

- 5 Josiah Henson, freedom fighter from Port Tobacco, Maryland, died on this day in 1881 at age 91.
1905 — First copy of the Chicago Defender black newspaper was published on this day by Robert S. Abbot.
- 8 A Phillip Randolph organized the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters on this day in 1925 after failing to integrate blacks into the ranks of the American Federation of Labor.
- 9 John Brown, abolitionist born on this day in 1800.
- 10 P.B.S. Pinchback, U.S. Senator and Lt. Governor of Louisiana was born on this day in 1837.
- 11 Ira Aldridge (1807-1867), great 19th century black actor was born on this day.
William Grant Still, noted classical composer and conductor was born in Woodville, Mississippi, on this day in 1895. He died in 1978.
- 12 Congressman Mervyn M. Dyrally (b. 1926).
1871 — Segregated street cars were integrated on this day in Louisville, Kentucky, following sit-in by black teenager.
- 13 Joe Louis — "The Brown Bomber", world heavyweight boxing champion (1937-49) was born on this day in 1914 in Lexington, Alabama.
1950 — Steve Wonder, internationally acclaimed musical genius and vocalist was born on this day in Saginaw, Michigan.
- 15 Arthur Ashe was chosen to U.S. Davis Cup Team on this day in 1963.
PVTS. Henry Johnson and Needham Roberts of the 15th National Guard N.Y. (369th Infantry Div.) defeated 20 German soldiers at Bois d'Hauza, France; both later awarded French Croix de Guerre for bravery.
- 16 Congressman John Conyers (b. 1929).
- 17 1954 — The Supreme Court's landmark decision in Brown vs. Board of Education struck down the "separate but equal" doctrine ruling segregated schools unconstitutional. Case was argued by the young NAACP attorney Thurgood Marshall who was appointed in 1967 to the United States Supreme court.
- 18 Rhode Island enacted the first anti-slavery law in America on this day in 1652.
- 19 Malcolm X (1925-1965), early disciple of Elijah Muhammed (leader of the Black Muslims) and founder of the Organization of Afro-American Unity was born on this day in Omaha, Nebraska.
- 20 Congressman Harold Ford (b. 1945).
Toussaint L'Ouverture, Black Liberator, was born on this day in 1743.
- 21 Thomas Fats Waller (1904-1943), jazz pianist and composer was born on this day in New York City.
- 22 1833 — Oberlin College, Ohio opened to black students; Civil War abolitionist center pioneered in co-education.
Claude McKay, novelist poet died on this day in 1948.
Langston Hughes, poet died on this day in 1967.
- 23 Shuffle Along — famous black musical by Eubie Blake and Noble Sissie opened on Broadway in 1921 starring Florence Mills.

- 24 Lincoln University, first Black College in America was founded on this day in 1854 by Presbyterians as Ashmun Institute in Pennsylvania.
- 25 1963 — Organization of African Unity formed, headquartered in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.
Bill "Mr. Bojangles" Robinson (1878-1949), dancer and entertainer was born on this day in Richmond, Virginia.
William C. Nell, pioneered black historian died this day in 1874.
- 26 1965 — Senate passed Voting Rights Bill.
- 27 1941 — Dorie Miller, a messman on the U.S.S. Arizona was awarded on this day the Navy Cross for heroic action in helping repel the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor.
- 28 1974 — Cicely Tyson won TV Emmy Award for her performance in "The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman".
- 31 The Supreme Court issued its second important ruling on school desegregation in 1955 requiring "all deliberate speed".



May 13. Joe Louis — "The Brown Bomber", world heavyweight boxing champion (1937-49) was born on this day in 1914 in Lexington, Alabama.

JUNE

- 1 1843 — Sojourner Truth (1797-1883), Civil War heroine and abolitionist; emancipated by N.Y. state law in 1827, began her crusade against slavery, and in support of women's rights.
1965 — Freedmen's Bureau launched historical welfare program.
1967 — The first Black Power Conference opened in Newark, New York.

- 2 1863 — Harriet Tubman (1823-1913), said to be of Ashanti descent, called "Moses" and "Conductor" of the Underground Railroad, lead Union Army guerillas into Maryland, freeing more than 700 slaves. James A. Healy consecrated first Black Catholic Bishop, 1875.
- 3 Dr. Charles R. Drew (1904-1950), surgeon; developed the method for storing blood plasma.
Josaphine Baker (1906-1975), celebrated entertainer of Europe and the U.S., born in St. Louis, Missouri.
1842 — The U.S. and Great Britain concluded, the Webster-Ashburton Treaty suppressing African slave trade.
1968 — Poor Peoples March enters Washington, D.C.
- 4 1972 — Angela Davis, professor, political activist; acquitted on charges of murder, kidnapping and conspiracy, in Marin County.
1922 — Birth of Samuel L. Gravelly in Richmond, Virginia. He was the first black to command two U.S. warships: the U.S.S. Falgout and the U.S.S. Taussig.
- 5 Roland Hayes, opera and concert singer born in Georgia 1887.
- 6 1831 — First annual convention of "People of Color" held in Philadelphia.
1966 — Stokely Carmichael (Kwame Toure - newly adopted African name) launched "Black Power" movement.
- 7 Nikki Giovanni, poet and writer, born 1943.
- 8 1892 — Homer A. Plessy refused to move to segregated railroad coach in New Orleans, initiating "Plessy vs. Ferguson" suit.
- 10 Hattie McDaniel (1898-1952), actress; first black person ever to win an Oscar - 1940, Best Supporting Actress in the classic, Gone With the Wind, born in Wichita, Kansas.
- 11 1911 — Marcus Garvey, founded United Negro Improvement Association, which promoted "Blacks back to Africa" movement.
Congressman Charles B. Rangel (b. 1930).
- 12 Medgar Evers of the N. A. A. C. P. was killed in Mississippi in 1963.
- 13 Thurgood Marshall, from Baltimore appointed 1967 U.S. Supreme Court Justice.
- 14 Harriet Beecher Stowe, author of Uncle Tom's Cabin, was born in 1811
- 15 The Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) was founded in Chicago in 1942. CORE is best know for its "direct action" (sit-ins, voter registration, etc.) and Freedom Rides throughout the South to desegregate public facilities and vehicles used in interstate transportation of individuals.
1877 — Henry Ossian Flipper, a former slave became the first black graduate of West Point Military Academy.
- 16 1976 — In the township of Soweto, Johannesburg, South Africa, many native blacks died when they rebelled against apartheid, the degrading government sanctioned system of racial superiority and segregation.
- 17 James Weldon Johnson, teacher, poet, diplomat and author of the Black National Anthem — "Lift Every Voice and Sing" — was born in 1871.
- 19 1912 — Tennessee University opened as Tennessee A&M State College.

