

Presented by




# The Heritage Calendar

Celebrating the North Carolina  
African-American Experience

# 2016



# Dear Students, Educators and Friends,

 We all walk in the footsteps of others – men and women whose vision, commitment, and often courage shape today's world. Their ideas and ideals inspired others to reach further, try harder and dream bigger than ever before.

*The Heritage Calendar: Celebrating the North Carolina African-American Experience* honors some extraordinary individuals, men and women of all races who have contributed significantly to the lives and experiences of African-Americans in our state. Their achievements have transformed our world and helped define who we are as North Carolinians.

In the pages of this 2016 edition, you will meet men and women who have excelled in many fields, including education, law, community service, philanthropy, literature, science, engineering, performing arts, space exploration and sports. Some will likely be familiar to you; others are unsung heroes. Yet all have played a vital part in weaving the tapestry of our state's history and North Carolina's heritage is richer because of them.

Enabling connections that improve people's lives is AT&T's focus and commitment, and has been since our earliest days as a company. Our goal has always been to provide the services that make a difference for North Carolinians, whether that meant completing voice calls made from a phone equipped with a rotary dial and bolted to the wall, or delivering information and opportunities via mobile broadband connections.

We appreciate the continuing involvement and support of our community supporters: The News & Observer, Capitol Broadcasting Company/WRAL-TV, The School of Media and Journalism at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, the Sheraton Raleigh Hotel, and PNC Bank. The North Carolina Department of Public Instruction has again developed unique educational resources which will allow teachers to utilize the printed or online versions of the 2016 Heritage Calendar in their classrooms.

The individuals featured in the 2016 edition of the calendar are role models through their integrity, vision, and dedication to excellence. We are privileged to present their stories and hope you will find them as inspiring as we do.



**Venessa Harrison**  
President, AT&T North Carolina



**UNC**  
SCHOOL OF MEDIA  
AND JOURNALISM



# Appreciation



**The Heritage Calendar: Celebrating the North Carolina African-American Experience** project is made possible by the commitment and talents of many people. AT&T would like to thank the leadership of the NC Department of Public Instruction for their vision for how the project could be used in classrooms, the team of educators who wrote the lesson plans and supporting curriculum material available on the website, and the team from the UNC-Chapel Hill School of Media and Journalism who wrote the profiles of the 2016 honorees. For more information about the honorees and additional educational materials, or to nominate a future honoree, please go to [www.ncheritagecalendar.com](http://www.ncheritagecalendar.com). Scan code to learn more about the NC Heritage Calendar.

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For more information about the honorees and additional educational materials, or to nominate a future honoree, please go to [ncheritagecalendar.com](http://ncheritagecalendar.com).

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# Julius Chambers, James Ferguson & Adam Stein

**F**ew people of their generation have had the impact on North Carolina as three lawyers who co-founded a now-prestigious Charlotte law firm in 1968.

“We were the first racially integrated law firm in the state of North Carolina,” said James Ferguson, one of the co-founders. “We felt ... we would be creating and living out the idea of racial equality that drove us all to get together in the first place.”

Julius L. Chambers founded the firm as a solo practice in 1964. Re-forming with Ferguson and Adam Stein, the firm gained recognition from its involvement in a series of important civil rights trials of the early 1970s.

In 1971, the firm won *Swann v. Charlotte-Mecklenburg Board of Education*, the landmark United States Supreme Court case allowing busing for school integration nationwide, argued by Chambers. It also won the *Cotton v. Scotland Neck* case, which was argued by Stein and dealt with racial gerrymandering of school districts. And it championed the Wilmington Ten case, dealing with the firebombing of a grocery store.

“We probably handled more significant civil rights cases through the 1970s and 1980s than any private law firm in the country,” Stein said.

All the attorneys faced occasionally violent opposition, including bombings.

Chambers subsequently served as general counsel of the NAACP before being appointed Chancellor of North Carolina Central University in 1993.

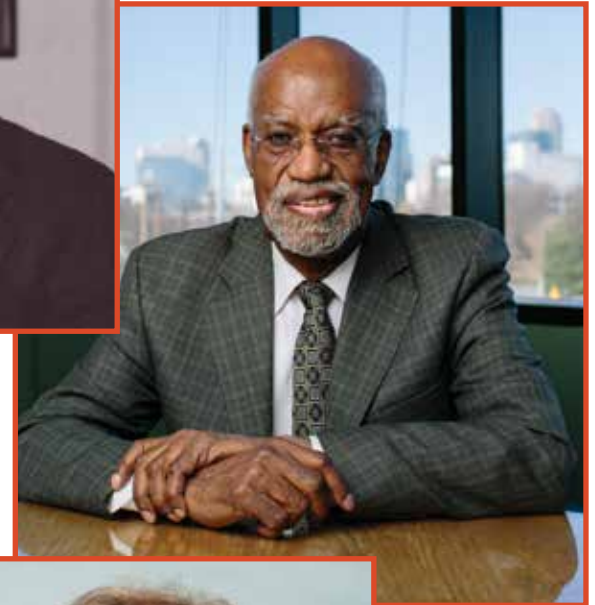
He retired in 2001 and rejoined the firm. He passed away in 2013.

Stein served as North Carolina’s first Appellate Defender and now works at another law firm in Chapel Hill.

Ferguson, still at the original firm in Charlotte, continues to be passionately engaged in helping to end discrimination or racial disparity.



Julius Chambers



James Ferguson



Adam Stein

Photos courtesy of NC Central University,  
James Ferguson and Adam Stein

Biography written by Evan Schmidt

Celebrating the North Carolina  
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# The Heritage Calendar January

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 <b>NEW YEAR'S DAY</b>	2  William Lloyd Garrison began publishing The Liberator, an abolitionist newspaper, in 1831
3  Adam Clayton Powell, Jr. was elected chairperson of the House Committee on Education and Labor in 1961	4  Grace Bumbry, opera singer, was born in 1937	5  Freedom Rides began in 1961  George Washington Carver was an American scientist, botanist, educator, and inventor who died in 1943	6  The World Slavery Convention opened in London, 1831  John Birks "Dizzy" Gillespie, famed musician, died in 1993	7  Marian Anderson made her debut in the Metropolitan Opera House in 1955	8  Fannie M. Jackson, first African-American woman college graduate in the US, was born in 1836.  Butterfly McQueen, actress, was born in 1911	9  Fisk University established in Nashville, TN in 1866
10  Southern Christian Leadership Conference founded in 1957	11  Charles W. Anderson becomes first African-American member of the Kentucky Legislature in 1936	12  Lorraine Hansberry, author of the play A Raisin in the Sun, died in New York City in 1965	13  Don Barksdale became the first African-American person to play in an NBA All-Star Game in 1954	14  John Oliver Killens, novelist, was born in 1916	15  Martin Luther King, Jr. was an American clergyman, Activist, and prominent leader in the African-American Civil Rights Movement, was born in 1929	16  Jefferson Franklin Long took an oath of office as first African-American Congressman from Georgia in 1871
17  Cassius Clay (Muhammad Ali), is an American former prof. boxer, was born in 1942  Michelle Obama, the first African-American First Lady of the U.S., was born in 1964	18 <b>MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY</b>  Robert C. Weaver became first African-American president cabinet member in 1966  Reggie Jackson, baseball player, was born in 1946	19  UCLA renames its social science buildings to honor alumnus Ralph Bunche in 1969	20  Barack Obama sworn in as the first African-American President in 2009	21  William Bron Chapell, pioneer, was born in 1906	22  James Robert Gladden becomes first African-American certified in orthopedic surgery in 1949	23  Dr. Daniel Hale Williams, pioneer in surgery, founded Provident Hospital in Chicago in 1889
24  Coach Clarence "Big House" Gaines won record 800th college basketball game in 1990	25  Sojourner Truth addressed the first Black Women's Rights Convention in 1851	26  Bessie Coleman, first African-American aviator, was born in 1892  Angela Davis, activist, was born in 1944	27  Leontyne Price, world-renowned opera singer, made her debut at the Metropolitan Opera House in 1961  Barber Scotia College was founded in 1867	28  Astronaut Ronald McNair died in Challenger explosion in 1986	29  Oprah Winfrey, American media proprietor, talk show host, actress, producer, and philanthropist, was born in 1954	30  Dan T. Blue Jr. was elected as the first African-American Speaker of the House in North Carolina in 1991
31  Jackie Robinson, first African-American baseball player in the major leagues, was born in 1919						

# Dudley Flood



For Dr. Dudley Flood, teaching isn't a profession — it's a lifestyle and a calling.

