Black History Month





HISTORIC TIMELINE

1619	Dutch ship brings 20 Africans to Jamestown, Va., the first enslaved Africans in the U.S.
1793	Eli Whitney's new cotton gin increases demand for slaves

1793 Congress passes Fugitive Slave Act, making it a federal crime to assist a slave trying to escape

1808 Congress bans importation of slaves

1820 Missouri Compromise bans slavery above the southern border of the state

1831 Nat Turner leads largest slave rebellion prior to Civil War

1849 Harriet Tubman escapes to
Philadelphia and subsequently
helps about 300 enslaved people to
freedom via the Underground Railroad

1857 In Dred Scott v. Sanford, U.S. Supreme Court declares that Blacks are not citizens of the U.S. and that Congress cannot prohibit slavery

John Brown leads raid of U.S. Armory and Arsenal at Harpers Ferry, W.Va.

1861 South secedes from Union and Civil War begins



President Lincoln issues the
Emancipation Proclamation, declaring
"all persons held as slaves within
any State or designated part of a
State, the people whereof shall then
be in rebellion against the United
States, shall be then, thenceforward,
and forever free"

1865 Civil War ends

1865 Thirteenth Amendment is ratified, prohibiting slavery

1868 Fourteenth Amendment is ratified, allowing Blacks to become citizens

1870 Fifteenth Amendment guarantees that right to vote cannot be denied because of race, color or previous condition of servitude

1870 Hiram Revels becomes first Black member of Congress

V.S. Supreme Court rules in *Plessy*v. Ferguson that segregation doesn't
violate the 14th Amendment's
equal-protection clause as long as
conditions provided are "separate
but equal"

1900 William H. Carney becomes first Black to be awarded Medal of Honor

1909 NAACP is founded

1940 Hattie McDaniel becomes first Black to win an Academy Award

1947 Jackie Robinson becomes first Black to play Major League Baseball

1950 Ralph J. Bunche becomes first Black to win the Nobel Peace Prize

1953 Willie Thrower becomes first Black to play quarterback in the National Football League

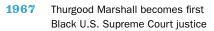
1954 In Brown v. the Board of Education of Topeka, U.S. Supreme Court rules that racial segregation in public schools violates the 14th Amendment

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1955	Two white men who confessed to murdering a 14-year-old Black boy, Emmett Till, for allegedly whistling at a white woman are acquitted by an all-white jury
1955	Rosa Parks refuses to give up her seat on a bus to a white man in Montgomery, Ala., leading to the Montgomery Bus Boycott
1957	Little Rock Nine integrate Little Rock Central High School in Arkansas
1960	Four Black students stage famous sit-in at a whites-only Woolworth's lunch counter in Greensboro, N.C.
1961	Freedom rides begin from Washington, D.C.
1962	James Meredith becomes first Black student to enroll at the University of Mississippi. Violence prompts President Kennedy to send in 5,000 federal troops
1963	More than 200,000 people march on Washington, D.C., in the largest civil-rights demonstration in U.S. history; Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. gives his "I Have a Dream" speech
1963	Four young Black girls are killed in the bombing of a Birmingham, Ala., church
1964	President Johnson signs Civil Rights Act of 1964, giving the government more power to protect citizens against race, religion, sex or national-origin discrimination
1965	Malcolm X, former minister in the Nation of Islam and civil-rights activist, is assassinated
1965	Thousands participate in three protest marches from Selma to Montgomery, Ala., for Black voting rights
1965	President Johnson signs Voting Rights Act of 1965





1967 In Loving v. Virginia, Supreme Court declares law prohibiting interracial marriages to be unconstitutional

1968 Dr. King is assassinated

1968 President Johnson signs Civil
Rights Act of 1968, which prohibits
discrimination in the sale, rental and
financing of housing

1972 Shirley Chisholm becomes first major-party Black candidate to run for President

1983 Vanessa Williams becomes first Black Miss America

1984 Reverend Jesse Jackson becomes first Black to make serious bid for Presidency

1986 First observation of Dr. King's birthday as a national holiday

1990 Douglas Wilder of Virginia becomes first Black to be elected governor

1991 President George H.W. Bush signs Civil Rights Act of 1991, which strengthened laws on employment discrimination

1993 Dr. Joycelyn Elders becomes first Black Surgeon General

2001 General Colin Powell becomes first Black Secretary of State

2009 Barack Obama becomes first Black President







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