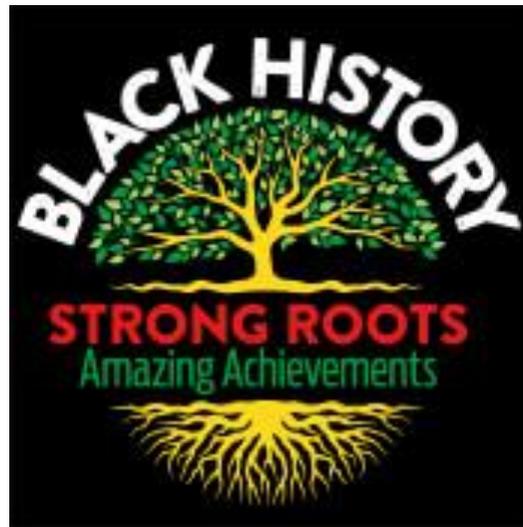


FEBRUARY BLACK HISTORY MONTH



Black History Month is an annual celebration of achievements by African Americans and a time for recognizing their central role in U.S. history. Also known as African American History Month, the event grew out of “Negro History Week,” the brainchild of noted historian Carter G. Woodson and other prominent African Americans. Since 1976, every U.S. president has officially designated the month of February as Black History Month. Other countries around the world, including Canada and the United Kingdom, also devote a month to celebrating Black history.

Today in Black History we salute the journey of Madam Vice President Kamala Harris

**KAMALA HARRIS
THE VICE PRESIDENT**



A career for the people — breaking barriers and fighting for working families.

On August 11, 2020, Vice President Harris accepted President Joe Biden's invitation to become his running mate and help unite the nation. She is the first woman, the first Black American, and the first South Asian American to be elected Vice President, as was the case with other offices she has held. She is, however, determined not to be the last.

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/administration/vice-president-harris/>

Today in Black History we salute the journey of Stacey Abrams



In 2010, Stacey became the first woman to lead either party in the Georgia General Assembly and the first African American to lead in the House of Representatives. As House Minority Leader, she has worked strategically to recruit, train, elect, and defend Democrats to prevent a Republican supermajority in the House, and has worked across the aisle on behalf of all Georgians. During her tenure, she has stopped legislation to raise taxes on the poor and middle class and to roll back reproductive healthcare. She has brokered compromises that led to progress on transportation, infrastructure, and education. Most recently, she passed legislation to improve the welfare of grandparents and other kin raising children and secured increased funding to support these families.

Today in Black History we salute the journey of Senator Raphael G. Warnock



[Raphael G. Warnock](#) (D-GA) became the **first African American** senator from Georgia on January 20, 2021. Born and raised in Savannah, Georgia, Warnock earned a bachelor's degree from Morehouse College and then a master's degree and PhD in divinity at Union Theological Seminary in New York. In 2005 he became senior pastor at Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta, Georgia. Warnock challenged appointed senator Kelly Loeffler for

the remainder of the term ending January 3, 2023, in Georgia's Class 3 seat. None of the candidates won the required 50+ percent of the vote, so a run-off election took place for the top two candidates—Warnock and Loeffler—on January 5, 2021. Warnock won the election by two percentage points, 51 to 49.

Today in Black History we salute the journey of Amanda Gorman



Amanda S. C. Gorman is an American poet and activist. Her work focuses on issues of oppression, feminism, race, and marginalization, as well as the African diaspora. Amanda is the country's first National Youth Poet Laureate, dazzled viewers with her recitation of her poem "The Hill We Climb" at President Biden's inauguration on January 20, 2021 and the video of her performance has gone viral.

The country's newest literary superstar, 22-year-old Gorman is going to be showcased at an event: Super Bowl LV. She will be reciting at the Super Bowl pre-show on Feb. 7, before the Kansas City Chiefs play the Tampa Bay Buccaneers.

Gorman was the first person to be named National Youth Poet Laureate.

