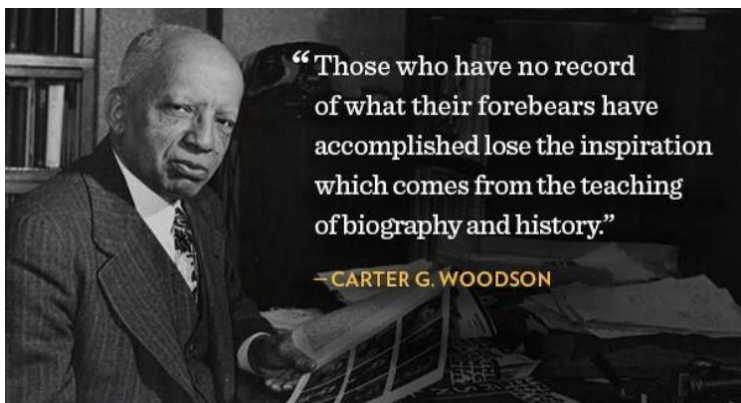


Black History Daily Doses

February 1st

Introduction:

Black History Month was founded 1969 to recognize and celebrate the central role of black people in U.S. History. Though, there is always something more to learn about our prominent and most discussed Black Civil Rights Leaders and Historical Figures (MLK, Rosa Parks, etc.). There are many more that we do not hear much about. The intent of this daily email is share with you the names of some of the lesser known (but no less notable) Black people who have contributed greatly to our society and history. We will also highlight important dates in Black History that may be lesser known as well. We hope that you enjoy these small doses of history that ideally pack a big punch! Thank you to Robert Austin and Dr. Tyler Droege for suggesting this wonderful idea and highlighting the importance of knowing our history.



Carter G. Woodson

Known as the father of Black History, Carter G. Woodson was an author, publisher, and historian born in 1875. His parents were former slaves and Woodson was one of 9 children. Initially denied access to education due to racism, Woodson was self-taught until he was granted admission to higher education when African Americans could enroll. Woodson was the second African American to after W. E. B. Du Bois to obtain a PhD from Harvard University. He also became a Dean at the Howard University a historically black college and university (HBCU). Known for his book, *Mis-Education of the Negro*, Woodson dedicated his career to the advancement of African-Americans through thorough understanding of black history. Along with other Black scholars, he helped establish the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History in 1915 and the Negro History Bulletin in 1937. Woodson contributed to determining the timeframe of Black History month which began as Black History Week and selected February to honor the birth months of Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln. Carter G. Woodson died in 1950 with the hope that all Americans would willingly recognize the contributions of Black Americans as a legitimate and integral part of the history of this country.

Black History Daily Doses

February 2nd



Jane Bolin

Jane Bolin was born April 11, 1908 to an interracial couple (note Interracial marriage was not legal until 1967). Her father was a lawyer and the first black person to graduate from Williams College. Her mother immigrated from the British Isles and died when Bolin was 8-years-old. She holds several firsts for black women in history. Jane was the first black woman to graduate from Yale Law School in 1931 (an institution established in 1824). She was also first black woman to join the New York City Bar Association and work in the office of the New York City corporation counsel. In 1939 she was the first black woman in the United States to become a judge when she was sworn into the bench of the New York City Domestic Relations Court. Bolin served on New York's Family Court for four decades and spent her career advocating for child and families via outside institutions as well. Bolin changed segregationist policies entrenched in the system, such as skin-color-based assignments for probation officers. She also worked with first lady Eleanor Roosevelt providing support for the Wiltwyck School, a comprehensive, holistic program to eradicate juvenile crime amongst boys. After her retirement at the age of 70, she continued to serve as a consultant and school-based volunteer. She died on January 8, 2007 at the age of 98.

Black History Daily Doses

February 3rd



Oscar Charleston

On February 3, 1920, the Negro Baseball League was founded. In 1867 the National Association of Amateur Baseball Players denied black membership. They subsequently adopted the “Gentleman’s Agreement” in 1876 to keep black players out of the league. Black players played on traveling teams until the formation of the Negro Baseball League in 1920. Oscar Charleston, born in 1896, enlisted in the military at 15 years old. During his time in the Philippines, he played for all black 24th Infantry Regiment. When he returned to the U.S., he continued to play for numerous teams in the Negro Leagues going on to manage and sign players in the league as well. As a manager of the Brooklyn Brown Dodgers in 1945, he was essential in the recruitment of players to the first Integrated Major League Baseball teams.

Charleston was also known for his boldness and aggression on and off the field. Legend has it, Charleston ripped the hood off of a Klansman who confronted him. Oscar Charleston was known as the best player in the Negro Leagues and regarded as the fourth best baseball player of all-time. Oscar Charleston died in 1954 at the age of 57. He was inducted in the Baseball Hall of Fame posthumously in 1976. To learn more about Charleston and the Negro Baseball League, consider visiting Kansas City’s own Negro Baseball Leagues Museum founded in 1990 and housed in the Jazz District.

Black History Daily Doses

February 4th



J. C. Watts

JC Watts became the first Black person selected to respond to a State of the Union Address U.S. representative from Oklahoma in the 1990s and the state's first black congressman, J. C. Watts, Jr., was born in Eufaula, Oklahoma, on November 18, 1957, to Helen and Julius C. Watts, Sr. The Watts family were politically active. Watts, Sr., a farmer, was a town council member, and his brother, Wade Watts, was state president and executive director of the Oklahoma NAACP. The future congressman graduated from high school in his hometown in 1976 and attended the University of Oklahoma, playing quarterback for the Sooner football team and leading them to two conference championships and Orange Bowl victories. He graduated in 1981 with a degree in journalism. He played for five years for Ottawa and Toronto in the Canadian Football League, receiving the most valuable player award in his first season. Returning to Oklahoma in the late 1980s, he worked as a minister at Sunnyside Baptist Church of Del City.

