



The Heritage Calendar 2017

Celebrating the North Carolina African-American Experience

Dear Students, Educators and Friends

We all get one chance – one life in which to make a real and lasting difference in the lives of other people, our community and our world. In the pages which follow, you will meet some extraordinary individuals who have seized that opportunity and North Carolina is richer because of them.

The Heritage Calendar: Celebrating the North Carolina African-American Experience honors men and women of all races who have contributed significantly to the lives and experiences of African-Americans in our state. The individuals featured in the 2017 edition have excelled in many fields, including education, public service, civil rights, military service, and journalism. Some will be quickly recognized, while others are unsung heroes. Yet all have played an invaluable role in weaving the rich tapestry of North Carolina and we are excited to help share their stories.

We appreciate the continuing involvement of our community supporters: The News & Observer, Capitol Broadcasting Company/WRAL-TV, Western Carolina University, the Sheraton Raleigh Hotel, and PNC Bank. The NC Department of Public Instruction has again developed unique educational resources which will allow teachers to utilize the printed and online versions of the 2017 Heritage Calendar in their classrooms.

The individuals featured in the 2017 edition of The Heritage Calendar are role models through their integrity, commitment, and dedication to excellence. We hope you will enjoy and be inspired by their stories, as we have been.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Venessa Harrison".

Venessa Harrison
President, AT&T North Carolina



ON THE COVER: For centuries, artisans have prized North Carolina's red clay for their earthenware creations. Today, the Seagrove region is often considered the pottery capital of America. It is home to dozens of shops and internationally-known potters, some of whom can trace their craft back multiple generations.

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 Western Carolina University who wrote the profiles of the 2017 honorees. For more information about the honorees and additional educational materials, or to nominate a future honoree, please visit www.ncheritagecalendar.com.

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For more information about the honorees and additional educational materials, or to nominate a future honoree, please visit ncheritagecalendar.com.

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Wardell Stephen "Dell" Curry

Dell Curry was a small-town youngster with big-time dreams. Not only did he want to be the best basketball and baseball player he could become, but he also had a goal to be the best person he could for his family, community, and himself.

Growing up in the rural town of Grottoes, VA, he found that team sports appealed to his competitive spirit. His talent on the basketball court and baseball diamond led to state championships for Fort Defiance High School. It also earned him the coveted title of McDonald's All-American and opened the opportunity to test himself against some of the best players in the country.

Curry's baseball ability attracted the notice of professional scouts and he was drafted by the Texas Rangers. But it was his basketball skill which drew the interest of multiple coaches.

Enrolling at Virginia Tech, he became a four-year basketball starter and pitcher on the Hokies' baseball team.

Basketball beckoned after Curry graduated in 1986 as Utah selected him 15th overall in the 1986 NBA draft. After one season with the Jazz, and another with the Cleveland Cavaliers, Curry was the first player selected by the new Charlotte Hornets in the 1988 expansion draft. He played 10 years with the Hornets, becoming one of the franchise's most popular players and the holder of 10 team records.

While in Charlotte, he established the Dell Curry Foundation to give the youth of Charlotte a chance to receive guidance and skills needed throughout their lives.

Curry retired from the NBA in 2002. He has been a broadcaster for the Hornets since 2009 and he and his wife, Sonya, own and operate the Christian Montessori of Lake Norman in Huntersville.

While Curry left a remarkable athletic legacy, he prefers to be remembered as a family man who cared about his community.

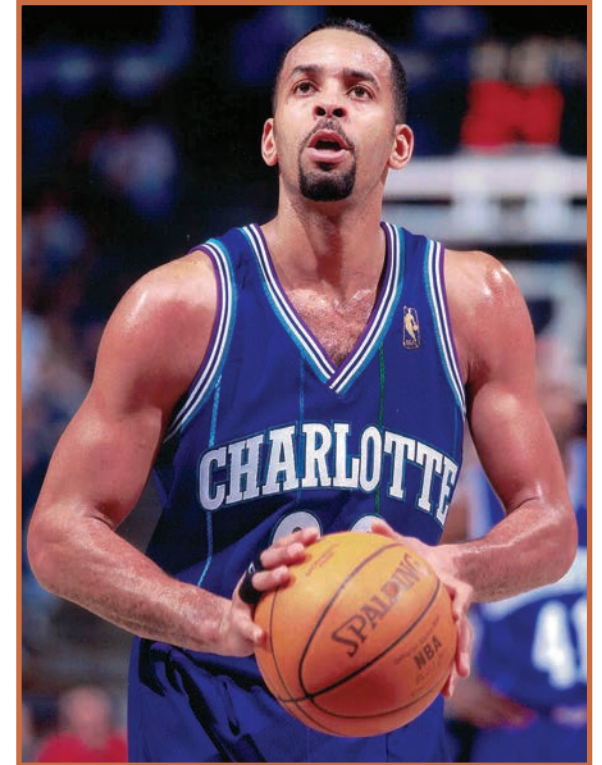


Photo courtesy of Dell Curry

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January

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 NEW YEAR'S DAY Emancipation Proclamation issued in 1863 William Lloyd Garrison began publishing Liberator, an abolitionist newspaper, in 1831	2	3 Adam Clayton Powell, Jr. was elected chairperson of the House Committee on Education and Labor in 1969	4 Grace Bumbry, opera singer, was born in 1937	5 George Washington Carver was an American scientist, botanist, educator, and inventor who died in 1943	6 John Birks "Dizzy" Gillespie, famed musician, died in 1993	7 Marian Anderson made her debut in the Metropolitan Opera House in 1955 Butterfly McQueen, actress, was born in 1911
8	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 1935	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 1953	14 John Oliver Killens, novelist, was born in 1916
15 Martin Luther King, Jr. an American clergyman, activist, and prominent leader in the African-American Civil Rights Movement, was born in 1929	16 MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY Jefferson Franklin Long took oath of office as first African-American Congressman from Georgia in 1871	17 Cassius Clay (Muhammad Ali), 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 Robert C. Weaver became first African-American cabinet member in 1966	19	20 Barack Obama sworn in as the first African-American President in 2009	21
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	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				