<https://poets.org/poet/amanda-gorman>

Today in Black History we salute the journey of President Barack H. Obama & First Lady



First Black President: In 2008, [Barack Obama](#) became the first Black president of the United States.

Barack Obama was sworn in as the first Black president of the United States on January 20, 2009. [Obama's inauguration](#) set an attendance record, with 1.8 million people gathering in the cold to witness it. Obama was sworn in by Chief Justice John Roberts Jr. with the same Bible President [Abraham Lincoln](#) used at his first inaugural.



First Lady Michelle Obama is a lawyer, writer and the wife of former U.S. President Barack Obama. Prior to her role as first lady, she was a lawyer, Chicago city administrator and community-outreach worker.

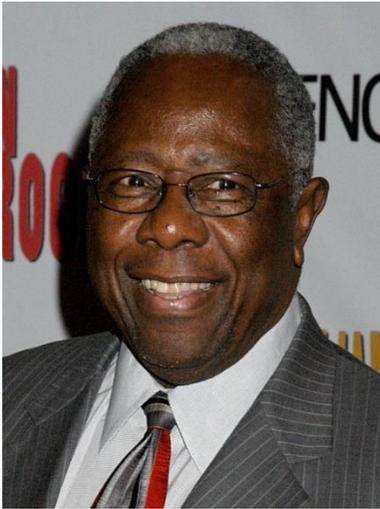
Michelle Obama is a lawyer and writer who was the first lady of the United States from 2009 to 2017. She is the wife of the 44th U.S. president, [Barack Obama](#). As first lady, Michelle focused her attention on social issues such as poverty, healthy living and education. Her 2018 memoir, *Becoming*, discusses the experiences that shaped her, from her childhood in Chicago to her years living in the White House.

Today in Black History we salute the journey of Colin Powell



In 1989 [Colin Powell](#), a four-star general in the army, was chosen to be chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff—the country's highest military post. In 2001 Powell also became the first African American secretary of state.

Today in Black History we salute the journey of Hank Aaron.



Hank Aaron began his professional baseball career in 1952 in the Negro League and joined the Milwaukee Braves of the major league in 1954, eight years after [Jackie Robinson](#) had integrated baseball. Aaron was the last Negro League player to compete in the majors. He quickly established himself as an important player for the Braves and won the National League batting title in 1956. The following season, he took home the league's MVP award and helped the Braves beat Mickey Mantle and the heavily favored [New York](#) Yankees in the World Series. In 1959, Aaron won his second league batting title.

Aaron is best known, however, for breaking Babe Ruth's record of 714 career home runs, which he established in 1935. On April 8, 1974, in front of a crowd of over 50,000 fans at Atlanta-Fulton County Stadium, Aaron hit his 715th career home run in the fourth inning of a game against the Los Angeles Dodgers. After retiring as a player, Aaron became one of baseball's first Black executives, with the Atlanta Braves. He was inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1982. Aaron died on January 22, 2021 at age 86.

Today in Black History we salute the journey of LeBron James



LeBron Raymone James Sr. is an American professional basketball player for the Los Angeles Lakers of the National Basketball Association. Widely considered one of the greatest NBA players in history. Today we salute the Philanthropist, the Businessman, the Man, and the Athlete. Link to his website below:

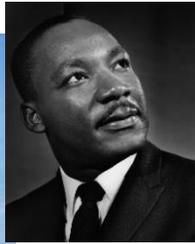
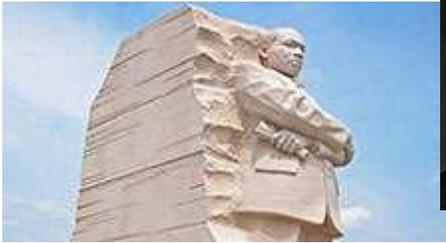
<https://www.lebronjames.com/>

Today in Black History we salute the journey of Mae Carol Jemison



Mae Carol Jemison is an American [engineer](#), [physician](#), and former [NASA](#) astronaut. She became the first [black](#) woman to travel into space when she served as a [mission specialist](#) aboard the [Space Shuttle Endeavour](#). Jemison joined NASA's [astronaut corps in 1987](#) and was selected to serve for the [STS-47](#) mission, during which she orbited the Earth for nearly eight days on September 12–20, 1992.