"If I'm awake, I'm a teacher," he says. "I can't imagine not being a teacher."

Beginning his career as a teacher, he later became a principal before being hired in 1969 by the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction to lead the desegregation efforts of the state's public schools.

"That's the thing in which I'm most proud, because it was the most taxing and most challenging opportunity I've ever had," he said. "At that time, it was uncommon to find anyone who really wanted to desegregate their schools."

Although he has been part of desegregation efforts in 48 states, he believes that work is still incomplete.

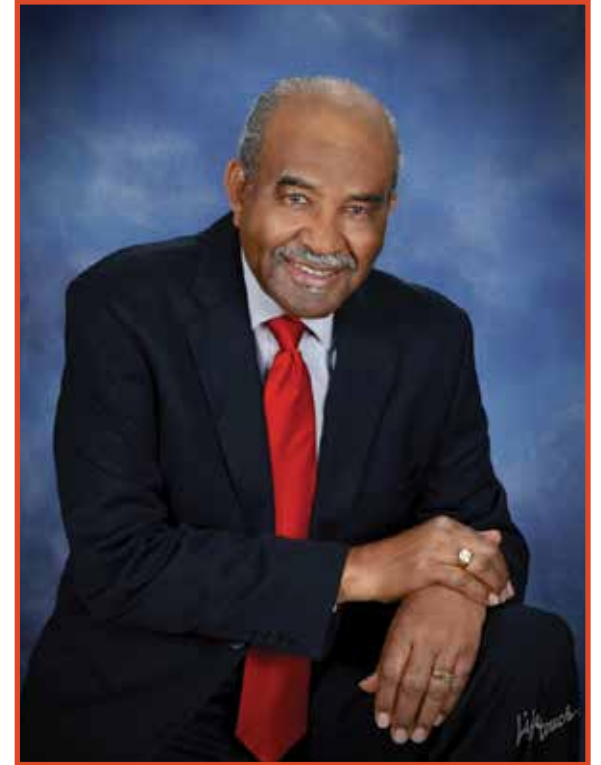
"Integration is still in process," he says. "Most people don't know the difference between desegregation and integration. I spend time even now working with that concept."

His older sister, Minnie Flood Reynolds, sparked his commitment to becoming a teacher when he was in high school. Later, other mentors helped him earn bachelor's, master's, and doctorate degrees from North Carolina Central University, East Carolina University and Duke University, respectively.

Today, Flood works with many volunteer organizations. His favorite is an organization named after him, the Flood Group.

"It's purpose and mission is to empower parents of students to further empower their children academically," he said. "Right now we're focusing on reading, though we call it 'literacy' because articulation is equally as important as reading."

A prostate cancer survivor, Flood remains active in campaigning against the disease. Flood also serves on the Social Services Committee of the Wake Human Services Board and on the N.C. Public School Forum Executive Board. He also works with a leadership academy for students who have demonstrated high potential.



*Photo courtesy of Dr. Dudley Flood*

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African-American Experience

# The Heritage Calendar February

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>1</b> Four black college students, Joseph McNeil, Franklin McCain, David Richmond and Ezell Blair, refused to leave after being denied service at a "whites-only" lunch counter in Greensboro, N.C., in 1960	<b>2</b> <b>GROUNDHOG DAY</b> Ernest E. Just, biologist, received the Spingarn Medal for pioneering research on fertilization and cell division, in 1915	<b>3</b> Geraldine McCullough won the Widener Gold Medal for Sculpture in 1965 15th Amendment, upholding a citizen's right to vote, was enacted in 1870	<b>4</b> Rosa Parks, civil rights activist, was born in 1913	<b>5</b> Henry "Hank" Aaron, the home run king of Major League Baseball, was born in 1934	<b>6</b> Robert Tanner Jackson becomes first African-American to receive a degree in dentistry in 1867
<b>7</b> Eubie Blake, pianist, was born in 1887	<b>8</b> Oprah Winfrey became the first African-American woman to host a nationally syndicated talk show in 1986	<b>9</b> <b>MARDI GRAS</b> Bernard Harris became the first African-American astronaut to take a spacewalk in 1995	<b>10</b> <b>ASH WEDNESDAY</b> Roberta Flack, singer, was born in 1937	<b>11</b> Clifford Alexander, Jr., became the first African-American Secretary of the Army in 1977	<b>12</b> <b>LINCOLN'S BIRTHDAY</b> Abraham Lincoln, 16th President of the United States, was born in 1809 NAACP was founded in 1909	<b>13</b> Joseph L. Searles III became the first African-American member of the New York Stock Exchange in 1970
<b>14</b> <b>VALENTINE'S DAY</b> New registration law in Tennessee abolished racial distinctions in voting in 1867	<b>15</b> <b>PRESIDENTS' DAY WASHINGTON'S DAY</b> Henry Lewis was named director of the New Jersey Symphony in 1968	<b>16</b> Joe Frazier became World Heavyweight Boxing Champion by a knockout in 1970	<b>17</b> Michael Jordan, basketball player, was born in 1963	<b>18</b> Author Toni Morrison (born Chloe Anthony Wofford) was born in 1931	<b>19</b> William "Smokey" Robinson, singer and songwriter, was born in 1940	<b>20</b> Frederick Douglass, an American social reformer, orator, writer and statesman. After escaping from slavery, he became a leader of the abolitionist movement. He died in 1895
<b>21</b> Malcolm X was an African-American Muslim minister and human rights activist; he was assassinated in 1965 Barbara Jordan, congresswoman, was born in 1936	<b>22</b> Julius Winfield "Dr. J" Erving II, basketball player, was born in 1950	<b>23</b> Frank E. Peterson Jr. was named first African-American general in the Marine Corps in 1979 W.E.B. DuBois, American sociologist, historian, civil rights activist, Pan-Africanist, author and editor, was born in 1868	<b>24</b> Rebecca Lee became the first African-American woman to receive an M.D. degree in 1864	<b>25</b> Cassius Clay (Muhammad Ali) won World Heavyweight crown in 1964 M&F Bank was chartered in 1907	<b>26</b> Antoine Dominique, "Fats" Domino, singer, was born in 1928	<b>27</b> Marian Anderson, opera singer, was born in 1897 Members of the NC African-American Heritage Commission were sworn in at the Dept. of Cultural Resources, Raleigh, NC in 2009
<b>28</b> Hattie McDaniel became the first African-American to win an Oscar for her role as Mammy in <i>Gone With The Wind</i> in 1940	<b>29</b>					

# Jana Jones Halls



s a teacher, Jana Jones Halls was passionate about helping students succeed in the classroom. Then she realized a greater calling was helping them succeed in life.

“There’s so much need outside of the classroom that has to be addressed for many students to have a chance to be successful,” she said. “The issue of poverty is so overwhelming.”

A native of McLean, Va., Jones Halls came to Wilmington, NC, in 2004, planning to work with children. She worked with special needs students at Codington Elementary and then taught language arts at the Friends School of Wilmington.

In 2007, Jones Halls participated in the first of two mission trips to Kenya, life-changing experiences for the minister’s daughter.

“That really transformed my life,” she said. “I was actively pursuing the possibility of moving to Kenya to teach when I realized the things my heart was connecting to in Kenya were here.”

In 2012 Jones Halls “made a leap of faith” and joined the Americorps HandsOnSchools program as the community outreach coordinator at D.C. Virgo Preparatory Academy. She was named Executive Director of Wilmington’s Blue Ribbon Commission on the Prevention of Youth Violence (BRC) a year later.