Joe L. Dudley, Sr. & Eunice Dudley

Eunice and Joe Dudley exemplify loyalty, perseverance, and determination.

Born in Selma, AL, Eunice Dudley has always had a strong desire to learn. After graduating from high school, she enrolled in Talladega College in Talladega, AL, to pursue a psychology degree.

Joe Dudley was born in Aurora, NC, where his elementary school labeled him as mentally retarded, a stigma that followed him for years. After his high school sweetheart ended their relationship because of his reputation for being slow, he made the life-changing decision to dedicate his life to proving them wrong.

"You have to struggle for anything worthwhile," he says. "The rougher it is, the better it will be if you hang on and don't quit. Don't ever quit. You never give up. You keep right on and you keep saying 'I am, I can, and I will.'"

The couple met in Brooklyn, NY, where they were both selling beauty products door-to-door for the Fuller Products Company during the early 1960s. After several years with the company, they decided to also create their own line of beauty products. They moved to Greensboro, NC, and began making beauty products from their own home.

Consistent sales growth fueled the purchase of some small businesses in Virginia and the expansion of their product line, as well as improvements to the manufacturing process and the product line.

Today, as DudleyQ, the company is one of the most well-known in the beauty products industry. In addition, DudleyQ salons and beauty colleges are located in many major American cities.

Through all of their accomplishments and years of business success, Eunice and Joe both strongly encourage life-long educational aspirations and goals.

"You do not have to stop learning just because you get old," she said. "You decide your own goal."



Photo courtesy of Dudley Beauty Corp LLC

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February

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 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	2 GROUNDHOG DAY	3 Justice Henry Frye became the first African-American to serve on the NC Supreme Court in 1983; appointed Chief Justice in 1999 15th Amendment, upholding a citizen's right to vote, was enacted in 1870	4 Rosa Parks, civil rights activist, was born in 1913
5 Henry "Hank" Aaron, the home run king of Major League Baseball, was born in 1934	6 Robert Tanner Jackson and George Franklin become first African-Americans to receive a degree in dentistry in 1867	7 Eubie Blake, pianist, was born in 1887	8 Oprah Winfrey became the first African-American woman to host a nationally syndicated talk show in 1986	9 Bernard Harris became the first African-American astronaut to take a spacewalk in 1995	10 Roberta Flack, singer, was born in 1937	11 Clifford Alexander, Jr., became the first African-American Secretary of the Army in 1977
12 LINCOLN'S BIRTHDAY Abraham Lincoln, 16th President of the United States, was born in 1809 NAACP was founded in 1909	13 Joseph L. Searles III became the first African-American member of the New York Stock Exchange in 1970	14 VALENTINE'S DAY	15 Henry Lewis was named director of the New Jersey Symphony in 1968	16	17 Michael Jordan, basketball player, was born in 1963	18 The Quakers, in Germantown, PA, make the first formal protest against slavery in 1688 Author Toni Morrison (born Chloe Anthony Wofford) was born in 1931
19 William "Smokey" Robinson, singer and songwriter, was born in 1940	20 PRESIDENTS' DAY Frederick Douglass, American social reformer, orator, writer and statesman. After escaping from slavery, became a leader of the abolitionist movement. Died in 1895	21 Mary Duke Biddle Trent Semans, Philanthropist, was one of the first women elected to serve on Durham City Council in 1951 Barbara Jordan, U.S. Congresswoman, was born in 1936	22 Julius Winfield "Dr. J" Erving II, basketball player, was born in 1950	23 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	24	25 Cassius Clay (Muhammad Ali) won World Heavyweight crown in 1964 M&F Bank was chartered in 1907
26 Antoine Dominique, "Fats" Domino Jr., singer, was born in 1928	27 Marian Anderson, opera singer, was born in 1897	28 MARDI GRAS 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				

Anne Cannon Forsyth

Anne Cannon Forsyth firmly believed that a solid education could open doors throughout a person's life. She invested her time working to ensure that those doors opened into a world of racial equality and cultural diversity.

Born in 1930, Forsyth was the daughter of Z. Smith Reynolds and granddaughter of R.J. Reynolds, founder of the R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Company. She was raised in Winston-Salem by her great-grandmother, who continually stressed the importance of helping those less fortunate.

As an adult, Forsyth was concerned with the problems of poverty and racism, championing the cause of traditionally under-represented people. She saw desegregation as providing opportunity for students of different races to meet. She believed that diversifying school populations would lead to better relationships between races and to a fuller, more inclusive society.

