

The Iowa African-American Journal Special African American History Month Edition

Volume 11, Issue 3

February 2006

African American History Month

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African-American History Month:

February 2006

To recall and celebrate the positive contributions to our nation made by people of African descent, American historian Carter G. Woodson established Black History Week. The first celebration occurred on Feb. 12, 1926. In 1976, as part of the nation's bicentennial, the week was expanded into Black History Month.

Population

39.2 million

As of July 1, 2004, the estimated population of black residents in the United States, including those of more than one race. They made up 13.4 percent of the total U.S. population. This figure represents an increase of half a million residents from one year earlier.

61.4 million

The projected single-race black population of the United States as of July 1, 2050. On that date, according to the projection, blacks would constitute 15 percent of the nation's total population.

3.5 million

The estimated black population of New York on July 1, 2004, highest of any state. Four other states had black populations that surpassed 2 million: Florida, Texas, California and Georgia. About 85,900 blacks were added to Florida's population between July 1, 2003, and July 1, 2004. That is the largest numeric increase of any state in the nation. Georgia and Texas added 61,800 and 45,000, respectively.

59 percent

As of July 1, 2004, the proportion of the District of Columbia's population identified as black — the highest rate for this race group of any state or state-equivalent in the nation. The District of Columbia was followed by Mississippi (37 percent), Louisiana (33 percent) and Georgia, Maryland and South Carolina (30 percent each).

1.4 million

The number of blacks in Cook County, Ill., as of July 1, 2004. Cook led all the nation's counties in the number of people of this racial category. Broward County, Fla., had the largest numerical increase (17,900) between 2003 and 2004.

32%

The proportion of the black population under 18 as of July 1, 2004. At the other end of the spectrum, 8 percent of the black population was 65 or older.

Businesses

\$92.7 billion

Receipts for black-owned businesses in 2002, up 30 percent from 1997. The rate at which black-owned businesses increased their receipts was higher than the national average (22 percent).

1.2 million

The number of black-owned businesses in 2002, up by more than 370,000, or 45 percent, since 1997. An estimated 94,862 such firms had paid employees, with receipts of \$69.8 billion or about \$735,586 per firm.

Thirty-eight percent of black-owned firms were in health care and other service industries; health care and retail trade accounted for a fourth of their receipts.

A fourth of the businesses in Washington, D.C., were black-owned. Black-owned businesses accounted for between 12 percent and 15 percent of firms in Maryland, Georgia, Mississippi and Louisiana.

Black business owners were more likely to hold graduate degrees when they started or acquired ownership in their business (about 1-in-4) than the national average (19 percent).

Education

81%

Among blacks age 25 and older, the proportion that had at least a high school diploma in 2004. This proportion rose by 8

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percentage points from 1994 to 2004.

18%

Among blacks age 25 and older, the proportion that had a bachelor's degree or higher in 2004 — up 5 percentage points from 1994.

1.1 million

Among blacks age 25 and older, the number who had an advanced degree in 2004 (e.g., master's, Ph.D., M.D. or J.D.). Ten years earlier — in 1994 — only 624,000 blacks had this level of education.

2.3 million

Number of black college students in fall 2004, roughly double the number 15 years earlier.

Income and Poverty

\$30,134

The annual median income of black households in 2004. This represents no change from 2003.

24.7%

Poverty rate in 2004 for those reporting black as their only race. This rate was unchanged from 2003.

Voting

60%

Percentage of black citizens age 18 and older who voted in the 2004 presidential election. That amounted to 14 million voters. The percentage of those voting is up 3 percentage points from the previous election. Blacks had the highest turnout rate of any minority group in 2004.

Families and Children

9.1 million

Number of black families in the United States. Of these, nearly

one-half (47 percent) are married-couple families.

11%

Proportion of black children who live in a household maintained by a grandparent.

Homeownership

48%

The proportion of black householders who own their own home.

Serving Our Nation

2.4 million

Number of black military veterans in the United States in 2004. (Source: American FactFinder)

Health Insurance

20%

The proportion of blacks who lacked health insurance in 2004, unchanged from the previous year.