“It’s a daunting task knowing that any day you could see your kids’ photos on the news or get a call that something happened to them,” she said. “So you celebrate the small successes. And, in those moments, you know it’s all worth it.”

Jones Halls’ mother, who passed away in 2013, often suggested that her daughter would one day lead a non-profit organization, an idea Jones Halls scoffed at and brushed aside.

“I never thought I would be in this position,” Jones Halls said. “But it’s one of those situations where you realize all of a sudden that you’re exactly where you’re supposed to be.”



*Photo courtesy of Jana Jones Halls*



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African-American Experience

# The Heritage Calendar

# March

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<b>1</b>  Ralph Ellison, American novelist, literary critic, and scholar best known for his novel <i>Invisible Man</i> , which won the National Book Award in 1953, was born in 1914	<b>2</b>  Carole Gist was crowned first Black Miss USA in 1990	<b>3</b>  Freedmen's Bureau established by federal government to aid newly freed slaves in 1865  Elizabeth City State University was founded in NC in 1891	<b>4</b>  Garrett A. Morgan, scientist and inventor, was born in 1877	<b>5</b>  Blanche Kelso Bruce of Mississippi elected to full term in U.S. Senate in 1875
<b>6</b>  U.S. Supreme Court issues Dred Scott decision in 1857	<b>7</b>  Selma March began in Selma, Alabama in 1965	<b>8</b>  The United Nations formally proclaimed March 8 Int'l Women's Day in 1975  Phyllis Mae Dailey was the first African-American inducted into the U.S. Navy Nurse Corps in 1945	<b>9</b>  North Carolina A&T State University was founded in 1891  Clifton Wharton is sworn in as ambassador to Norway in 1961	<b>10</b>  Harriett Tubman, an African-American abolitionist & humanitarian died in 1913  Jackie Robinson made his professional baseball debut with the Montreal Royals in 1946	<b>11</b>  Lorraine Hansberry's play, <i>A Raisin in the Sun</i> , opened on Broadway in 1959	<b>12</b>  Former Chancellor John Harrelson dies in 1955; a graduate of NC State, Harrelson served in various positions at the college for 46 years, including 19 years as Chancellor.
<b>13</b> <b>DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS</b>  <i>Uncle Tom's Cabin</i> by Harriet Beecher Stowe was published in 1852	<b>14</b>  Livingstone College founded in Salisbury, NC in 1879  Fannie Lou Hamer, activist, died in 1977	<b>15</b>  Marcus Garvey, Black nationalist, arrived in America from Jamaica in 1916  <i>Los Angeles Sentinel</i> founded by Leon H. Washington in 1933	<b>16</b>  <i>Freedom's Journal</i> founded in 1827	<b>17</b> <b>ST. PATRICK'S DAY</b>  Nat King Cole, singer, was born in 1919	<b>18</b>  Charley Pride, country singer, was born in 1938	<b>19</b>  James B. Parsons became the first African-American chief judge of a federal court in 1975
<b>20</b> <b>SPRING BEGINS PALM SUNDAY</b>	<b>21</b>  Quincy Jones, composer and musician, was born in 1933	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>  Dr. Jerome H. Holland elected to the board of directors of the New York Stock Exchange in 1972	<b>24</b>  Poll tax ruled unconstitutional in 1966	<b>25</b> <b>GOOD FRIDAY</b>	<b>26</b>  William H. Hastie confirmed as Federal District Judge of the Virgin Islands in 1937  Alexander Miles patented the elevator in 1887
<b>27</b> <b>EASTER</b>  Sarah Lois Vaughan, jazz singer known as "The Divine One", was born in 1924  Mariah Carey, Grammy-winning singer, songwriter, and actress, was born in 1970	<b>28</b>  First cadets graduate from flying school at Tuskegee Institute in 1942	<b>29</b>  Pearl Mae Bailey, an American actress and singer who won a Tony Award for the title role in the all-black production of <i>Hello, Dolly!</i> , was born in 1918	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>  Jack Johnson, first African-American heavyweight champion, was born in 1878		

Learn more about the people featured in this calendar at [ncheritagecalendar.com](http://ncheritagecalendar.com).

# Joan Higginbotham

Joan Higginbotham didn't set out to become the third African-American woman to fly in space. But then, her professional life has never really been what she expected.

Her interest in engineering began at an early age and continued when she was an undergraduate student from Southern Illinois University at Carbondale. Accepting a job with NASA, she was working on the electrical systems for the space shuttles when she was urged to apply for the highly-selective astronaut program.

"There's a lot of learning initially," she said. "You have to learn to operate the shuttle, fly supersonic jets, and scuba dive. The first year is just learning, learning, learning."

Higginbotham launched into space on December 9, 2006, aboard the shuttle *Discovery* on STS-116 with the mission of delivering and installing a major component of the International Space Station.

"I feel blessed to have been able to fly in space. For me, it was great to represent my country," Higginbotham said.

She retired from NASA in 2007 with 20 years' service and joined Marathon Oil, where she was drawn to their malaria eradication program in Equatorial Guinea, Africa. Reflecting on that experience and what she considered an "incredibly blessed life," Higginbotham decided she wanted to help others.

She continues that commitment to helping improve other's quality of life today as the director of community relations for Lowe's Inc., the home-improvement corporation based in Mooresville.

In addition, Higginbotham serves on the Board of Trustees of N.C. Central University and is involved in multiple community organizations.

"I am a big proponent of living a healthy lifestyle and of making sure our youth grow up very well-educated," Higginbotham said. "I believe this puts them on a good path to being successful in life."



Photo courtesy of Joan Higginbotham


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African-American Experience

# The Heritage Calendar

April

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 <b>APRIL FOOL'S DAY</b>	2
					Hampton Institute was chartered in 1870 as one of the first colleges for blacks in Hampton, Virginia	John Thompson became the first African-American coach to win the NCAA basketball tournament in 1984
3	4	5	6	7 <b>WORLD HEALTH DAY</b>	8	9
Carter G. Woodson, the father of African-American history, died in 1950	Maya Angelou, author and poet, was born in 1928	Colin Powell, statesman and retired four-star general in the U.S. Army who was the 65th U.S. Sec. of State, serving under Pres. George W. Bush (2001-05), was born 1937	Robert E. Perry and Matthew Henson reached the North Pole in 1909	Billie Holliday, blues singer, was born in 1917 Johnson C. Smith University was founded in Charlotte, NC in 1867	Hank Aaron hit his 715th home run in 1974	Civil Rights Bill granting citizenship passed in 1866
10	11	12	13	14	15 <b>TAX DAY</b>	16
Richard Allen was elected Bishop of the AME Church in 1816	Spelman College was founded in Atlanta, GA in 1881	Free African Society organized in 1787	Tiger Woods became the youngest person and the first person of color to win the Masters Golf Championship in 1997	The first abolition society in the U.S. was founded in Pennsylvania in 1775	Jackie Robinson made his Major League debut with the Brooklyn Dodgers in 1947	Founding of Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee in 1960
17	18	19	20	21	22 <b>PASSOVER BEGINS EARTH DAY</b>	23
Ralph David Abernathy Sr., a leader of the American Civil Rights Movement and minister, died in 1990	Alex Haley won the Pulitzer Prize for <i>Roots</i> in 1977	Cheyney State College is the oldest of the Historically Black Colleges and Universities in America; founded in Philadelphia, PA in 1837	Harriet Tubman started working on the Underground Railroad in 1853	Pvt. Milton L. Olive III, was posthumously awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor in 1966	Charles Mingus, bassist, composer, pianist and bandleader, was born in 1922	Granville T. Woods, inventor of more than 40 products, was born in 1856
24	25	26	27	28	29 <b>ARBOR DAY</b>	30 <b>PASSOVER ENDS</b>
	The United Negro College Fund was established in 1944 Ella Fitzgerald, singer, was born in 1917	William "Count" Basie, jazz pianist and musician, died in 1984	Coretta Scott King, activist and wife of Martin Luther King, Jr., was born in 1927	Samuel L. Gravely Jr. became first African-American admiral in the U.S. Navy in 1971	"Duke" Ellington, musician and composer, was born in 1899	Wallace Saunders wrote the song "Casey Jones" in 1900

# Zora Neale Hurston

 For the author whom many critics consider one of America's most significant African-American woman writers, the quiet Durham cabin was far removed from the New York apartment that hosted parties of the Harlem Renaissance. But it was home.

