



MARCH

This Month in Black History

Fact Sheet

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| March 1 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Merlie Evers-Williams, civil rights activist and first woman to head the NAACP, born (1933). She is the widow of Civil Right martyr Merger Evers. |
| March 2 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Howard University, Washington DC, chartered (1867) |
| March 3 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Freedmen's Bureau, which built more than 1,000 Black schools, which among them were Atlanta, Fisk, and Howard Universities, founded (1865) |
| March 4 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Garrett Morgan, inventor of the three-position traffic signal and a smoke hood (a predecessor to the gas mask), born (1877) |
| March 5 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crispus Attucks, first casualty of the American Revolutionary War, died. (1770) |
| March 6 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Dred Scott decision of the Supreme Court denied Blacks U.S. citizenship and denied the power of Congress to restrict slavery in any federal territory. (1857) |
| March 7 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Janet Collins, first Black ballerina to perform at the Metropolitan Opera, born (1917) |
| March 8 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Phyllis Mae Dailey, first of four African-American Navy nurses to serve active duty in World War II, was commissioned as an ensign in the United States Navy Nurse Corps. (1945) |
| March 9 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The U.S. Supreme Court in case known as the United States vs. The Amistad found that Joseph Cinquez and his fellow Africans rightfully defended themselves from being enslaved through the illegal Atlantic slave trade. (1941) |
| March 10 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harriett Tubman, Underground Railroad conductor, abolitionist, and Civil War veteran, died. (1913) |
| March 11 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ralph David Abernathy, aide to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., and Civil Rights Movement leader, born (1926) |
| March 12 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Benjamin Banneker and Pierre Charles L'Enfant are commissioned to lay out the District of Columbia. (1791) |
| March 13 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jean Baptiste Point du Sable established the first permanent settlement at <i>Skikai-o</i>, which is now known as Chicago, Illinois. (1773) |
| March 14 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fannie Lou Hamer, community organizer, voting and civil rights activist, died. (1977) |
| March 15 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Robert Carlos Delarge, who served as a Republican member of United States House of Representatives from 1871-1873, born (1842) |
| March 16 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hiram R. Revels made his first speech in the Senate, opposing the readmission of Georgia without adequate safeguards for Black citizens. This was the first official speech by a Black in Congress. |
| March 17 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bayard Rustin, a major strategist for the Civil Rights Movement who helped to organize the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, the 1963 March on Washington, and the Freedom Rides, born (1917) |

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| March 18 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Barack Obama delivered a now famous speech, “A More Perfect Union” on the role race has played in U. S. history and in the presidential campaign. (2008) |
| March 19 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jackie “Moms” Mabley, American stand-up comedian and actress, born (1894) |
| March 20 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ralph J. Bunche, American political scientist, academic, and diplomat became the first African American to receive the Nobel Peace Prize for his work as a Middle East mediator (1950) |
| March 21 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Benjamin Sterling Turner, who was an American businessman and politician, served in the US House of Representatives representing Alabama’s first congressional district (1871-1873), died. (1894) |
| March 22 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • William “Willie the Pro” Thrower, the first African American to play as a quarterback in the National Football League, born (1930) |
| March 23 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patricia Roberts Harris, who served Secretary of Housing and Urban Development and Secretary of Health and Human Services, died (1985). She was the first African American woman to serve in the United States Cabinet, and the first to enter the line of succession to the Presidency. |
| March 24 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dorothy Height, civil rights and president of the national Council of Negro Women for forty years, born (1912) • Halle Berry becomes the first Black woman to win an Academy Award for Best Actress. (2002) |
| March 25 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • John Hope Franklin, great American historian, former president of the American Historical Association, and best known for his book, <i>From Slavery to Freedom</i>, died. (2009) • Ida Wells-Barnett, who was an American investigative journalist, anti-lynching crusader, of the founders of the NAACP and suffragette, died (1931) |
| March 26 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bishop Richard Allen, founder of the African Methodist Episcopal Church—the first independent, Black denomination in the United States, died. (1831) |
| March 27 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Augusta Savage, American Sculptor and educator who fought to secure a place for African American women in the art world, died. (1962) |
| March 28 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Benjamin E. Mays, American Baptist minister, former president of Morehouse College, as well as teacher and mentor to Martin Luther King, Jr, died. (1984) |
| March 29 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walt Frazier, former NBA basketball player, born (1945) • Pearl Bailey, American singer and Tony Award winning actress, born (1990) |
| March 30 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 15th Amendment to the United States Constitution that prohibits the federal government and each state from denying a citizen the right to vote based on that citizen’s race, color, or previous condition of servitude, was certified as duly ratified and part of the Constitution. (1870) |
| March 31 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jesse Owens, American track and field athlete and four-time Gold Medalist in the 1936 Olympic Games, died. (1980) • Toni Morrison, an American novelist, book editor, and professor, won the Pulitzer Prize for her novel, <i>Beloved</i>. (1988) • Jack Johnson, who became the first African American heavyweight boxing champion, born (1878) • Henry Ossian Flipper, the first African-American graduate of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, born (1856) |