **Issac Young**

### Community Pioneers...

- **Mr. & Mrs. John Oliver**, Graduates from Fowlers High became one of the first and most successful farm families.
- **Reynold Johnson**, Banker/ Investor
- **Ivy Roberts**, Judge
- **Barney Bell**, Military
- **Odell Johnson Sr.**, Entrepreneur
- **Jessie Cooley**, Funeral Director
- **Mr. Scott**, Scott's Cleaner
- **Merle Carter**, Community Volunteer/Educator
- **Carolyn Carter**, Community Leader
- **Sudie Douglas**, Started "Stay in School" group
- **C. Jones**, Military
- **Linzie Daniels**, Fresno County Administrator
- **George Purdom**, Insurance Company
- **Lawrence Cormier**, Counselor
- **Ruby Graves**, Historian
- **Roy M. Woods**, Edison PTA/Entrepreneur

Every month is Black History Month in the California Advocate and this year, during each month, we are going to highlight past and present leaders in our community. There are many African American pioneers not included in this list. If you would like to help update this list please write the California Advocate P.O. Box 11826, Fresno, Ca 93775 and include your contact information.

## Book Review: "Nobody Gonna Turn Me 'Round" by Doreen Rappaport

BY TERRI SCHLICHENMEYER

Did you ever have a song running around in your mind, something you can't resist singing aloud or teaching your friends? Sometimes, you want to hear those songs again and again because you love them so much.

But there are some songs you won't hear on the radio and you'll have a hard time buying them in the store, but they're important to know because of the history behind them. In the new book "Nobody Gonna Turn Me 'Round" by Doreen Rappaport, illustrated by Shane W. Evans, you'll learn songs from the Civil Rights Movement and the reasons why they're so important.

Despite what your school books tell you, Rappaport indicates that the Civil Rights Movement started way before the 1960s. After the Civil War ended almost a hundred fifty years ago, former slaves looked forward to equality, but it wasn't to be. "Whites Only" signs went up all over America, particularly in the South. African Americans faced discrimination, embarrassment, even murder every day.

In 1954, the U.S. Supreme Court declared school segregation unconstitutional and African Americans rejoiced at a chance at equal education. Up until

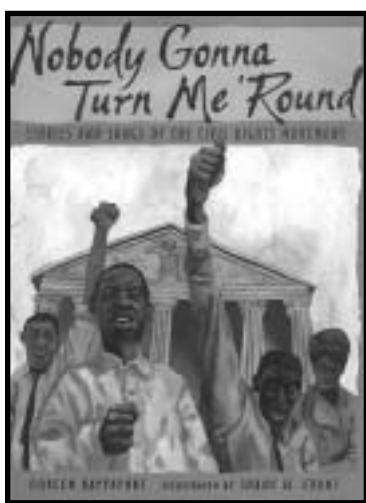
then, kids went to school according to the color of their skin, and learning material in African American schools wasn't the same as that of "white schools". The Supreme Court decision was not very popular and hate groups formed all over the country.

A little over a year after the murder of fourteen-year-old Emmett Till in 1955, Rosa Parks challenged segregation on a bus in Montgomery, Alabama, which spurred activist Jo Ann Robinson to help organize a boycott.

In 1957, nine brave teenagers signed up to integrate a high school in Little Rock, Arkansas.

In 1960, sit-ins were held in restaurants, libraries, and movie houses. Just four years later, President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the Civil Rights Act prohibiting discrimination and a year after that, the 1965 Voting Rights Act was signed into law. And during it all, the words to old songs were changed and new songs were written to inspire people and to help them "keep their eyes on the prize".

"Nobody Gonna Turn Me 'Round" is a book in disguise, in a way. You're probably going to find it shelved in with picture books or easy readers because it's the size and shape of other books in those cate-



"Nobody Gonna Turn Me 'Round" by Doreen Rappaport, illustrated by Shane W. Evans (© 2006, Candlewick Press, 64 pages).

gories. The problem is, it's way too sophisticated for the under-5 set and well beyond the abilities of most beginning readers.

Instead, despite the powerfully-crafted but child-like illustrations, this book is more for kids age 10 and up. Older kids will be more equipped to handle the historical timeline and they'll grasp the ideas and small details better than would a littler kid. Older children with a musical background might also be able to pick out the melodies to the songs in this very well-done book.

If your kids say they hate history, then turn off the radio, mute the TV and hand them this book. "Nobody Gonna Turn Me 'Round" will help them change their tune.

# 2007 CHRISTIAN MUSIC AWARDS

**JUNE 15, 2007, 7:00 P.M.**

**Save Mart Center**

**Praise Teams  
Solos/Duet**

**Youth 12 & Under  
"Angel Awards"**

**Youth 13 - 19  
"Youth Awards"**

**June 15 ~ Save Mart Center**

**~ AWARDS ~**

**Praise Team**  
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1st place, \$10,000  
2nd place \$5,000  
3rd place \$3,000  
4th place \$1,000  
5th place \$ 750  
6th place \$ 500  
7th place \$ 350

**Duet/Solo**  
(seven places)  
\$2,000 to \$125

**"Angel Awards" &  
"Youth Awards"**  
(seven places)  
\$1,000 to \$125

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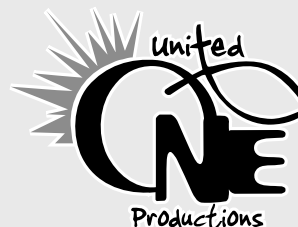
The Housing Authorities of the City and County of Fresno is sponsoring a Contractors Fair for Grounds Contractors, Landscape Contractors, and Yard Service Contractors. The Purpose of the Contractor Fair is to explain and assist Contractors with the agency's bidding process. The Housing Authorities will be soliciting bids for grounds services for the period of May 2007 through May 2009, for all City County properties.

**WHEN: Friday, February 23, 2007**

**TIME: 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. (Continental Breakfast)**

**LOCATION: The Authorities Central Office Parking Area  
1331 Fulton Mall, Fresno CA**

For more information Contact:  
Gracie Bachicha (559) 457-4137 or  
Joe Aguilera (559) 457-4111



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# The California Advocate

# BLACK HISTORY MONTH

## Sojourner Truth (1797-1883)

Before the Civil War, most slaves faced endless days of labor and harsh treatment. Slaves who dared show defiance were subjected to severe beatings and other savage acts of punishment. Many blacks risked all by running away. Among those who ran was the bold and brave woman who came to be known as Sojourner Truth.

Sojourner Truth was born in Ulster County, New York, in 1797. Her name was Isabella, and she was owned by a Dutchman named Ardinburgh. During her youth, she was separated from her parents and passed among a succession of cruel masters, two of whom were named Baumfree and Hurley. Tall of stature and large of frame, she was exploited for her size and made to work excessively hard.

Sojourner watched her mother's grief as her siblings were sold away to other masters. She grew up to experience the same horror, giving birth to children only to have them torn from her arms. It is not known how many children she had, but when she escaped in 1826, she took only an infant son with her.

Fleeing with her child in the middle of night, Sojourner crept through dangerous forests and swamps, terrified of being tracked by bloodhounds and bounty hunters. She knew what could happen if she was caught alive. Punishment for escapes ranged from beatings, after which a solution of salt and vinegar was poured on open wounds, to the cutting off of body parts, such as toes and fingers. Sojourner clutched her infant tightly. A baby could not understand the need to be silent in the face of miseries that may have included unbearable heat or cold, bites of various insects, and insuf-

ficient food and water.

As Sojourner and other slaves stole their way through the nights, sympathizers – both black and white – risked their own safety, giving shelter, food and water along the way. With such help, Sojourner made her way safely to New York, where slavery was outlawed the following year, 1827.

In 1843, while working as a maid in New York City, Sojourner became convinced that she had been called to go out into the world and “travel about the land spreading truth to the people.” Changing her name to Sojourner Truth, she became a preacher. Sojourner testified. Describing the suffering she had lived through, she soon became a major spokesperson for the abolitionist movement. Along with Frederick Douglass and William Lloyd Garrison, she became a significant leader in the struggle for emancipation.

Some people mocked her and spread rumors that she was a man disguised in women's garments. To dispel those rumors, she once publicly exposed her breast, then told the stunned audience, “It is not my shame, but yours, that I should do this.”

Nothing could stop Sojourner Truth. One day as she attended a women's rights meeting in Akron, Ohio, clergymen argued that women should not have the right to vote. One dared to say that the fact that Christ was a man proved that God considered women inferior to men. Sojourner rose to speak. Some of the suffragettes worried that a former slave was not a proper spokesperson for them and would only bring ridicule to their cause. They gestured for her to return to her seat. But the president of the group, Frances Dana Gage, ignored them

and welcomed Sojourner to the podium.

“Ain't I a Woman?,” the courageous speech Sojourner gave that day, June 21, 1851, became etched in American history.

An acclaimed white author of the era, Harriet Beecher Stowe, wrote a special tribute to Sojourner in the Atlantic Monthly. In the 1863 article, Stowe said, “I do not recollect ever to have been conversant with any one who had more of that silent and subtle power which we call person presence than this woman.”

During the Civil War, Sojourner Truth helped recruit soldiers and aided in relief efforts for freed men and women escaping from the South. As an adviser to President Abraham Lincoln, she used her influence to bring about the desegregation of streetcars in Washington, D.C.

Sojourner Truth never learned to read or write, but she often said, “I cannot read a book, but I can read the people.” In 1850, with the help of friends and family, she worked with Olive Gilbert to write and publish Narrative of Sojourner Truth; and she updated it with the assistance of Frances Titus. The expanded version, Book of Life, includes personal letters, newspaper stories of events in which she participated, and expressions of appreciation for her work sent to her from around the world.

The narrative was reprinted in 1878, 1881, and 1884 with the title Narrative of Sojourner Truth: A Bondswoman of Olden Time, With a History of Her Labors and Correspondence Drawn from Her Book of Life.

Sojourner Truth, one of America's greatest reformers, died at her home in Battle Creek, Michigan, in 1883.



**“In 1843, while working as a maid in New York City, Sojourner became convinced that she had been called to go out into the world and “travel about the land spreading truth to the people.” Changing her name to Sojourner Truth, she became a preacher. Sojourner testified. Describing the suffering she had lived through, she soon became a major spokesperson for the abolitionist movement. Along with Frederick Douglass and William Lloyd Garrison, she became a significant leader in the struggle for emancipation.”**

## African American Black History Month Events

**Feb. 17, 2007** – Martial Art Lecture “A Way Of Life.” Taught by, Grand Master Amikila Angosisye, 40 years of experience “this life”. For more information and registration call 559-442-0558.

**Feb. 24, 2007** – African American Historical & Cultural Museum, Presents “Connecting the Dots” mixer, 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. For more information, call Mr. Copeland, 559-268-7102 or 681-9005. No charge, Donations accepted

**Feb. 28, 2007** – State Center Community College District “Wall of Honor” 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. For more information contact Teresa M. Patterson, Ed.D., 559-244-2637.

### In The Black: Fresno State's Black Collegiate Connection

**Feb. 16, 2007** – African American Culture Night

**Feb. 17, 2007** – Step Show

**Feb. 18, 2007** – Gospel Choir

**Feb. 23, 2007** – African American Recruitment Conference (middle school)

**Feb. 27, 2007** – African American Culture Night

### Friends of Allensworth 2007 Events Calendar

**Feb. 24, 2007** – Friends of Allensworth African American History focuses primarily on providing an educational and fun time experience for school children. Visitors receive guided tours of the park's historic buildings, which include some living history. Speakers provide lectures on the history of the park and African-Americans. If you and your group can't make it on the 10th, the volunteers of the park have set aside the 24th just for you!! You'll have to call the park ranger and let him know you're coming so we can prepare to welcome you and your group. *Second and Fourth Saturdays in February 10:00 A.M. To 4:00 P.M.*

### Celebrate African Peoples History Month

Rosa Parks-Dr. King Award Banquet, Friday, Feb. 23rd, 2007

6:00 PM Social ~ 7:00 PM Dinner

University Residence Dining Hall

Semi-formal: Dinner & Dancing

DJ, Award Ceremony, Fellowship!

\$25 Only for tickets

Co-sponsored by: The College of Social Sciences, African Peoples History Month Committee, The Africana & American Indian Studies Program, Black Faculty & Staff Association & The Central Valley Cultural Heritage Institute

Please contact Meta Schettler in Africana Studies for tickets: 278-4593 or via email mschettl@csufresno.edu. Tickets are also available in Science 182 with the Africana & American Indian Studies Program until Tuesday, Feb. 20.

## College Gospel Celebration

**Sunday, February 25, 2007**

**Saints Rest Missionary Baptist Church**

(1550 E. Florence Ave.)

**6:00–8:00 p.m. • Free admission**

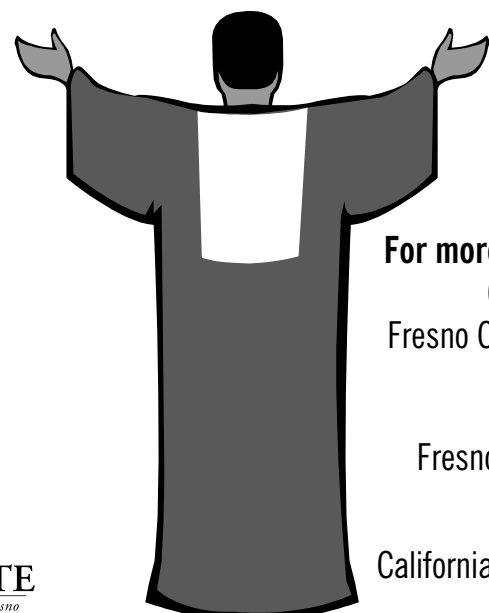
Join Fresno City College, Fresno Pacific University and California State University, Fresno in their effort to bring the community together for an evening of song and praise.

### Performances By:

*Spirit and Truth*  
W.C.O.G. Gospelairees  
Stomperz 4 Christ  
Francine Oputa

*Children of God Choir*  
Bembe Worship Project  
The Binion Sisters  
Faith Worship Center

*Fresno Pacific University*  
CSU, Fresno  
Fresno City College  
Saints Rest Youth Choir



Fresno City College



For more information, contact:  
Gurdeep Sihota,  
Fresno City College at 265-5711

Rici Skei,  
Fresno Pacific at 453-2020

Pamela Tate,  
California State University, Fresno  
at 278-2832

Special thanks to Reverend Shane B. Scott and the Saints Rest Missionary Baptist Church family

# COMMENTARY

## BLACK PRESS LEGACY: 'Too Black to Turn Back' Says Author at Publishers' Conference

BY HAZEL TRICE EDNEY

PHOENIX (NNPA) – With a history of being firebombed, vandalized and threatened with death to their editors and publishers, today's Black newspapers are "too Black to turn back."

That was the message of noted author John Milton Wesley to the publishers of the National Newspaper Publishers Association as they began celebrating the 180th anniversary of the Black Press with glitz and civil rights royalty at a winter conference last week. The actual anniversary is March 16, Black Press Week, the celebration of the first Black Newspaper, Freedom's Journal, founded in 1827.

When asked to bring the keynote address for an awards reception during the conference in Phoenix, Ariz., Wesley, of Columbia, Md., told the crowd of publishers and associates, "I began to reflect on the history of the Black Press, its struggle for respect and equality by people of African descent, the brutality of the slave trade, the denial of human rights and the historical documentation of the survival against all odds by the Black Press, and was again reminded of our invaluable inheritance as African-Americans today. Add this to our own personal and collective spiritual evolution, which has brought us thus far by faith, and it is plain to see why we are indeed too Black to turn back."

Modern-day Black newspapers are still threatened, for example, the 69-year-old Jackson (Miss.) Advocate calls itself the "most firebombed newspaper in the country". It is the courage to continue publishing that fuels the institution of the Black Press and its legacy, says Wesley, a native of the Mississippi Delta.

"Some unknown author once wrote, 'the mind once stretched to a new dimension does not shrink back to its original form,'" says Wesley, who got a standing ovation from the NNPA publishers. Equating the strength and endurance of Black newspapers to the "Blackness" of them, he says the Black Press has continue even with its "back against the wall."

Wesley, the godson of famous civil rights and political activist Fannie Lou Hammer and childhood friend of Emmett Till, has had deep moments of endurance of his own. He was growing up in Ruleville, Miss., when the civil rights movement was in formation. His family had moved into Jackson on June 12, 1963, the day that civil rights leader Medgar Evers was assassinated.

Most recently, his fiancé, Sara Clark, 65, was looking forward to retirement from school-teaching the next year when she was killed on Flight 77 that crashed into the Pentagon with several children from her sixth-grade class on Sept. 11, 2001. They had



been on their way to a science trip to Santa Cruz, Calif.

Having found consolation from his prevailing philosophy in life that "attitude is the key to freedom", Wesley, who owns a public relations, marketing and media firm in Columbia, is also the author of several books on the civil rights movement. They are "An Ear to the Ground", the story of Emmett Till, "Salvos", a book of poetry due out this year, and "The Brighter Side of Darkness," a 50-year memoir on Brown v. Board of Education.