In the 1960s, as the country turned its attention to the desegregation of public schools, Forsyth focused on opportunities for African-American students to attend formerly all-white private boarding schools, many of which had never opened their doors to a non-white student. She created and funded the Anne C. Stouffer Foundation in 1967 to promote the integration of southern preparatory schools. By 1975, the Stouffer Foundation had helped place 142 students in 22 schools across the south.

In 1981, Forsyth helped create the Awards Committee for Education, giving 700 African American students summer educational opportunities at North Carolina universities.

She was a founder and later president of the 1960s-era North Carolina Fund, which served as a model for President Lyndon B. Johnson's War on Poverty. And she served as President of the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation, which sought to improve the quality of life for all North Carolinians.

Forsyth passed away on May 11, 2003.



Photo courtesy of L.P. Tate, Jr.

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March

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 ASH WEDNESDAY 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	2 Carole Gist was crowned first Black Miss USA in 1990	3 Freedmen's Bureau established in 1865 by federal government to aid newly freed slaves Elizabeth City State University was founded in NC in 1891	4 Garrett A. Morgan, scientist and inventor, was born in 1877
5 Blanche Kelso Bruce of Mississippi elected to full term in U.S. Senate in 1875	6 U.S. Supreme Court issues Dred Scott decision in 1857	7 Selma March began in Selma, Alabama in 1965	8 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	9 North Carolina A&T State University was founded in 1891 Clifton Wharton Sr. was sworn in as ambassador to Norway in 1961	10 Jackie Robinson made his professional baseball debut with the Montreal Royals in 1946	11 Lorraine Hansberry's play, <i>A Raisin in the Sun</i> , opened on Broadway in 1959
12 DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS 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.	13 <i>Uncle Tom's Cabin</i> by Harriet Beecher Stowe was published in 1852	14 Livingstone College founded in Salisbury, NC in 1879 Fannie Lou Hamer, activist, died in 1977	15 <i>Los Angeles Sentinel</i> founded by Leon H. Washington in 1933	16 <i>Freedom's Journal</i> founded in 1827	17 ST. PATRICK'S DAY Nat King Cole, singer, was born in 1919	18 Charley Pride, country singer, was born in 1938
19 James B. Parsons became the first African-American chief judge of a federal court in 1975	20 SPRING BEGINS	21 Quincy Jones, composer and musician, was born in 1933	22	23 Dr. Jerome H. Holland elected to the board of directors of the New York Stock Exchange in 1972	24 Poll tax ruled unconstitutional in 1966	25
26 William H. Hastie confirmed as Federal District Judge of the Virgin Islands in 1937 Alexander Miles patented the elevator in 1887	27 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	28 First cadets graduate from flying school at Tuskegee Institute in 1942	29 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	30	31 Jack Johnson, first African-American heavyweight champion, was born in 1878	

Philip G. Freelon

Philip G. Freelon is leaving a mark on the country Americans will notice for generations.

Based in Durham, Freelon is recognized as one of America's most influential and dynamic architects for his ability to blend a building's purpose with its form.

A small sample of his most notable projects include the Harvey B. Gantt Center for African-American Arts + Culture in Charlotte, the Proctor School of Education at NC A&T State University in Greensboro, and the Biomanufacturing Research Institute & Technology Enterprise (BRITE) facility at NC Central University in Durham.

The most significant accomplishment of Freelon's career may be a building that actually resembles a crown, as the team of Freelon Adjaye Bond / SmithGroup leads the design for the new Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture.

A native of Philadelphia, Freelon received a Bachelor of Environmental Design from North Carolina State University and a Master of Architecture degree from MIT. He also received a Loeb Fellowship from the Harvard University Graduate School of Design. He has lectured at major universities across the country and is currently on the faculty at MIT's School of Architecture + Planning, where he was appointed Professor of Practice in 2009.

He founded The Freelon Group, Architects, in 1990 and is currently the Managing and Design Director for the North Carolina practice of the global architecture and design firm Perkins + Will.

Freelon's work has won him numerous awards and recognitions. He is a Fellow of the American Institute of Architects and a recipient of the AIA North Carolina's Gold Medal, the association's highest individual honor, and the 2009 recipient of the AIA Thomas Jefferson Award for Public Architecture. In 2012, President Obama appointed him to the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts, where he currently serves as Vice Chairman.



Photo courtesy of Chris Charles

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April

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

Paul R. Jervay, Jr.

To Paul R. Jervay, Jr., a newspaper is a vital community resource, not simply a product.

As a third-generation journalist and the second-generation publisher of *The Carolinian*, an African-American newspaper in Raleigh, Jervay is committed to giving the community a voice, while also delivering information.

"Our paper gives people a chance to write stories that are important to them, with the potential for those stories running in the newspaper," he said.

A native of Atlanta, Jervay grew up in Raleigh, where he graduated from J.W. Ligon High School. He then attended North Carolina Central University, earning a bachelor's degree with honors in accounting in 1971. While at NCCU, he spent two years as sports editor of the campus newspaper, preparation for eventually assuming leadership of the family business.

The Carolinian was established in 1939 by Jervay's late father, Paul R. Jervay, Sr. The elder Jervay served as publisher until 1993. Jervay Jr. took over the reins of the paper in 1997, succeeding his sister, Prentice Jervay, who served as publisher for four years.

Jervay remembers his father as an innovative businessman who constantly sought to understand and embrace new technologies, a business strategy Jervay continued by introducing computer-based design and other advances to speed production.