Zora Neale Hurston is best remembered for her 1937 novel *Their Eyes Were Watching God*, the story of a young woman's search for identity. But her 30-year career included novels, books of folklore, short stories, essays and plays.

In 1939, at the height of her literary acclaim, she joined the faculty of North Carolina Central University – then called the North Carolina College for Negroes – with a charge from President James E. Shepard to organize a theater program and produce African-American plays.

Building connections with faculty and students at the then-segregated University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Hurston collaborated with UNC-CH drama professor Paul Green, playwright of the 1927 Pulitzer Prize-winning *Abraham's Bosom*.

Her brief North Carolina experience marked only one chapter in the story of a lively, gregarious intellectual who was also an anthropologist and folklorist, dedicated to telling the story of the African-American culture.

During the 1920s, Hurston befriended Harlem Renaissance writers and artists, including singer Ethel Waters and poet Langston Hughes, collaborating with the latter on the play *Mule Bone*. Acclaim from the literary community followed, but Hurston continually struggled to find financial success as a writer.

Hurston died in 1960 in Fort Pierce, Fla. Her grave remained unmarked until 1970, when it was discovered and designated with a marker by writer Alice Walker.

In the decades following her death, Hurston's work enjoyed a revival. In 2005, Time magazine chose *Their Eyes Were Watching God* as one of the 100 best English-language novels published since the magazine was founded in 1923.



*Courtesy of the Photograph by Carl Van Vechten  
used by permission of the Van Vechten Trust*




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# May

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b>  Archie Williams, Gold Medal winner in 400-meter run in 1936 Summer Olympics, born in 1915	<b>2</b>  Howard University in Washington, D.C. opened in 1867  Elijah McCoy, inventor and holder of more than fifty patents, was born in 1844	<b>3</b>  James Brown, Godfather of Soul, was born in 1933  Sugar Ray Robinson, boxing champion, was born in 1921	<b>4</b>  Freedom Riders were civil rights activists who rode interstate buses into the segregated south; the first Freedom Ride left Washington, D.C., in 1961	<b>5</b> <b>CINCO DE MAYO</b>  Gwendolyn Brooks became the first African-American Pulitzer Prize winner for <i>Annie Allen</i> in 1950	<b>6</b>  J.R. Winters patented the fire escape in 1878	<b>7</b>  In 1804, a slave known only as "York" accompanied Lewis and Clark on their expedition
<b>8</b> <b>MOTHER'S DAY</b>  Henry McNeal Turner, a minister, politician and the first southern bishop of the A.M.E. Church, died in 1915	<b>9</b>  Civil Rights Act signed by President Eisenhower in 1957  Slave emancipation declaration for Georgia, Florida and South Carolina in 1862	<b>10</b>  Hattie McDaniel, first African-American person to win an Oscar (for Best Supporting Actress in <i>Gone With The Wind</i> , 1940), was born in 1895  Slave emancipation declaration for Georgia, Florida and South Carolina in 1862	<b>11</b>  Martha Graham, dancer, was born in 1894  Bob Marley, reggae legend, died in 1981	<b>12</b>  Robert Smalls seized Confederate warship in 1862	<b>13</b>  Joe Louis, boxer, was born in 1914	<b>14</b>  Lowell W. Perry was confirmed as chairman of the Equal Opportunity Commission (EEOC) in 1975
<b>15</b>  North Carolina Mutual Life Building named a National Historic Landmark in 1975	<b>16</b>  Sammy Davis Jr. an American entertainer, died in 1990	<b>17</b>  U.S. Supreme Court declares segregation in public schools unconstitutional in Brown v. Board of Education decision in 1954	<b>18</b>  Reggie Jackson, baseball player, was born in 1946	<b>19</b>  Malcolm X, an African-American Muslim minister and human rights activist, was born in 1925	<b>20</b>  Robert N.C. Nix Sr. was elected to U.S. Congress in 1958	<b>21</b> <b>ARMED FORCES DAY</b>  Lowell W. Perry was confirmed as chairman of the Equal Opportunity Commission (EEOC) in 1975
<b>22</b>  Claude McKay, poet, died in 1948	<b>23</b>  Claude McKay, poet, died in 1948	<b>24</b>  Hal McRae was named manager of the Kansas City Royals in 1991	<b>25</b>  Madame. C.J. Walker, entrepreneur, died in 1919	<b>26</b>  Althea Gibson won the French Open, becoming the first African-American tennis player to win a major tennis title in 1956	<b>27</b>  Louis Gossett Jr., actor, was born in 1936	<b>28</b>  Eliza Ann Gardner, Underground Railroad conductor, was born in 1831
<b>29</b>  Thomas Bradley was elected mayor of Los Angeles in 1973	<b>30</b> <b>MEMORIAL DAY</b>  Countee Cullen, poet, was born in 1903	<b>31</b>  NAACP held first conference (as the National Negro Committee) in 1909				

# John Harding Lucas

ohn Harding Lucas' dedication to equality has profoundly impacted educational systems in North Carolina and worldwide.

As the author of what was called the Lucas Concept, he was instrumental in building an inclusive, diverse environment in the education profession.

Born in 1920 the son of a minister and teacher in Rocky Mount, NC, he was a student of a segregated school system. After graduating from Booker T. Washington High School, he enrolled at Shaw University and earned a bachelor's degree in chemistry.

He taught science and coached at Adkin High School in Kinston before enlisting in the U.S. Army in 1944.

Returning to North Carolina in 1946 after service in the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations, Lucas resumed his teaching career and pursued a master's degree in school administration from North Carolina Central University.

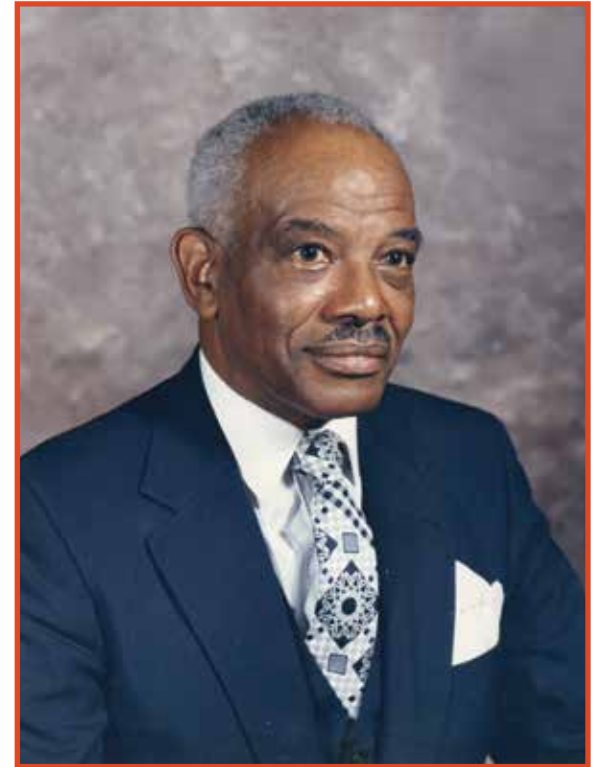
In 1962, Lucas was named principal at Durham's Hillside High School, a post he held for 24 years.

While at Hillside, he became a leader in the merger of the all-white North Carolina Education Association and the all-black North Carolina Teachers Association. Originally, discussion centered on folding the black organization into the white one. Lucas' proposal, to treat both groups equally by creating a new organization, resulted in 1970 in the formation of the North Carolina Association of Educators, which he served as president from 1974-75.

Lucas accepted the Presidency at Shaw University in 1986. He was later elected to the first school board of the newly-merged school system in Durham County and served as its Vice Chairman.

Today, Lucas Middle School in Durham and the John H. Lucas Sr. Wellness Center at Hillside High School are named in his honor.