Wesley was among a string of noted speakers that addressed the newspaper group recently, hosted by Cloves Campbell Jr., publisher of the Arizona Informant and First Vice Chair of NNPA. Others were Harry Alford, president and chief executive officer of the National Black Chamber of Commerce and an NNPA Foundation board member, Thomas W. Dortch, Jr., president of the 100 Black Men of America Inc., Rev. Oscar Tillman, president of the Greater Phoenix NAACP; and the Rev. Charles Steel, president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

Health disparities and healthy lifestyles for African-Americans was also a major part of the conference. From a forum featuring Black AIDS Institute founder Phil Wilson and North Phoenix Heart Center cardiologist Paul L. Underwood to a Saturday morning ecumenical Prayer Breakfast focusing on health issues at the First Institutional Baptist Church, publishers delved into growing new issues of unequal justice pertaining to health, which some say are not publicized enough.

**According to some of the statistics:**

- African-Americans reportedly account for approximately half of the people currently diagnosed with HIV/AIDS, 600,000, although Blacks make up only 13 percent of the U.S. population.

- African-Americans are twice as likely to have diabetes than Non-Hispanic Whites; approximately 2.8 million or 13 percent of all African-Americans have diabetes; however, a third of them do not know it.

- African-Americans have the highest mortality rate from heart disease of any ethnic group in America and are 29 percent more likely to die from it than Whites over their lifetimes.

- The Center for Disease Control reports, "Factors contributing to poor health outcomes among African Americans include discrimination, cultural barriers, and lack of access to health care."

African-American media, including Black newspapers, must reorganize priorities, says Minister Patrick Muhammad, representing the Nation of Islam at the church health forum.

"Often times we focus on wealth, then we want to focus on the health," says Muhammad. "Instead, we should be focusing on health first; then we could enjoy the wealth."

Publishers who gathered in Phoenix balanced serious forums with fun. A night out at a comedy club and a tour to see the red rocks of Sedona, Ariz. were among other activities. Four contestants for the Miss Black USA Pageant to be held in Gambia, West Africa, on June 2 also frequented the events from Utah, Arizona, Colorado and New Mexico, wearing their sashes and tiaras.

Despite much glitz in Black America in 2007, social ills prevail, says Wesley. He challenged the publishers: "Stand firm my brothers and sisters for we are too Black to go back...Our charge is to move forward boldly, against all odds to finish the work, all of our heroes and sheroes started, and to do so daily by serving God, through our efforts to raise the consciousness of others, for we are a people too Black to turn back."

# Poverty Crime Asthma Unemployment Global Warming Rolling Blackouts

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# Road to the White House Comes Straight Through the Black Community...

► **Continued from Page 1**  
be President of the United States.

Now, Senator Hillary Clinton is leading Obama in the race for the Black Democratic vote for 2008: Clinton having 60% of the Black voters polled and Obama 24%. Like Malcolm X once said, "When the white vote is evenly divided, it is he Black vote that counts the most..." Again, the Black vote is the key!

Moreover, unlike previous Black presidential candidates, Obama was not part of the civil rights struggle, which makes some African-Americans wary of him.

His mixed, half-white-half-African heritage — with a white mother from Kansas, and a Black father from Kenya — has in fact led some observers to suggest that he is an African and an American, but not a true African-American... like the ones the whites cops beat-down everyday!

Some say he has little national experience, causing others to question if his skills match his ambition. I think that is a misnomer because his skill set is stronger than most white running and certainly stronger than Bush.

According to a University of New Hampshire Survey Research Center conducted this month, Obama placed second, behind Sen. Hillary Clinton, among New Hampshire Democratic primary voters. Obama snared 21 percent of the vote in that popularity poll, trailing Clinton by 14 points.

While speculation is endless over whether a Black presidential candidate can be viable, Obama... whose first name comes from the Swahili word for "one who is blessed" — has not let the color of skin hinder his career.

He has attended elite colleges like Harvard and Columbia universities and was the first Black president of the Harvard Law Review. He entered politics in Illinois, where he practiced civil rights law and taught at the University of Chicago Law School.

His first run into the political world came in 1997, when he took his seat in the state Senate, where he served until 2005. He was sworn in as a U.S. Senator in 2005.

He had a big crowd of supporters who braved the sub-zero temperatures in Springfield, Illinois to watch

Obama make his announcement.

Standing in the shadow of the building where Abraham Lincoln called for Americans to unite against slavery, Obama said: "I stand before you today to announce my candidacy for President of the United States of America," causing the crowd to chant his name.

As he declared his candidacy, Obama acknowledged that some consider him too inexperienced to take on such a role saying, "I know that I have not spent a long time learning the ways of Washington, but I have been there long enough to know that the ways of Washington have to change."

Ahead of Saturday's speech in the city of Springfield Obama appeared in an online video message to his supporters. In it he expressed a desire to re-engage with people on a grass roots level, saying that together they are beginning "a great journey to take our country back and fundamentally change the nature of politics."

Instead of being cynical about politics he asked people to believe in the possibility they can make an impact on people's everyday lives.

Obama burst on to the na-

tional scene two-and-a-half years ago, delivering a stirring keynote speech at the Democratic Party convention. Once saying, "There was no white or Black America, but a United States of America." That helped him win a seat in the US Senate and subsequently set him on a fast track to vie for the White House.

The news media has dubbed Obama "America's hottest political phenomenon" ... Oprah Winfrey urged him to announce his candidacy on her program.

Instead, he chose to launch his presidential campaign on the very spot where Abraham Lincoln once denounced the divisions in America caused by slavery.

## His experience under fire

Though undoubtedly ambitious and charismatic, with relatively little national experience and formidable opponents, including Clinton, many question whether he can really secure the Democratic nomination, and whether he has the depth of policy to match. Obama has tried to answer critics in recent weeks, our correspondent says, introducing a bill that calls for the phased redeployment of US troops from Iraq.

# International Respect for the Black Struggle

BY GEORGE E. CURRY

ITALY — A tour guide assisting SCLC President Charles L. Steele Jr. and his delegation smiled broadly as he led them to a middle school named in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. "We name our schools after international heroes," he said, beaming with pride. "And Dr. King was an international hero."

Because of Dr. King's international reputation, some top leaders of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference recently traveled here to lay the groundwork for an international effort aimed at establishing programs and perhaps institutions dedicated to bringing about world peace. Steele plans to link students in the King school here with another one SCLC has adopted in New Orleans.

When our guide declared that Dr. King was an international hero, my mind drifted back to a story I had written for *Emerge* magazine in 1999 attempting to explain why Jesse Jackson has been successful getting political prisoners turned over to him around the world.

Rev. William Howard accompanied Jackson on some of those trips. He put it this way: "We underestimate the power of the African-American image in the world," he explained. "The Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s still looms larger than any other information that has circulated abroad about us. Quite apart from the image, we also take a sensitivity to situations of human conflict and alienation that allows us to speak about situations of human conflict with an authenticity that most Americans could not use."

Frank E. Watkins, a former Jackson aide, explained the Jackson phenomenon.

"People identify with him as someone who has come from a suffering people and has personally suffered himself," Watkins told me at the time. "They see him as a person who identifies with the underdog. Every place he has been successful was an underdog situation."

"Syria was an underdog to Israel. Cuba is an underdog to the United States; Iraq was an underdog. And the last trip was to the Appalachia of Europe. The leadership [of other countries] has not identified him with unfairness, the imperialism and, in some instances, the racism of the United States."

Steele likes to point out that both Dr. King and Jesse Jackson got their national start with SCLC.

And he, too, has a story about how the international community views African-Americans. At last year's SCLC convention in Dayton, Ohio, he

recounted a conversation he had in December 2004 with Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and his chief of staff.

"I was in Israel talking with the chief of staff and the prime minister and he [the chief of staff] said, 'You all can bring about world peace. You all have been through the Trans-Atlantic African slave trade and you got lynched, you were murdered, your women were raped and killed, but you didn't turn out to be terrorists. You didn't strap yourselves with a bomb, you don't have any blood on your hands.'

"I said, 'What are you saying Mr. Chief of Staff to the Prime Minister?' He said, 'Charles, what I am saying is you can stop the war.'" Steele said representatives of Hamas have gotten in touch with him, urging SCLC to help diffuse tension in the Middle East and he plans to become involved in the Middle East at some point.

Like Jackson, Steele feels he can be more effective in bringing about world peace than high-ranking government officials. He told delegates to the SCLC convention: "We have the vision. We're the only one in the world with the moral authority to bring about resolutions to problems and conflicts and the fact that people really don't understand how to get along."

He added, "We're the organization that Dr. King so often talked about. We're the organization that when people think of world peace, they think of Dr. King, Dr. Abernathy and other [SCLC] civil rights leaders."

Steele continued: "I'm sorry to disappoint y'all but President Bush can't do it. Condoleezza Rice can't do it. And I know I'm going to upset some Negroes now: Bill Clinton can't do it."

The audience loved it. "It's going to take a moral authority to bring about world peace," Steele continued. "That's what SCLC is doing. We're the answer."

While it is unclear whether anyone has the answer to the Middle East conflict, former South African President Nelson Mandela and Bishop Desmond Tutu have publicly acknowledged that they drew strength and inspiration from the U.S. Civil Rights Movement.

This is my Black History Month question: Are we doing anything today that oppressed people around the world will be eager to emulate? If not, we need to get busy.

*George E. Curry is editor-in-chief of the NNPA News Service and BlackPressUSA.com. To contact Curry or to book him for a speaking engagement, go to his Web site, www.georgecurry.com.*

# Texan Becomes First Black House Speaker...

► **Continued from Page 1**  
gressional Record and provides stenographic support to committees for all hearings, meetings, and markup sessions) and the Office of House Employment Counsel (which provides advice about employment practices and acts as legal representation for all employing authorities in the House.)

The office was first established in April of 1789, when the House of Representatives held its first meeting. While some duties have been added throughout the years, many of the functions of this office have remained the same for over 200 years.

Miller, who holds an executive master's degree from the Georgetown School of Business, has a strong background in Washington politics having served in the Clinton admin-

istration as Deputy Assistant to the President for Legislative Affairs for the House, the director of Government Relations for the Federal Trade Commission and as Bureau Chief for Consumer Information at the Federal Communications Commission.

"After more than a decade of serving individual members of the House, I look forward to the opportunity to work on the behalf of the entire body," Miller said. "Having proudly served the leaders of this nation, alongside some of the brightest and hard-working staff, I am proud to undertake this new challenge to serve Congress and the American people." But Miller, a longtime supporter of the NAACP, who has dedicated her life to service, has also demonstrated her ability to lead by serving as Washington, D.C. branch

president of the organization in 2004.

House Majority Whip James E. Clyburn, also a long-standing member of the NAACP, was among the first to congratulate Miller on her appointment saying, "I am excited to extend my most heartfelt congratulations to Lorraine C. Miller on the news of her appointment to the Clerk of the House for the 110th Congress. Lorraine has had a remarkable career of public service, through her many years in the House of Representatives as well as important positions in the executive branch. This appointment is well deserved and I applaud the Speaker on this outstanding selection."

"As the first African-American Clerk of House, and only the third woman Clerk in over 200 years, this

appointment is nothing short of historic. I am proud to see an unprecedented level of diversity at the highest ranks of power in the 110th Congress, and Ms. Miller's appointment is another step in the right direction. It is fitting, on the eve of Black History Month, to honor a woman who is not only helping break the marble ceiling but is also breaking racial barriers."

"It has been a privilege to work closely with Lorraine and I know she will approach her new position with the skill, integrity, and grace that she has demonstrated throughout her distinguished career. She will prove to be one of the finest Clerks the House of Representatives has ever seen." Clyburn was the second African American to achieve the rank of House Majority Whip.

# Sudan Divestment Movement is Growing....

► **Continued from Page 1**  
ing the states the right to divest public pension funds from such companies and requiring the Government Accounting Office (GAO) to report all Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board investments in such companies.

Among the companies that do business with the Sudan and get federal government contracts are Siemens AG, Alstom Power Inc., Schlumberger Technology Corp., and Kuwait Petroleum Corp.

"No one should have to worry that their tax dollars are supporting genocide," Lee said. "This bill is designed to wash the blood off of our federal contracts, protect the right of states to divest their own public pension funds from companies doing business in Sudan and increase the financial pres-

sure on Khartoum to end the genocide in Darfur."

Lee said that Sudan-friendly companies did about \$600 billion in federal contracts from 2004-2006.

Six states have divested from companies doing business in the Sudan: California, Maine, Illinois, New Jersey, Connecticut and Oregon. A spokesman from the Sudan Divestment Task Force said that 25 other states are being targeted for consideration of divestment this year.

The spokesman said that divestment campaigns are in the works in cities such as Washington, D.C., New York, Chicago and Los Angeles.

The divestment campaign has the support of the CBC, the NAACP and the Rainbow-Push Coalition. Rep. Maxine Waters (D-Calif.) said she understands how di-

vestment can contribute to change in America's foreign policy as well as a foreign country's domestic policy towards its citizens.

When she was a California assemblywoman in the 1980s, Waters led the efforts to have the California pension system divest from companies that did business with apartheid South Africa. Her efforts were a model for many states and cities and are credited by Black leaders in South Africa for implementing a free society in the country.

Waters said that Lee's bill is a good one.

"This bill will make a difference for the people of Darfur," she said. "If people are informed about what is going on there, they will support Barbara's bill."

Richmond Mayor Douglas Wilder said that his city council has not considered

an anti-Darfur resolution, but more needs to be done.

"I think it is important that we take action through our elected representatives," Wilder said. "Rwanda took us by surprise but we know what is going on in Darfur. If the United States had the slightest intervention, it would stop what is going on there."

Oakland Mayor Ronald Dellums, who has served as a political mentor to Lee, said that he defers to her on the issue. Dellums, a former congressman, said that his administration is studying divestment and may take action later on in the year.

"There is a genocide taking place and this great nation has an obligation to put a stop to it," he said. "It was this administration that termed it 'genocide', so they need to do something about it."

# Erica Hubbard Takes Career to Higher Levels...

► **Continued from Page 1**  
derson in Lions Gate Film, Akeelah and the Bee starring Angela Bassett, Keke Palmer and Laurence Fishburne.

Currently, Erica Hubbard is a series regular on Lincoln Heights as Cassie Sutton. The premise follows a young cop played by Rus-

sell Hornsby, who moves his wife, son and two daughters from the suburbs to the inner-city. The show is produced by Kevin Hooks and Kathleen McGhee Anderson. Lincoln Heights airs 7/6c Mondays on ABC Family.

**About Erica Hubbard:** Erica Hubbard started her

career in 1988 doing voice-overs and starring in commercials such as: McDonald's, MCI, Reebok and Sears. She has worked in many markets, including Chicago, New York and California.

Ms. Hubbard has performed in feature films distributed by Paramount,

20th Century Fox and TSI-BILI Pictures. She has starred in television shows on various networks such as: CBS, NBC, MTV and the WB. In addition, she has graced the pages of many popular magazines, including *Seventeen*, *Honey*, *Ebony* and *YM* (as the *Noxzema Girl*).

**CALIFORNIA ADVOCATE**  
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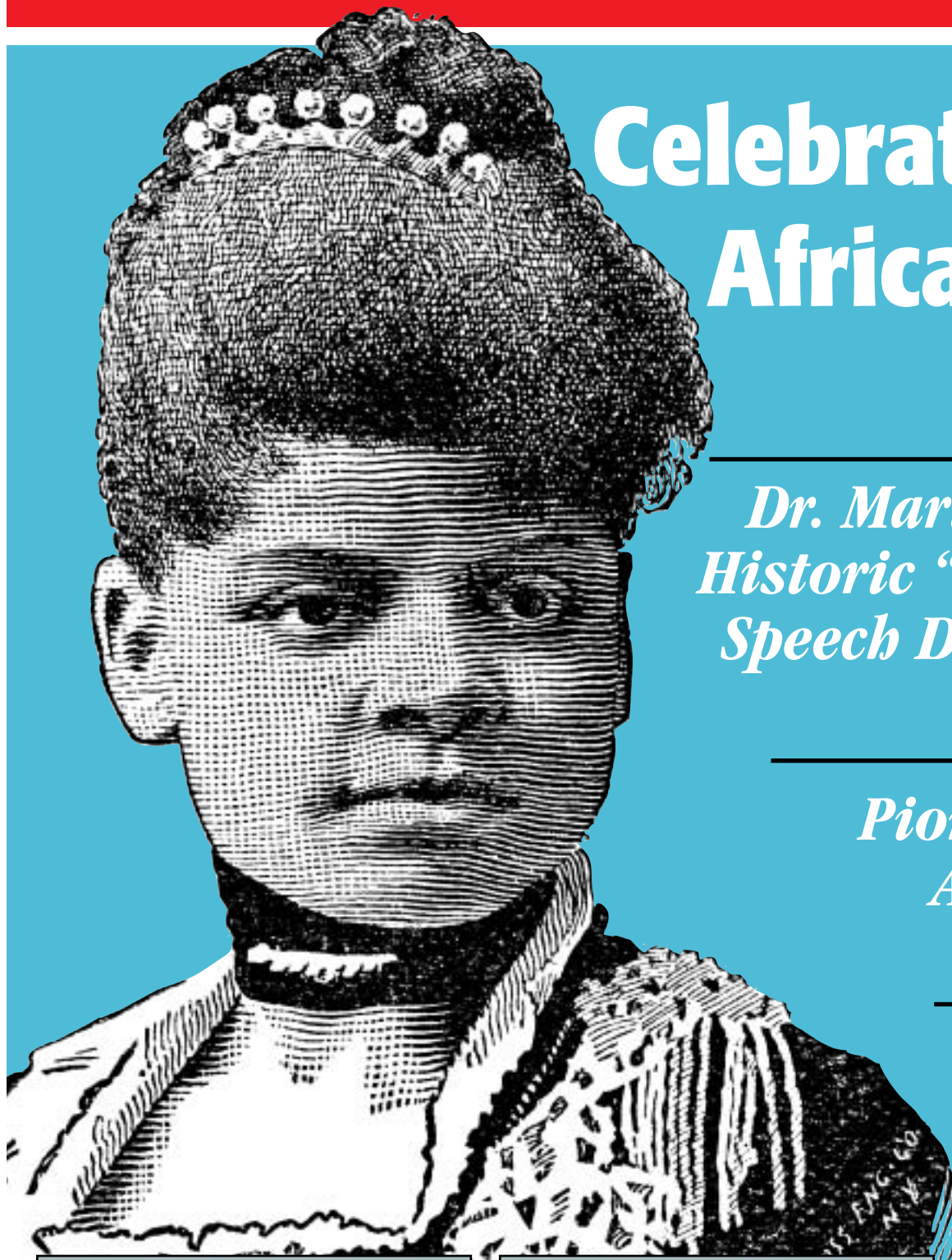
Urban League of Metropolitan Denver  
Los Angeles Urban League  
Mayme Clayton Library in Culver City  
United Negro College Fund in the San Francisco and Los Angeles areas  
BERN - Macy's Black Employee Resource Network  
Black Coalition on AIDS in San Francisco  
Friends of the Children in Bayview Hunters Point, San Francisco  
New Connections - Tranquillium in Richmond, California  
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NAACP Image Awards in Los Angeles  
Pan African Film & Arts Festival in Los Angeles  
Black Movie Awards in Los Angeles  
Urban Influencer Awards in Los Angeles  
Gospel River Festival in Sacramento  
Juneteenth Celebration in San Jose  
Black Expo in Sacramento and Oakland  
Ivory Arts Cheers and Dance Competition in Oakland  
Kwanzaa Gift Show in Oakland  
Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Parade & Gala in Las Vegas  
Frederick D. Patterson Awards Gala in Oakland





# BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Friday, February 16, 2007



## Celebrating The Pioneers of African-American History

### *In This Issue*

*Dr. Martin Luther King's Historic "I Have A Dream" Speech Delivered in 1963*

See Page 12

*Pioneers of African-American History*

Pages 2-9

*Pioneers of the Black Press*

Pages 10-11



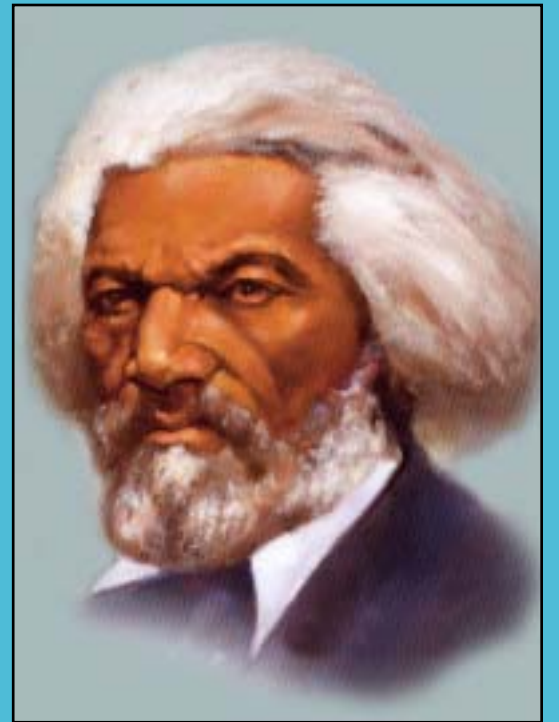
Carl J. Murphy



Charlotta Spears Bass



Cornelius A. Scott



Frederick Douglass



Ida B. Wells Barnett



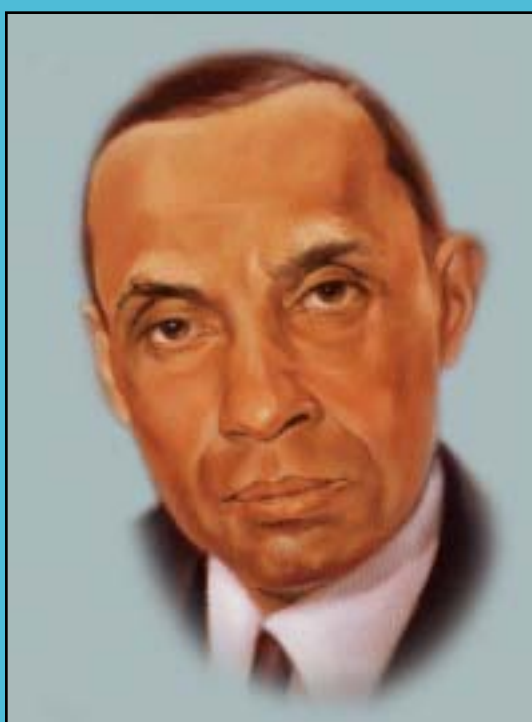
John B. Russwurm



John Sengstacke



Plummer B. Young



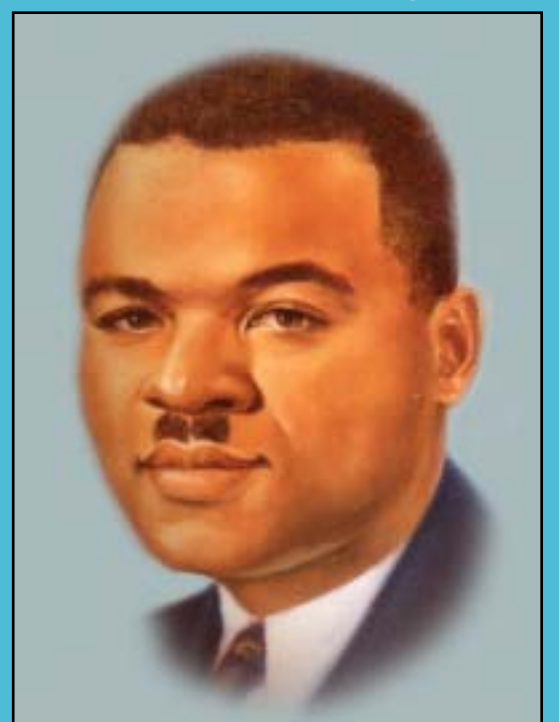
Robert L. Vann



Robert S. Abbott



Samuel E. Cornish



William A. Scott

# The California Advocate

# BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Black History Month  
Friday, February 16, 2007  
Section B  
California Advocate

## Major General Benjamin O. Davis Jr. (b. 1913)

The story of African Americans in the military in the twentieth century can be told almost completely through the career of one man: Benjamin O. Davis Jr. Like his father before him, he was a pioneer in the U.S. Army; but he would have even more success be-

steps, however. He had heard about the extreme prejudice at the academy. No black had graduated since Charles Young nearly fifty years before. And Davis knew firsthand about the segregation in the army, where his father had served in all-black units for his en-

weds traveled to Davis's first posting – Fort Benning, Georgia, in the heart of the segregated South.

Davis was promoted to first lieutenant in 1937, and two years later to captain. Every year, he was posted somewhere else. He worried that like his father he would be shuttled around as the army tried to find something for him to do that would not involve commanding white troops. But by the time he was promoted to captain, World War II would change everything.

In September 1939 Nazi forces under German leader Adolf Hitler invaded Poland and moved west, taking France in June 1940. England suffered under massive German bombing raids from August through October 1940. Many people in the United States were against entering the war to help England, but President Franklin D. Roosevelt believed that the country should be prepared for war. Not only was the Nazi threat real, but U.S. relations with Germany's ally Japan were deteriorating. It was time for action.

The Army Air Corps (there was no separate air force at the time) rushed to train more pilots. Pressured by black civil rights groups such as the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), the Army Air Corps established an Advancement Army Flying School at Tuskegee Institute. Benjamin O. Davis Jr. was in the first class of thirteen aviation cadets at Tuskegee.

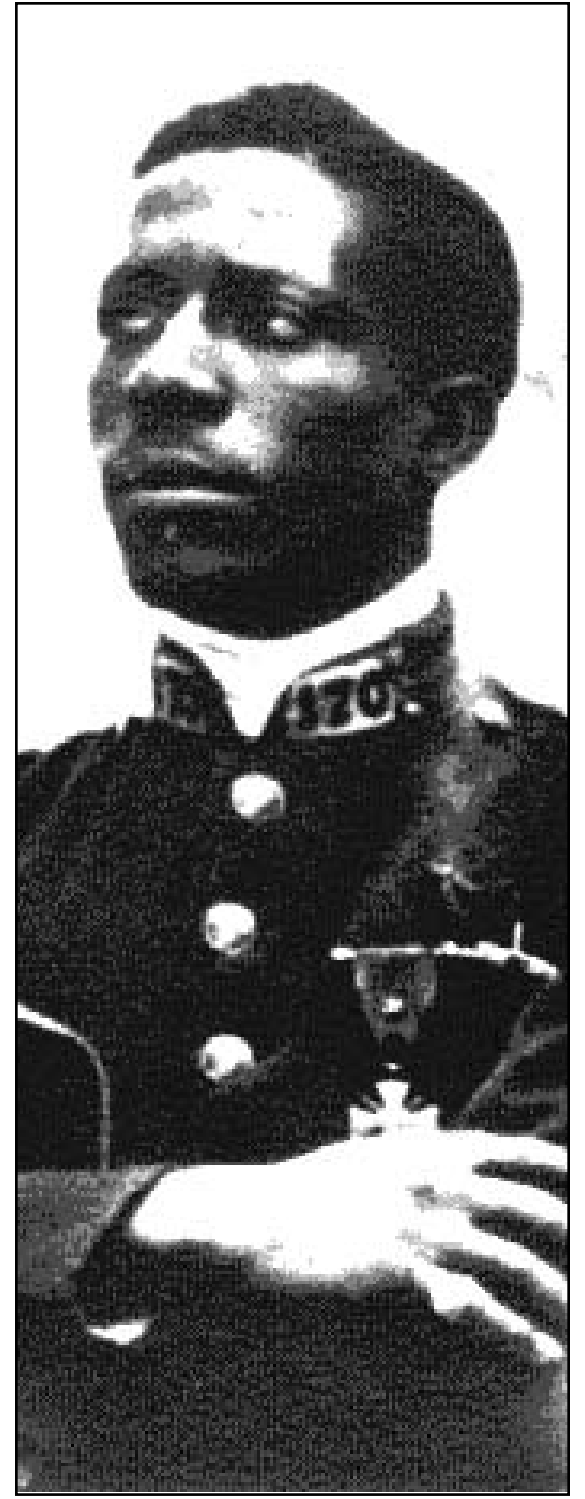
On December 7, 1941, while Davis was at Tuskegee learning to fly, Japan bombed the U.S. Pacific Fleet at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. After Pearl Harbor, there was no escape from the conflict that consumed the rest of the world. The United States entered World War II.

Davis was eager to get into the action, but the U.S. Army was not yet ready for a black flying squadron. Following graduation in the spring of 1942, Davis was appointed commandant of cadets at Tuskegee. He concentrated on excellence. He planned to be ready when the new U.S. Air Force allowed black fliers into the fight.

Finally, in early April 1943, the Ninety-ninth Pursuit Squadron, made up of airmen trained at Tuskegee and under the command of Colonel Benjamin O. Davis Jr., headed to North Africa, where Germany and its ally Italy were trying to gain control. On June 2, flying a strafing mission over an island off Sicily, the Ninety-ninth saw its first combat – but not the last. Early in July, the Ninety-ninth invaded Sicily and helped to capture it. Afterward, Davis took charge of the 332d Fighter Group, which included three new squadrons and several support units. He returned to the United States, where a different kind of fight awaited him: attempts were being made to prevent black flying units from being assigned to combat areas. Davis testified forcefully to the competence and courage of his men. His persistence paid off.

In 1944, Davis's 332d finally headed out again for the Italian front. Soon joined by the Ninety-ninth Pursuit Squadron, the 332d was the largest fighter group there. They soon gained a reputation as skilled bomber escorts. It was deadly work. In October, a total of fifteen African American pilots were downed during their missions. The following April, after winter weather halted the air war, they flew fifty-four combat missions. They lost several planes and pilots but also shot down seventeen enemy aircraft. Colonel Davis's 332d would be the first all-black unit to be integrated into the larger air force.

In April 1945, Germany surrendered; and in August, Japan surrendered. The war was over. General Benjamin O. Davis Sr. flew to Italy to personally



pin the Distinguished Flying Cross on the uniform of his son, Colonel Benjamin O. Davis Jr.

Davis's next assignment was to head the 447th Bombardment Group, a newly trained black flying unit formed in 1943 under pressure from black groups and some members of Congress. The Air Force had no real intention of sending relatively inexperienced pilots on bombing missions and had hoped that the war would end before the 447th was sent into action. The war did end, and a new era was about to begin. President Roosevelt died in 1945, and his vice president, Harry S. Truman, assumed the presidency. In 1948, President Truman established a commission on equal treatment and opportunity for blacks in the armed services. Both General Davis and Colonel Davis testified before that commission that segregation was harmful not only to black servicemen but also to the armed services in general. The new Secretary of the Air Force, Stuart Symington, decided that Colonel Davis's 332d would be the first all-black unit to be integrated into the larger air force.

Davis continued to receive promotions. Over the next two decades, he was named brigadier general (while serving in the Korean War in 1955) and later Chief of Staff, United Nations Command, the second highest position in the United Nations military. He became the first black to command an air base, Godman Field in Kentucky. He retired in 1970 at the age of fifty-seven, with the rank of permanent major general. In addition to the Distinguished Flying Cross, his medals included the Air Medal with four Oak Leaf Clusters, the Legion of Merit Award, and the French Croix de Guerre with Palm.

During General Davis's long career, blacks had managed to integrate just about all levels of the service, but Davis was "the only" or "the first" black in his positions and commands. In 1971, one year after his retirement, black officers still represented less than 2 percent of all the air force officers. But General Benjamin O. Davis Jr. was proud of his country's achievement. He entitled his autobiography *Benjamin O. Davis, Jr., American*.



cause of the changing times.

Davis was born on December 18, 1912, at just about the time his father, Benjamin O. Davis Sr., was assigned to service in the Mexican Border Patrol. Benjamin Jr. was only four years old when his mother, Elnora Dickerson Davis, died after giving birth to her third child. For a time, his father took care of the children with help from Elnora's sisters. But when Davis Sr. was posted to the Philippines, he sent the children to live with his parents in Washington, D.C. Three years later, Davis Sr. remarried, and the children went to live with him and their stepmother in Tuskegee, Alabama, where he taught military science and tactics at all-black Tuskegee Institute.

Benjamin Jr. was a typical "army brat." He moved often and learned early to adjust to new surroundings. He started public school at Tuskegee and finished in Cleveland, Ohio, at Central High School. In his senior year he was elected president of the student council.

Davis then enrolled at Western Reserve University but transferred to the University of Chicago, where he majored in mathematics. He made the move to Chicago because his father wanted him to go to the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. Chicago had a black congressman, Oscar De Priest, who would be able to appoint Davis to the academy. Davis was not so sure he wanted to follow in his father's foot-

print career. He did not approach the West Point entrance examination with enthusiasm. Still, it was a jolt when he learned that he had failed the test.

That failure was the spur that Davis needed. He determined he would prove to his father and to himself that he could not only qualify for the academy but do well. Reappointed by De Priest, he studied hard for the examination and passed. He entered West Point on July 1, 1923.

Resentful of someone different in their midst, the other cadets subjected Davis to the "silent treatment." For an entire year, no one spoke to him unless absolutely necessary. At the end of that plebe year, he was congratulated by some of his classmates, but the silence soon descended again. For his entire four years at West Point, he never had a roommate. But he did not complain not even to his father. He realized that complaining would only make things worse, and that there was little he could do but stick it out and try to maintain his dignity as best he could.

At his graduation on June 12, 1926, Davis received his diploma from General John J. Pershing and his commission as a second lieutenant. He also received a rash of publicity as the first black West Point graduate in the twentieth century. That same year, he married Agatha Scott of New Haven, Connecticut, whom he had met in his junior year at the academy. The newly-



State Center Community College District

# WALL OF HONOR

*Inductees for*

# 2007

<b>Dr. Ned Doffoney</b>	<b>Anne Lopez Gaston</b>
<b>Charles Francis</b>	<b>Willie L. Perry</b> <i>(posthumously)</i>



## Wall of Honor

6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.  
Wednesday, February 28, 2007

African American  
Historical and Cultural Museum  
1857 Fulton Street  
Fresno, California

### Wall of Honor Committee



Dorothy Smith  
Carolyn Drake  
Pam Fobbs  
Robert Fox  
Cal Johnson  
Teresa Patterson  
Kehinde Solwazi  
Dympna Ugwu-Oju

## HISTORY OF WALL OF HONOR

The Wall of Honor was established at the African American Historical and Cultural Museum in 1996. The Wall of Honor is sponsored by State Center Community College District and recognizes the contributions of outstanding African-Americans.

Those inducted onto the Wall of Honor must have either attended or worked for State Center Community College District at one of its colleges, centers or district office. The district includes Fresno City College, Reedley College and Centers in Clovis, Madera and Oakhurst.