Jobs

27%

The percentage of blacks age 16 and older who work in management, professional and related occupations. (Source: American FactFinder) There are 50,600 black physicians and surgeons; 69,400 postsecondary teachers; 44,800 lawyers; and 53,800 chief executives.

(Source: Statistical Abstract of the United States: 2006, Table 604.)

The preceding data were collected from a variety of sources and may be subject to sampling variability and other sources of error. Questions or comments should be directed to the Census Bureau's Public Information Office: telephone: (301) 763-3030; fax: (301) 457-3670; or e-mail: pio@census.gov.

Top 20 Black History Month Quotations

1. "I am America. I am the part you won't recognize. But get used to me. Black, confident, cocky; my name, not yours; my religion, not yours; my goals, my own; get used to me."

-- **Muhammad Ali The Greatest (1975)**

2. "Bringing the gifts that my ancestors gave, I am the dream and the hope of the slave. I rise I rise I rise."

-- **Maya Angelou "Still I rise," And Still I Rise (1978)**

3. "Racism is not an excuse to not do the best you can."

-- **Arthur Ashe quoted in Sports Illustrated**

4. "Just like you can buy grades of silk, you can buy grades of justice."

-- **Ray Charles**

5. "The past is a ghost, the future a dream. All we ever have is now."

-- **Bill Cosby**

6. "There is no Negro problem. The problem is whether the American people have loyalty enough, honor enough, patriotism enough, to live up to their own constitution..."

-- **Frederick Douglass**

7. "You can be up to your boobies in white satin, with gardenias in your hair and no sugar cane for

miles, but you can still be working on a plantation."

-- **Billie Holiday**

8. "Greatness occurs when your children love you, when your critics respect you and when you have peace of mind."

-- **Quincy Jones**

9. "Do not call for black power or green power. Call for brain power."

-- **Barbara Jordan**

10. "Almost always, the creative dedicated minority has made the world better."

-- **Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.**

11. "The battles that count aren't the ones for gold medals. The struggles within yourself—the invisible, inevitable battles inside all of us—that's where it's at."

-- **Jesse Owens, Blackthink (1970)**

12. "I have learned over the years that when one's mind is made up, this diminishes fear."

-- **Rosa Parks**

13. "Have a vision. Be demanding."

-- **Colin Powell**

14. "Be black, shine, aim high."

-- **Leontyne Price**

15. "God gives nothing to those who keep their arms

crossed."

-- **African Proverb**

16. "Freedom is never given; it is won."

-- **A. Philip Randolph in keynote speech given at the Second National Negro Congress in 1937**

17. "When I found I had crossed that line, [on her first escape from slavery, 1845] I looked at my hands to see if I was the same person. There was such a glory over everything."

-- **Harriet Tubman**

18. "Success is to be measured not so much by the position that one has reached in life as by the obstacles which he has overcome while trying to succeed."

-- **Booker T. Washington**

19. "Black people have always been America's wilderness in search of a promised land."

-- **Cornel West, Race Matters**

20. "We should emphasize not Negro History, but the Negro in history. What we need is not a history of selected races or nations, but the history of the world void of national bias, race hate, and religious prejudice."

-- **Carter Woodson on founding Negro History Week, 1926**

African American History Month Trivia

1. In the year 2001, who became the first African American U.S. Secretary of State?
Who also was the first black chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff?
2. Name the organization whose slogan is "A mind is a terrible thing to waste?"
3. On May 10, 1994, who was sworn in as the first African American President of South Africa?
4. What U.S. President signed Executive Order 9981, which ended racial discrimination in the armed forces?
5. Name the athlete who defied Hitler's theory of black inferiority by winning four gold medals at the Berlin Olympics?
6. Did Carter G. Woodson found *Jet* magazine or *The Journal of Negro History*?
7. In 1857, did the U.S. Supreme Court decide that Dred Scott of Missouri was a slave or a free man?
8. Was Larry Doby the first African American baseball player in the American League or the National League?
9. What name was given to the period of cultural rebirth that took place in Harlem, New York City?
10. In the 1960s what form of civil rights protest began with a long bus ride through the South?
11. What type of anemia is a genetic disease commonly found among people of African descent?
12. Which constitutional amendment abolished slavery throughout the United States?

