

- 23 1897 — J.L. Love, invented the pencil sharpener.  
1897 — Andrew J. Beard, invented the "Jerry Coupler". It is still used today to connect railroad cars.
- 24 Scott Joplin (1868-1917), acknowledged as the "King of Ragtime" was born in Texarkana, Texas.  
Congressman Ronald V. Dellums, (b. 1935).
- 25 1949 — Bill "Bojangles" Robinson died.  
1965 — Segregation of public vehicles and waiting rooms outlawed.
- 26 1883 — Sojourner Truth, abolitionist, died.
- 27 Congressman Mickey Leland, (b. 1944).  
1878 — B.H. Taylor received patent for the rotary engine.
- 28 Charlotte E. Ray became the first Black lawyer.
- 29 Adam Clayton Powell (1908-1972), minister, civil rights leader, first Black elected to New York City Council (1941); elected to U.S. House of Representatives 12 times (1944-1961) was born in New Haven, Connecticut.

**DECEMBER**

- 1 1955 — Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat to a white man on a bus in Montgomery, Alabama, initiating the modern day Civil Rights Movement.  
1869 — First National Negro Labor Convention, Washington, D.C.



December 1, 1955, Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat to a white man on a bus in Montgomery, Alabama, initiating the modern day Civil Rights Movement.

- 2 John Brown (executed at Charles Town, West Virginia) and Blacks Shields Green, Dangerfield Newby, Sherrard Lewis Leary and John A. Copeland, his co-conspirators - martyred.
- 3 The North Star Newspaper, founded by Frederick Douglass, published its first issue in 1854.
- 4 American Anti-Slavery Society was organized.  
John A. Lankford (1874-?) was born. America's first Black architect.
- 5 Montgomery Bus Boycott organized in 1955.



LOUIS 'SATCHMO' ARMSTRONG

Out of the slums of New Orleans, Louis "Satchmo" Armstrong rose to the top in the world of jazz. His trumpet and gravel voice and his inimitable style and showmanship catapulted him into the ranks of musical immortality over a career spanning almost 60 years.

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MEMBER OF UNITED COLORS

- 6 1869 — Colored National Labor Union formed.
- 7 1941 — Dorie Miller, Hero at Pearl Harbor, awarded Navy Cross. Executive Order 8802 issued prohibiting discrimination in the Government or defense industries.
- 8 Lucy Sessions was the first Black woman in the United States to earn a degree. She graduated from Oberlin College.  
Sammy Davis, Jr., born in New York, in 1925.
- 9 1961 — Tanzania gained independence from Britain, Julius K. Nyerere, President since 1964, made Swahili the official language.
- 10 1964 — Nobel Peace Prize awarded to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
- 11 1851 — Courts in Christiana, Pennsylvania upheld the right of fugitive slaves to defend themselves.
- 12 Joseph H. Rainey took his seat as the first Negro member of the House of Representatives in 1870.
- 15 Ignatius Sancho (1729-1780) died. Scholar-Writer.
- 16 1976 — Andrew Young named Ambassador and Chief U.S. delegate to United Nations.
- 17 Robert B. Elliott, served as U.S. Congressman from South Carolina from 1871-1874.
- 18 1865 — Congress ratifies the 13th Amendment abolishing slavery in the United States.  
1971 — Operation PUSH (People United to Save Humanity) organized in Chicago by Rev. Jesse Jackson.
- 19 Dr. Carter G. Woodson (1875-1950) was born. Father of Negro History founded the Journal of Negro History, 1916; Initiated Negro History Week in 1926.  
1891 — Charles Uncles, S.S.J., first Black ordained in the United States.
- 20 1850 — Harriet Tubman made first Underground Railroad trip.  
1892 — Paul Lawrence Dunbar publishes "Oak and Ivy."
- 21 1831 — Nat Turner's Insurrection.
- 22 1883 — Arthur W. Mitchell, Chambers County, Alabama, First Black Democrat elected to Congress.
- 23 1796 — African Methodist Episcopal Church incorporated.  
1815 — Henry Highland Garnet (d. 1882) was born. Abolitionist. He was in the forefront of the anti-slavery movement and operated an underground railroad in Troy, New York.

- 24 1776 — George Washington crossed the Delaware accompanied by two Blacks: Oliver Cromwell and Prince Whipple.  
1898 — Irwin Mollison, born, first Black Federal Judge.  
Congress enacted Home Rule legislation for District of Columbia—the first time the city had been given the opportunity to elect its governing officials in over a century.
- 25 1907 — Cab Calloway, born, Rochester, New York.  
Edward (Kid) Ory (1886-1973) born, Trombonist. One of the most influential New Orleans jazz musicians. Recorded "Muskrat Ramble", a classic in 1943.  
1943 — The Liberty Ship S.S. George Washington Carver, named after the famous Black Scientist was launched in 1943.
- 26 Jack Johnson wins heavyweight crown in Australia, 1906.



December 20, 1850, Harriet Tubman made first Black ordained in the United States.

- 27 Commemorates the birth of Harriet Ross Tubman in 1820 and her many contributions to the freedom of Black slaves through the "Underground Railroad."  
1862 — The "Colonization Plan", whereby free Blacks would be returned to Africa, was rejected by Blacks.
- 30 1892 — Dr. Miles V. Lynk, physician, published the first Black medical journal.  
1775 — George Washington reverses previous directive and asks Congress to accept the enlistment of free Blacks into the Revolutionary Army.

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