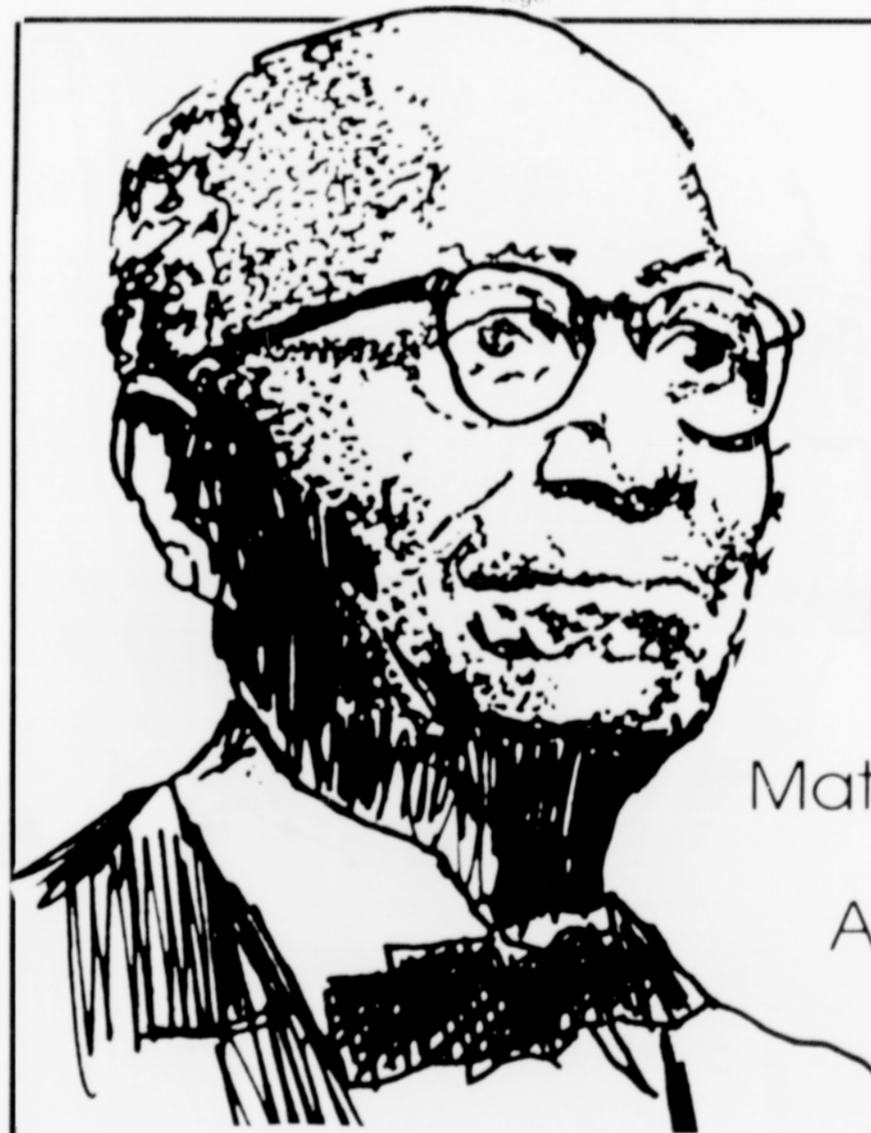
*Until justice
is blind to color,
until education
is unaware of race,
until opportunity
is unconcerned
with the color
of men's skins,
emancipation
will be
a proclamation
but not a fact.*

— Lyndon B. Johnson



U.S. Bank is proud to join the members of the community to Salute Black History Month,

An Equal Opportunity Employer



**Pioneer
to
Poverty**

Matthew
Alexander
Henson

The story of Columbus, who made the ambitious crossing of the Atlantic to the West Indies and yet died a poor man, unrecognized, is no less sad than that of Mathew Alexander Henson.

He was the first person to reach the North Pole on the Arctic Continent. He was a member of the Peary mission — the last polar expedition in 1909 — and was sent ahead of the main party, reaching the North Pole some 45 minutes ahead of Peary.

The two explorers planted the symbolic flags together and celebrated the historic moment. Some 46 years later when Henson died he was living in Harlem on a pension of \$1,020 a year.

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