Today in Black History we salute the Journey of Dr. Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr.



Dr. Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr.

Baptist minister and social activist who led the civil rights movement in the United States from the mid-1950s until his death by assassination in 1968. His leadership was fundamental to that movement's success in ending the legal segregation of African Americans in the South and other parts of the United States. King rose to national prominence as head of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, which promoted nonviolent tactics, such as the massive March on Washington (1963), to achieve civil rights. He was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964.

Today in Black History we salute the journey of Congressman John Lewis



Congressman John Robert Lewis was an American politician, statesman, and civil rights activist and leader who served in the United States House of Representatives for Georgia's 5th congressional district from 1987 until his death in 2020. He was the chairman of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) from 1963 to 1966.

Lewis was one of the "Big Six" leaders of groups who organized the 1963 March on Washington. He fulfilled many key roles in the civil rights movement and its actions to end legalized racial segregation in the United States. In 1965, Lewis led the first of three Selma to Montgomery marches across the Edmund Pettus Bridge. In an incident which became known as Bloody Sunday, state troopers and police attacked the marchers, including Lewis.

A member of the Democratic Party, Lewis was first elected to Congress in 1986 and served 17 terms in the U.S. House of Representatives. The district he represented included most of Atlanta. Due to his length of service, he became the dean of the Georgia congressional delegation. While in the House, Lewis was one of the leaders of the Democratic Party, serving from 1991 as a Chief Deputy Whip and from 2003 as a Senior Chief Deputy Whip. John Lewis received many honorary degrees and awards, including the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

Today in Black History we salute the journey of Shirley A. Chisholm



Shirley Anita St. Hill Chisholm was the first African American woman in Congress (1968) and the first woman and African American to seek the nomination for president of the United States from one of the two major political parties (1972). Her motto and title of her autobiography—*Unbossed and Unbought*—illustrates her outspoken advocacy for women and minorities during her seven terms in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Born in Brooklyn, New York, on November 30, 1924, Chisholm was the oldest of four daughters to immigrant parents Charles St. Hill, a factory worker from Guyana, and Ruby Seale St. Hill, a seamstress from Barbados. She graduated from Brooklyn Girls' High in 1942 and from Brooklyn College cum laude in 1946, where she won prizes on the debate team. Although professors encouraged her to consider a political career, she replied that she faced a “double handicap”

as both Black and female.

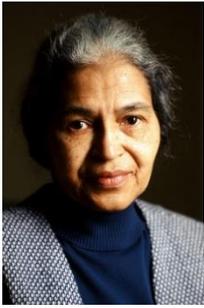
Initially, Chisholm worked as a nursery school teacher. In 1949, she married Conrad Q. Chisholm, a private investigator (they divorced in 1977). She earned a master's degree from Columbia University in early childhood education in 1951. By 1960, she was a consultant to the New York City Division of Day Care. Ever aware of racial and gender inequality, she joined local chapters of the League of Women Voters, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), the Urban League, as well as the Democratic Party club in Bedford-Stuyvesant, Brooklyn.

In 1964, Chisholm ran for and became the second African American in the New York State Legislature. After court-ordered redistricting created a new, heavily Democratic, district in her neighborhood, in 1968 Chisholm sought—and won—a seat in Congress. There, “Fighting Shirley” introduced more than 50 pieces of legislation and championed racial and gender equality, the plight of the poor, and ending the Vietnam War. She was a co-founder of the National Women's Political Caucus in 1971, and in 1977 became the first Black woman and second woman ever to serve on the powerful House Rules Committee. That year she married Arthur Hardwick Jr., a New York State legislator.