Under Jervay's guidance, *The Carolinian* continued to emphasize service to the community, engaging readers in celebration of good news and using aggressive investigative reporting as a catalyst for civic activism when needed.

"Having a good investigative reporter on staff is really a luxury for a community newspaper," Jervay said, "But it gives us the opportunity to deal more effectively with issues and to help make the community better. We're not just here to sell a paper, but to serve the community."



Photo courtesy of Paul R. Jervay, Jr.

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May

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Archie Williams, Gold Medal winner in 400-meter run in 1936 Summer Olympics, born in 1915	2 Elijah McCoy, inventor and holder of more than fifty patents, was born in 1844	3 James Brown, Godfather of Soul, was born in 1933 Sugar Ray Robinson, boxing champion, was born in 1921	4 Freedom Riders were civil rights activists who rode interstate buses into the segregated south; the first Freedom Ride left Washington, D.C., in 1961	5 CINCO DE MAYO Gwendolyn Brooks became the first African-American Pulitzer Prize winner for <i>Annie Allen</i> in 1950	6
7 J.R. Winters patented the fire escape in 1878	8 Henry McNeal Turner, a minister, politician and the first southern bishop of the A.M.E. Church, died in 1915	9 Slave emancipation general order No. 11 declaration for Georgia, Florida and South Carolina in 1862	10	11 Martha Graham, dancer, was born in 1894 Bob Marley, reggae legend, died in 1981	12	13 Robert Smalls seized Confederate warship in 1862 Joe Louis, boxer, was born in 1914
14 MOTHER'S DAY In 1804, a slave known only as "York" accompanied Lewis and Clark on their expedition	15 North Carolina Mutual Life Building named a National Historic Landmark in 1975	16 Sammy Davis Jr. an American entertainer, died in 1990	17 U.S. Supreme Court declares segregation in public schools unconstitutional in Brown v. Board of Education decision in 1954	18 Reggie Jackson, baseball player, was born in 1946	19 Malcolm X, an African-American Muslim minister and human rights activist, was born in 1925	20 ARMED FORCES DAY Robert N.C. Nix Sr. was elected to U.S. Congress in 1958
21	22 Claude McKay, poet, died in 1948	23 UCLA renames its social science buildings to honor alumnus Ralph Bunche in 1969	24 Hal McRae was named manager of the Kansas City Royals in 1991	25 Madame C.J. Walker, entrepreneur, died in 1919	26 Althea Gibson won the French Open, becoming the first African-American tennis player to win a major tennis title in 1956	27 Lowell W. Perry was confirmed as chairman of the Equal Opportunity Commission (EEOC) in 1975
28 Eliza Ann Gardner, Underground Railroad conductor, was born in 1831	29 MEMORIAL DAY Sojourner Truth addressed the first Black Women's Rights Convention in 1851 Thomas Bradley was elected mayor of Los Angeles in 1973	30 Countee Cullen, poet, was born in 1903	31 NAACP held first conference (as the National Negro Committee) in 1909			

Rev. Richard Joyner

Born in 1952, the Rev. Richard Joyner grew up in Greenville, NC, surrounded by farms, poverty, and anger. The son of a sharecropper, Joyner saw little apart from the white landowner who he felt took advantage of his family. His father had a different perspective.

"My father saw sustainability before I did," said Joyner. "When anger blinds you, you can't see the whole thing."

In time, Joyner grew and evolved from angry son to minister and agricultural educator. He came to understand the importance of the land, of healthy lifestyles, and of relationships. As a result, Joyner helped one community become healthier, while giving hope to countless children.

After serving in the US Army and National Guard, Joyner attended divinity school at Shaw University and went to work as a chaplain at Nash General Hospital. In 2002, Joyner became the pastor of Conetoe Chapel Missionary Baptist Church, a church that serves an isolated community of approximately 300 residents.

In 2004, disturbed by the number of young people in his congregation who died of poor health, he founded the Conetoe Family Life Center, which works with young people in the community to plant, harvest, and sell healthy produce, a commodity previously scarce in rural Conetoe.

In recent years, the center has branched out to honey production. Participating students manage dozens of honeybee hives, paralleling Joyner's belief that people are "interdependent beings" who cannot reach their full potential without all members of a community reaching their potential, as well.

"Every bee has a role," Joyner says. "And, in caring for the hives, the children see that they, too, have a role."

It is a lesson that revolves around imparting a sense of community and helping young people understand how they can find both joy and sustainability in the land, just as Joyner once did.