Answers

1. Colin L. Powell 2. United Negro College Fund 3. Nelson Mandela 4. Harry Truman 5. Jesse Owens 6. *The Journal of Negro History* 7. Slave 8. American League 9. Harlem Renaissance 10. the Freedom Rides 11. sickle-cell anemia 12. Thirteenth Amendment in 1865.

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Coretta Scott King

ATLANTA (AP) - Coretta Scott King wore her grief with remarkable grace, and it made her one of the most influential figures in the struggle for civil rights.

The "first lady of the civil rights movement," who died in her sleep Tuesday at age 78, was a supportive lieutenant to her husband, the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., and after his assassination in 1968, she carried on his work

while raising their four children.

Coretta Scott King died at an alternative medicine clinic in Mexico. Doctors at the clinic said King was battling advanced ovarian cancer when she arrived Thursday. They said the cause of death was respiratory failure.

Arrangements were being made to fly her body to Atlanta. She had been recovering from a serious stroke and heart attack suffered last August. Just two weeks ago, she made her first public appearance in a year on the eve of her late husband's birthday.

Former Atlanta Mayor Andrew Young, one of Martin Luther King's top aides, said Coretta Scott King's fortitude rivaled that of her husband. "She was strong if not stronger than he was," Young said.

News of her death led to tributes to King across Atlanta, including a moment of silence in the Georgia Capitol and piles of flowers placed at the tomb of her slain husband. Flags at the King Center - the institute devoted to the civil rights leader's legacy - were lowered to half-staff.

"She wore her grief with grace. She exerted her leadership with dignity," said the Rev. Joseph Lowery, who helped found the Southern Christian Leadership Conference with King's husband in 1957.

She supported her husband during the most dangerous and tumultuous days of the civil rights movement. After his death in Memphis, Tenn., on April 4, 1968, the young widow said she was "more determined than ever that my husband's dream will become a reality."

In 1969, she founded the Martin Luther King Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change in Atlanta and used it to confront hunger, unemployment, voting rights and racism.

"The center enables us to go out and struggle against the evils in our society," she often said.

She also accused movie and TV companies, video arcades, gun manufacturers and toy makers of promoting violence.

King became a symbol in her own right of her husband's struggle for peace and brotherhood, presiding with a quiet, stoic dignity over seminars and conferences.

She pushed politicians for more than a decade to have her husband's birthday observed as a national holiday, achieving success in 1986.

The Rev. Jesse Jackson, who was with her husband when he was assassinated, said Tuesday that she understood that every time her husband left home, there was the chance he might not come back. Jackson pronounced her a "freedom fighter."

"Like all great champions she learned to function with pain and keep serving," he said, adding: "She kept marching. She did not flinch."

In Washington, President Bush hailed her as "a remarkable and courageous woman and a great civil rights leader."

After her stroke, King missed the annual King celebration in Atlanta two weeks ago but appeared with her children at an awards dinner a few days earlier, smiling from her wheelchair but not speaking. The crowd gave her a standing ovation.

Despite her repeated calls for unity among civil rights groups, her own children have been divided over whether to sell the King Center to the National Park Service and let the family focus less on grounds maintenance and more on King's message. Two of the four children were strongly against such a move.

Gov. Sonny Perdue ordered flags at all state buildings to be flown at half-staff and offered to allow King's body to lie in repose at the Georgia Capitol. There was no immediate response to the offer, the governor's office said.

King died at Santa Monica Health Institute in Rosarito Beach, Mexico, south of San Diego, said her sister, Edythe Scott Bagley of Cheyney, Pa.

Coretta Scott was studying voice at the New England Conservatory of Music and planning on a singing career when a friend introduced her to King, a young Baptist minister studying at Boston University.

"She said she wanted me to meet a very promising young minister from Atlanta," King once said, adding with a laugh: "I wasn't interested in meeting a young minister at that time."

She recalled that on their first date he told her: "You know, you have everything I ever wanted in a woman. We ought to get married someday." Eighteen months later, in 1953, they did.

