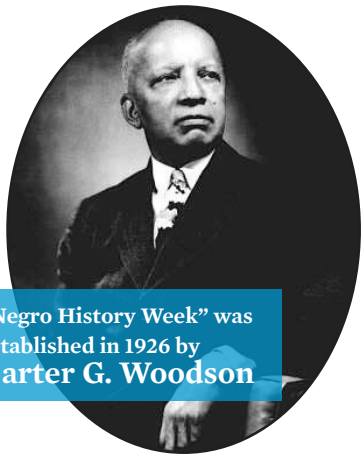
BLACK HISTORY MONTH *Timeline*



"Negro History Week" was established in 1926 by **Carter G. Woodson**

1619 Dutch ship brings 20 Africans to Jamestown, Va., the first enslaved Africans in the U.S.

1793 Eli Whitney's new cotton gin increases demand for slaves

1793 Congress passes Fugitive Slave Act, making it a federal crime to assist a slave trying to escape

1808 Congress bans importation of slaves

1820 Missouri Compromise bans slavery above the southern border of the state

1831 Nat Turner leads largest slave rebellion prior to Civil War

1849 Harriet Tubman escapes to Philadelphia and subsequently helps about 300 enslaved people to freedom via the Underground Railroad

1857 In Dred Scott v. Sanford, U.S. Supreme Court declares that Blacks are not citizens of the U.S. and that Congress cannot prohibit slavery

1859 John Brown leads raid of U.S. Armory and Arsenal at Harpers Ferry, W.Va.

1861 South secedes from Union and Civil War begins

1863 President Lincoln issues the Emancipation Proclamation, declaring "all persons held as slaves within any State or designated part of a State, the people whereof shall then be in rebellion against the United States, shall be then, thenceforward, and forever free"

1865 Civil War ends

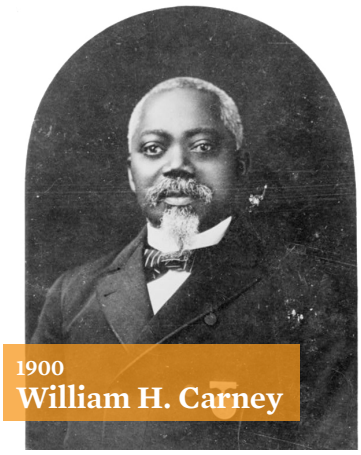
1865 Thirteenth Amendment is ratified, prohibiting slavery

1868 Fourteenth Amendment is ratified, allowing Blacks to become citizens

1870 Fifteenth Amendment guarantees that right to vote cannot be denied because of race, color or previous condition of servitude

1870 Hiram Revels becomes first Black member of Congress

1896 U.S. Supreme Court rules in Plessy v. Ferguson that segregation doesn't violate the 14th Amendment's equal-protection clause as long as conditions provided are "separate but equal"



1900
William H. Carney

1900 William H. Carney becomes first Black to be awarded Medal of Honor

1909 NAACP is founded

1940 Hattie McDaniel becomes first Black to win an Academy Award

1947 Jackie Robinson becomes first Black to play Major League Baseball

1950 Ralph J. Bunche becomes first Black to win the Nobel Peace Prize

1953 Willie Thrower becomes first Black to play quarterback in the National Football League

1940
Hattie McDaniel

1954 In Brown v. the Board of Education of Topeka, U.S. Supreme Court rules that racial segregation in public schools violates the 14th Amendment

1955 Two white men who confessed to murdering a 14-year-old Black boy, Emmett Till, for allegedly whistling at a white woman are acquitted by an all-white jury

1955 Rosa Parks refuses to give up her seat on a bus to a white man in Montgomery, Ala., leading to the Montgomery Bus Boycott

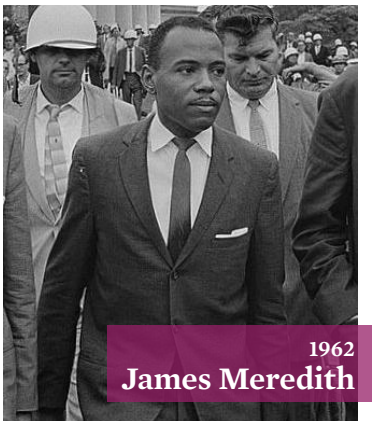
1957 Little Rock Nine integrate Little Rock Central High School in Arkansas

1960 Four Black students stage famous sit-in at a whites-only Woolworth's lunch counter in Greensboro, N.C.

1961 Freedom rides begin from Washington, D.C.

1963 Four young Black girls are killed in the bombing of a Birmingham, Ala., church

1962 James Meredith becomes first Black student to enroll at the University of Mississippi. Violence prompts President Kennedy to send in 5,000 federal troops

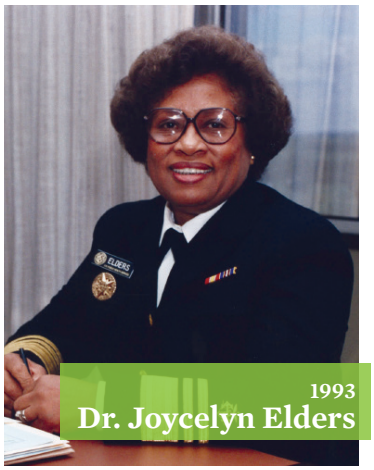


1962
James Meredith

1963 More than 200,000 people march on Washington, D.C., in the largest civil-rights demonstration in U.S. history; Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. gives his "I Have a Dream" speech

1964 President Johnson signs Civil Rights Act of 1964, giving the government more power to protect citizens against race, religion, sex or national-origin discrimination

1965 Malcolm X, former minister in the Nation of Islam and civil-rights activist, is assassinated



1993
Dr. Joycelyn Elders

1965 Thousands participate in three protest marches from Selma to Montgomery, Ala., for Black voting rights

1965 President Johnson signs Voting Rights Act of 1965

1967 Thurgood Marshall becomes first Black U.S. Supreme Court justice

1967 In Loving v. Virginia ruling, Supreme Court declares law prohibiting interracial marriages to be unconstitutional

1968 Dr. King is assassinated

1968 President Johnson signs Civil Rights Act of 1968, which prohibits discrimination in the sale, rental, and financing of housing

1972 Shirley Chisholm is first major-party Black candidate to run for president

1983 Vanessa Williams becomes first Black Miss America

1984 Reverend Jesse Jackson becomes first Black to make serious bid for presidency

1986 First observation of Dr. King's birthday as a national holiday

1990 Douglas Wilder of Virginia becomes first Black to be elected governor

1991 President George H.W. Bush signs Civil Rights Act of 1991, which strengthened laws on employment discrimination

1993 Dr. Joycelyn Elders becomes first Black Surgeon General

2001 General Colin Powell becomes first Black Secretary of State

2009 Barack Obama becomes first Black president

Sources: Library of Congress; biography.com; factmonster.com