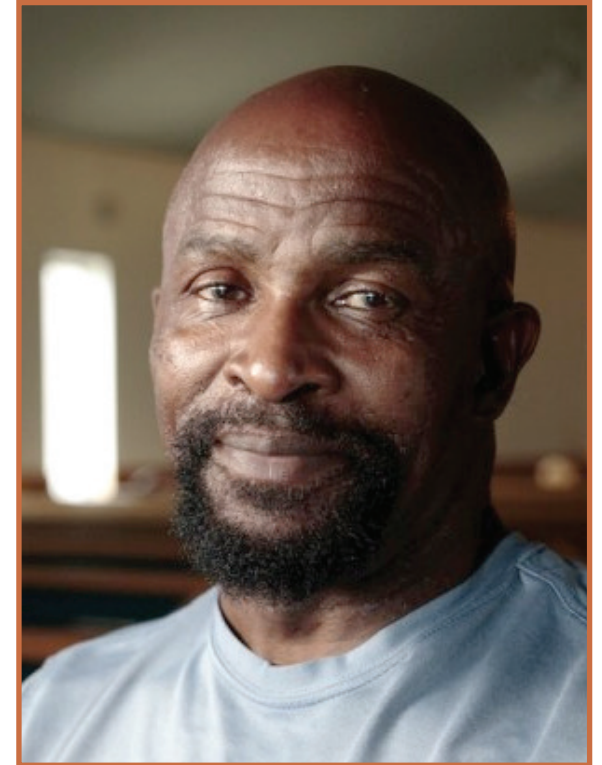


Photo courtesy of the Rev. Richard Joyner

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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 United States 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 Larry Leon Hamlin, founder of the National Black Theatre Festival, died in 2007	7	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 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
11 Hazel Dorothy Scott, classical pianist and singer, was born in 1920	12 Anniversary of 1967 U.S. Supreme Court decision <i>Loving v. Va</i> banning interracial marriages Medgar Evers, civil rights activist, was assassinated in 1963	13 Thurgood Marshall, first African-American Justice, appointed to U.S. Supreme Court in 1967	14 FLAG DAY	15 Errol Garner, singer and musician, was born in 1921	16	17 Thomas Ezekiel Miller, U.S. congressman, was born in 1849
18 FATHER'S DAY	19 Today is celebrated as African-American Independence Day or "Juneteenth" which represents the emancipation of slavery	20 Dr. Lloyd A. Hall, pioneer in food chemistry, was born in 1894	21 SUMMER BEGINS	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 Camera 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	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	

Hattie "Chatty Hatty" Leeper

Being known as "Chatty" is a sure sign of someone's energy and zest for life – which is exactly what Hattie Leeper brought to the airwaves as Charlotte's first female African-American radio broadcaster.

Born in 1934 in Edgemoor, SC, Leeper grew up in Charlotte listening to WGIV-AM, then the only ethnic station in town. As a teenager, she secured an internship at the station until, in 1948, an on-air position became vacant and the station manager offered her the microphone.

It was the start of an 18-year tenure at the station as a disc jockey and on-air personality, during which she acquired the nickname that reflected her unorthodox and engaging broadcasting style.

While she was becoming one of the state's most well-known broadcasters, Leeper was also continuing her education, earning a bachelor's degree in criminal justice and then a master's in education administration, both from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte.

To Leeper, education is the way to success. Her advice to young adults is to pursue and seek knowledge in every aspect of their lives.

"It means the world to have an education," she said. "Education is the key that can unlock doors for you in life."

In 1985, Leeper joined the faculty of Gaston College, serving as chair of the Broadcasting Department for 13 years until her retirement in 1998.

Throughout her career, Leeper was recognized as a leader in the radio industry and served four years as secretary of the National Association of Radio/Television Announcers. In 1989, she was inducted into the Black Radio Hall of Fame in Washington, D.C. In 2015, she became the first African American to be inducted into the Charlotte Broadcasting Hall of Fame and was presented a Lifetime Achievement Award from WTVI, one of numerous awards she has received over her life.



Photo courtesy of Hattie Leeper

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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.	3	4 INDEPENDENCE DAY 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	13 Continental Congress excluded slavery from Northwest Territory in 1787	14 George Washington Carver National Monument dedicated in Diamond, MO in 1943	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	18 Lemuel Haynes, 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	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	24 Mary Church Terrell, one of the first African-American women to earn a college degree and founding member of NAACP, 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	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					

Mayor Clarence Lightner

The first African American elected mayor of a major Southern city was a small businessman in an industry known for placing a premium on client service. So expanding that commitment to constituent and community service came naturally to Clarence Lightner.

Born Aug. 15, 1921, in Raleigh, Lightner was the son of Calvin and Mamie Lightner. Owners of a local funeral home, they were also strong believers in civic engagement. As a teenager, Lightner watched his parents and other members of the Negro Voters League work long hours to register African Americans to vote at a time when many were disenfranchised.

After high school, he enrolled at North Carolina Central University, and, after graduation, attended Echols College of Mortuary Science.

As a successful businessman and strong leader, Lightner's stature within the community grew. Following passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, he ran for Raleigh City Council and was first elected in 1967. He was subsequently elected mayor in 1973, winning support from both African Americans and whites to defeat a white businessman. A charter member of the Southern Conference of Black Mayors, he served only one term as mayor because, in 1977, Gov. Jim Hunt appointed him to fill an unexpired term in the NC Senate.

Lightner's commitment to public service continued after he left elected office. In 1993, he was appointed chairman of the Southeast Raleigh Improvement Commission, a post he held for eight years.

He also served as chairman of the Board of Trustees at Saint Augustine's College, now Saint Augustine's University, and as a member of the Board of Trustees at North Carolina Central University.

Lightner passed away in 2002. His memory is recognized today in the Clarence E. Lightner Youth Foundation.