Now in his mid 90s, he continues to be an active member and leader at White Rock Baptist Church, as well as on numerous boards.



*Photo courtesy of the NC Dept. of Cultural Resources*

Celebrating the North Carolina  
African-American Experience

# The Heritage Calendar

June

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1  Sojourner Truth began anti-slavery activist career in 1843	2  T. Thomas Fortune, journalist, died in 1928	3  Wesley A. Brown became the first African-American graduate of Annapolis Naval Academy in 1949	4  Arna Bontemps, writer and educator, died in 1973
5  Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was awarded his doctorate from Boston University in 1955	6  Congress of Racial Equality founded in 1942  Larry Leon Hamlin, founder of the National Black Theatre Festival, died in 2007	7  Gwendolyn Brooks, Pulitzer Prize winning poet, was born in 1917	8  U.S. Supreme Court banned segregation in Washington, D.C. restaurants in 1953	9  Meta-Vaux Warrick Fuller, sculptor, was born in 1877	10  	11  Hazel Dorothy Scott, classical pianist and singer, was born in 1920
12  Medger Evers, civil rights activist, was assassinated in 1963	13  Thurgood Marshall appointed to U.S. Supreme Court in 1967	14  <b>FLAG DAY</b>  Harold D. West was named president of Meharry Medical College in 1952	15  Errol Garner, singer and musician, was born in 1923	16  Kenneth A. Gibson was elected mayor of Newark, N.J.; first African-American mayor of a major eastern U.S. city in 1970	17  Thomas Ezekiel Miller, congressman, was born in 1849	18  
19  <b>FATHER'S DAY</b>  African-American Independence Day, lauds the end of slavery in the United States	20  <b>SUMMER BEGINS</b>  Dr. Lloyd A. Hall, pioneer in food chemistry, was born in 1894	21  Arthur Ashe, tennis champion, led UCLA to NCAA tennis championship in 1965	22  Joe Louis became youngest world heavyweight boxing champion in 1937	23  Wilma Rudolph, track star, was born in 1940	24  John R. Lynch became first African-American to preside over deliberations of a national party in 1884	25  Joe Louis defeated Primo Carnera at Yankee Stadium in 1935
26  James W. Johnson, an American author, politician, diplomat, critic, journalist, poet, anthologist, educator, lawyer, songwriter, and early civil rights activist, died in 1938	27  Paul Laurence Dunbar, poet and novelist, was born in 1872	28  Organization for Afro-American Unity founded in 1964	29  James Van Der Zee, photographer, was born in Lenox, MA in 1886	30  Lena Horne, actress, vocalist and activist, was born in 1917  NC Central University's charter was signed in 1909		

# Moses “The Bicycle Man” Mathis & Ann Mathis



It all began in 1990 with a single broken bicycle, wheeled into Moses Mathis' garage by a neighborhood boy seeking help.

“Next thing I knew, I had a bunch of kids in my garage with bicycles to be fixed,” Ann Mathis, his wife, remembers.

Over the next 25 years, Moses Mathis became known as The Bicycle Man for his commitment to repairing, collecting and donating bicycles to children. In 2006, President George W. Bush awarded him the President's Call to Service Award, which recognizes those with a minimum of 4,000 hours of community service.

Moses Mathis passed away in 2013 at 76. But Ann Mathis continues the couple's long commitment to community and service.

In 1990 the couple opened the Tiffany Pines Community Outreach Center, with the goal of helping give their community's youth a better future by teaching work-ethic, self-esteem and community pride.

That program has transitioned to the Bicycle Man Community Outreach Projects. With Ann Mathis as its CEO, it has given approximately 30,000 bicycles to residents of six North Carolina counties with plans to expand to Pitt County.

“When we give the bikes away, it just melts your heart. Sometimes these bikes are the only things these kids get for Christmas,” Ann Mathis said.

The program has since expanded beyond bicycles, however, Mrs. Mathis still faces challenges to get funding for the Building Up Grades and Give a Kid a Break Programs, which were started to encourage children to improve their grades and teach work ethics.

She sees their legacies in simple terms.

“It has always been about the kids,” she said. “I just want people to remember us for the work that we've done and for helping and working in our community.”



*Photos courtesy of the Fayetteville Observer Newspaper*





Celebrating the North Carolina  
African-American Experience

# The Heritage Calendar

July

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Carl Lewis, athlete, was born in 1961  NC African-American Heritage Commission (AAHC) established in 2008	2  Civil Rights Act of 1964 signed. Thurgood Marshall, the U.S. American justice, was born in 1908
3  The Quakers, in Germantown, PA, make the first formal protest against slavery in 1688.	4 <b>INDEPENDENCE DAY</b>  Tuskegee Institute established in 1881	5  Arthur Ashe won the men's Wimbledon singles championship in 1975	6  Althea Gibson won Wimbledon in 1957	7  Margaret Walker, writer, was born in 1915	8  Venus Williams won Wimbledon in 2000	9  Dr. Daniel Hale Williams performed the first successful open-heart operation in 1893
10  Mary McLeod Bethune, educator, was born in 1875	11  W.E.B. Dubois, civil rights activist, founded the Niagara Movement in 1905	12  Bill Cosby, entertainer, was born in 1937	13  Continental Congress excluded slavery from Northwest Territory in 1787	14  George Washington Carver National Monument dedicated in Joplin, MO in 1951	15  Pompey Lamb, noted spy, aids the American Revolutionary War effort in 1779	16  V. A. Johnson, first African-American female to argue before the U.S. Supreme Court, was born in 1882
17  Billie Holliday, singer, died in 1959	18  Lemuel Hayes, first African-American Congregationalist minister, was born in 1753	19  Saint Augustine's University was founded in Raleigh, NC in 1867	20  First U.S. victory in Korea was won by African-American troops in the 24th Infantry Regiment in 1950	21  National Association of Colored Women founded by Mary Church Terrell in Washington in 1896	22  Abraham Lincoln read the first draft of the Emancipation Proclamation to his cabinet in 1862	23  Jackie Robinson, the first African-American baseball player in the major leagues, was named to Baseball Hall of Fame in 1962 Bennett College was founded in Greensboro, NC in 1873
24  Mary Church Terrell, educator, died in 1954  NBA star Karl "The Mailman" Malone, was born in 1963	25  Garrett A. Morgan, inventor of the gas mask, rescued six people from a gas-filled tunnel in Cleveland, Ohio, in 1916	26  President Truman banned discrimination in the armed services in 1948	27  A.P. Abourne, inventor, was awarded patent for refining coconut oil in 1880	28  The 14th Amendment was adopted in 1868	29  The first National Convention of Black Women was held in Boston in 1895	30  Adam Clayton Powell Jr., activist and politician, was elected congressman from Harlem in 1945
31  Whitney Moore Young Jr., an executive director of the National Urban League, was born in 1921						

Learn more about the people featured in this calendar at [ncheritagecalendar.com](http://ncheritagecalendar.com).

# Ruth Revels



As a child in Robeson County in the 1940s, Ruth Revels experienced a unique form of segregation, which ignited a lifelong commitment to building unity and understanding among all ethnicities.

“I grew up in a community that had three-way segregation,” Revels said. “We had African-Americans, whites and Indians. And our schools, restrooms and restaurants were all segregated.”

One of her teachers at her small country school was Elizabeth Maynor, a fellow Lumbee Indian, who instilled in the young Revels the belief that each student was special and could succeed.

After graduating Pembroke State University with a bachelor’s degree in education, she took Maynor’s example into her own classrooms. Her early experiences in a segregated community motivated her to build an inclusive learning experience for her students. For example, realizing that African-American and American Indian literature was seldom taught, she developed and taught a class for tenth graders.

“I was trying to make the point that we are teaching not only the black students about their culture, but that all of the students needed to learn this,” said Revels. “They’re learning about other writers and they need to know that we have outstanding African-American and American Indian artists and literature.”

The class was discontinued after Revels left teaching in 1977, becoming the executive director of the Guilford Native American Association (GNAA), which her husband, Lonnie Revels, had founded.