Discrimination followed Chisholm's quest for the 1972 Democratic Party presidential nomination. She was blocked from participating in televised primary debates, and after taking legal action, was permitted to make just one speech. Still, students, women, and minorities followed the “Chisholm Trail.” She entered 12 primaries and garnered 152 of the delegates' votes (10% of the total)—despite an under-financed campaign and contentiousness from the predominantly male Congressional Black Caucus.

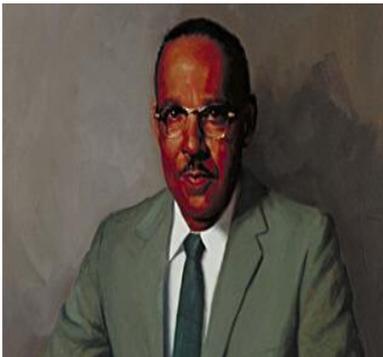
Chisholm retired from Congress in 1983. She taught at Mount Holyoke College and co-founded the National Political Congress of Black Women. In 1991 she moved to Florida, and later declined the nomination to become U.S. Ambassador to Jamaica due to ill health. Of her legacy, Chisholm said, “I want to be remembered as a woman ... who dared to be a catalyst of change.”

Today in Black History we salute the journey of Rosa Parks



Rosa Parks (1913—2005) helped initiate the civil rights movement in the United States when she refused to give up her seat to a white man on a Montgomery, Alabama bus in 1955. Her actions inspired the leaders of the local Black community to organize the Montgomery Bus Boycott. Led by a young Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., the boycott lasted more than a year—during which Parks not coincidentally lost her job—and ended only when the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that bus segregation was unconstitutional. Over the next half-century, Parks became a nationally recognized symbol of dignity and strength in the struggle to end entrenched racial segregation

Today in Black History we salute the journey of Vivien Thomas



Denied a chance to become a doctor by the Great Depression, and initially denied the recognition he deserved for his work by old racial prejudices, [Vivien Thomas](#) proved that genius, persistence and ability can transcend artificially imposed restraints. His story now has been immortalized in the HBO film "Something the Lord Made," in the National Magazine Award-winning article with the same name, as well as in the PBS documentary "Partners of the Heart."

At Johns Hopkins, the word "breakthrough" rarely is used. But Vivien Thomas was a pivotal player in the development of a true breakthrough at The Johns Hopkins Hospital just 60 years ago. Working with surgeon Alfred Blalock and pediatric cardiologist Helen Taussig, Thomas was part of a team that devised a means to correct a congenital heart defect known as Tetralogy of Fallot, or Blue Baby syndrome.

Today in Black History we salute the journey of Henrietta Lack.



In 1951, a young mother of five named Henrietta Lacks visited The Johns Hopkins Hospital complaining of vaginal bleeding. Upon examination, renowned gynecologist Dr. Howard Jones discovered a large, malignant tumor on her cervix. At the time, The Johns Hopkins Hospital was one of only a few hospitals to treat poor African-Americans.

Mrs. Lacks began undergoing radium treatments for her cervical cancer. A sample of her cancer cells retrieved during a biopsy were sent to Dr. George Gey's nearby tissue lab. For years, Dr. Gey, a prominent cancer and virus researcher, had been collecting cells from all patients who came to The Johns Hopkins Hospital with cervical cancer, but each sample quickly died in Dr. Gey's lab. What he would soon discover was that Mrs. Lacks' cells were unlike any of the others he had ever seen: where other cells would die, Mrs. Lacks' cells doubled every 20 to 24 hours.

Today, these incredible cells— nicknamed "HeLa" cells, from the first two letters of her first and last names — are used to study the effects of toxins, drugs, hormones and viruses on the growth of cancer cells without experimenting on humans. They have been used to test the effects of radiation and poisons, to study the human genome, to learn more about how viruses work, and played a crucial role in the development of the polio vaccine.

In 2010, Rebecca Skloot published *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*, a compelling look at Henrietta Lacks' story, her impact on medical science, and important bioethical issues. That book became the basis for the HBO/Harpo film by the same name, which was released in April 2017.