# The California Advocate

# BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Black History Month  
Friday, February 16, 2007  
Section B  
California Advocate

## Harriet Tubman (1820-1913)



Harriet Tubman, one of the most famous conductors on the Underground Railroad often worked closely with Frederick Douglass. Tubman was born on the plantation of Edward Brodas in Dorchester County, Maryland. Her parents, Harriet Greene and Benjamin Ross, were enslaved. When she was born, she was named Araminta; but later she was called Harriet, after her mother. When Harriet was six, her owner hired her out to work for local people, who treated her cruelly. On the Brodas plantation, she received an injury that would cause her to suddenly lose consciousness at random times for the rest of her life. She had attempted to block the way of an overseer chasing after a slave who was trying to escape. A brick intended for the runaway hit her instead.

In 1848, Harriet mar-

ried John Tubman, a freedman. When she confided in him that she wanted to escape, he threatened to report her. But when Harriet learned that she had been sold to a Georgia slave trader, she fled and made her way to Philadelphia. After two years in Philadelphia, Harriet learned that her sister and her sister's children were about to be sold. She returned to Maryland to assist her sister's husband in rescuing his family from a slave pen in Cambridge, Maryland. Not long after that daring rescue, she returned to the Brodas plantation. She wanted to persuade her husband to join her in the North. Instead, she found that he had remarried. Undaunted, Harriet brought out eleven slaves, including one of her brothers and his wife.

By 1851, she had become a legend as a con-

ductor on the Underground Railroad. She established a pattern that she maintained for six years, until 1857. Each year she made two trips to the South, one in the spring and one in the fall. She spent the winters in St. Catherine's, Ontario, where many fugitive slaves had settled, and the summers working in hotels in places such as Cape May, New Jersey, to earn money for her trips. In the spring of 1857, she managed to rescue her aged parents.

By the fall of 1858, Tubman had helped more than 300 slaves reach the North and freedom. She had come to be called Moses for leading her people to the promised land. By 1860, the reward for her capture was \$40,000 – a huge sum in those days. In December 1860, she made her last trip as a conductor on the Underground Railroad. By early 1861, the North and South were at war, and it was no longer possible to continue her trips south.

During the Civil War, Tubman served the Union cause in several ways. In May 1862, months before the first Northern black regiments were authorized, Tubman went to South Carolina with a group of missionary-teachers to aid the hundreds of escaped slaves who had made their way to Union lines after the Union fleet had captured the South Carolina sea islands. She helped the women start a laundry business and

also nursed both soldiers and freedmen at the army hospital on the islands.

Tubman also recruited a group of former slaves as Union scouts. They hunted for Confederate camps and reported on enemy troop movements and on the locations of cotton warehouses, ammunition depots, and slaves waiting to be liberated.

After about two years of serving the Union Tubman received word that her parents, old and in poor health, needed her attention. She traveled to Auburn, New York, where she had bought a home for them, and cared for them until she herself became ill. But Harriet was strong. Soon enough, she was back on her feet, working as matron of the Colored Hospital at Fortress Monroe.

After the war, Tubman tried, but failed, to secure a government pension for her service to the Union forces. So she started selling eggs and vegetables door-to-door. A neighbor helped her write her story, *Scenes from the Life of Harriet Tubman*. The book brought in a small income. In March 1869, she married Nelson Davis, more than twenty years her junior. He suffered from tuberculosis contracted during the war. Selfless as always, she cared for him until he died in 1888, at age forty-four. As his widow, she finally collected a military pension of \$20 per month. She died on March 10, 1913.



## Senator Blanche Kelso Bruce (1841-1898)

Blanche Kelso Bruce served in the Union army during the Civil War. In the Reconstruction period that followed, he was the first black person to serve a full term in the U. S. Senate.

Bruce was born to a slave woman and a white plantation owner near Farmville, Virginia. He was permitted an education and also trained as a printer's apprentice. A few years before the Civil War, his owner moved the household from Virginia to Mississippi and then to Missouri. In Missouri, the twenty-year-old Bruce escaped from slavery with two of his brothers just as the Civil War broke out.

Bruce and his brothers made their way to Hannibal, Missouri, where they tried unsuccessfully to enlist in the Union army. He then moved to Lawrence, Kansas, where he worked as a teacher and established the state's first elementary school for black children. He also attended Oberlin College in Ohio for a time and worked as a porter on a Mississippi River steamboat. In 1864, he moved to Hannibal, Missouri and organized the state's first school for black children.

Not long after the Union victory in the civil War, Congress passed the reconstruction Act of 1867. This law placed ten southern states under military law and enabled blacks to vote and hold office. Many whites and blacks from the North traveled to the former Confederacy. Southern whites called them "carpetbaggers" (interlopers or outsiders; the nickname came from the soft satchels made of carpet material that were a common type of traveling bag at the time) and "scalawags" (rascals; the word came from the Scottish for undersized, worthless animals). Al-

though some went for selfish purposes—to make money or gain political office—many went because they could get land cheaply, because they wanted to help the former slaves, or because they wish to claim their rightful place as citizens of Southern society.

In 1867, Bruce had gone to work as a porter on the steamship Columbia, traveling the Mississippi River and seeing first hand the devastation of the former Confederacy as a result of the war. Two years later, he settled in Floreyville, Mississippi, where he was able to buy land and start a farm. Eventually, he became a successful planter. He also entered local politics and held a succession of offices, including sheriff, tax collector, and supervisor of education. By 1870 he was an emerging figure in state politics; over the next few years he served in a series of appointive offices, including sergeant at arms in the state senate. In February 1874, the Republican-controlled Mississippi legislature elected Bruce to the United States Senate.

P.B.S. Pinchback, the African American former lieutenant governor (and briefly acting governor) of Louisiana's Reconstruction government, had been elected to the Senate in 1873, but his election was still under contention. Eventually he was denied the seat. Bruce thus was not the first African American to be elected to the Senate, but he was the first to serve a full term. (And he was the last until 1972, nearly one hundred years later, when Edward Brooke was elected to the Senate from Massachusetts.)

During his six years in the Senate, Bruce encouraged the government to be more generous in issuing western land grants to blacks

who had left the south to seek freedom and opportunity in the West. He also favored distribution of duty-free clothes from England to needy blacks who had migrated to Kansas from the south. He campaigned for desegregation to the U.S. Army units and for a more humane government Indian policy. He also opposed a bill to bar Chinese immigration to the United States. He urged better race relations and supported development of the Mississippi River.

By 1880, Democrats had regained control of the Mississippi legislature, and they elected a white man, James Z. George, to succeed Bruce. In the 1880 presidential campaign, Bruce served briefly as presiding officer of the Republican Party convention in Chicago, Illinois, and received eight votes as the party's vice presidential candidate.

Following the close of his Senate service on March 3, 1881, Bruce rejected an offer to be minister of Brazil because slavery was still practiced there. He accepted an appointment as registrar of the treasury and served until the Democrats were in power in Washington. Bruce lectured and wrote magazine articles, and was superintendent of an exhibit on black achievement at the World's Cotton Exposition in New Orleans during 1884 and 1885. Three years later, in 1888, he received eleven votes for vice president at the Republican Party convention that nominated Benjamin Harrison. In 1889, after Harrison won election as president, he appointed Bruce recorder of deeds for the District of Columbia. Bruce served in this office for four years until 1893 then again from 1897 until his death in 1898.



The California Advocate **BLACK HISTORY MONTH** Black History Month Friday, February 16, 2007 Section B California Advocate **B**

# Granville T. Woods (1856-1910)

"The greatest colored inventor in the history of the race, and equal, if not superior to any inventor in the country," declared the Catholic Tribune in 1886. The newspaper was referring to Grandville T. Woods. Inspired by the way electricity was transforming the world, Woods had unraveled the mysteries of electric currents and begun to change the world himself.

The son of Tailor and Martha Woods, Granville was born free in Columbus, Ohio, on April 23, 1856. When he was only ten, he quit school to help his family and went to work in a machine shop. Out of his hands-on education grew an enthusiasm for inventing. At age sixteen, Woods moved to Missouri and took a job as a fireman and engineer on the railroad. An avid reader during his leisure time, he borrowed books on electricity from the local library. Friends and co-workers recognized his hunger for scientific knowledge and gave him all the books they could find on the subject. Woods practiced at work what he had learned from books.

Moving to Springfield, Illinois and then to New York, Woods found work

wherever he could, first in a steal mill and then in another machine shop

But his heart was set on going to electrical and mechanical engineering school where he could take real courses and eventually he did.

With his new knowledge, he secured a job as an engineer on Ironsides, a British steamship. He worked on this ship for two years, until a job as an engineer on the Danville and Southern Railroad took him away.

By 1881, Woods was ready for a new challenge and opened an electrical equipment factory in Cincinnati, Ohio. After years of working in positions that were beneath his abilities, he believed that he could fare better as his own boss. He worked diligently for two years. On June 3, 1884 at the age of twenty-eight, Woods receive his first patent. It was for an improved steam-boiler furnace for a steam driver engines. On December 2, 1884 he receive another patent, this time for a stronger clear-er telephone transmitter. It set a new direction for his imagination.

In 1885 woods patented a device that combined the telegraph with the telephone. Woods called it a "telegrapho-

ny." Instead of reading and writing the Morse code signals an operator could speak near the telegraph key. This device made it possible to receive both oral and signal messages clearly over the same line without making changes in the instrument and without understanding Morse code. Woods's telegraphony was purchased by the American Bell telephone Company of Boston, Massachusetts, for a large sum of money.

Woods continued to explore the power of telegraphy. His next invention, patented on November 15, 1887, allowed conductors and engineers on moving trains to send and receive messages for the first time.

With this success, the inventor formed the Woods Electric Company. Orders for his devices came from around the world. In 1890, Woods moved to New York City and joined his brother Lyates Woods, also an inventor. They made a brilliant team. By 1907, Granville Woods would have some sixty patents to his credit.

A few of Woods inventions stood out from the rest. Some people considered the "third rail" to be his greatest invention. Used in subway systems

throughout the world, the third rail put electrical conductors along the path of the train so that the cars would receive the current directly without needing an electric engine. On January 29, 1901, Woods received a patent for the "third rail," and he sold this invention to General Electric company of New York shortly after.

Other people believe that Woods's air brake technology was just as important as the third rail. Starting in 1902, he had developed several devices that led to the automatic air brake. Woods eventually sold this system to Westinghouse Air Brake Company of Pennsylvania.

Called the "Black Edison," Woods faced as many difficulties as victories and never rested on his laurels. Once, in 1892, he was arrested and kept in jail in connection with charges he himself had brought against the American Engineering Company for stealing one of his patents. Legal fees he could barely afford and powerful enemies in business and politics made his life a struggle right to the end.

He died of a stroke in 1910 and was buried in New York City.



***"In 1885 woods patented a device that combined the telegraph with the telephone. Woods called it a "telegraphony." Instead of reading and writing the Morse code signals an operator could speak near the telegraph key. This device made it possible to receive both oral and signal messages clearly over the same line without making changes in the instrument and without understanding Morse code. Woods's telegraphony was purchased by the American Bell telephone Company of Boston, Massachusetts, for a large sum of money."***

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# BLACK HISTORY MONTH

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# BLACK HISTORY MONTH

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# The California Advocate

# BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Black History Month  
Friday, February 16, 2007  
Section B  
California Advocate

## Lieutenant Henry O. Flipper (1856-1940)

Born in the same year as Booker T. Washington, Henry Ossian Flipper grew up to be the first African American to graduate from West Point, the United States Military Academy.

Flipper was born in slavery in Tomasville, Georgia. His mother, Isabella Buckhalter, was the slave of the Reverend Reuben H. Lucky. His father, Festus Flipper, a skilled shoemaker, belonged to Ephraim G. Ponder. Isabella and Festus had to get permission from their masters to marry and start a family. Henry was the first born of their five boys.

When the Civil War broke out, Ephraim Ponder, like many other Southern slave owners, decided to move his people to a safer place. He chose Atlanta. Festus Flipper arranged to purchase his wife and sons so they could all move to Atlanta with Ponder.

When the Civil War ended, the Flipper family, all free now, remained in Atlanta. Festus Flipper set up shop as a shoemaker. Henry and his brothers attended schools run by the American Missionary Association. One of Ponder's slaves had taught Henry how to read. He was an eager student, who later attended Atlanta University.

Recognizing Flipper's ability, James Crawford Freeman of Griffin, Georgia, a black man elected to the U.S. House of Representatives during Reconstruction, appointed him to West Point in 1873.

Flipper was not the first black cadet. Two other young black men had been appointed to West Point in 1870. Michael Howard had failed his courses. James Webster Smith, of South Carolina, also had difficulty keeping up with his academic work and had to repeat a year. Flipper roomed with Smith, who was eventually discharged from the academy.

Left alone, Flipper faced the daunting life of a black cadet at West Point. He did not complain. In fact, he stated that he was generally treated as a peer. He concentrated on his studies, learning Spanish and majoring in civil engineering. He too had "academic deficiencies" and graduated fiftieth in a class of seventy-six in June 1877. Nevertheless, as the first black graduate of West Point, he was hailed for his achievement by other blacks. It was a milestone.

In November 1880, Lieutenant Flipper was posted to Fort Davis in the Oklahoma Territory. At Fort Davis, Flipper oversaw the everyday, non-military supplies that the men could purchase at the post exchange, the fort's general store.

The commanding officer of Fort Davis at the time was Colonel W.R. Shafter, who had commanded several all-black units in the Civil War, notably the Seventeenth United States Colored Infantry. Less than a year after Flipper's posting, Colonel Shafter claimed Flipper had embezzled

\$3,971.77. He said Flipper had failed to mail this amount of money to the proper officer and that he, Shafter, had seen Flipper in town, on horseback, with saddlebags. Supposedly fearing that Flipper was about to leave town, Shafter had him arrested.

At the court-martial that followed, Flipper faced two charges. He offered an explanation of the deficit that was convincing enough to cause the officers to find him not guilty on the charge of embezzlement. However, they did find him guilty of the second charge conduct unbecoming an officer. This mysterious charge, never satisfactorily explained, was all the officers needed to dismiss him from service. The real story, according to some scholars, is that Flipper got into trouble by being a black officer who attempted to assert his social equality.

John M. Carroll, historian and author of the 1971 book *The Black Military Experience in the American West*, mentions a letter from a white officer at the post stating that the charges against Flipper had been trumped up. The charges were based not on any wrongdoing of Flipper's but on his daring to act as if he were a social equal to whites. That letter was subsequently destroyed in a fire, but even if it had been introduced at the court-martial, there is little likelihood that it would have swayed the

judges.

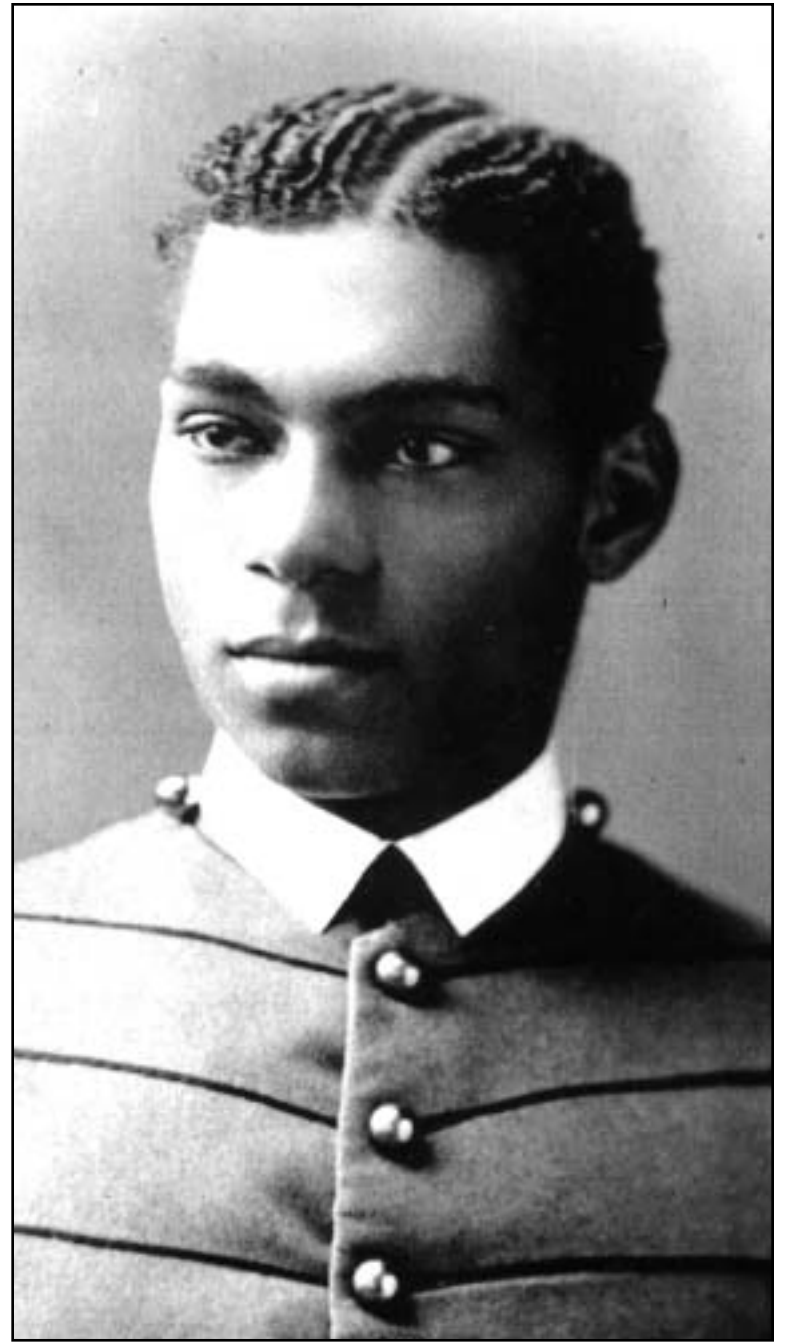
If Flipper hoped for justice by appealing to higher military authorities, he was disappointed. His dismissal was confirmed by President Chester A. Arthur and carried out on June 30, 1882.