Photo courtesy of the City of Raleigh

The Heritage Calendar

Celebrating the North Carolina African-American Experience

August

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Bennett College was founded in Greensboro, NC in 1873 Benjamin E. Mays, minister, scholar, social activist and the president of Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia from 1940 to 1967; was born in 1894	2 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	3	4 President Barack Obama, the 44th President of the United States and the first African-American to hold the office, was born in 1961	5 Edwin Moses and Evelyn Ashford won gold medals in Olympic track & field in 1984
6 Voting Rights Act signed by President Lyndon B. Johnson in 1965	7	8 Matthew A. Henson, explorer and first to reach the North Pole, was born in 1866	9 Jesse Owens won four Olympic gold medals in 1936	10 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	11 Thaddeus Stevens, abolitionist, died in 1868	12 Frederick Douglass' home in Washington D.C. was declared a national shrine in 1922
13 Baltimore Afro-American Newspaper was founded in 1892	14 Ernest Everett Just, scientist, was born in Charleston, SC in 1883	15 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	16 Louis Lomax, author, was born in 1922	17 Marcus M. Garvey Jr., a Jamaican political leader, publisher, journalist, entrepreneur, and orator, was born in 1887	18 James Meredith, the first African-American admitted to the University of Mississippi, graduated in 1963	19 NAT'L AVIATION DAY Benjamin Banneker, noted scientist, published his first Almanac in 1791
20 Dr. David Satcher named director of the Centers for Disease Control in 1993	21 SENIOR CITIZENS DAY William "Count" Basie, jazz pianist and musician, was born in 1904	22 John Lee Hooker, blues singer and guitarist, was born in 1917	23 National Negro Business League founded in 1900	24 Edith Sampson was appointed first African-American delegate to the United Nations by Harry S. Truman in 1950	25 Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters organized in 1925	26 WOMEN'S EQUALITY DAY William Dawson elected Black Democratic Party vice-presidential candidate in 1943
27 W.E.B. DuBois, an American sociologist, historian, civil rights activist, Pan-Africanist, author and editor, died in 1963	28 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	29 Charlie "Bird" Parker, jazz musician, was born in 1920	30 Gabriel Prosser leads one of the first slave revolts in Richmond, VA 1800 Lt. Col. Guion S. Bluford, Jr. became the first African-American astronaut in space in 1983	31 Eldridge Cleaver, writer and political activist who became an early leader of the Black Panther Party, was born in 1935		

Victoria Casey McDonald

Victoria Casey McDonald was passionate about bringing people together.

A talented listener who was gifted at spanning ethnic differences, she invested a lifetime in helping North Carolinians of multiple racial and cultural backgrounds better understand and appreciate the rich history and culture of Western North Carolina.

McDonald's larger-than-life persona helped her forge relationships across racial, social, and economic lines as she conducted groundbreaking research that resulted in three books and remains foundational to the body of knowledge about African Americans in the region.

Born in 1943 in Cullowhee, NC, McDonald's mountain roots ran deep. She was the descendant of slaves held by William Holland Thomas, a white Haywood County merchant who was a prominent activist for the rights of Cherokee Indians.

McDonald was a strong believer in education and was only the second African American to graduate from what is now Western Carolina University, earning a bachelor's degree in history and a master's in education.

She spent much of her 30-year teaching career at Smokey Mountain Elementary School, located near the Qualla Boundary. There, she incorporated both Native-American and African-American history into her classroom, enriching the educational experience for generations of students.

McDonald also had a deep religious faith. Initially reluctant, she was ordained at God's Holy Tabernacle in Sylva and served as a minister for nearly a decade. Away from the classroom and pulpit, McDonald was active in a number of community-based organizations, including the Jackson County Chapter of the NAACP and Catch the Spirit of Appalachia.

She passed away in 2014, leaving behind a legacy as a historian who touched countless lives.

"Mom thought of herself as just an ordinary person, but she was truly a humanitarian," said her daughter, Faustine Wilson. "She wanted everyone to succeed, and she wanted the best for everyone."



Photo courtesy of Faustine Wilson

The Heritage Calendar

September

Celebrating the North Carolina African-American Experience

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 Romare Bearden, an artist and writer was born in 1911
3 Charles Houston, NAACP leader, was born in 1895	4 LABOR DAY 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 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 Convention of Black Freemen met in Cleveland in 1848	7	8	9 Carter G. Woodson founded the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History in 1915
10 GRANDPARENT'S DAY Mordecai Johnson, first permanent African-American president of Howard University, died in 1976	11 PATRIOT DAY	12 Dr. Mae Jemison became first African-American female astronaut in space in 1992	13 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 Claude A. Barnett, founder of the Associated Negro Press, was born in 1889
17 Jackie Robinson, first African-American baseball player in the major leagues, was named National League Rookie of the Year in 1947 United States Constitution signed in 1787	18 CONSTITUTION DAY Booker T. Washington delivered "Atlanta Compromise" address in 1895	19 Atlanta University was founded in Georgia in 1865	20 ROSH HASHANAH BEGINS First episode of <i>The Cosby Show</i> aired in 1984	21 F.W. Leslie, inventor, patented the envelope seal in 1891	22 FALL BEGINS ROSH HASHANAH ENDS	23 John Coltrane, innovative and famed jazz musician, was born in Hamlet, N.C. 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	28 Appeal to the <i>Colored Citizens of the World</i> published in 1829 Winston-Salem State University was founded in NC in 1892	29 YOM KIPPUR 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

Christopher Suggs

When someone is passionate about helping their community, age is irrelevant. Ask Christopher Suggs, the President, CEO, and driving force behind Kinston Teens, Inc.