The couple moved to Montgomery, Ala., where he became pastor of the Dexter Avenue Baptist Church and helped lead the 1955 Montgomery bus boycott that Rosa Parks set in motion when she refused to give up her seat on a segregated bus. With that campaign, King began enacting his philosophy of nonviolent, direct social action.

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Over the years, King was with her husband in his finest hours. She was at his side as he received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964. She marched beside him from Selma, Ala., into Montgomery in 1965 on the triumphant drive for a voting rights law.

Only days after his death, she flew to Memphis with three of her children to lead thousands marching in honor of her slain husband and to plead for his cause.

"I think you rise to the occasion in a crisis," she once said. "I think the Lord gives you strength when you need it. God was using us - and now he's using me, too."

Her husband's womanizing had been an open secret during the height of the civil rights movement. In January, a new book, "At Canaan's Edge" by Taylor Branch, put his infidelity back in the spotlight. It said that not long before he was assassinated, King confessed a long-standing affair to his wife while she was recovering from a hysterectomy.

The King family, especially Coretta Scott King and her father-in-law, Martin Luther King Sr., were highly visible in 1976 when former Georgia Gov. Jimmy Carter ran for president. When an integration dispute at Carter's Plains church created a furor, Coretta Scott King campaigned at Carter's side the next day.

She later was named by Carter to serve as part of the U.S. delegation to the United Nations, where Young was the ambassador.

In 1997, she spoke out in favor of a push to grant a trial for James Earl Ray, who pleaded guilty to killing her husband and then recanted.

"Even if no new light is shed on the facts concerning my husband's assassination, at least we and the nation can

have the satisfaction of knowing that justice has run its course in this tragedy," she told a judge.

The trial never took place; Ray died in 1998.

King was born April 27, 1927, in Perry County, Ala. Her father ran a country store. To help her family during the Depression, young Coretta picked cotton. Later, she worked as a waitress to earn her way through Antioch College in Yellow Springs, Ohio.

In 1994, she stepped down as head of the King Center, passing the job to son Dexter, who in turn passed the job on to her other son, Martin III, in 2004. Dexter continued to serve as the center's chief operating officer. Martin III also has served on the Fulton County (Ga.) commission and as president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, co-founded by his father in 1957. Daughter Yolanda became an actress and the youngest child, Bernice, became a Baptist minister.

In 1993, on the 25th anniversary of her husband's death, King said the war in Vietnam that her husband opposed "has been replaced by an undeclared war on our central cities, a war being fought by gangs with guns for drugs."

"The value of life in our cities has become as cheap as the price of a gun," she said.

In London, she stood in 1969 in the same carved pulpit in St. Paul's Cathedral where her husband preached five years earlier.

"Many despair at all the evil and unrest and disorder in the world today," she preached, "but I see a new social order and I see the dawn of a new day."

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ICSAA Calendar of Events

ICSAA is interested in events for African Americans taking place across the state of Iowa.

We would like information about your events to announce in the Iowa African American Journal (published quarterly) and to post on our website, www.state.ia.us/dhr/saa.

Submission must be made at least **30 days** prior to the scheduled event in order to ensure it gets published.

To submit information about your event, please provide the following information:

Organization / Business Name
Contact Name / Title
Address City / State / Zip
Telephone / Fax Number / Email Address Website

Name of Event

Date of Event

Address / Location of Event (Include city, state, zip)

Event E-mail or Web Site address (if applicable)

Please submit information to:

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Lucas State Office Building
Des Moines, Iowa 50319
Email: dhr.icsaa@iowa.gov
Fax: 515-242-6119

Iowa's First

In support of Black History month, the Iowa Commission on the Status of African Americans is committed to educating the community and reminding every individual of the significant contributions African Americans have made in Iowa. To accomplish this effort, ICSAA provided information on twenty-eight extraordinary African Americans whose acts and deeds uplifted the community by breaking barriers in their perspective lives and careers to become pioneers as "Iowa's First." Each day during the month of February, ICSAA featured a different individual and their accomplishments, so every Iowan can continue to learn from our history. The information was distributed to constituents, partners, and legislators across the state and is also available via the website.