At the GNAA, Revels worked to empower and educate the American Indian community, as well as other minority communities.

Revels, 79, continues to be active in various community organizations, including serving on the African-American Atelier art gallery board and serving as the chair of the North Carolina Commission of Indian Affairs.



*Photo courtesy of Hattie Campbell, Flashing Feathers Photography*


Celebrating the North Carolina  
African-American Experience

# The Heritage Calendar

# August

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>1</b>  Benjamin E. Mays, minister, scholar, social activist and the president of Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia from 1940 to 1967; was born in 1894	<b>2</b>  James Baldwin, writer, was born in 1924  Gabby Douglas, becomes the first African-American gymnast to win the individual all-around Olympic gold medal in 2012	<b>3</b>  Gabriel Prosser leads one of the first slave revolts in Richmond, VA 1800	<b>4</b>  President Barack Obama, the 44th President of the United States and the first African-American to hold the office, was born in 1961	<b>5</b>  Edwin Moses and Evelyn Ashford won gold medals in Olympic track & field in 1984	<b>6</b>  Voting Rights Act signed by President Lyndon B. Johnson in 1965
<b>7</b>  Ralph J. Bunche, diplomat and first African-American winner of the Nobel Peace Prize, was born in 1904	<b>8</b>  Matthew A. Henson, explorer and first to reach the North Pole, was born in 1866	<b>9</b>  Jesse Owens won four Olympic gold medals in 1936	<b>10</b>  Clarence C. White, composer and violinist, born in 1880  Cullen Jones becomes the 2nd African-American to win Olympic Gold medal in swimming in 2012	<b>11</b>  Thaddeus Stevens, abolitionist, died in 1868	<b>12</b>  Frederick Douglass' home in Washington D.C. was declared a national shrine in 1922	<b>13</b>  Baltimore Afro-American Newspaper was founded in 1892
<b>14</b>  Ernest Everett Just, scientist, was born in Charleston, SC in 1883	<b>15</b>  Clarence E. Lightner, the first popularly elected mayor of Raleigh, N.C. and the first African-American elected mayor of a metropolitan Southern city, was born in 1921	<b>16</b>  Louis Lomax, author, was born in 1922	<b>17</b>  Marcus M. Garvey Jr., a Jamaican political leader, publisher, journalist, entrepreneur, and orator, was born in 1887	<b>18</b>  James Meredith, the first African-American admitted to the University of Mississippi, graduated in 1963	<b>19</b> <b>NAT'L AVIATION DAY</b>  Benjamin Banneker published his first Almanac in 1791	<b>20</b>  Dr. David Satcher named director of the Centers for Disease Control in 1993
<b>21</b> <b>SENIOR CITIZENS DAY</b>  William "Count" Basie, jazz pianist and musician, was born in 1904	<b>22</b>  John Lee Hooker, blues singer and guitarist, was born in 1917	<b>23</b>  National Negro Business League founded in 1900	<b>24</b>  Edith Sampson was appointed first African-American delegate to the United Nations by Harry S. Truman in 1950	<b>25</b>  Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters organized in 1925	<b>26</b> <b>WOMEN'S EQUALITY DAY</b>  William Dawson elected Black Democratic Party vice-presidential candidate in 1943	<b>27</b>  W.E.B. DuBois, an American sociologist, historian, civil rights activist, Pan-Africanist, author and editor, died in 1963
<b>28</b>  The March on Washington attracted an estimated 250,000 people for a peaceful demonstration to promote Civil Rights and economic equality for African-Americans in 1963	<b>29</b>  Charlie "Bird" Parker, jazz musician, was born in 1920	<b>30</b>  Lt. Col. Guion S. Bluford, Jr. became the first African-American astronaut in space in 1983	<b>31</b>  Eldridge Cleaver, writer and political activist who became an early leader of the Black Panther Party, was born in 1935			

# Mary Duke Biddle Trent Semans

 Mary Duke Biddle Trent Semans was born into a life of wealth and privilege in the early 20th Century. Unlike some in her position, she “cared so much about people and the community,” her oldest daughter, Mary Trent Jones, recalled.

“She did not know a stranger.”

Semans, who died in 2012 at 91, left a legacy far beyond being a descendant of the founder of Duke University. Semans was a trustee of Lincoln Community Hospital in Durham, which was started in 1901 to provide health care for African-Americans.

“She made sure that everybody supported Lincoln Hospital,” her daughter said.

In 1951 Semans became one of the first two women elected to the Durham City Council, having run on a platform of black voter registration. “She was instrumental in helping African-Americans in Durham obtain their voting rights and made sure that they were able to register to vote,” Jones said.

Semans took a leadership role as a trustee for The Duke Endowment, a private foundation that supports higher education, rural churches, health care and children’s welfare in North and South Carolina.

The Endowment had been created in 1924 by James Buchanan Duke, Semans’ great-uncle, as a way “to make provision in some measure for the needs of mankind along physical, mental and spiritual lines.”

Dr. Jean Spaulding, the ombudsman for Duke University Medical School and a trustee of The Duke Endowment in Charlotte, served with Semans and said there is “no way to count the number of people touched by Mrs. Semans.”

Jones added: “My mother was the most amazing, unbiased person. We grew up unlike a lot of our peers – not thinking that blacks and whites were any different.”



*Photo courtesy of The Duke Endowment*




Celebrating the North Carolina  
African-American Experience

# The Heritage Calendar **September**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1  Justice Henry Frye became the first African-American to serve on the NC Supreme Court in 1983; appointed Chief Justice in 1999	2  Frank Robinson, professional baseball player, named MVP of the American League in 1966  Romare Bearden, an artist and writer, was born in 1911	3  Charles Houston, NAACP leader, was born in 1895  The Congress of African Peoples convention was held in Atlanta in 1970
4  In 1957, Dorothy Counts became one of the first African-American students to attend Harding High School in Charlotte NC, an action that challenged school segregation	5  <b>LABOR DAY</b>  Benjamin S. "Ben" Carson Sr., an American neurosurgeon, was the first surgeon to successfully separate twins conjoined at the back of the head in 1987	6  The National Black Convention met in Cleveland in 1848	7  Integration in public schools began in Washington, D.C. and Baltimore in 1954	8  Althea Gibson became the first African-American athlete to win a U.S. national tennis championship in 1957	9  Carter G. Woodson founded the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History in 1915	10  Mordecai Johnson, first African-American president of Howard University, died in 1976
11  <b>PATRIOT DAY GRANDPARENT'S DAY</b>  "Duke" Ellington won Spingarn Medal for his musical achievements in 1959	12  Dr. Mae Jemison became first African-American female astronaut in space in 1992  Jackie Robinson, first African-American baseball player in the major leagues, was named National League Rookie of the Year in 1947	13  Integration in public schools began in Washington, D.C. and Baltimore in 1954  Alain L. Locke, philosopher and first African-American Rhodes Scholar, was born in 1884	14  Constance Baker Motley, U.S. Cabinet member, was born in 1921	15  Richard Allen chaired the first National Negro Convention in Philadelphia in 1830	16  <b>CONSTITUTION DAY</b>  Claude A. Barnett, founder of the Associated Negro Press, was born in 1889	17  United States Constitution signed in 1787
18  Booker T. Washington delivered "Atlanta Compromise" address in 1895	19  Atlanta University was founded in Georgia in 1865	20  First episode of <i>The Cosby Show</i> aired in 1984	21  F.W. Leslie, inventor, patented the envelope seal in 1891	22  <b>FALL BEGINS</b>  Ralph Bunche awarded Nobel Peace Prize in 1950	23  John Coltrane, innovative and famed jazz musician, was born in 1926	24
25  Nine African-American Arkansas students integrated Little Rock High School in 1957  Barbara W. Hancock became the first African-American woman named a White House fellow in 1974	26  Bessie Smith, blues singer, died in 1937	27  <i>The Memphis Blues</i> by W.C. Handy was published in 1912	28  <i>Appeal to the Colored Citizens of the World</i> published in 1829  Winston-Salem State University was founded in NC in 1892	29  Hugh Mulzac, first African-American captain of a U.S. merchant ship, launched with the <i>'Booker T. Washington'</i> in 1942	30  Johnny Mathis, singer, was born in 1935	

# Sylvia Sprinkle-Hamlin

 Sylvia Sprinkle-Hamlin would like for you to visit her place.