In October 2014, when he was only 14 years old, Suggs founded the registered non-profit dedicated to empowering his community's young people through service, leadership and civic engagement.

"I started the organization because I wanted to make a difference," he said. "At the time, there were a lot of problems going on in my community, but not much was being done to solve them."

He was particularly concerned with the contrast between the community's crime rate and the lack of positive programs which provided opportunities for community service while stressing the importance of staying in school. These issues have become a major focus area for Kinston Teens.

"Many people talked about the issues," he said. "I wanted to do something."

The Kinston Teens organization today offers award-winning mentoring, leadership-development and civic-engagement opportunities for young people, in addition to service programs that have included voter registration drives and community beautification projects. More than 300 young people, ages seven to twenty-two have been impacted directly by the organization thus far, from the Kinston community and beyond.

Suggs' initiative, hard work and passion for his community have attracted national and international attention. He appeared on the popular television show *The Real* in January 2016 and was named a 2016 Global Teen Leader by the Three Dot Dash initiative.

It was an impact which might not have happened. In 2013, Suggs was diagnosed with a potentially fatal heart condition, and has undergone three heart surgeries. He attributes overcoming this major health issue to his strong faith and his will to make a positive, lasting impact on his community.

Suggs believes that he and his peers are not just the leaders of tomorrow, but also of today. "No matter your age, you can still make a difference," he said.



Photo courtesy of Kristal Suggs

The Heritage Calendar

Celebrating the North Carolina African-American Experience

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 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	4 The last National Black Convention began in Syracuse, N.Y. in 1864	5 Yvonne Burke, U.S. Congresswoman, was born in 1932	6 Fannie Lou Hamer, activist and philanthropist, born in 1917	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 COLUMBUS DAY O.B. Clare patented the rail trestle in 1888	10 Singer Ben Vereen was born in 1946	11	12 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	16 John Brown began the attack on Harper's Ferry in 1859	17 Capital Savings Bank, the nations' first black owned, opened in Washington, D.C. in 1888	18 Terry McMillan, widely acclaimed novelist, was born in 1951	19 The U.S. Navy was opened to African-American women in 1944	20	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 (drafted by W.E.B. DuBois)	24 UNITED NATIONS DAY 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 Mahalia Jackson, gospel singer, born in 1911	27 D. B. Downing, inventor, patented his street letter box in 1891	28 Levi Coffin, nicknamed "President 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 Jr. was elected the first African-American mayor of Birmingham, Ala., in 1979	31 HALLOWEEN Ethel Waters, actress and singer, was born in 1896				

Millie Dunn Veasey

For nearly a century, Millie Veasey has served her country and her community.

She first heard her country's call when the United States entered World War II. Making up her mind to serve, she volunteered for the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps (WAAC) in 1942 and eventually served 13 months in England and France.

Returning home after the war, Veasey enrolled at Saint Augustine's College, now Saint Augustine's University, where she also worked as executive secretary to President James Boyer. She majored in business education and minored in English, graduating in 1953.

But Veasey was not satisfied with only being a student.

The civil rights movement was in full swing, with organizations such as Congress of Racial Equality (CORE), Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), and National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) seeking southern volunteers. Veasey joined the NAACP, becoming the first African American female president of the Wake County chapter. In that role, she worked locally and with national civil rights leaders.

Veasey retired from the university in 1986 as the director of career planning and placement /cooperative education. However, she continued to be actively involved in helping others and in seeking to make a difference for her community. She taught Sunday school to young children at her church and for many years assisted neighbors in filling out tax forms.

Veasey traces her spirit of caring and service to the grandmother for whom she was named, Millie Gunter Hunter. As a young child, Veasey attended Raleigh's First Baptist Church on Wilmington Street and watched as her grandmother continually sought to serve others.

"I knew my grandma as a missionary," Veasey remembers. "That was the grounding force that has really shaped my life all these years. For me, it has never been about me, but about helping and serving others."



Photo courtesy of Millie Veasey

The Heritage Calendar

Celebrating the North Carolina African-American Experience

November

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 ALL SAINTS' DAY First issue of <i>Ebony</i> published in 1945	2 President Ronald Reagan signed law designating the third Monday of January Martin Luther King Jr. Day in 1983	3 Eva Clayton became the first African-American woman to represent North Carolina in Congress in 1992	4 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
5 DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS Nat King Cole was the first African-American performer to host his own television show in 1956	6 Absalom Jones, first African-American priest of an Episcopal church, was born in 1746	7 ELECTION DAY David Dinkins elected first African-American Mayor of New York City in 1989	8 Edward W. Brooke was first popularly elected African-American U.S. Senator (R- Mass.) in 85 years in 1966	9	10 Andrew Hatcher was named associate press secretary to President John F. Kennedy, becoming the first African-American in that role in 1960	11 VETERANS' DAY Nat Turner, leader of a Virginia slave revolt, was hanged in 1831
12 In 1775, General George Washington issued an order, later rescinded, which forbade recruiting officers to enlist Blacks	13 Dwight Gooden won baseball's Cy Young Award in 1985	14 Booker T. Washington, an African-American educator, author, orator, and advisor to Republican presidents, died in 1915	15	16 W.C. Handy, "Father of the Blues", was born in Florence, Ala. in 1873	17 Omega Psi Phi was founded on the campus of Howard University in 1911	18 Sojourner Truth, abolitionist and women's rights activist, was born around this date in 1797
19	20 Garrett A. Morgan patented the traffic signal in 1923	21	22 Alrutheus A. Taylor, teacher and historian, was born in 1893	23 THANKSGIVING	24 BLACK FRIDAY	25 Luther "Bill" "Bojangles" Robinson, iconic dancer, died in 1949
26 Sojourner Truth, evangelist, died in 1883	27 CYBER MONDAY First Black college football game was played between Biddle Univ (Johnson C. Smith) and Livingstone College in 1892	28	29 U.S. Congressman Adam Clayton Powell, Jr. was born in 1908	30 Shirley Chisholm, U.S. Congresswoman, was born in 1924		