February 1 - Archibald Alphonso Alexander (1888-1958) - the first Republican territorial governor of the U.S. Virgin Islands.

February 2 - Helen Lemme (1904-1968) - the first black woman ever to receive "Best Citizen in Iowa City" award and was the first recipient of the city's "Woman of the Year" award.

February 3 - Georgine C. Morris (1890-1977) - the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) association's first state president and was named President Emeritus. Ms. Morris also organized the first Iowa/Nebraska conference of the local branches of the NAACP.

February 4 - Luther T. Glanton (1913-1991) - the first African American law student at Drake University. In 1951 he became the first African American to be appointed as an assistant Polk County attorney.

February 5 - Lilia A. Abron, PhD - the first African American woman in the nation and the third woman at The University of Iowa to receive a doctorate in chemical engineering.

February 6 - Alexander Clark, Jr. - the first African American student to enroll in the University of Iowa, School of Law, and received his law degree in 1879.

February 7 - Lulu Merle Johnson - the first African American in the United States to earn a doctorate in history and the first African American woman to earn a PhD from the University of Iowa in 1941.

February 8 - Virginia Harper (1929-1997) - the first African American woman to serve on the state Board of Public Instruction, appointed by Governor Robert Ray in 1971. In 1979, she was the first African American woman to be appointed to the Iowa Board of Parole.

February 9 - Pauline Brown Humphrey (1906-1993) - owner and operator of the first beauty school in Iowa, Crescent School of Beauty Culture.

February 10 - Frederick W. "Duke" Slater (1898-1966) - the University of Iowa's first African American all-American football player and was named to the Chicago Tribune's All-American football team.

February 11 - Jane Burleson - the first woman and first African American city councilor in Fort Dodge.

February 12 - Frank "Kinney" Holbrook - the first African American to compete in varsity athletics at an Iowa college and one of the first African American collegiate athletes in the nation.

February 13 - Jack Trice - the first African American athlete at Iowa State University.

February 14 - Barbara McDonald Calderon - Iowa's first African American public health nurse.

February 15 - Tony Robinson - the first African American student appointed the editor-in-chief of *The Daily Iowan*, the University of Iowa's daily student newspaper.

February 16 - Gwendolyn Wilson Fowler (1907-1997) - the first African American woman to obtain a pharmaceutical degree and to be officially registered as a pharmacist in Iowa.

February 17 - Esther Jean Walls - the first African American female student at the University of Iowa to be elected to the Alpha of Iowa Chapter of Phi Beta Kappa and was a member of Phi Sigma Iota, an honorary Romance Languages fraternity.

February 18 - Mary Elizabeth Wood (1902-1998) - the first African American woman to be appointed executive director of the YWCA of Buffalo and Erie County, New York.

February 19 - A.H. Watkins - the first African American admitted to practice law in Iowa.

February 20 - Maude Esther White (1913-2003) - the first Affirmative Action Administrator from 1973-1978.

February 21 - James H. Jackson - the first African American from Blackhawk County to be elected to the Iowa Legislature in 1965.

February 22 - George Boykin - the first African American to the Woodbury County Board of Supervisors. Boykin was also the first African American elected to the Sioux City Community School Board, and held that position for three terms (1971-1983).

February 23 - Ruth Anderson - elected the first African American female to the Blackhawk County Board of Supervisors.

February 24 - Madeline Clarke Foreman - hired by William Penn College as the first African American full-time professor.

February 25 - Richard Culberson - the first African American to play basketball in the Big Ten in 1944. He helped the University of Iowa Hawkeyes win the first Big Ten championship in 1945.

February 26 - Emmett Thomas Scales - elected the first African American chief-of-staff at Mercy Hospital in Des Moines.

February 27 - Burns United Methodist - the first organized African American Methodist Church in Iowa in 1866.

February 28 - The (Keokuk) Western Baptist Herald - could have been Iowa's first black-owned publication.

Sources: *African Americans in Iowa: A Chronicle of Contributions 1830-1992*, *Black America Series: Iowa's Black Legacy*, *Outside In: African-American History in Iowa 1838-2000*, Iowa Women's Archives, & University of Iowa Archives

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