

On This Day in Black History

Announcements for Black History Month

Wednesday, February 1 – On this day in Black History, African American college students in the south staged a “Sit-In” at a segregated lunch counter in Greensboro, North Carolina in 1960.

Thursday, February 2 – On this day in Black History, Biologist Ernest Everett Just receives the Spingarn Medal for his pioneering research on fertilization and cell division. There is now a building on the campus of Howard University named in his honor.

Friday, February 3 – On this day in Black History, the Negro Baseball league was founded in 1920.

Week 2

Monday, February 6 – On this day in Black History, Robert Tanner Jackson becomes the first African American to receive a degree in dentistry in 1867.

Tuesday, February 7 – On this day in Black History, the Freedman’s Aid Society in Washington DC was founded to promote education among Blacks in 1866. The Freedman’s Aid Society later went on to become Howard University.

Wednesday, February 8 – On this day in Black History, Journalist Harry S. McAlphin is the first African American news reporter to attend a White House press conference in 1944.

Thursday, February 9 – On this day in Black History, tennis great, Arthur Ashe became the first African American to play on the United States Davis Cup Team in 1964.

Friday, February 10 – On this day in Black History, Opera star Leontyne Price was born in 1927.

Week 3

Monday, February 13 – On this day in Black History, The first African American professional basketball team, named “The Renaissance,” was organized in 1923.

Tuesday, February 14 – On this day in Black History, Frederick Douglass, the great abolitionist was born in 1817, in the state of Maryland.

Wednesday, February 15 – On this day in Black History, Henry Lewis is the first African American to lead a symphony orchestra in the United States in 1968.

Thursday, February 16 – On this day in Black History, Famous Blues Singer Bessie Smith makes her first recording called “Down-Hearted Blues” which sold almost a million copies in 1923.

Friday, February 17 – On this day in Black History, famous university administrator and civic activist Mary Frances Berry is born in 1938

Week 4

Monday, February 20 – holiday (schools closed)

Tuesday, February 21 – On this day in Black History, Civil Rights leader Malcolm X was assassinated in New York City in 1965.

Wednesday, February 22 – On this day in Black History, Coronal Frederick Gregory was the first African American to command a space shuttle mission in 1989.

Thursday, February 23 – On this day in Black History, famed author and historian, W.E.B. Dubois was born in 1868.

Friday, February 24 – On this day in Black History, Bishop Daniel A. Payne who was the first African American college president was born in 1811

Week 4

Monday, February 27 – On this day in Black History, Charlotte Ray graduates from Howard University Law School and becomes the first African American female lawyer in 1872.

Tuesday, February 28 – On this day in Black History, American Sargent Cornelius F. Adjetay becomes a national hero in the African country of Ghana in 1948.

Wednesday, February 29 – On this day in Black History, Actress Hattie McDaniel becomes the first African American woman to win an Academy Award for her acting role in the movies Gone With the Wind in 1940.