Meanwhile, he began a career in politics and was elected to the Oklahoma Corporation Commission, serving from 1990 through 1994 and also as the commission's chair. In 1994 he successfully ran as a Republican for a seat as U.S. representative from overwhelmingly Democratic and white District Four and served from 1995 through 2003. While in Congress, he chaired the Republican Conference, the party's fourth-ranking leadership position in the House of Representatives. He also served on the Armed Services Committee, the Military Personnel Subcommittee, and the Procurement Subcommittee.

Resigning from Congress in 2003, Watts formed J. C. Watts Companies, which provided marketing and business development services. He is the author of *What Color is a Conservative? My Life and My Politics* (2002). Watts has served on board of directors of Dillard's Inc., Burlington Northern Santa Fe Corporation, the Boy Scouts of America, and the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York. He headed the U.S. delegation to the Conference on Racism, Xenophobia and Discrimination hosted by the organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe. His career has also included serving as a commentator for Nation Public Radio's Tavis Smiley Show, as senior distinguished fellow at the Mercatus Center in George Mason University, and as cochair of the Coalition for AIDS Relief in Africa.

Black History Daily Doses

February 5th



Marsha P. Johnson

Marsha P. Johnson was an activist and self-identified drag queen. She is known for her advocacy of gay rights and was a prominent figure in the Stonewall uprising of 1969. Stonewall, until recently, has been whitewashed which has prominently been demonstrated in media and movies such as “Stonewall.” The recognition of black and brown Trans bodies leading this movement was paramount and had been glossed over in the past. Marsha was a founding member of the Gay Liberation Front and co-founded Street Transvestite Action Revolutionaries (STAR) alongside Sylvia Rivera. Marsha went by “Black Marsha” before settling on Marsha P. Johnson. The “P” stood for “Pay It No Mind,” which is what Marsha would say in response to questions about her gender. Additionally, from 1987 through 1992, Marsha was an AIDS activist with ACT UP. Marsha was also known for her eccentric hats and outfits which she designed herself. She was known as a “drag mother” assisting homeless and struggling LGBTQ youth. She also toured the world as drag queen with the Hot Peaches. Marsha died in 1992, her body was found in the Hudson River and was ruled a suicide. Though, many in the community did not agree with this ruling and advocated for reinvestigation of the case for possibility of her death being the result of a hate crime or police brutality. To learn more about Marsha P Johnson and her life’s work, consider watching the documentary “The Death and Life of Marsha P. Johnson.”

Black History Daily Doses

February 6th



Arthur Ashe

Arthur Ashe died on this day – He was in the US Army from 1966 to 1968 and rose to the rank of Second Lieutenant. He was the first Black tennis player to win at Wimbledon (and the only Black man ever to win the singles title at Wimbledon, Australian Open, and US Open). He is the first black player selected to the United States Davis Cup team. In addition to his outstanding tennis career Mr. Ashe is known for his advocacy work. He co-founded the National Junior Tennis League (NJTL), now known as the National Junior Tennis and Learning Network, which he envisioned would be “a way to gain and hold the attention of young people in the inner cities and other poor environment so that we can teach them about matters more important than tennis.” He also founded the Arthur Ashe Foundation for the Defeat of AIDS and the Arthur Ashe Institute for Urban Health. He contracted HIV from a blood transfusion during a heart bypass surgery in 1983 and died from AIDS-related pneumonia. On June 20, 1933 he was posthumously awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom by the United States President Bill Clinton. In 2009 he was inducted into the US Open Court of Champions.

Black History Daily Doses

February 7th



Ruby Bridges

Ruby Bridges was born in 1954, the same year the historic *Brown v Board of Education* Supreme Court decision. In 1960 Ruby Bridges became the first black child to desegregate the all-white William Frantz Elementary School in Louisiana. Black children in the segregated schools were made to take an unfair, incredibly difficult test of aptitude which would determine which children were worthy of entrance to White schools. This test was of course created with the intention of no black students passing, which would subsequently prolong the segregation of schools. Bridges was 1 of 6 black children selected, and the only black child entering Frantz Elementary. Six-years-old at the time, Bridges was escorted by US Marshalls to and from school due to the violence that ensued at the hands of whites who opposed integration. Many white parents pulled their children from the school, Bridges spent the first few days in the principal's office not attending classes. Eventually, with the assistance of one welcoming teacher, Bridges spent an entire year in a classroom alone with her teacher receiving her lessons. She and her family experienced tremendous stress and oppression; Bridges saw a child psychologist to assist with coping during that year. After completing school, she studied travel and tourism at the Kansas City business school. Bridges is the subject of the 1963 Norman Rockwell painting (above) "The Problem We All Live With" which lives in the Norman Rockwell Museum, though it spent four months in the White House during Barack Obama's presidency. In 1999, Bridges created the Ruby Bridges Foundation which promotes values of tolerance and respect for differences. Bridges is also an author and an awardee of the Presidential Citizens Medal. Ruby Bridges lives in New Orleans, LA and is 66-years of age.