Flipper remained in the Southwest. He put his studies of civil engineering and his knowledge of Spanish to good use, validating Spanish and Mexican land grants in the United States and translating the mining laws of Mexico into English. His translation of Mexican Laws and Statutes into English was an important contribution to international law. The National Geographic Society of Civil Engineers invited him to become a member. Clearly, they considered him a gentleman and a professional.

When the Spanish-American War broke out in 1898, Flipper sought the restoration of his officer's commission in the army. Although Flipper had backing from several influential congressmen and newspapers, the army denied his request.

As the years passed, Flipper worked at several jobs: as an engineer for American mining companies in Mexico, as a translator for the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, and as an assistant to the Secretary of the Interior.

In his retirement, Flipper lived with his brother, Bishop Joseph Flipper, in Atlanta. Bishop Flipper was an ordained minister in the African Methodist Episcopal Church.



**"Recognizing Flipper's ability, James Crawford Freeman of Griffin, Georgia, a black man elected to the U.S. House of Representatives during Reconstruction, appointed him to West Point in 1873. as the first black graduate of West Point, he was hailed for his achievement by other blacks. It was a milestone."**

## Governor Pinckney Benton Stewart Pinchback (1837-1921)

While Francis Cardozo was the first black state office holder, P.B.S. Pinchback was the first black American to serve as a state lieutenant governor.

Pinchback was born free on May 10, 1837, in Macon, Georgia. He was the eighth child of Eliza Stewart and Major William Pinchback, a white Mississippi planter. Eliza Stewart had been enslaved when her seven other children were born, but by the time of Pinckney's birth, she had been freed. When Pinckney and his older brother, Napoleon, were nine and sixteen, respectively, their father sent them to Gilmore's School in Cincinnati. After eighteen months, they were recalled home because Major Pinchback was dying. On his death, his relatives seized his estate. Fearing that they might attempt to re-enslave her and her children, Eliza Stewart fled. She went to Cincinnati with her five youngest children—Napoleon, Mary, Pinckney, Adeline, and a baby girl.

Napoleon soon proved mentally unfit to work. So at the age of twelve Pinckney became the primary support of his family. He signed on as a cabin boy on the canal boats running between Cincinnati and Miami, Toledo, Ohio, and Fort Wayne, at a salary of \$8 a month. Hardworking and smart, he was eventually promoted to stew-

ard. In 1860, he married Nina Emily Hawthorne, whom he had met in Memphis.

After the Confederates fired on Fort Sumter in 1861, Pinchback started looking for a way to get into the fight on the Union side. He found it in New Orleans, a cosmopolitan city with a large population of free blacks. Union navy admiral David Farragut had captured New Orleans in 1862. Soon after, Major General Benjamin J. Butler put to a call for a regiment of black soldiers, the Corps d'Afrique, for the Louisiana National Guard. Pinchback jumped at the chance to join the military. He traveled to New Orleans, where he set about recruiting a company.

The enthusiastic twenty-four-year-old managed to raise an entire company in just over a week. The Second Louisiana Native Guards entered into service for the Union on October 12, 1862, under the command of Captain P.B.S. Pinchback.

In contrast to the Union army in the North, in Louisiana, at first, black troops could serve under black officers. All three of the regiments – the First, Second, and Third Louisiana Native Guards (unlike the other regiments, the last was composed of former slaves) – had black officers.

The black regiments distinguished themselves

in battle, but that did not ensure the military future of their black officers. Pinchback and the other black officers learned that their commissions were merely temporary, pending qualification examinations. In the next few months, one by one they were disqualified and mustered out. Their places were taken by white officers. Of all the original black officers of the Corps d'Afrique, only Pinchback qualified.

Pinchback was determined to have the respect he deserved as a Union officer. He refused to ride on the New Orleans streetcars marked with a large star for "colored" passengers. Whenever he rode a streetcar, he rode alone, the car blocked off so that no white passenger could board. No direct action was taken against Pinchback. Instead, he was denied the opportunity to rise in the ranks of the Corps d'Afrique. Twice he was passed over for promotion.

By September 1863, Pinchback had had enough. He was much too proud to allow the situation to continue. He submitted his letter of resignation.

After the Union victory in the Civil War, the federal government was anxious for the former Confederate states to re-join the Union. But after southerners began to pass a series of laws known as "Black Codes" to limit African American

rights, Congress passed the Reconstruction Act of 1867. This law placed ten southern states under military law and established universal male suffrage, meaning that all men could vote. Republicans gained control of the Reconstruction state governments and encouraged blacks both to vote and seek political office.

Pinchback entered politics in Louisiana and proved to be an able leader. A delegate to the state constitutional convention, Pinchback's major achievement was the successful introduction of the Thirteenth Amendment to the state's constitution, guaranteeing civil rights to all people of the state. He was elected first to the state senate, then as its president *pro tem*. When the lieutenant governor died in 1871, Pinchback succeeded to that office. In early December 1872, Louisiana governor Henry Clay Warmoth was impeached, and Lieutenant Governor Pinchback succeeded him, serving as acting governor from December 9, 1872 to January 13, 1873. Those forty-two days made him the first African American governor of a state—and the only black to hold such a position until the election of L. Douglas Wilder as governor of Virginia in 1990.

In 1872, Pinchback was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives from Louisiana.



**"Pinchback was determined to have the respect he deserved as a Union officer. He refused to ride on the New Orleans streetcars marked with a large star for 'colored' passengers. Whenever he rode a streetcar, he rode alone, the car blocked off so that no white passenger could board."**

# The California Advocate **BLACK HISTORY MONTH**

Black History Month  
Friday, February 16, 2007  
Section B  
California Advocate

## Adam Clayton Powell Jr. (1908-1972)

Adam Clayton Powell Jr. was born in the same year as Thurgood Marshall and, like Marshall, achieved a status in the U.S. government that black Americans born in earlier times could only have dreamed about. Also like Marshall, he used that status to make life better for people of all colors.

Powell was born into a middle-class family and was well educated. His father, the Reverend Adam Clayton Powell Sr., was pastor of Immanuel Baptist Church in New Haven, Connecticut. Soon after the birth of his son, the Reverend Powell accepted an invitation to become pastor of the hundred-year-old Abyssinian Baptist Church in New York City.

Adam Jr. attended college at Colgate University, then did further study at Columbia University in New York City. He earned his degree in divinity from Shaw University in Raleigh, North Carolina, in 1934, then returned home to serve as business manager and director of Abyssinian's social and educational programs. The Great Depression had descended upon the United States, and black Americans were especially hard hit. Seeing the misery around him in Harlem, Powell began to identify with poor blacks. In a time when the federal government had few social welfare programs, he organized and directed at Abyssinian the largest relief bureau ever established by African Americans.

Powell wrote a regular column for the Amsterdamsche Nieuws, New York's largest African American weekly newspaper, exposing the conditions of poverty, hunger, and discrimination for Harlemites and African Americans generally. He also led protests against various forms of discrimination against blacks. When in late 1937 his father retired and he assumed the pastorate of Abyssinian church, he had a major power base from which to work.

Powell ran for a seat on New York's City Council and was the first African

American to sit on the council. Three years later, he ran for election to the U.S. House of Representatives and became the fourth black man to serve in that body since 1901. When he took his seat in the House in 1945, he automatically integrated such congressional facilities as the gymnasium and the barbershop and instructed his staff to use the congressional dining room whether they were hungry or not.

At the time, Washington, D.C., was as deeply segregated as any southern city, and Powell wasted no time introducing measures to end discrimination in public transportation and the practice of barring black journalists from the congressional galleries. It was clear that he intended to represent not just his constituents in Harlem but all African Americans. He was re-elected again and again.

By 1960, when President John F. Kennedy, a Democrat, won election and Democrats were in the majority in the House, Powell had enough seniority to qualify for the post of chairman of the House Education and Labor Committee. It was the most powerful position a black man had ever held in the federal government. Until 1969, when the Republican administration of President Richard M. Nixon came to office, Powell used his power to shepherd a number of important bills through the committee and to passage in Congress. Legislation for which he is credited includes increasing the federal minimum wage and extending it to more occupations, providing for the training of teachers of disabled children, establishing job training programs, increasing the number of children eligible for free school lunches, increasing federal assistance to public libraries, establishing the National Council of the Arts, the Older Americans Act of 1965, and much more. He was considered one of the major architects of the War on Poverty, started

under President Kennedy and continued after Kennedy's assassination by President Lyndon B. Johnson. All this legislation benefited not just black people but poor people, workers, children, and the disabled of all races.

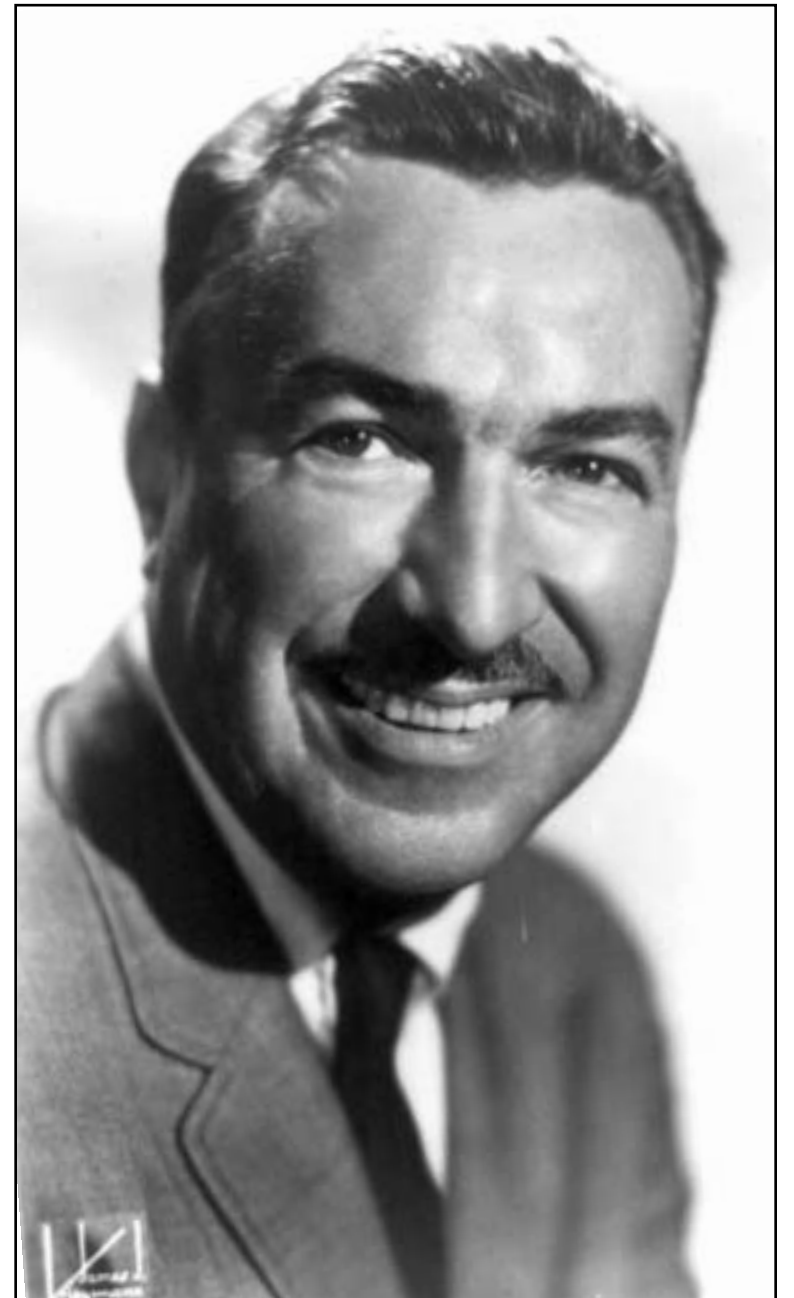
Powell's horizons extended beyond the borders of his own country. Like other black Americans and like Du Bois and Garvey before him he felt a growing bond with other non-white people of the world. He urged African Americans to work against apartheid, the official separation of the races, in white-ruled South Africa. He envisioned a political coalition between African Americans and Puerto Ricans on the mainland United States. After marrying his third wife (earlier marriages to pianist and singer Hazel Scott and actress Isabel Washington had ended in divorce), Yvette Diego Flores Diago, Powell commuted back and forth between Puerto Rico, where Yvette lived with their son; Harlem, where he continued to serve as pastor at Abyssinian Baptist Church; and Washington, D.C., where he sat in Congress.

Powell supported statehood for Puerto Rico and came under fire from Puerto Rican nationalists who were determined to have an independent country. After a group of nationalists attacked his villa in Puerto Rico, Powell arranged to go to Europe to study equal employment opportunities for women. Two young, unmarried women from his Washington staff accompanied him, and according to press reports they spent far more time going to nightclubs and taking sightseeing cruises than studying employment. The trip created a furor back home and was characterized as a "shameless junket." Congress moved to censure him from misusing taxpayers' money. Powell countered that many other congressmen took such luxury trips and that racism and personal and political enmity against him were at the root of the censure.

As if he were not in enough trouble, Powell learned that the IRS was charging him with paying too little in income taxes for the years 1949-1955 (the second time the IRS had made this charge). Then there was the long-running legal battle with one Mrs. Esther James, whom he had accused in 1960 of collecting payoffs for the police in Harlem. She sued him in court and won. He refused to pay the damages assessed and in 1963 the New York Supreme Court issued a warrant for his arrest. After that, Powell returned to New York City only on Sundays to deliver his sermon at Abyssinian Baptist Church.

In one such sermon, delivered on May 29, 1966, he used the term "black power" and later claimed to have originated it. But the leader of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, Stokely Carmichael, who issued a call for "Black Power!" during a speech in June 1966, generally gets the credit. Nevertheless, Powell had sensed that the mood of black Americans was changing. They were tired of nonviolence and turning the other cheek and waiting for white people to give them equality. More and more, there was talk of seizing the rights they were due.

All of Powell's troubles seemed to converge. He was re-elected to Congress in 1966, but when he arrived at the House of Representatives for the start of the new congressional term on February 28, 1967, his fellow representatives refused to seat him, charging him with unbecoming conduct and misusing public funds. Two years later, the U.S. Supreme court ruled that the House had acted unconstitutionally, pointing out that qualifications for admission to the House were age, citizenship, and state residence. Congress has the power to expel a member by a two-thirds vote, but it cannot bar a member before he takes his seat.



Adam Clayton Powell Jr.

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## Congressman Robert Smalls (1839-1915)

The majority of blacks who fought in the Civil War served in the Union army. Robert Smalls had the distinction of serving both the Confederacy and the Union at sea. But he did not voluntarily aid the Confederate cause.

Born in Beaufort County, South Carolina, Smalls had a Jewish father and a black mother. He learned sail-making and rigging from his father. After the Civil War broke out, Smalls was pressed into the Confederate service on the ship Planter. As pilot, Smalls ferried supplies and munitions from Charleston Harbor out to Fort Ripley and Fort Sumter, avoiding the Union blockade.

In the spring of 1862, Robert Smalls had a daring idea. He made up his mind to hijack the Planter. He planned to

make a run for the Union blockade even though two Confederate officers guarded the Planter's black crew. Smalls and his brother John, the assistant pilot on the Planter, enlisted the support of the black crew members. One night when the officers went ashore, the black crew cast off from the dock at Charleston and slowly steamed down the harbor. As the Planter passed Fort Sumter, she fired her guns in salute. Since it was not unusual to see the ship traveling about in the early morning hours, she aroused no suspicion. The planter managed to get by all the Confederate fortifications without any problems. The crew then raised a white flag signaling surrender and made their way at full steam toward the Union ship blockad-

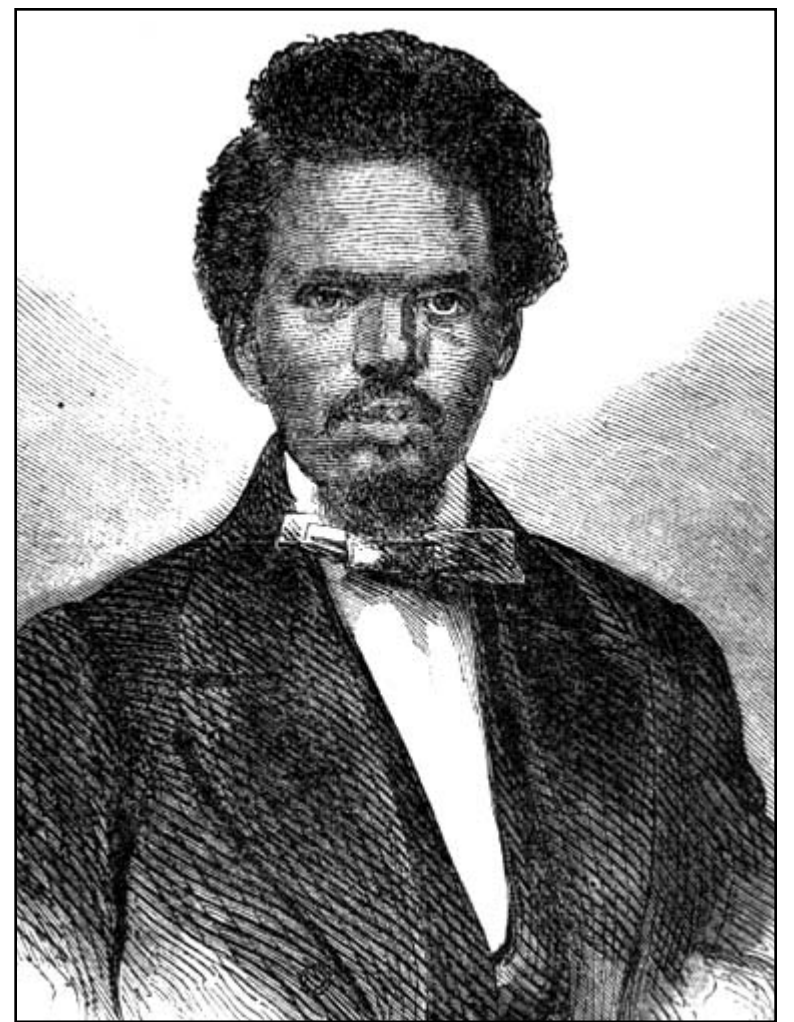
ing the harbor entrance.