Today in Black History we salute the journey of Cicely Tyson

Special Tribute to:



Cicely TYSON,
the Emmy and Tony-winning actress
who set a standard for grace among
black actresses through her near seven-
decade career, has passed away on Thursday, January 28, 2021. She was 96.

Cicely specialized in portraying strong black women caught up in life's struggles during her incredible 70-year career.

Cicely made history by nabbing the first recurring role for a black woman in a television series when she appeared as Jane Foster in the CBS drama East Side/West Side from 1963 to 1964.

She had notable roles in other films, including The Heart Is A Lonely Hunter (1968), Sounder, (1972), and Fried Green Tomatoes, (1991).

She portrayed nanny and family's maid, Constantine Jefferson, in the 2011 drama, The Help, which starred Viola Davis, Octavia Spencer and Emma Stone.

She was nominated a total of 16 times at the Emmys throughout her career, and won for Supporting Actress for her role in the 1994 for an adaptation of Oldest Living Confederate Widow Tells All.

Cicely's manager, Larry Thompson, said she regarded her memoir as a window into her "personal and professional life".

"I have managed Miss Tyson's career for over 40 years, and each year was a privilege and blessing," Larry said in a statement.

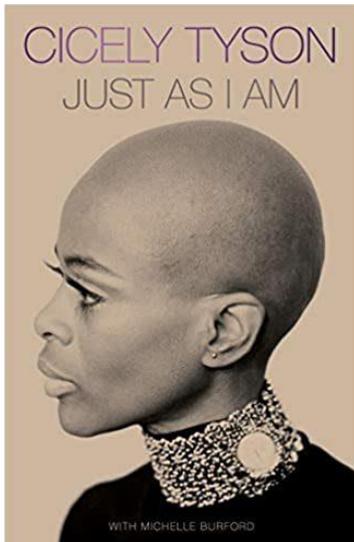


She was married to jazz trumpet legend Miles Davis from 1981 to 1988.

The pair rekindled their relationship in 1978, and got married three years later on November 26, 1981.



Cicely received the Presidential Medal of Freedom from Barack Obama in 2016



Cicely gave birth to Joan Tyson when she was just 17.

The award-winning actress dedicated the book to Joan, who she said is "the one who has paid the greatest price for this gift to all".

A MOTHER'S LOVE

*Cicely Tyson paid tribute to her 'precious' daughter Joan in memoir released days before she passed away. The Oscar winner dedicated her book, *Just As I Am*, to Joan, who she had a "fragile and precious" relationship with.*

Her best pal, Oprah Winfrey, wrote after her death: "Cicely decided early on that her work as an actor would be more than a job.

"She used her career to illuminate the humanity in Black people. The roles she played reflected her values; she never compromised. Her life so fully lived is a testimony to Greatness."

Rest In God's Heavenly Peace Our Queen! We all appreciated "Your Excellent Gift"...Well Done!!!

Today in Black History we salute the journey of Chadwick Boseman

Special Tribute to: Chadwick Boseman



Chadwick Boseman was an American actor. He is known for his portrayal of T'Challa / Black Panther in the Marvel Cinematic Universe from 2016 to 2019, particularly in [Black Panther](#) (2018), and for his starring roles as several pioneering Americans, [Jackie Robinson](#) in [42](#) (2013), [James Brown](#) in [Get on Up](#) (2014), and [Thurgood Marshall](#) in [Marshall](#) (2017). He also had choice parts in [The Express](#) (2008), [Draft Day](#) (2014), and [Message from the King](#) (2016). Born in Anderson, South Carolina, he attended Howard University and studied at the Oxford Mid-Summer Program for acting, before moving to Los Angeles in 2008 to pursue his craft on the big screen. He died in 2020, after a four year bout with colon cancer, during which time he had starred in several of the biggest movies ever made.



Chadwick Boseman, center, as trumpeter Levee, flanked by Michael Potts, left, and Colman Domingo in “Ma Rainey’s Black Bottom.”

