



APRIL

# This Month in Black History Fact Sheet

April 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Dr. Charles Richard Drew</b>, scientist, who discovered blood plasma, researched the field blood transfusions, developed techniques for blood storage, and helped to develop large-scale blood banks and saved thousands of lives during WWII, died. (1950)</li> </ul>
April 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Willie “Bill” Pickett</b>, world renown African American cowboy, died. (1932)</li> </ul>
April 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.</b> delivered his sermon titled “I’ve Been to the Mountaintop” during his last public appearance prior to his assassination at Mason Temple in Memphis, Tennessee. (1968)</li> <li>• <b>Malcolm X</b> delivered his speech titled “The Ballot or the Bullet” at Cory Methodist Church in Cleveland, Ohio. (1964)</li> </ul>
April 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.</b>, the most visible spokesperson, and the leader of the Civil Rights Movement, was assassinated at the Lorraine Motel in Memphis, Tennessee. (1968)</li> <li>• <b>Maya Angelou</b>, poet, memoirist, author, and civil rights activist was born. (1928)</li> </ul>
April 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Booker T. Washington</b>, educator and founder of Tuskegee Institute was born. (1856)</li> </ul>
April 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Matthew Henson</b>, an explorer and exceptional navigator, participated in the 1908-1909 expedition that reached the North Pole. Henson was the first of their party to reach the pole. (1909)</li> </ul>
April 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Billie Holiday</b>, blues singer of one of whose most famous songs titled “Strange Fruit,” that bemoaned the brutal lynching of black Americans in the South was born. (1917)</li> </ul>
April 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The <b>first U.S. stamp</b> ever to honor an African American was issued to bearing the likeness of Booker T. Washington Jr. (1940)</li> <li>• <b>Henry (Hank) Aaron</b> broke Babe Ruth’s major league baseball record, hitting his 715<sup>th</sup> home run in a game at Atlanta stadium. (1974)</li> </ul>
April 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The <b>Civil Rights Act of 1866</b> declared all male persons born in the United States to be citizens, “without distinction of race or color, or previous condition of slavery, or involuntary servitude.” (1866)</li> </ul>
April 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Howard Thurman</b>, author, educator, theologian, and who shaped Dr. Martin Luther King Jr’s philosophy of non-violence, died. (1981)</li> </ul>
April 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Percy L. Julian</b>, American chemist, synthesist of cortisone, hormones, and other products from soybeans was born. (1899)</li> </ul>
April 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The <b>Civil War</b> began with the Confederate Army’s attack on Fort Sumter in Charleston, South Carolina. (1861)</li> </ul>
April 13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Sidney Poitier</b> becomes the first black male and Bahamian to win the Best Actor Academy Award for his role in <i>Lilies of the Fields</i>. (1964)</li> </ul>

April 14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Frances Ellen Watkins Harper</b>, abolitionist and suffragist, delivered a speech titled “The Great Problem to be Solved” in Philadelphia at the Pennsylvania Society for Promoting the Abolition of Slavery. (1875)</li> </ul>
April 15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Harold Washington</b>, Chicago’s first African American mayor, was born. (1922)</li> </ul>
April 16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Ralph Ellison</b>, an American novelist, literary critic, and scholar best known for his novel <i>Invisible Man</i>, which won the National Book Award died. (1994)</li> </ul>
April 17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Playwright <b>August Wilson</b> won his second Pulitzer Prize for drama for the play <i>The Piano Lesson</i>. (1990)</li> <li>• <b>Rev. Ralph David Abernathy</b>, keystone of the Southern Christian Leadership Council and aide to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr, dies (1990).</li> </ul>
April 18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Alex Haley</b>, author of the book <i>Roots</i>, was awarded a Pulitzer Prize. (1977)</li> </ul>
April 19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The <b>National Urban League</b> was formed in New York, New York. (1910)</li> </ul>
April 20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Harriet Tubman</b> begins her work on Underground Railroad and in a ten-year span escorted over 300 enslaved African Americans to freedom (1853)</li> </ul>
April 21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Lee Elder</b> becomes the first African American professional golfer to qualify for the Masters Tournament. (1974)</li> </ul>
April 22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Stono Rebellion</b> first recorded slave revolt occurs in Stono, South Carolina. (1596)</li> </ul>
April 23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>National Urban League</b> was founded. (1913)</li> <li>• <b>Granville T. Woods</b>, inventor of automatic air brakes and over thirty-five other inventions, was born. (1953)</li> </ul>
April 24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>National Medical Association of Black Physicians</b> organized in Atlanta, GA. (1895)</li> </ul>
April 25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>United Negro College Fund</b> was established. (1944)</li> </ul>
April 26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>South Africa</b> held its first all-race elections for the national assembly and provincial parliaments. (1994)</li> </ul>
April 27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Coretta Scott King</b>, widow of Martin Luther King Jr., and civil rights activist, was born. (1927)</li> </ul>
April 28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>South Africa</b> held its first all-race elections for the national assembly and provincial parliaments. (1994)</li> </ul>
April 29	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Duke Ellington</b>, musician and jazz composer, was born. (1899)</li> </ul>
April 30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Bessie Coleman</b>, first African American woman pilot, died. (1926)</li> </ul>