Fortunately for Smalls, the Union sailor saw the white flag just before they started to fire on Planter. Holding their fire, they were surprised to see only blacks aboard. Nearing the stern of the Union ship Onward, Robert Smalls stepped forward took off his hat, and said, "Good morning, sir! I've brought you some of the old United States guns, sir!"

The navy had accepted black enlistees even before the Civil War, but there is no evidence that either Smalls or any of his crew actually saw service in the U.S. Navy government records show that Smalls signed a contract to be master of the Planter from February to July 1865. There was always at least one white Union officer on board. It was

against the navy policy to place blacks in command. Smalls and his crew served for the remainder of the Civil War, once narrowly escaping recapture by the Confederates.

After the war, Smalls enlisted in the South Carolina National Guard, where he achieved the rank of major general. He was a delegate to the 1868 South Carolina Constitutional Convention. He then served two terms in the state legislature and two terms in the state senate. Smalls was among the sixteen African Americans who served in the U.S. Congress during Reconstruction. Elected in 1876, 1878, 1880, and 1882, he served longer than any other black congressman of the period. Congressman Smalls died in 1915.



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## Thurgood Marshall (1908-1993)

Like Louis Armstrong, Thurgood Marshall was born into an America where discrimination was condoned, segregation was legal, lynchings were common, and the barriers between black and white seemed insurmountable. He became an attorney and spent most of his career fighting segregation in local, state, and federal courts. In 1967, he became the first African American justice on the U.S. Supreme Court, a position that enabled him to further influence the laws that affected African Americans.

Marshall was born and spent most of his childhood in Baltimore, Maryland. Both his parents had steady jobs; his father, William, worked as a railroad car porter, and his mother, Norma, taught school. Thurgood and his brother Aubrey were brought up to be proud of their heritage and of themselves and to be the best they could at whatever they did. The elder Marshalls hoped their sons would become doctors. Next to ministers, doctors were the most highly respected men in the black community. At the time, there were few black lawyers.

Marshall attended Lincoln University, a black college in Pennsylvania. At the end of his junior year, he married Vivien Burey, whom everyone called Buster, a student at the University of Pennsylvania who dropped out of school to live with her husband. He majored in pre-dentistry at Lincoln but decided to attend law school after graduation. As a youth, he had read the U.S. Constitution and wondered why its words did not seem to apply to blacks. His father had told him that the Constitution and its amendments were the way things were supposed to be, not the way they actually were, and some day that would change. Marshall had determined to use the Constitution and the courts to make things the way they were supposed to be.

There was no law school

for blacks in Maryland, so Marshall applied to Howard University in Washington, D.C. He and Buster moved in with his parents to save money, and Buster worked to pay her husband's tuition. Eventually, they had two children.

Marshall was fortunate to attend Howard University Law School at the time when the school was making the reorganization of its law school a top priority. Charles Hamilton Houston headed the law school and also taught courses: most important, a series of seminars on how existing laws could be made to work for black people. In his sophomore year, Marshall took a course on civil rights law with Houston, the first time such a course had ever been taught.

After obtaining his law degree, Marshall tried to set up a practice in Baltimore. But he soon grew bored with divorce and property cases. Charles Hamilton Houston left Howard to become the chief counsel for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), and he asked Marshall to assist him in a case involving the denial of admission of a black man to the University of Maryland Law School. Marshall worked with Houston, and, in the end, the Maryland Court of Appeals ruled that the state of Maryland must either pay full tuition and commuting expenses to an out-of-state law school or set up a law school for blacks.

Shortly after that, Houston invited Marshall to join him at NAACP headquarters in New York City. Marshall and Buster moved North, and Marshall began an exciting and sometimes dangerous career as a counsel for the civil rights organization. He tried to be everywhere at once: a school desegregation case here, an unequal pay case there, a lynching case somewhere else. Occasionally, he risked his life by going to small towns in the Deep South to represent blacks accused of major crimes. He rarely suc-

ceeded against a system controlled by whites and in which blacks were not allowed to serve on juries, but he was determined to at least put up a good fight.

Marshall successfully argued a variety of cases, such as one concerning voting rights in Texas and another about segregation on interstate buses in Virginia. In 1940, he won the first of twenty-nine cases he argued before the U.S. Supreme Court. Gradually, however, he and others who set policy at the NAACP decided that with his limited staff and financial resources he had to concentrate on cases in which the law seemed to be on the side of black people and that he had a chance of winning. Eventually, they settled on school desegregation.

Back in 1895, in *Plessy v. Ferguson*, a public transportation case in Louisiana, the U.S. Supreme Court had ruled that "separate but equal" facilities for blacks and whites were constitutional, even though everyone knew that facilities just for blacks were never equal to those of whites. In 1945, in the face of glaring evidence that segregated schools for blacks were not equal to white schools, Marshall and the NAACP decided to launch a direct attack on segregation. They felt the time was right. Many black soldiers and pilots had distinguished themselves in World War II, which had just ended. Many whites, especially in the North, had come to feel the segregation was wrong. Some of them worried about the growing threat of Communism in the world and the charge, hard to dispute, by the Communist Soviet Union that the United States preached democracy but did not practice it. Over the years, Marshall and the NAACP pursued a carefully planned campaign to fight school segregation in the courts.

That campaign culminated in the case of *Brown v. Board of Education*, which was actually a group of four

cases concerning school segregation in four different states. The case eventually made its way to the U.S. Supreme Court, where Marshall and his co-counsel successfully proved that segregation schools for blacks not only were not equal to those for whites but were also detrimental to the educational and psychological well-being of their students. "Equal," Marshall stated to the nine justices of the Court, "means getting the same thing, at the same time and in the same place."

Marshall successfully argued his case. In a landmark decision handed down in May 1954, the Court ruled that separate but equal education was unconstitutional and opened the way for the end of legal segregation in all areas of American life. It would take many more years of court cases and two major pieces of federal legislation in the 1960s, but eventually the legal underpinnings of segregation were kicked out from under it.

Buster Marshall died of cancer in 1955. Not long after her death, Marshall met and married Cecilia Suyat, a staffer in the NAACP office. They had no children.

President John F. Kennedy, who assumed office in January 1961, appointed a large number of blacks to federal posts. Marshall served as a judge on the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, which covered New York, Connecticut, and Vermont. During his four-year tenure on that court, he handed down a total of 112 rulings, all of them later upheld by the Supreme Court. In 1965, President Lyndon B. Johnson, who succeeded to the presidency after Kennedy's assassination in 1963, named Marshall to the post of Solicitor General, effectively the government's chief appellate lawyer. In that position, he won fourteen of the nineteen cases he argued before the Supreme Court.



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## Dr. Charles Burleigh Purvis (1842-1929)

While Blanche Kelso Bruce persuaded Congress to assist the freedmen, Charles Burleigh Purvis worked to improve their medical care.

In the 1870s and 1880s, the death rate of black adults in the South were routinely twice as high as those of white adults while the mortality rate of black children under the age of five was often three times as high as that of white children. In many Southern communities, one quarter to one third of the former slaves had died by the mid-1870s.

Charles Burleigh Purvis devoted much of his life to training black doctors to care for their people.

Purvis was one of eight children born to Harriet Forten, daughter of the abolitionist, inventor and businessman James Forten Sr., and Robert Purvis Sr., the wealthy abolitionist and civil rights leader. Charles attended Quaker schools in Bayberry, Pennsylvania. He also learned much from the prominent anti-slavery leaders who were frequent guests in his parents' home. He attended Oberlin Col-

lege in Ohio from 1860 to 1863. He then enrolled in Wooster Medical College (later renamed Western Reserve Medical School) in Cleveland. During the summer of 1864, he worked as a military nurse at Camp Barker and saw first hand how desperately the ex-slaves needed medical care.

Purvis graduated from Wooster Medical College in 1865. His experiences at Camp Barker may have led to his next step: enlisting the Union army as an acting assistant surgeon. Purvis served in the Union army from 1865 to 1869, spending most of his time treating sick freedmen in Washington, D.C. He was one of only six black physicians in the city.

After serving in the Union Army for four years, Purvis was appointed to the medical faculty of Howard University, becoming only the second black teacher of medicine in the United States. He was a major influence at the school for the next fifty-seven years. Known as a harsh taskmaster, he demanded that his students and colleagues keep abreast of the latest

medical developments, and was impatient with anyone who did not meet his exacting standards.

On July 2, 1881, when President James A. Garfield was shot by an assassin at the Washington train station, Purvis was the first physician to treat the mortally wounded man. That action helped lead to Purvis's appointment a few months later as surgeon-in-chief of Freedmen's Hospital, making him the first African American to head a civilian hospital.

Purvis served at Freedmen's for almost twelve years, overseeing its growth in both size and importance. Under his leadership, the hospital became the teaching hospital for Howard University. It serves thousands of patients a years including a growing number from southern states who were denied treatment at local hospitals because of their race.

Always the warrior for racial equality, Purvis joined with Dr. Alexander Augusta in 1869 to fight the American Medical Association's whites-only membership policy. It was a fight that

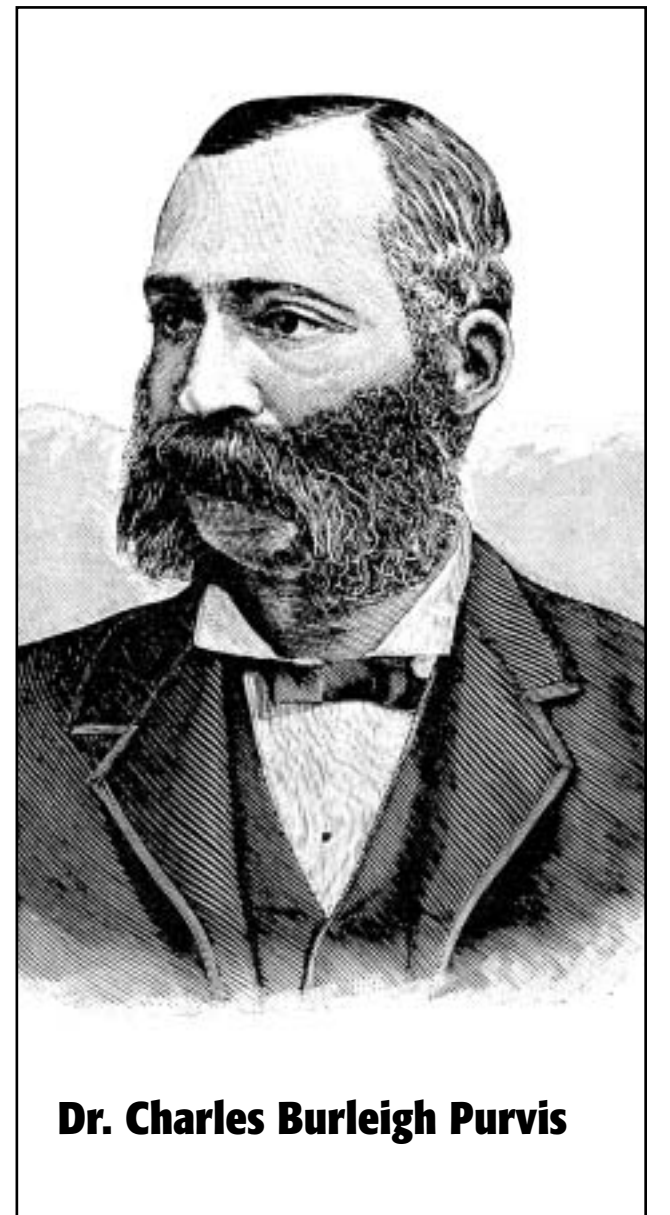
African American doctors would not win until decades after Purvis had died.

"We are all Americans, white, black, and colored," Purvis declared. "As Negroes nothing is demanded, as American citizens every enjoyment and opportunity is demanded."

Purvis moved to Boston and was admitted to the Massachusetts Medical Society. He resigned from the faculty of the Howard Medical School in 1907, but remained on its board until 1926.

Dr. Charles Burleigh Purvis died on January 30, 1929, in Los Angeles. He had spent sixty-five of his eighty-seven years training doctors and fighting for better medical care for African Americans.

Determined to do all they could to provide better treatment for their underserved people, African American doctors began to found their own hospitals, professional societies and medical schools. From 1882 to 1900, they opened six medical schools in the south and trained approximately 1,000 doctors.



**Dr. Charles Burleigh Purvis**



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## Whitney M. Young Jr. (1921-1971)

While Jackie Robinson was an "unofficial" civil rights leader, as his widow Rachel put it, Whitney M. Young Jr. was officially so. As head of the National Urban League, he was one of the half-dozen civil rights leaders who were known as the Big Six. Less well known than men like A. Philip Randolph and Martin Luther King Jr., Young was nevertheless a highly influential leader who was an effective behind the scenes negotiator.

Whitney Moore Young Jr. was born on the campus of Lincoln Institute in Lincoln Ridge, Kentucky, where his father was president. Young's mother, Laura Ray Young, was the first African American postmaster in Kentucky and the second in the United States.

Young graduated from Lincoln Institute as valedictorian of his class and then enrolled in the pre-med program at Kentucky State Industrial, another historically black institute. Having grown up among the educated black elite of the South, he planned a career as a doctor, one of the most respected professions in the black community. But after a year of pre-medical studies, he changed his mind. He dropped out of college and taught at a nearby school for a year before he joined the army.

The United States was in the midst of World War II, and the U.S. military was segregated. The majority of black soldiers were assigned to construction, kitchen, and other noncombat duties under the supervision of white officers. Young soon distinguished himself as a

mediator between his unit's white captain and the black troops, and found the experience of defusing racial tensions so gratifying that he decided to pursue a career in race relations after the war.

After his discharge from the army, Young returned to Kentucky State Industrial College. He married Margaret Buckner in 1944, and the couple had two daughters. Young earned his bachelor's degree from the college in 1946 and then enrolled at the University of Minnesota, earning his master's degree in social work in 1947.

While in St. Paul, Minnesota, Young joined the local chapter of the National Urban League. The organization, founded in 1910, just one year after the formation of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), was also an interracial organization. Its stated purpose was to further the economic progress of blacks, especially in the cities, as its name suggests. Young worked his way up in the ranks of the organization, serving as executive secretary of the Omaha, Nebraska, branch of the league while teaching social work at the University of Nebraska and Creighton University.

In 1954, Young accepted the position of dean of the Atlanta University School of Social Work. He joined the Atlanta branch of the Urban League and also the Atlanta Council on Human Relations. Blacks in the cities of the South were chafing under the rigid rules of segregation, and in the year fol-

lowing Young's return to the South that unrest coalesced around the arrest of Rosa Parks for challenging the segregation of that city's buses. In Atlanta, as co-chairman of the Atlanta Council on Human Relations, Young helped to desegregate the city's public library system.

In 1961, at the age of forty, Young became president of the National Urban League and move to the organization's headquarters in New York City. At the time, the league seemed to have lost its sense of purpose and had taken a backseat to more activist organizations, such as the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) (formed in 1942) and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) (established by Martin Luther King Jr. and other southern ministers after the successful Montgomery, Alabama, bus boycott). Young launched what he called Operation Rescue to revitalize the organization and turn it into an aggressive fighter for civil rights and justice. He expanded its staff from 38 to 1,600 and its annual budget of \$325,000 to more than \$6 million. When members of the organization's board were reluctant to support A. Philip Randolph's March on Washington in 1963, fearing that it was too radical, Young persuaded them that the league's influence would actually serve to balance and neutralizes the radical elements.

More militant African Americans sometimes charged that Young was too conservative and too passive with whites. He was

a mediator who preferred reason and persuasion to direct challenges. He was quietly successful in persuading major corporations to hire more blacks and to support job training initiatives in the cities. During the administration of President Lyndon B. Johnson, Young devised what he called a "Domestic Marshall Plan." It was modeled on the efforts of the United States to help Europe recover after the devastation of World War II and sought to increase spending on education and vocational training, housing, and health services. Johnson later incorporated elements of Young's plan into his own War on Poverty. In 1968, Johnson recognized Young's service to the nation by awarding him the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

Young, who published two books and many articles and speeches, once wrote, "You can holler, protest, march, picket and demonstrate, but somebody must be able to sit in on the strategy conferences and plot a course. There must be strategists, the researchers, the professionals to carry out the program. That's our role."