When Chadwick Boseman arrived in Pittsburgh in 2019 to film the August Wilson adaptation “Ma Rainey’s Black Bottom,” his castmates didn’t know that he’d been privately battling cancer for three years. But costar Colman Domingo remembers what Boseman said as the “Black Panther” star prepared to pour his all into the incendiary role that would mark his final screen performance: “He said, ‘I can’t wait to dance with you, Colman.’”

Rest In God’s Heavenly Peace Our Prince! We all appreciated “Your Excellent Gift”...

Wakanda Forever!!!

Today in Black History we salute the journey of Rosalind “Roz” Brewer



Rosalind "Roz" Brewer was recently named as the new CEO at Walgreens, effective July 2021. She will be the only Black woman CEO leading a Fortune 500 company.

Brewer has served as Chief Operating Officer at Starbucks since 2017 when she also joined the Starbucks board of directors. She was the first Black woman to be COO of Starbucks and to head a division there.

As chief operating officer and group president for Starbucks, Roz Brewer leads the company's operating businesses across the Americas (Canada, U.S. and Latin America), and Starbucks license stores as well as the global functions of marketing, technology, supply chain, product innovation, and store development organizations.

She previously served as CEO of Sam's Club and made history by becoming the first woman and first African American to lead a Walmart division.

She is a current director of Starbucks, Amazon and a former director of Lockheed Martin and Molson Coors Brewing Company. She also chairs the board of trustees at Spelman College.

Today in Black History we salute the journey of Derrick Johnson & the NAACP



PRESIDENT AND CEO

Derrick Johnson serves as President and CEO of the NAACP, a title he has held since October of 2017. President Johnson formerly served as vice chairman of the NAACP National Board of Directors, as well as state president for the Mississippi State Conference NAACP. A longstanding member and leader of the NAACP, Mr. Johnson has helped guide the Association through a period of re-envisioning and reinvigoration.

Under President Johnson's leadership, the NAACP has undertaken such efforts as the 2018 *"Log Out" Facebook Campaign*, pressuring Facebook after reports of Russian hackers targeting African Americans, the *Jamestown to Jamestown Partnership*, marking the 400th year enslaved Africans first touched the shores of America, the 2020 *We are Done Dying Campaign*, exposing the inequities embedded into the American healthcare system and the country at large, and most recently the victorious 2020 Supreme Court lawsuit *NAACP vs. Trump*, which prevents Donald Trump's administration from rescinding the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program for millions of young immigrants.

Today in Black History we salute the journey of Mellody Hobson



Mellody Hobson is the Co-CEO & President of Ariel Investments, an investment company based in Chicago.

In addition to her role at Ariel, she is a nationally recognized voice on financial literacy. She has conducted extensive research on minority investing patterns, is an advocate for financial literacy and investor education, a TED speaker, and currently serves as Vice Chair of the Board of Starbucks Corporation, a director of JPMorgan Chase and a director of the short video platform, Quibi. Hobson is also Chairman of After School Matters, a Chicago non-profit that provides area teens with high-quality after school and summer programs, and vice chair of World Business Chicago. In 2015, Time Magazine named her one of the “100 Most Influential People” in the world.

Today in Black History we salute the journey of The Divine Nine and the National Pan-Hellenic Council

The Divine Nine and the National Pan-Hellenic Council



There are nine historically Black Greek letter organizations (BGLOs) that make up the [National Pan-Hellenic Council](#). Collectively, these organizations are referred to as "The Divine Nine." Each of these fraternities and sororities is rich in history - ties to one or more of these organizations may be found in many college-educated Black families in the United States.