“As librarians, we see libraries as the community living room, a place where people come and network,” she says. “They use computers. They attend programs. They discuss the challenges of the day.”

And, hopefully, they pick up a good book.

A native of Winston-Salem, Sprinkle-Hamlin has been the Director of the Forsyth County Public Library since 2000. She has held many positions in the library system since joining it as the department head for children’s outreach in 1979. But her love affair with books goes back to her childhood.

“Reading is powerful,” she said “When you read you can visit places that you’ve never been before. You get to know people’s situations and challenges that you may not have had. I read for knowledge and to be enlightened. Plus, it’s entertaining.”

While she enjoys many types of literature, a focus throughout her career has been supporting works by African-American authors or which deal with African-American culture or history.

“We have really great writers that a lot of people don’t know about,” she said. “Some of my favorites are Isabel Wilkerson, Toni Morrison, Ralph Ellison, Alice Walker, Trice Hickman, Kimberla Lawson Roby and Dr. Maya Angelou. I think that we should read all types of literature.”

She has also been a strong supporter of performing arts, an interest which stemmed from enjoying the theater while in college. She is currently the President of the Board of Directors of the North Carolina Black Repertory Company, and has been the Executive Producer of the National Black Theatre Festival since 2007.

Sprinkle-Hamlin is a graduate of Winston-Salem State University, with a bachelor’s degree in education, and Clark Atlanta University, where she earned a Master’s degree in library science.



*Photo courtesy of Sylvia Sprinkle-Hamlin*

Celebrating the North Carolina  
African-American Experience

# The Heritage Calendar

# October

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1  Colin Powell was appointed first African-American chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff in 1989
2 <b>ROSH HASHANAH BEGINS</b> Thurgood Marshall was sworn in, becoming the first African-American U.S. Supreme Court Justice in 1967 Nat Turner, leader of the Virginia slave revolt, was born in 1800	3  Nat King Cole was the first African-American performer to host his own television show in 1956	4 <b>ROSH HASHANAH ENDS</b>  National Black Convention met in Syracuse, N.Y. in 1864	5  Yvonne Burke, congresswoman, was born in 1932	6  Fisk Jubilee Singers began national tour in 1871	7  Toni Morrison became first African-American to win Nobel Prize in literature in 1993	8  Jesse Jackson, an African-American civil rights activist and Baptist minister, was born in 1941
9  O.B. Clare patented the rail trestle in 1888	10 <b>COLUMBUS DAY</b>  Singer Ben Vereen was born in 1946	11  Mahalia Jackson, gospel singer, born in 1911	12 <b>YOM KIPPUR</b>  Barbara Smith Conrad, an American operatic mezzo-soprano of international acclaim was inducted into the Texas Women's Hall of Fame in 2012	13  Arna W. Bontemps, noted poet, was born in 1902	14  Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. awarded Nobel Peace Prize in 1964	15  Clarence Thomas confirmed to the U.S. Supreme Court in 1992
16  John Brown led attack on Harper's Ferry in 1859	17  Capital Savings Bank opened in Washington, D.C. in 1888	18  Terry McMillan, novelist, was born in 1951	19  Nannie Burroughs founded National Training School for Women in 1909 The U.S. Navy was opened to African-American women in 1944	20  John Merrick organized North Carolina Mutual Life Insurance Company in 1898	21  "Dizzy" Gillespie, musician, was born in 1917	22  Clarence S. Green became the first African-American certified in neurological surgery in 1953
23  The NAACP petitioned the United Nations about racial injustice in 1947	24 <b>UNITED NATIONS DAY</b>  Jackie Robinson, the first African-American Major League Baseball player of the modern era, died in 1972	25  Benjamin O. Davis became the first African-American general in the U.S. Army in 1940	26  Tom J. Marshall, inventor, patented the fire extinguisher in 1872	27  D. B. Downing, inventor, patented his street letter box in 1891	28  Levi Coffin, founder of the Underground Railroad, was born in 1798	29  The Supreme Court ordered end to segregation in schools "at once" in 1969
30  Richard Arrington was elected the first African-American mayor of Birmingham, Ala., in 1979	31 <b>HALLOWEEN</b>  Ethel Waters, actress and singer, was born in 1896					

Learn more about the people featured in this calendar at [ncheritagecalendar.com](http://ncheritagecalendar.com).

# Cleon Thompson

Cleon Thompson filled a wide variety of roles during his 49 years in higher education: student, professor, administrator, provost, and chancellor of two universities. But a constant throughout the years was his commitment to racial integration and equal opportunity.

Thompson's journey began in 1949, when he enrolled at N.C. Central University, where he earned bachelor's and master's degrees in biology.

In 1957, he began his career as a Research Assistant at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He subsequently served as a biology professor at North Carolina A&T State, Tuskegee, and Shaw universities before returning to the UNC system in 1975 as Vice President for Student Services and Special Programs.

Over the next decade, Thompson worked to help the University system meet desegregation guidelines set by the federal government.

As an extreme tactic to end segregation, the government considered closing all five historically black institutions in the UNC system. Thompson took part in numerous meetings on the topic and was pleased when the idea was rejected.

"I was thankful for that because closing them would have reduced the access and opportunity of many young African-American students," he said.

Thompson earned a Ph.D. in educational administration from Duke University in 1977. Three years later, he was named Interim Chancellor at North Carolina A&T State University, serving for a year.

In 1985, he was inaugurated as Chancellor of Winston-Salem State University. He stepped down in 1995 and accepted the post of Assistant to the Chancellor at NC State University. He retired from state government in 1998.

While proud of what has been accomplished in creating equal opportunities for all, Thompson believes more remains to be done. Yet he remains optimistic for the future.

"In higher education, the reward comes five, ten or even fifteen years after you've moved on," he said. "You can't measure your impact immediately. But your impact will hopefully come over time."



*Photo courtesy of Burnie Batchelor Studio; Raleigh*

Celebrating the North Carolina  
African-American Experience

# The Heritage Calendar **November**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<b>1 ALL SAINTS' DAY</b>  First issue of <i>Ebony</i> published in 1945  First issue of <i>Crisis</i> published in 1910	<b>2</b>  President Ronald Reagan signed law designating the third Monday in January Martin Luther King Jr. Day in 1983	<b>3</b>  Eva Clayton became the first African-American woman to represent North Carolina in Congress in 1992	<b>4</b>  President Barack Obama, then Senator, was the first African-American elected as President of the U.S. in 2008. He also received the most votes for a presidential candidate in American history	<b>5</b>  Walter E. Washington elected Mayor of Washington, D.C. in 1974
<b>6 DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS</b>  Absalom Jones, minister, was born in 1746	<b>7</b>  David Dinkins elected first African-American Mayor of New York City in 1989	<b>8 ELECTION DAY</b>  Edward W. Brooke was elected first African-American U.S. Senator (R- Mass.) in 85 years in 1966	<b>9</b>  Benjamin Banneker, surveyor, was born in 1731	<b>10</b>  Andrew Hatcher was named associate press secretary to President John F. Kennedy, becoming the first African-American press secretary in 1960	<b>11 VETERANS' DAY</b>  Nat Turner, leader of a Virginia slave revolt, was hanged in 1831	<b>12</b>  In 1775, General George Washington issued an order, later rescinded, which forbade recruiting officers to enlist Blacks
<b>13</b>  Dwight Gooden won baseball's Cy Young Award in 1985	<b>14</b>  Booker T. Washington, an African-American educator, author, orator, and advisor to Republican presidents, died in 1915	<b>15</b>  Arthur Lewis, Princeton University professor, was awarded the Nobel Prize in Economics in 1979	<b>16</b>  W.C. Handy, "Father of the Blues", was born in Florence, Ala. in 1873	<b>17</b>  Omega Psi Phi was founded on the campus of Howard University in 1911	<b>18</b>  Sojourner Truth, abolitionist and orator, was born in 1797	<b>19</b>  Roy Campanella was named the National League MVP for the second time in 1953
<b>20</b>  Garrett A. Morgan patented the traffic signal in 1923	<b>21</b>  Protests against apartheid and the Reagan administration began nationwide in 1984	<b>22</b>  Alrutheus A. Taylor, teacher and historian, was born in 1893	<b>23</b>  J.L. Love put patents on the pencil sharpener in 1897	<b>24 THANKSGIVING DAY</b>  Scott Joplin, composer, was born in 1868	<b>25 BLACK FRIDAY</b>  Luther "Bill" Robinson, dancer, died in 1949	<b>26</b>  Sojourner Truth, evangelist, died in 1883
<b>27</b>  Richard Wright, author, died in 1960	<b>28 CYBER MONDAY</b>  Ernie Davis became the first African-American to win the Heisman Trophy in 1961	<b>29</b>  Congressman Adam Clayton Powell, Jr. was born in 1908  Fayetteville State University was founded in NC as "Howard School" in 1867	<b>30</b>  Shirley Chisholm, U.S. Congresswoman, was born in 1924			