Richard "Stick" & Teresa Williams

Richard "Stick" and Teresa Williams have achieved positions of North Carolina leadership unmatched by any other husband and wife.

Yet they don't see themselves as a Tarheel power couple. Stick describes himself as "a reluctant leader," while Teresa insists she is simply being a "servant."

Actually, the Williamses are the first couple to each serve as chair of the Board of Trustees of a University of North Carolina institution – Stick at UNC Chapel Hill and Teresa at Western Carolina University. Both have also served as chair of the UNC-CH General Alumni Association, continuing a commitment to service that both see as returning the investment that many others made in them.

Their passion for serving in higher education leadership comes from their belief in a UNC System that prepares "the common people" to become stellar citizens. "And we are the common people," Stick says.

He surrendered his dreams of a professional football career after a freshman knee injury, instead applying his accounting degree to a career with Duke Energy that would span more than three decades. Before his retirement in 2015, he led the Duke Energy Foundation, the company's philanthropy arm.

Stick joined the UNC-CH trustees in 1999 and served for eight years. Elected chair in 2003, he was the first African American to hold the position.

Teresa, who earned bachelor's degrees in sociology and psychology, initially concentrated on grassroots public service, being appointed to the Mecklenburg County School Building Solutions Committee. She also was elected to the Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools Board of Education in 1999, serving until 2002.

In 2007, she was appointed to the WCU Board of Trustees, where she would serve for eight years and be elected chair in 2013, the first female African American to hold the post.

When asked what motivates them to continue serving, Stick begins, "It's not about making a living," and Teresa finishes: "It's about making a life."



Photo courtesy of Richard and Teresa Williams

The Heritage Calendar

Celebrating the North Carolina African-American Experience

December

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 WORLD AIDS DAY Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat on a public bus in 1955 Shaw University was founded in Raleigh, NC in 1865	2 Charles Wesley, historian and founding President of Central State University, was born in 1891
3 First issue of North Star newspaper published by Frederick Douglass in 1847	4	5 Mary McLeod Bethune, educator, founded National Council of Negro Women in 1935	6 The 13th amendment, outlawing slavery was ratified in 1865	7 PEARL HARBOR REMEMBRANCE DAY	8 The NAACP wins the landmark Gibbs v. Board of Education case, against the state of Maryland, ensuring that white and black teachers are paid equally in 1936	9 P.B.S. Pinchback became the first African-American governor of an American state, Louisiana, in 1872 Ralph Bunche, first African-American awarded Nobel Peace Prize, died in 1971
10 HUMAN RIGHTS DAY	11	12 HANUKKAH BEGINS Joseph H. Rainey (S.C.) first African-American elected to Congress in 1870	13	14 John Langston, U.S. Congressman, was born in 1829	15 Maggie Lena Walker, first African-American woman to found a bank, died in 1934	16 Andrew Young Jr. of Georgia named Ambassador and Chief Delegate to the United Nations in 1977
17 Noble Sissle, lyricist and bandleader, died in 1975	18 Ernest Dickerson wins Best Cinematography award from the New York Film Critics Circle for the Spike Lee film "Do the Right Thing" in 1989	19 Carter G. Woodson, historian, was born in 1875	20 HANUKKAH ENDS 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	21 WINTER SOLSTICE	22 Harriet Ida Pikers and Frances Wills, were sworn in as the first female African-American WAVES officers in 1944	23 Alice H. Parker patented the gas heating furnace in 1919
24 CHRISTMAS EVE Irwin C. Mollison, first African-American Judge of the Customs Court, was born in 1898	25 CHRISTMAS DAY	26 KWANZAA BEGINS The first Kwanzaa is celebrated by Maylana Karenga at California State Univ in 1966	27 Dr. Charles Richard Drew, pioneer of blood plasma research, established a blood bank in New York City in 1940	28 Earl "Fatha" Hines, famed jazz musician and father of modern jazz piano, was born in 1903	29 Thomas Bradley, first African-American Mayor of Los Angeles, was born in 1917	30 Bo Diddley, blues composer and singer, was born in 1928
31 NEW YEAR'S EVE Odetta Felious Gordon, folk singer and activist, was born in 1930						

A photograph of an older woman with short brown hair and a young girl with long dark hair, both smiling and looking at a laptop screen. The woman is wearing a blue patterned top and large hoop earrings. The girl is wearing an orange polo shirt. They are sitting at a wooden table. The laptop is open, and the woman's hand is on the keyboard. The background is a softly blurred indoor setting.

A change for the better

Over time, the world changes and technologies evolve. At AT&T, innovation and service is strengthened by the diversity of our employees, suppliers and customers. Because change is better when everyone works together.

AT&T is pleased to present the 2017 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.