In March 1971, Young traveled to Lagos, Nigeria, to attend a conference of black leaders. On March 11 he suffered a fatal heart attack. He was forty-nine years old.

Young's birthplace is now a National Historic Landmark, and the campus of the former Kentucky Institute is the Whitney M. Young Jr. Job Training Corps Center.



**"Young, who published two books and many articles and speeches, once wrote, 'You can holler, protest, march, picket and demonstrate, but somebody must be able to sit in on the strategy conferences and plot a course. There must be strategists, the researchers, the professionals to carry out the program. That's our role.'"**

## Ida B. Wells Barnett (1862-1931)

The Civil War in no way ended injustice toward African Americans. Blacks needed people to speak out and speak up for their rights. One of the most courageous voices was that of Ida B. Wells-Barnett, a crusading journalist and early feminist.

Ida, the eldest of Lizzie Bell and Jams Wells's eight children, was born in Holly Springs, Mississippi, just six months before President Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation freeing all slaves in the Confederacy. Her parents rejoiced in their freedom. James Wells became a leader in the Freeman's Bureau, an organization established by the government in 1865 to help former slaves build new lives. He and Lizzie Bell also helped set up a school for black children. Northern church missionaries, many of whom made great sacrifices entering the hostile atmosphere of the South, came to help. Ida was one of their first students.

All those positive experiences made Ida feel strong and confident. So she was prepared when tragedy struck. At age sixteen, Ida's childhood ended abruptly. Both her parents and her youngest brother died in a yellow fever epidemic in 1878. Ida became responsible for her remaining siblings. After graduating from Rust, a high school and industrial school in Holly Springs, Mississippi, and passing the teacher's exam, she began a career as a teacher, earning \$25 per month.

She later moved to Memphis for a higher-paid position.

Wells somehow found time to attend classes at Fisk, a historically black college in Nashville, which led to another big change in her life. She discovered journalism. She wrote for the student newspaper. She also became editor of the Evening Star and the Living Way, two black church publications. The more jobs she had, the more money she could send to her family.

Using the pen name Lola (from her friend Frances Harper's novel), Wells often wrote about race. She frequently got her subject matter from her own personal experiences. For example, she refused to sit in the Jim Crow car on a train in Tennessee. She sued the railroad company and won, but her case was later overturned by a Tennessee state court. She wrote about the inequality between the public education of black children and that of white children in the South. By 1891, local white politicians learned that Wells was the writer behind these politically charged articles, and she was fired from her teaching position. Not to be silenced, Wells purchased part interest in a newspaper, the Memphis Free Speech. She became editor and eventually sole owner.

As African Americans struggled to establish their rightful place in America at the turn of the century, whites grew increasingly

resentful. Lynching (or execution by mobs) became commonplace. So did envy of blacks who attempted to build decent housing for themselves and anger over blacks competing for jobs and establishing businesses. These were only some of the resentments that exploded into senseless assaults on black lives. In March 1892, three black businessmen were lynched in Tennessee for attempting to establish a grocery store that competed with one owned by a white merchant. Local papers asserted that the cause of the lynching was an assault by Negro men on white women. The outraged and brave Ida B. Wells dared to write in response: "Nobody in this [black] section believes [that] old threadbare lie."

Wells asserted instead that the lynchings were to discourage financial independence of blacks and the idea that white women could be interested in black men. These statements brought out a mob. Fortunately, she was away visiting Frances Harper at the time. Not only was the office of Free Speech destroyed, but Wells's partner, J.C. Fleming, was run out of town and Wells was warned not to return.

Establishing herself in New York, she continued her crusade against racial injustices in a newspaper, the New York Age, of which she later became editor and part owner. Publication of "A Red Record" (1895), one of many pamphlets she wrote, helped

raise public awareness and action. The tone and writing style of "A Red Record" would be repeated years later in the speeches of civil rights advocates such as Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

When blacks were barred from participation in the Chicago World's Fair, Wells joined Frederick Douglass and others in leading a protest campaign to have the word Negro capitalized in the press, pointing out that French, German, Dutch, Japanese, and other nouns designated for an ethnic group were always capitalized.

In 1895, she married Ferdinand Barnett, a Chicago lawyer and editor of the Chicago Conservator. The couple became partners in social action. Ida B. Wells-Barnett is reported to have crusaded with all four of her children when they were infants, nursing them along the way. A founding member (NAACP), in 1898 she presented to President William McKinley resolutions drafted against lynching. She organized one of the first African American suffrage groups, and in 1930, cofounded the National Association of Colored Women and the National Afro-American Council. She also ran as an independent candidate for Illinois state senator. By the time of her death in Chicago on March 25, 1931, she was known nationally and internationally. Her autobiography, *Crusade for Justice*, edited by her daughter, Alfreda M. Duster, was published in 1970.



**"When blacks were barred from participation in the Chicago World's Fair, Wells joined Frederick Douglass and others in leading a protest campaign to have the word Negro capitalized in the press, pointing out that French, German, Dutch, Japanese, and other nouns designated for an ethnic group were always capitalized."**

# BLACK PRESS PIONEERS

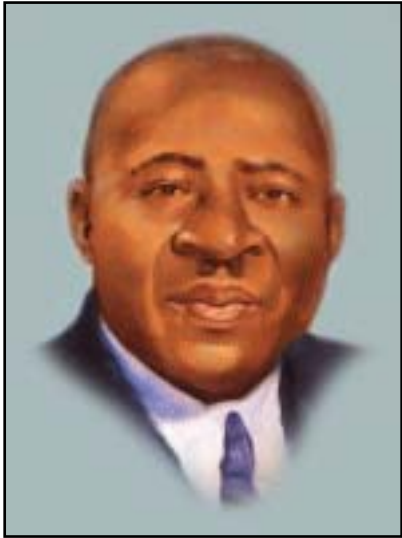
## RIGHTING THE HISTORY OF THE BLACK PRESS

Before the emergence of the Black Press 175 years ago, African Americans did not have the opportunity to read about the successes, marriages, births or deaths of those in their community. The names of African Americans appeared in the white-owned press almost solely in con-

nection with crimes. California Advocate honors African-American newspaper publishers who were responsible for correcting that glaring deficiency. We are proud to celebrate African-American publishers during Black History Month.

### Robert S. Abbott (1868-1940)

Robert S. Abbott founded the Chicago Defender as a "two-cent weekly" published from his dandlady's kitchen and expanded it into the nation's foremost African-American publication. Born on Nov. 24, 1868, on St. Simon's Island, Ga., Abbott learned the newspaper trade from his stepfather, who published a local paper. He attended Hampton Institute in Virginia and then enrolled in Chicago's Kent College of Law, from which he graduated in 1899. Finding it difficult to practice law due to racial discrimination, Abbott chose instead to publish a newspaper. The Chicago Defender was first published on May, 5 1905. For five years, Abbott was the Defender's sole editor, ad salesman and circulation director. He hired his first employee in 1910. By 1920, the paper's



circulation exceeded 200,000 and was widely read in the North and in the South.

During the 1920s and 1930s, Abbott sent reporters to cover lynchings and Jim Crow laws designed to segregate African Americans. As a result, the Defender was banned in some parts of the South. Despite that, Abbott sent his papers south via railroad porters and waged one of his most aggressive campaigns to convince Southern Blacks to move north during World War I. His paper ran articles, editorials, cartoons-even train schedules and job listings-to convince the Defender's Southern readers to come north. The "Great Northern Migration," as it was called in the Defender, resulted in about one million Blacks migrating north. Abbott died on Feb.29, 1940.

### Samuel E. Cornish (1795-1858)

On March 16, 1827, Samuel E. Cornish was one of two editors to publish Freedom's Journal, the first Black-owned and operated newspaper in the United States. Published in New York City in the same year that slavery was abolished in New York state, the first issue of the Journal stated: "We wish to plead our own cause. Too long others have spoken for us. Too long has the public been deceived by misrepresentations in things that concern us dearly..." With a potential audience of approximately 500,000 "free persons of colour," and about 100,00 newly freed Blacks, Cornish and co-editor John B. Russwurm decided it was time to "give this large body of our citizens" a public channel. The paper featured stories about notable African Americans in addition to providing interna-



tional, national and local news. Freedom's Journal was a newspaper of record and, as such, was the first paper to list births, deaths and marriages of African Americans in the New York community. It was circulated in 11 states, the District of Columbia, Canada, Europe and Haiti.

Cornish, a free Black man who was born in Delaware in 1795, was pastor of New York City's first African-American Presbyterian Church prior to editing Freedom's Journal. He resigned from the newspaper in September 1827 after Russwurm began using the paper to promote the issue of African-American colonization of Africa. The paper began losing support and ceased publication in March 1829.

### William Alexander Scott II (1902-1934)

At 26, William Alexander Scott II founded a newspaper that would become the first successful African-American daily in the nation. "The publishers of the Atlanta World have felt the need of a Southern Negro Newspaper, published by Southern Negroes, to be read by Southern Negroes," Scott wrote in the first issue on Aug. 5, 1928. By 1930, the newspaper was one of the most widely circulated Black papers in the South. Using the Atlanta World as fuel, Scott charged ahead, establishing the first chain of African-American newspapers in 1931. The Scott Newspaper Syndicate eventually would include 50 newspapers. On March 12, 1932, the Atlanta World went daily.



could not-coverage of events in a timely fashion. "It became the town hall meeting place where important issues of the day, as well as life's celebrations and sorrows, were recorded and shared," wrote Scott's granddaughter, Atlanta Daily World publisher M.Alexis Scott, seven decades later. William Scott used the paper to redress social injustices. He raised funds for the nine African American youths falsely accused of raping white girls in the 1930s Scottsboro boys trials. Financially, the paper thrived by gaining national advertisers such as Coca-Cola. Tragically, as Scott was climbing toward the pinnacle of his business career, his life was cut short by an assailant's bullet in 1934. His work was carried on by his younger brother, Cornelius Adolphus Scott.

### John H. H. Sengstacke (1912-1997)

In 1940, 27-year-old John H. H. Sengstacke became the second publisher-owner of the highly regarded Chicago Defender, one of the nation's most widely read Black-owned newspapers. Sengstacke inherited the paper upon the death of his uncle, Defender founder Robert S. Abbott, who had hand-picked him. Sengstacke immediately immersed himself in the day's issues. He worked with President Franklin D. Roosevelt to create jobs in the U.S. Postal Service for African Americans and persuaded FDR to include an African-American reporter in a White House news conference for the first time. He began pushing for integration of the military under FDR. Eventually, FDR's successor, President Harry Truman, named Sengstacke to the commission to desegregate the military. On another front, Sengstacke



founded the National Newspaper Publishers Association in 1940 in an effort to strengthen Black-owned papers. In 1956, Sengstacke took his weekly paper daily, making it the nation's largest Black-owned daily.

Sengstacke was born in Savannah, Ga., on Nov. 25, 1912, and graduated from Hampton Institute in Virginia. He began his newspaper career as a child, working for the Woodville Times, a Georgia paper founded by his grandfather and later published by his father, Alexander Sengstacke. John Sengstacke died on May 28, 1997. He was awarded the Presidential Citizens Medal posthumously by President Bill Clinton in 2000. Sengstacke's granddaughter, Myiti Sengstacke, now publishes the paper.

### John B. Russwurm (1799-1851)

One year after he graduated from college, John B. Russwurm became a founding editor-publisher of Freedom's Journal, the nation's first Black-owned and operated newspaper. In its first issue, published on March 16, 1827, in New York City, the Journal made it clear that one reason for its existence was the inaccurate and brutal portrayal of African Americans in the white-owned press. "From the press and the pulpit, we have suffered much by being incorrectly represented," the Journal stated. "Our vices and our degradation are ever arrayed against us, but our virtues are passed by unnoticed." The paper, published in the same year that slavery was abolished in New York state, sought to give an outlet to an audience of 500,000 "free persons of colour," and the new-



ly freed Blacks. The Journal provided international, national and local news. It also was the first paper to record births, deaths and marriages of African Americans.

Russwurm was born in Jamaica in 1799, the son of a white planter and a slave. He is believed to be the third Black in this country to obtain a college degree, and was the first Black graduate of Bowdoin College in Brunswick, Maine. Russwurm co-edited Freedom's Journal with Samuel E. Cornish, a Presbyterian minister. Russwurm's and Cornish's partnership dissolved after Russwurm began using the paper to promote the issue of African-American colonization of Africa. In 1829, Russwurm emigrated to Liberia, where he died in 1851.

### Cornelius Adolphus Scott (1908-2000)

Cornelius Adolphus "C.A." Scott took the helm of the Atlanta Daily World at the request of his dying brother, World founder William A. Scott, in 1934. For 63 years, C.A. Scott never looked back. He guided the country's oldest and first successful Black daily newspaper through the terror of random lynchings; Jim Crow laws that legalized segregation, police brutality; and lagging opportunity in housing and jobs for African Americans. In 1946, two African-American couples were murdered in daylight near Monroe, Ga., by a heavily armed mob. Scott immediately set up a fund through the Daily World for the families of the "Monroe Massacre" victims. Two years later, Scott participated in the selection of Atlanta's first African-American police officers. In the 1940's, the Daily World



waged a campaign to increase the pay of Black teachers. During the 1950s and 1960s, the Daily World filed its pages with information about court cases and lawsuits filed to desegregate public facilities. Scott, who joined the Republican Party in 1952 and never left, also worked unstintingly for a two-party system in Georgia. Scott received many awards, including induction into the Black Press Hall of Fame in 1990.

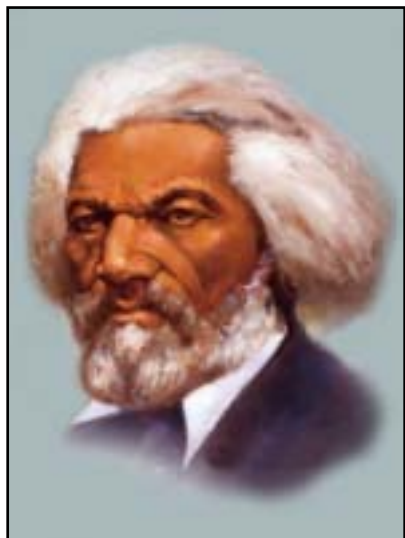
The middle son of nine children, Scott was born in Edwards, Miss., on Feb 8, 1908. His father, the Rev. Dr. William A. Scott Sr., was a Christian Church minister and a printer. His mother, Emmeline Southall Scott, helped her husband print and distribute church bulletins throughout Mississippi. Scott died on May 7, 2000 at age 92.

# BLACK PRESS PIONEERS

## RIGHTING THE HISTORY OF THE BLACK PRESS

### Frederick Douglass (1818?-1895)

Frederick Douglass, a runaway slave who secretly learned to read and write on the streets of Baltimore, became one of the foremost leaders of the abolitionist movement in our nation. His newspaper, *North Star*, was first published in 1847, two years after the publication of his autobiography won him international fame. Douglass saw the purpose of *North Star* as twofold: it would stand as a testament to the abilities of slaves while aiding and sustaining Blacks in their effort to gain freedom. "The presence of a tolerably conducted Journal in this country, edited by one of the oppressed, is essential to the proper vindication of the colored race from the charge of inferiority..." Douglass wrote. "While the *North Star* lives, it will cheer with hope the hearts of the enslaved and



alarm the fears of the guilty slaveholder." In later years, *North Star* was renamed *Frederick Douglass' Paper*.

Douglass was born a slave in Maryland and was never told his birth date. Escaping from Baltimore in 1839, he moved to New York state. He published his autobiography in 1845 to wide acclaim and toured England and Europe as an abolitionist speaker. His freedom eventually was purchased by friends. During the Civil War, he helped put together a Black regiment for the Union Army and met with President Lincoln to protest poor treatment of African-American troops. Douglass died in 1895 in Washington, D.C., after serving in several federal posts, including ambassador to Haiti.

### Carl J. Murphy (1889-1967)

Carl J. Murphy, a onetime professor of German who was educated at Howard and Harvard universities, took over the Afro-American newspaper in Baltimore after the death of his father, founder John Henry Murphy Sr., in 1922. Born a slave, the senior Murphy gained freedom after serving as a sergeant in the Civil War. He went on to found the Afro-American in 1892. Carl Murphy, however, built it into the most powerful Black-owned publication in the mid-Atlantic region, with a reach that extended into Washington, Philadelphia, Richmond, Va., and Newark, N.J.



Murphy regularly conferred with presidents, civil rights leaders and members of Congress in his role as a powerbroker in the African-American community. He was born in Baltimore on Jan. 17, 1889. He taught German

at Howard University before joining the Afro-American staff. Respectfully known as "Mr. Carl," Murphy editorialized against local and national injustices, ranging from downtown Baltimore department stores that banned African Americans to segregation in professional sports. In the 1930s, Murphy worked to register Black voters. During World War II, he sent reporters overseas to cover the war. In the 1950s, the paper joined the NAACP's lawsuit against segregation at the University of Maryland's law school, one of the early lawsuits in a series that eventually would desegregate public schools. Murphy was married to Vashti Turley Murphy, co-founder of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority. He died on Feb. 25, 1967.

### Charlotta Spears Bass (1874-1969)

Playing David to the nascent film industry's Goliath, publisher Charlotta Spears Bass ignited protest against D.W. Griffith's overtly racist 1915 "The Birth of a Nation," which glorified the Ku Klux Klan and negatively portrayed African Americans. Black-owned newspapers across the nation responded to the Los Angeles-based *California Eagle's* call to denounce the film and "The Birth of a Nation" eventually was even banned in some communities. "We of the *Eagle* pioneered in an important field of social struggle...the struggle to make the film industry responsible morally for the content of its products..." Bass later wrote.



