



MAY

# This Month in Black History Fact Sheet

May 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Gwendolyn Brooks</b>, an American poet, author, and teacher became the first African American to win the Pulitzer Prize (1950).</li> </ul>
May 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The first game was played in the inaugural season of the <b>Negro National League</b> was played at Washington park in Indianapolis (1920).</li> </ul>
May 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Shelley v. Kraemer, 334 U.S.</b> is a landmark United States Supreme Court case that struck down racially restrictive housing covenants (1950).</li> </ul>
May 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Dr. Daniel Hale Williams</b>, pioneering surgeon, co-founded <b>Provident Hospital and Training Association</b> in Chicago, the first black-controlled hospital in the nation (1891).</li> </ul>
May 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Moneta Sleet Jr.</b> was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for Feature Photography for his photograph of Coretta Scott King, Martin Luther King Jr.'s widow, at her husband's funeral. In doing so, he became the first African American man to win the Pulitzer (1969).</li> </ul>
May 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Willie Mays Jr</b>, regarded as one of the greatest baseball players of all time, was born (1931).</li> </ul>
May 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Henry McNeal Turner</b>, first black chaplain in the United States Colored Troops, state legislator, and A.M.E. bishop, died (1915).</li> </ul>
May 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>John Brown</b>, American abolitionist who led the raid on Harper's Ferry, was born (1800).</li> </ul>
May 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Nelson Mandela</b>, South African anti-apartheid revolutionary, was inaugurated as the first democratically elected president (1994).</li> </ul>
May 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Alonzo Clayton</b> became the youngest jockey, at age 15, to win the Kentucky Derby (<b>1892</b>).</li> </ul>
May 13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Robert Smalls</b>, born into slavery, freed himself, his crew, and their families during the American Civil War by commandeering a Confederate transport ship (1862). He later became a naval pilot, politician, businessman, and publisher.</li> </ul>
May 14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Erskine Henderson</b>, an African American jockey, wins the Kentucky Derby on a horse trained by African American trainer Alex Perry (<b>1885</b>).</li> <li>A Greyhound Bus carrying <b>Freedom Riders</b>, an interracial group of civil rights activists, was bombed and burned by segregationist outside Anniston, Alabama. Activists were taken off the bus and beaten by the mob (1961).</li> </ul>
May 15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Camilla Williams</b>, the first African American woman to sign a contract with a major American opera house, made her debut in the title role of Madam Butterfly with the New York City Opera (1946).</li> </ul>

May 16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Joseph Richard Winters</b>, an African American abolitionist and inventor, received a U.S. Patent for a fire ladder that could be affixed to buildings.</li> <li>• <b>A Phillip Randolph</b>, organizer of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters (first predominantly African American labor union) and head of the March on Washington, died (1979).</li> <li>• <b>Benjamin O. Davis Jr</b> becomes first Brigadier general in the United States Air Force, son of the first black general (Benjamin O. Davis Sr in the US Army, achieves rank (1960)</li> </ul>
May 17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Brown vs. Board of Education of Topeka</b> landmark decision of the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that the U.S. state laws establishing segregation in public schools were unconstitutional (1954).</li> </ul>
May 18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mary McLeod Bethune</b>, American educator, founder of Bethune-Cookman College, founder of the National Council of Negro Women, statewoman, and presidential advisor, died (1955).</li> <li>• <b>Anna Julia Cooper</b> delivered an address at the World's Congress of Representative Women, a predominantly white audience, describing the progress of African American women since slavery (1893).</li> </ul>
May 19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Malcom X</b>, an African American Muslim minister, and human rights activist, was born (1925).</li> <li>• <b>Lorraine Hansberry</b>, writer, and playwright who was the first African American woman to have a play ("A Raisin in the Sun") performed on Broadway, was born (1930).</li> </ul>
May 20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>David Paterson</b>, an American politician who served as the 55<sup>th</sup> governor of the state of New York, was born (1954).</li> <li>• <b>Touissant L'Ouverture</b>, a Haitian general and the most prominent leader of the Haitian Revolution and known as the "Father of Haiti, was born (1797).</li> </ul>
May 21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Loretta Lynch</b>, the second African American, the second woman and the first African American woman to serve as the attorney general of the United States, was born (1959).</li> <li>• <b>Agrippa Hull</b>, an African American man who served with distinction as an orderly and later as a military engineer in the American Revolutionary War, died (1848).</li> <li>• <b>Blanche Kelso Bruce</b>, the first elected African American to serve a full-term representing Mississippi as a U.S. Senator, was sworn into office (1881).</li> </ul>
May 22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Langston Hughes</b>, poet, essayist, social activist, playwright, major figure in the Harlem renaissance, and columnist, died (1967).</li> <li>• <b>Claude McKay</b>, Jamaican writer, poet, and a central figure in the Harlem Renaissance, died (1948).</li> </ul>
May 23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Marvin Hagler</b>, former boxer and middleweight champion of the world, was born (1954).</li> </ul>
May 24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Duke Ellington</b>, American composer, pianist, and leader of a jazz orchestra, died (1974).</li> </ul>
May 25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Henry Ossawa Tanner</b>, an American artist and first African American painter to gain international acclaim, died. (1937).</li> <li>• <b>Octavia Spencer</b>, Academy and Golden Globe award winning actress, was born (1970).</li> </ul>

May 26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Miles Davis</b>, famous American jazz musician, born (1926)</li> </ul>
May 27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Ernest Green</b>, one of the Little Rock Nine, a group of African American students who, in 1957, were the first Black students ever to attend classes at Little Rock Central High in Little Rock, Arkansas. Green became the first African American to graduate from the school (1958).</li> </ul>
May 28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Horace King</b>, American architect, engineer, and considered the most respected bridgebuilder of the 19<sup>th</sup> century Deep South, died (1885).</li> <li>• <b>Ruth A. Davis</b>, a United States diplomat who was the first woman of color to be appointed as Director General of the Foreign Service and the first African American Director of the Foreign Service, was born (1943).</li> <li>• <b>Maya Angelou</b>, renown American poet, memoirist, and civil rights activist, died (2014).</li> </ul>
May 29	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Abolitionist and suffragette <b>Sojourner Truth</b> gave her famous speech, “Ain’t I A Woman?” at the Woman’s Rights Convention in Akron, Ohio (1851).</li> <li>• <b>Thomas Bradley</b> became the first African American mayor of Los Angeles, CA (1973).</li> </ul>
May 30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Gale Sayers</b> becomes the youngest inductee in the Pro Football Hall of Fame, (1977).</li> <li>• <b>Vivian Malone</b>, one of the first two black students to enroll at the University of Alabama became the university’s first black graduate (1965).</li> </ul>
May 31	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Patricia Harris</b>, first African American woman to serve in the United States Cabinet (as Secretary of Health and Human Services) and the first to enter the line of succession to the Presidency, was born (1924).</li> </ul>