

Black History Month



A lithograph by American patriot and engraver Paul Revere shows British troops firing on and killing five unarmed colonists in 1770, including Crispus Attucks, a black man who was a protest leader in the American Revolution and first American of any color to die a war hero.



Carl Talton

Carl B. Talton, Portland General Electric vice president for community and business Development, is retiring at the end of February after three decades of leadership in Oregon's energy industry.

Talton, best known for his urban renewal efforts in north and northeast Portland, plans to continue his work promoting economic development in Portland.

Talton joined PGE in 1998 after 25 years working for PacifiCorp in various management positions.

Community Leader to Retire from PGE

"All of us at PGE are fortunate to have worked with someone of Carl's experience and character during the last four years," said Fred Miller, PGE executive vice president of retail and distribution services. "We wish him all the best in his new endeavors in the community."

Talton's skill at bringing communities together and encouraging economic expansion has been widely recognized with several awards and appointments, including the Salvation Army's Community Pride Award. He was appointed by former Gov. John Kitzhaber to serve on the Oregon Economic and Community Development Commission in July 2000 and was selected by Housing and Urban Development to participate

in the Community/Economic Development Program at the Harvard University School of Government in Cambridge, Mass.

During his career, the Urban League bestowed Talton with its annual Equal Opportunity award and the Oregon Women's Political Caucus gave him its first Good Guy award for his support of women gaining political influence.

Talton serves on numerous community organizations and their respective boards of directors including the Oregon Association of Minority Entrepreneurs, United Way of Columbia-Willamette and Albina Headstart.

Talton resides in Portland with his wife Karen and one of their two children.

Did you Know?

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through the streets with great disregard for human life. The horse and buggy could have easily hurt or even killed a pedestrian. Officer West gave chase and brought the horse to a halt. Upon looking inside the buggy he noticed that President Ulysses Grant was sitting inside. The officer apologized and stepped back. Noticing a crowd gathering and fearful that public sentiment would go against him for breaking the law and getting away with it, the President insisted on being arrested like any other common citizen. Officer West took President Grant to the nearby precinct, cited him for speeding and released him. For his professionalism, the officer was promoted.

8. Believe it or not, Census records show this to be true. On Oct. 2, 1979 Charlie Smith from northern Florida died at the age of 137 years old. At the time, he was also said to be the last former slave on record. His death marked the end of an era when black people who were former slaves lived to tell their stories. Mr. Smith's mind was clear until the time of his death. He told many stories of his personal life, slavery and black history before he died.

9. True again! On May 12, 1862 a Confederate submarine used for carrying guns and ammunition to Southern rebel soldiers was docked at Charleston, S.C.. A former black slave in the Union Navy by the name of Robert Small stole a Southern officers uniform, boarded the sub named "The Planter," and literally drove it right through Southern ports and past the heavily armed Southern Fort Sumter to a Union army post on the same river.



Wole Soyinka was the first African writer and first black person to win a Nobel Prize for Literature.

10. Yes. When African slaves were brought to America's deep South they introduced rice and taught white planters how to plant and harvest it. Some plantation owners' thought the idea was not a good one, feeling rice would not sell on the American market. Obviously they were wrong.

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