# LeRoy Walker

**L**eRoy Walker's legacy is like the Olympic flame he carried through Durham in 1996 – a tribute to commitment, perseverance and excellence.

Born in a segregated Atlanta as a grandson of slaves and the youngest of 13 children, Walker became the first African-American president of the United States Olympic Committee.

But before that, he carved a permanent place in North Carolina's history through more than four decades of service at North Carolina Central University – as an acclaimed track coach from 1945-83 and then three years as Chancellor, retiring in 1986. During his time at NCCU, he coached 40 national champions and 12 Olympians.

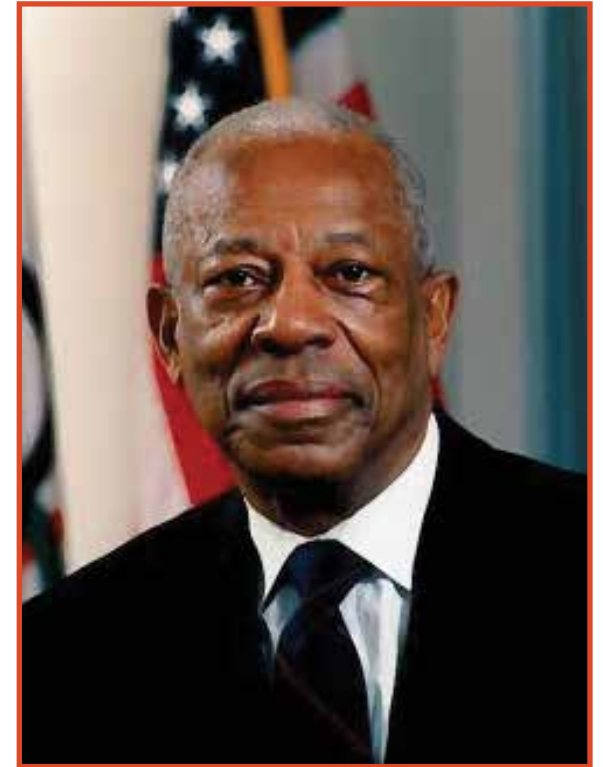
“His athletes always talk about how my dad's work and personal ethic impacted their lives in terms of helping them be good people, good coaches or whatever they chose to do in life,” LeRoy Walker Jr. said.

Walker was named the first black coach of an American Olympic team in 1974, leading the U.S. men's track and field team that received 22 medals in the 1976 games in Montreal.

When he led the American team into the Atlanta Games in 1996, it was the culmination of a remarkable life's journey. After his father's death in 1927, when Walker was 9, he moved to Harlem, N.Y., living with an older brother and worked at his brother's three restaurants and a window-washing business.

Later, Walker became the only member of his family to attend college. He received a bachelor's degree from Benedict College of Columbia, S.C., a master's from Columbia University and a doctorate in biomechanics from New York University.

Walker died in 2012 at 93.



*Photo courtesy of LeRoy Walker, Jr.*

Celebrating the North Carolina  
African-American Experience

# The Heritage Calendar **December**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				<b>1</b> <b>WORLD AIDS DAY</b> Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat on a public bus in 1955 Shaw University was founded in Raleigh, NC in 1865	<b>2</b> Charles Wesley, historian, was born in 1891	<b>3</b> First issue of North Star newspaper published in 1847
<b>4</b> American Anti-Slavery Society organized in 1833	<b>5</b> Mary McLeod Bethune, educator, founded National Council of Negro Women in 1935	<b>6</b> The 13th amendment, outlawing slavery was ratified in 1865 Lewis Franklin Powell Jr. was confirmed as U.S. Supreme Court justice in 1971	<b>7</b> <b>PEARL HARBOR REMEMBRANCE DAY</b> Lester Granger was named executive director of the National Urban League in 1941	<b>8</b> The NAACP wins the Gibbs v. Board of Education case, against the state of Maryland, ensuring that white and black teachers are paid equally in 1936	<b>9</b> Redd Foxx, entertainer, was born in 1922	<b>10</b> <b>HUMAN RIGHTS DAY</b> Ralph J. Bunche became the first African-American person awarded a Nobel Peace Prize in 1950
<b>11</b> P.B.S. Pinchback became the first African-American governor of an American state, Louisiana, in 1872	<b>12</b> Joseph H. Rainey (S.C.) first African-American elected to Congress in 1870	<b>13</b> Kofi Annan was elected as Secretary-General of the United Nations becoming the first person from an African nation to be elected to the position in 1996	<b>14</b> John Langston, U.S. Congressman, was born in 1829	<b>15</b> Maggie Lena Walker, banker, died in 1934	<b>16</b> Andrew Young of Georgia named ambassador and chief delegate to the United Nations in 1976	<b>17</b> Noble Sissle, lyricist and bandleader, died in 1975
<b>18</b> Ernest Dickerson wins Best Cinematography award from the New York Film Critics Circle for the Spike Lee film "Do the Right Thing" in 1989	<b>19</b> Carter G. Woodson, historian, was born in 1875	<b>20</b> Montgomery Bus Boycott, a political and social protest against the policy of racial segregation on the public transit system of Montgomery, Alabama ended in 1956	<b>21</b> <b>WINTER SOLSTICE</b> Berry Gordy, Jr. established Motown Records in 1959	<b>22</b> Harriet Ida Pikers and Frances Wills, were sworn in as the first female African-American WAVES officers in 1944	<b>23</b> Alice H. Parker patented the gas heating furnace in 1919	<b>24</b> <b>CHRISTMAS EVE</b> Irwin C. Mollison, first African-American Judge of the Customs Court, was born in 1898
<b>25</b> <b>CHRISTMAS DAY</b> <b>HANUKKAH BEGINS</b> Rev. Jesse Jackson organized Operation PUSH (People United to Save Humanity) in 1971	<b>26</b> <b>KWANZAA BEGINS</b> DeFord Bailey, Sr. became the first African-American to perform on the Grand Ole Opry in 1924	<b>27</b> Dr. Charles Richard Drew, pioneer of blood plasma research, established a blood bank in New York City in 1941	<b>28</b> Earl "Fatha" Hines, famed jazz musician and father of modern jazz piano, was born in 1903	<b>29</b> Thomas Bradley, first African-American Mayor of Los Angeles, was born in 1917	<b>30</b> Bo Diddley, blues composer and singer, was born in 1928	<b>31</b> <b>NEW YEAR'S EVE</b> Odetta Felious Gordon, folk singer and activist, was born in 1930



Imagine a community that's fully connected – across generations, across the street and around the globe. A world where innovative tools and technologies bring us closer together, building understanding and opening new opportunities for personal and economic growth. We believe diversity is the key to the future, and that our communities – and the world – are better when everyone works together.

AT&T is pleased to present the 2016 edition of *The Heritage Calendar: Celebrating the North Carolina African-American Experience*, and to honor the men and women whose lives and accomplishments are highlighted in its pages.

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