- [Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity](#), Founded 1906, Cornell University
- [Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority](#), Founded 1908, Howard University
- [Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity](#), Founded 1911, Indiana University
- [Omega Psi Phi Fraternity](#), Founded 1911, Howard University
- [Delta Sigma Theta Sorority](#), Founded 1913, Howard University
- [Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity](#), Founded 1914, Howard University
- [Zeta Phi Beta Sorority](#), Founded 1920, Howard University
- [Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority](#), Founded 1922, Butler University
- [Iota Phi Theta Fraternity](#), Founded 1963, Morgan State University

Today in Black History we salute the journey of Alicia Garza



Alicia Garza, a co-founder of the #BlackLivesMatter Movement, is an Oakland-based organizer, writer, public speaker and freedom dreamer who is currently the Special Projects Director for the National Domestic Workers Alliance, the nation's leading voice for dignity and fairness for the millions of domestic workers in the United States. As a queer Black woman, Garza's

leadership and work challenge the misconception that only cisgender Black men encounter police and state violence. In order to truly understand how devastating and widespread this type of violence is in Black America, we must view this epidemic through of a lens of race, gender, sexual orientation and gender identity.

Today in Black History we salute the journey of Carla Hayden



Carla Hayden is the current Librarian of Congress and the first African American and first woman to lead the national library. She was sworn in as the 14th Librarian of Congress on September 14, 2016. Hayden was nominated to the position by President Barack Obama on February 24, 2016.

Since 1993, she has served as CEO of the Enoch Pratt Free Library in Baltimore, Maryland. Prior to joining the Pratt Library, Hayden was deputy commissioner and chief librarian of the Chicago Public Library from 1991 to 1993. She was an assistant professor for Library and Information Science at the University of Pittsburgh from 1987 to 1991. Hayden was president of the American Library Association from 2003 to 2004. In 1995, she was the first African American to receive Library Journal's Librarian of the Year Award in recognition of her outreach services at the Pratt Library, which included an after-school center for Baltimore teens offering homework assistance and college and career counseling.

Today in Black History we salute the journey of Dr. Shirley Ann Jackson



Dr. Shirley Ann Jackson has been the driving force behind the explosive growth in funds, faculty, and programming at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute since 1999. Since that time, her Rensselaer Plan has received more than \$1.25 billion in invested funds.

Dr. Jackson is the first African-American woman to receive a doctorate from MIT and the first African-American woman to lead a top-ranked research university.

Today in Black History we salute the journey of Fields Jackson, Jr.



Fields Jackson, Jr., executive director, HBCU Business Deans Roundtable

Jackson heads up a think tank dedicated to enhancing business and management programs at HBCUs. The Roundtable's goal is to boost networking opportunities between often-overlooked HBCU business school leaders and C-suites. One of Jackson's earliest forays into D&I came in the late '90s, when he — along with business partners NBA great Julius "Dr. J" Erving and former NFL running back Joe Washington — formed the second minority-owned NASCAR team in the racing association's history. The experience would later inspire the creation of [*Racing Toward Diversity*](#) magazine, which showcases top corporate diversity initiatives.

"The companies that have it figured out know that we're working in a global environment and they need to find the best and brightest from those environments. They need to have their companies look like society [and] look like who they're marketing to. They've got diverse boards of directors, diversity initiatives, and they hold people accountable."

Today in Black History we salute the journey of Oprah Winfrey



Billionaire media executive and philanthropist Oprah Winfrey is best known for hosting her own internationally popular talk show from 1986 to 2011. From there she launched her own television network, OWN

Oprah Winfrey is a talk show host, media executive, actress and billionaire philanthropist. She's best known for being the host of her own, wildly popular program, *The Oprah Winfrey Show*, which aired for 25 seasons, from 1986 to 2011. In 2011, Winfrey launched her own TV network, the Oprah Winfrey Network (OWN).

Today in Black History we salute the journey of Jay Z and Beyonce



Jay Z and Beyoncé have given back. Jay donated all proceeds from his Barney's line to college scholarships and led a company council on racial profiling. Bey's list of charities is wide-reaching, ranging from a foundation to help victims of Hurricane Katrina to a program for women recovering from alcohol and drug addiction. As Beyoncé suggests, music forges links to the world around us, then these connections, including the union between a man from Brooklyn's projects and a woman from an entrepreneurial Texas family, could help us see income inequality, racism, and gendered oppression in much more meaningful ways.