



FEBRUARY

# This Month in Black History

## Fact Sheet

February 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The 13th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which abolished slavery, was adopted by the 38th Congress (1865)</li> <li>Black History Month, first celebrated as Negro History Week by Carter G. Woodson, became a month-long celebration (1976).</li> <li>The poet Langston Hughes born in Joplin, Missouri (1902)</li> </ul>
February 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The District of Columbia abolishes slavery (1862).</li> </ul>
February 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Jack Johnson wins the Negro Heavyweight title (1903).</li> <li>The Negro Baseball League is founded (1920).</li> </ul>
February 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rosa Parks (born Rosa Louise McCauley) was birth (1913).</li> <li>J. C. Watts became the first Black selected to respond to a State of the Union Address (1996).</li> </ul>
February 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Barack Obama became the first black man named president of the Harvard Law Review (1990).</li> <li>Henry Louis Hank Aaron, famous Major League Baseball player, was born (1934)</li> </ul>
February 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Arthur Ashe, first African American tennis player to win Wimbledon, died (1993).</li> <li>Robert Tanner Jackson became the first African American to receive a degree in dentistry (1867).</li> </ul>
February 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Negro History Week originated by Carter G. Woodson observed for the first time (1926).</li> </ul>
February 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Oprah Winfrey became the first African American woman to host a nationally syndicated talk show (1986).</li> </ul>
February 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Author Ralph Ellison's novel Invisible Man wins the National Book Award (1952)</li> <li>Leroy "Satchel" Paige is inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame (1971)</li> <li>Bernard Anthony Harris Jr. became the African American to perform an extra-vehicular activity (space-walk), during the second of his two Space Shuttle flights (1995)</li> </ul>
February 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Leontyne Price, who became an internationally acclaimed opera singer, was born in Laurel, Miss (1927).</li> </ul>
February 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Clifford Alexander Jr. confirmed as the first black secretary of the United States Army(1976).</li> <li>Nelson Mandela released from a South African prison after being detained for 27 years as political prisoner (1990).</li> </ul>
February 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) was founded (1909).</li> </ul>
February 13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Southern Christian Leadership Conference organized at New Orleans meeting and named Martin Luther King Jr. as its' first president (1957).</li> </ul>
February 14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Frederick Douglass, "The Great Emancipator," is born (1817).</li> <li>Morehouse College organized in Augusta, Ga and was later moved to Atlanta, GA (1867).</li> </ul>
February 15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Henry Lewis became first black to lead a major symphony orchestra in the United States (1968).</li> <li>Nat King Cole, famous Jazz singer and pianist, dies (1919).</li> </ul>
February 16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Joe Frazier knocked out Jimmy Ellis to become world heavyweight champion (1970)</li> </ul>

February 17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Michael Jordan, famed basketball player and former minor league baseball player, born in New York, N.Y (1963).</li> <li>Virginia House of Delegates votes unanimously to retire the state song, "Carry Me Back to Old Virginia," a tune that glorifies slavery.</li> </ul>
February 18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The mayor of Charleston SC surrenders the city to the Union Army during the Civil War (1865).</li> <li>Toni Morrison (born Chloe Anthony Wofford), who won the Pulitzer Prize for her novel Beloved, was born in Lorain, Ohio (1931).</li> </ul>
February 19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Vonetta Flowers became the first black gold medalist in the history of the Winter Olympics Games. She and her partner Jull Brakken won the inaugural women's two-person bobsled event in Salt Lake City, Utah (2002).</li> </ul>
February 20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Frederick Douglass, major abolitionist, lecturer, and editor, died (1895)</li> </ul>
February 21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Otis Boykin, inventor, patented the Electrical Resistor (1959). He is responsible for inventing the electrical devices used in guided missiles, computers, and pacemakers.</li> </ul>
February 22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Julius W. Erving, former basketball player, born in Roosevelt, NY (1950).</li> </ul>
February 23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Constance Baker Motley elected Manhattan Borough president, at that time, the highest elective office held by a black woman in a major American city (1965).</li> </ul>
February 24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hirman R. Revels of Mississippi was sworn in as first black U.S. Senator and first black Representative in Congress (1870).</li> <li>Muhammad Ali defeated Sonny Liston to become the heavyweight boxing champion (1964).</li> <li>Mike Tyson becomes the heavyweight boxing champion of world by defeating Frank Bruno of England (1989)</li> </ul>
February 25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The first African American Mayor of Los Angeles, Thomas Bradley, was born in 1917.</li> </ul>
February 26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Fifteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution, guaranteeing the right of blacks to vote, sent to the states for ratification.</li> </ul>
February 27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Figure skater Debi Thomas became the first African American to win a medal (bronze) at the Winter Olympic Games (1988)</li> </ul>
February 28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Richard Spikes invented/patented the automatic gear shift (1932).</li> </ul>