



DECEMBER

# This Month in Black History

## Fact Sheet

December 1	<p>Arthur Spingarn, founder of NAACP, died in 1971.</p> <p>Rosa Parks refuses to give her bus seat to a white man in Montgomery, Alabama and is arrested for violating the city's racial segregation laws in 1955.</p>
December 2	<p>Historian Charles H. Wesley was born in Louisville, Kentucky in 1891. Wesley served as president of the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History from 1950-1965.</p>
December 3	<p>Jennifer Josephine Hosten of Grenada becomes the first Black Miss World in 1970.</p>
December 4	<p>Alpha Phi Alpha, first Black Greek Letter Fraternity, was founded in 1906.</p> <p>Moneta Sleet Jr. of Ebony magazine is awarded a Pulitzer Prize for photography and becomes the first African American male to be cited by the Pulitzer committee in 1969.</p>
December 5	<p>The Montgomery Bus Boycott was initiated by the actions of Rosa Parks in 1955.</p> <p>Phillis Wheatley, one of the first Black female poets in America, dies in 1784.</p> <p>National Council of Negro Women was founded in 1935 with Mary McLeod Bethune as president.</p>
December 6	<p>The 13<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which abolished slavery, was adopted by the Congress and ratification was completed in 1865.</p> <p>Lee Brown becomes Houston's first African American mayor in 1997.</p>
December 7	<p>Benjamin Banneker, inventor, mathematician, astronomer, and one of the planners of Federal City (now Washington, D.C.) was born, 1731.</p> <p>Medical School at Howard University opened with eight students, 1868.</p>
December 8	<p>The first African American mayor of Baltimore, Maryland, Kurt Liddel Schmoke, is inaugurated in 1987.</p>
December 9	<p>Representative Kweisi Mfume was elected to head the NAACP in 1995</p>
December 10	<p>The Nobel Peace Prize was awarded to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in 1964.</p> <p>Dr. Ralph Johnson Bunche became the first African American Nobel Peace Prize recipient in 1950.</p> <p>Bishop Desmond Tutu receives the Nobel Peace Prize in 1984.</p>
December 11	<p>P.B.S. Pinchback, the First African American governor of a U.S. state, in 1872.</p>
December 12	<p>The National Negro Anthem "Lift Every Voice and Sing" was composed by James Weldon and James Rosamond Johnson in 1900.</p> <p>Joseph H. Rainey was sworn in as congressman from South Carolina in 1870, becoming the first Black elected to the House of Representatives.</p>

December 13	Kofi Annan is elected as Secretary-General of the United Nations, becoming the first person from an African nation to be elected to the position in 1997.
December 16	Andrew Young named Ambassador and Chief US Delegate to the United Nations, 1977.
December 17	Robert Johnson, the billionaire founder of Black Entertainment Television (BET), became the National Basketball Association (NBA) league's first African American majority owner and the first African American owner in major professional sports.
December 18	Congress passed 13th Amendment abolishing slavery in 1865.  General Benjamin O. Davis Jr. was born in Washington, DC in 1912. Davis was the first African American general in the United States Air Force, 1912.
December 19	Carter G Woodson, a historian and father of Black History Month was born in 1875.
December 22	Arthur Wergs Mitchell, the first African American to be elected to congress as a Democrat, was born in Lafayette, Alabama in 1883.
December 23	Madam C.J. Walker was born in Delta, Louisiana in 1867.  Henry Highland Garnet, an abolitionist, was born in 1815.
December 24	Alphonso Michael "Mike" Espy became the first African American appointed as Secretary of Agriculture in 1992.
December 25	Operation PUSH (People United to Save Humanity) organized by Rev Jesse Jackson in 1971.
December 26	Jack Johnson becomes first Black heavyweight champion of the world in 1908.
December 27	Segregation on buses is outlawed in Tallahassee, Florida in 1956.
December 28	Karen Farmer becomes the first African American member of the Daughters of the American Revolution in 1977.
December 29	The first African American Mayor of Los Angeles, Thomas Bradley, was born in 1917.
December 30	Dr. Miles V. Lynk, a physician, published the first Black medical journal in 1892.