Under Bass' direction, the *Eagle* also fought restrictive housing covenants, which were used to keep new housing

developments segregated; police brutality; and discriminatory hiring practices. Born Charlotta Spears in Sumter, S.C., on Feb. 14, 1874, Bass moved to Los Angeles in 1910. In 1912, she became publisher of the *California Eagle*, which she ran until 1951. Bass married her husband, journalist Joseph Blackburn Bass in 1914. She spent her remaining active years involved in politics. Bass became the first African American woman to run for national office as the vice presidential candidate on the Progressive Party ticket in 1952. "Win or lose, we win by raising the issues," Bass said of her Candidacy. She published a book, "Forty Years: Memoirs from the Pages of a Newspaper," in 1960. She died in Los Angeles on April 12, 1969 at the age of 95.

### Plummer Bernard Young Sr. (1884-1962)

Plummer Bernard "P.B." Young Sr., publisher of the *Norfolk Journal and Guide*, was dedicated to the idea that Black-owned newspapers should play a crusading role in the lives of their readers. Young was born in 1884 in Littleton, N.C. He learned the newspaper business from his father, Winfield Young, who published a small newspaper in their hometown. Young attended Saint Augustine's College in Raleigh, N.C. He moved to Norfolk, Va., in 1907 to work for a fraternal order publication called the *Lodge Journal and Guide*. In 1910, he bought the publication, renaming it the *Norfolk Journal and Guide*, and began transforming it into a Southern powerhouse. By the beginning of World War II, it was the largest Black-owned newspaper in the South with a



circulation exceeding 100,000. Under Young's leadership, the *Journal and Guide* crusaded against lynching; mobilized African Americans to vote; pressed for integration of the military; and editorialized against the northern migration of Southern Blacks.

In 1944, Young's views crystallized when he drafted a code for the National Newspaper Publisher Association. Young's "Credo of the Negro Press," in part, states: "I shall CRUSADE for all things that are right and just and I will, with equal fervor, expose and condemn all things that are unjust. I shall be a crusader but will not permit my fervor nor the rightness of my cause to provoke abandonment of the cardinals of journalism, accuracy, fairness and objectivity." Young died on Oct. 9, 1962.

### Ida B. Wells-Barnett (1862-1931)

Born of slave parents in 1862, publisher Ida B. Wells-Barnett rose to the top of her profession to become known as the tireless leader of America's anti lynching crusade. Wells-Barnett was born in Holly Springs, Miss., and moved to Memphis at age 16 to teach school. In 1889, she bought an interest in the *Memphis Free Speech and Headlight* and became its editor. After three Black men were lynched, she urged African Americans to leave the city and to boycott its businesses. A mob subsequently destroyed her offices and threatened her life. Wells-Barnett moved to New York City, where she became a writer for *The New York Age* and began investigating lynchings nationwide.



Wells-Barnett published two famous pamphlets on lynching, "Southern Horrors" in 1892 and "A Red Record"

in 1895. "Somebody must show that the Afro-American race is more sinned against than sinning, and it seems to have fallen upon me to do so," Wells-Barnett explained. In "A Red Record," Wells wrote: "Not all nor nearly all of the murders done by white men during the past thirty years in the South have come to light, but the statistics as gathered and preserved by white men, and which have not been questioned, show that during these years more than ten thousand Negroes have been killed in cold blood..." In 1895, she married attorney Ferdinand L. Barnett, publisher of *The Chicago Conservator*, and settled in Illinois. She died in Chicago on Mar. 25, 1931. In 1990, the U.S. Postal Service issued a commemorative stamp in her honor.

### Robert L. Vann (1879-1940)

Robert L. Vann newspaper publisher, lawyer and political statesman rose from obscurity in rural North Carolina to head one of the most influential African American papers in the nation. Vann was born on Aug. 27, 1879, in Ahoskie, N.C. he earned his law degree from Western University of Pennsylvania at Pittsburgh (now the University of Pittsburgh) in 1909. In 1910, he became treasurer of the newly established Pittsburgh *Courier*. The paper's editor left shortly thereafter and Vann took over as the *Courier's* editor publisher. Under Vann's vigorous leadership, the newspaper became the most widely read Black-owned newspaper in the nation in the 1930s.



The *Courier* crusaded for racial justice not by storming the beaches, but by fighting one incisive battle after an-

other. In the 1930s, the *Courier* began a nationwide protest against the Amos'n Andy radio show. It also called for an increase in Black physicians. In 1932, Vann urged African Americans to join the Democratic party. President Franklin D. Roosevelt rewarded Vann by appointing him special assistant to the U.S. attorney general in 1933. As the paper grew, many influential African American writers graced its pages, including conservative columnist George Schuyler and leading intellectual W.E.B. Du Bois. Vann died in 1940, but the *Courier* thrived using many of Vann's practices. The *Courier's* most famous effort was the 1942

"Double V Campaign" calling for victory abroad and victory a home from racial discrimination.



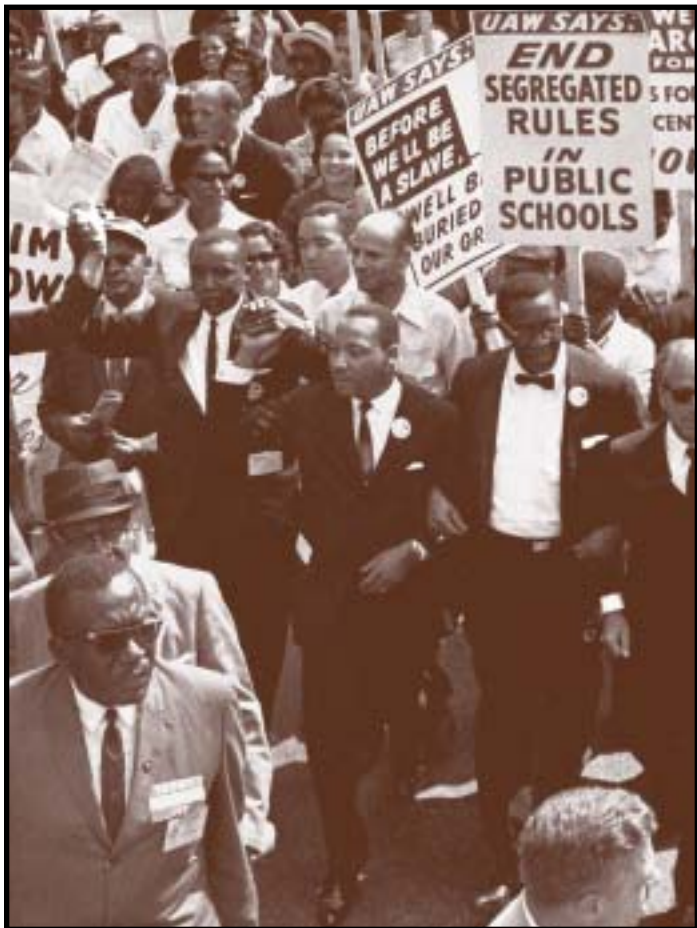
# “I HAVE A DREAM”

August 28,  
1963

Lincoln  
Memorial

Washington  
D.C.

Martin Luther  
King, Jr.



**I** am happy to join with you today in what will go down in history as the greatest demonstration for freedom in the history of our nation.

Five score years ago, a great American, in whose symbolic shadow we stand signed the Emancipation Proclamation. This momentous decree came as a great beacon light of hope to millions of Negro slaves who had been seared in the flames of withering injustice. It came as a joyous daybreak to end the long night of captivity. But one hundred years later, we must face the tragic fact that the Negro is still not free.

One hundred years later, the life of the Negro is still sadly crippled by the manacles of segregation and the chains of discrimination. One hundred years later, the Negro lives on a lonely island of poverty in the midst of a vast ocean of material prosperity. One hundred years later, the Negro is still languishing in the corners of American society and finds himself an exile in his own land.

So we have come here today to dramatize an appalling condition. In a sense we have come to our nation's capital to cash a check. When the architects of our republic wrote the magnificent words of the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence, they were signing a promissory note to which every American was to fall heir.

This note was a promise that all men would be guaranteed the inalienable rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. It is obvious today that America has defaulted on this promissory note insofar as her citizens of color are concerned. Instead of honoring this sacred obligation, America has given the Negro people a bad check which has come back marked "insufficient funds." But we refuse to believe that the bank of justice is bankrupt. We refuse to believe that there are insufficient funds in the great vaults of opportunity of this nation.

So we have come to cash this check – a check that will give us upon demand the riches of freedom and the security of justice. We have also come to this hallowed spot to remind America of the fierce urgency of now. This is no time to engage in the luxury of cooling off or to take the tranquilizing drug of gradualism. Now is the time to rise from the dark and desolate valley of segregation to the sunlit path of racial justice. Now is the time to open the doors of opportunity to all of God's children. Now is the time to lift our nation from the quicksands of racial injustice to the solid rock of brotherhood.

It would be fatal for the nation to overlook the urgency of the moment and to underestimate the determination of the Negro. This sweltering summer of the Negro's legitimate discontent will not pass until there is an invigorating autumn of freedom and equality. Nineteen sixty-three is not an end, but a beginning. Those who hope that the Negro needed to blow off steam and will now be content will have a rude awakening if the nation returns to business as usual. There will be neither rest nor tranquility in America until the Negro is granted his citizenship rights.

The whirlwinds of revolt will continue to shake the foundations of our nation until the bright day of justice emerges. But there is something that I must say to my people who stand on the warm threshold which leads into the palace of justice. In the process of gaining our rightful place we must not be guilty of wrongful deeds. Let us not seek to satisfy our thirst for freedom by drinking from the cup of bitterness and hatred.

We must forever conduct our struggle on the high plane of dignity and discipline. We must not allow our creative protest to degenerate into physical violence. Again and again we must rise to the majestic heights of meeting physical force with soul force.

The marvelous new militancy which has engulfed the Negro community must not lead us to distrust of all white people, for many of our white brothers, as evidenced by their presence here today, have come to realize that their destiny is tied up with our destiny and their freedom is inextricably bound to our freedom.

We cannot walk alone. And as we walk, we must make the pledge that we shall march ahead. We cannot turn back. There are those who are asking the devotees of civil rights, "When will you be satisfied?" We can never be satisfied as long as our bodies, heavy with the fatigue of travel, cannot gain lodging in the motels of the highways and the hotels of the cities. We cannot be satisfied as long as the Negro's basic mobility is from a smaller ghetto to a larger one. We can never be satisfied as long as a Negro in Mississippi cannot vote and

a Negro in New York believes he has nothing for which to vote. No, no, we are not satisfied, and we will not be satisfied until justice rolls down like waters and righteousness like a mighty stream.

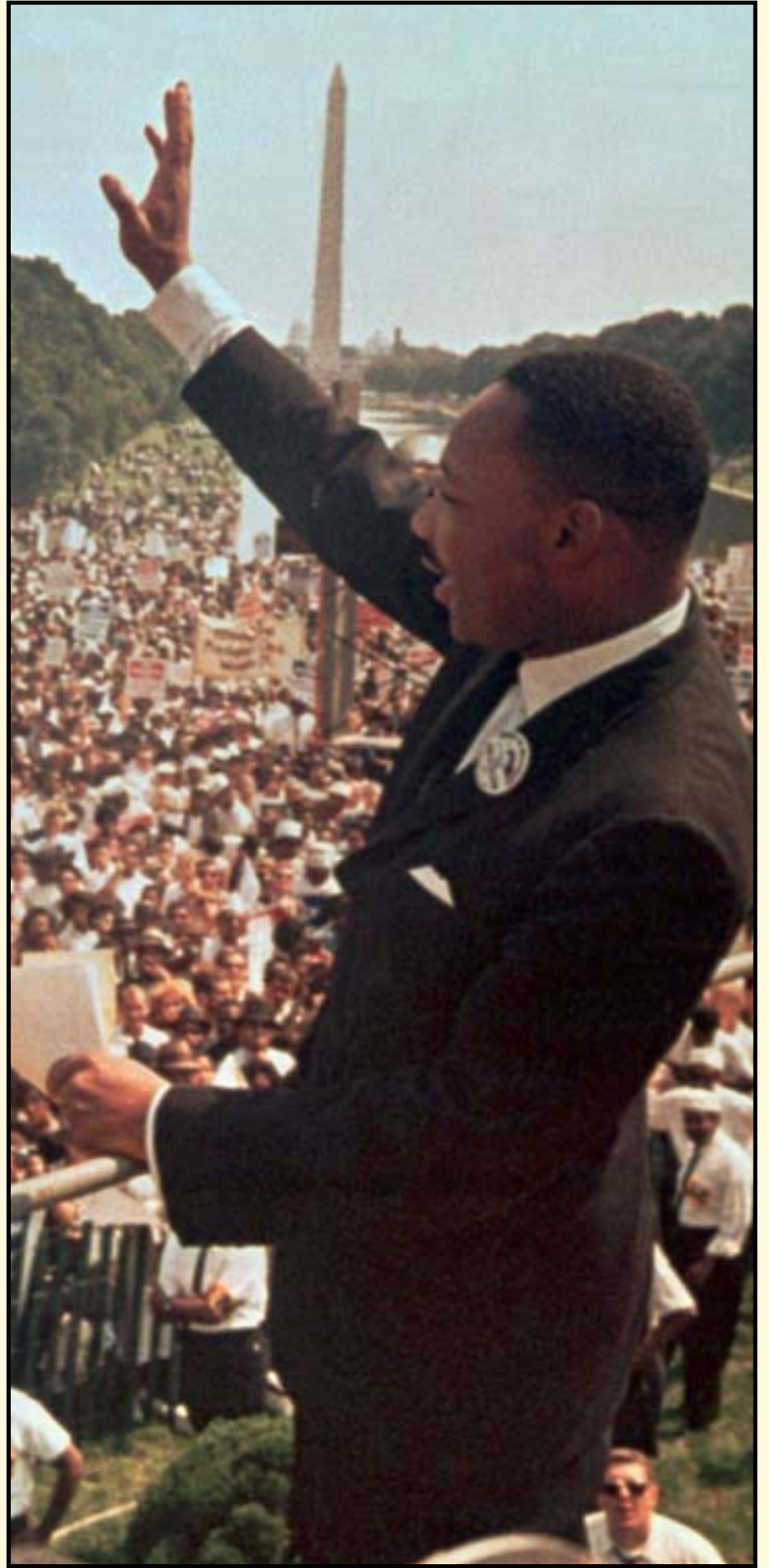
I am not unmindful that some of you have come here out of great trials and tribulations. Some of you have come fresh from narrow cells. Some of you have come from areas where your quest for freedom left you battered by the storms of persecution and staggered by the winds of police brutality. You have been the veterans of creative suffering. Continue to work with the faith that unearned suffering is redemptive.

Go back to Mississippi, go back to Alabama, go back to Georgia, go back to Louisiana, go back to the slums and ghettos of our northern cities, knowing that somehow this situation can and will be changed. Let us not wallow in the valley of despair. I say to you today, my friends, that in spite of the difficulties and frustrations of the moment, **I still have a dream. It is a dream**

**I have a dream that one day** every valley shall be exalted, every hill and mountain shall be made low, the rough places will be made plain, and the crooked places will be made straight, and the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together.

This is our hope. This is the faith with which I return to the South. With this faith we will be able to hew out of the mountain of despair a stone of hope. With this faith we will be able to transform the jangling discords of our nation into a beautiful symphony of brotherhood. With this faith we will be able to work together, to pray together, to struggle together, to go to jail together, to stand up for freedom together, knowing that we will be free one day.

This will be the day when all of God's children will be able to sing with a new meaning, "My country, 'tis of thee, sweet land of liberty, of thee I sing. Land where my fathers died, land of the pilgrim's pride, from every mountainside, let freedom ring." And if America is to be a great



**deeply rooted in the American dream.**

**I have a dream that one day** this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: "We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men are created equal."

**"I have a dream that one day** on the red hills of Georgia the sons of former slaves and the sons of former slaveowners will be able to sit down together at a table of brotherhood.

**I have a dream that one day** even the state of Mississippi, a desert state, sweltering with the heat of injustice and oppression, will be transformed into an oasis of freedom and justice.

**I have a dream that my four children** will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character.

I have a dream today. **I have a dream that one day** the state of Alabama, whose governor's lips are presently dripping with the words of interposition and nullification, will be transformed into a situation where little black boys and black girls will be able to join hands with little white boys and white girls and walk together as sisters and brothers. I have a dream today.

nation, this must become true.

**So let freedom ring** from the prodigious hilltops of New Hampshire.

Let freedom ring from the mighty mountains of New York.

Let freedom ring from the heightening Alleghenies of Pennsylvania!

Let freedom ring from the snow-capped Rockies of Colorado!

Let freedom ring from the curvaceous peaks of California!

But not only that; let freedom ring from Stone Mountain of Georgia!

Let freedom ring from Lookout Mountain of Tennessee!

Let freedom ring from every hill and every molehill of Mississippi. From every mountainside, let freedom ring.

When we let freedom ring, when we let it ring from every village and every hamlet, from every state and every city, we will be able to speed up that day when all of God's children, black men and white men, Jews and Catholics, will be able to join hands and sing in the words of the old Negro spiritual,

*"Free at last! free at last! thank God Almighty, we are free at last!"*