

Fannie Phelps Adams

Since her retirement as an educator in 1979, Fannie Phelps Adams' light has continued to shine as a community activist and humanitarian. At the age of 92, she inspires future generations by giving back to the community as a volunteer with the Retired Senior Volunteer Food Co-Op Program. She "bags groceries for the elderly," but allows her daughter to lift the bags.

Adams began her career as an educator in 1938 at Booker T. Washington Heights Elementary School. She later taught and served as guidance counselor, assistant principal and acting principal at Booker T. Washington High School, her alma mater, and as assistant principal at A.C. Flora High School.

As an activist and humanitarian, Adams' lesson to youth and others is that supporting and improving one's community are essential for progress and success. In the late 1970s, she was instrumental in the election of the first three black members of the Richland School District One Board of Commissioners in the board's 96-year history.

Her honors include the Human Relations Award from the Richland County Education Association, the South Carolina Education Association and the National Education Association. She was inducted into the South Carolina Black Hall of Fame in 1996 and the Richland One Hall of Fame in 2008. Also in 2008, a commemorative bench was unveiled in her honor at the University of South Carolina Education Museum's pavilion. She founded the Palmetto Cemetery Association, served as a former director of the Wheeler Hill Neighborhood Association, former board member of Palmetto Richland Hospital and a charter member of the Palmetto Richland Children's Hospital. Adams is also a member of the NAACP, Columbia branch of the National Association of University Women, Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc., and the USC President's Community Advisory Committee.

The daughter of Mary and James Phelps, Adams earned a Bachelor's degree from Allen University, and Master's from South Carolina State University. She and her late husband, David King Adams, have a daughter, Mary Suzette Adams-Jenkins, and a grandson, David Edward Adams.



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January

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South Carolina African American History Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 New Years Day	2 William Lloyd Garrison began publishing <i>The Liberator</i> , an abolitionist newspaper, in 1831.
3 Adam Clayton Powell, Jr. was elected chairperson of the House Committee on Education and Labor in 1961.	4 Grace Bumbry, opera singer, was born in 1937.	5 George Washington Carver died in 1943.	6 The World Anti-Slavery Convention opened in London, 1831. John Birks "Dizzy" Gillespie, famed musician, died in 1993.	7 Marian Anderson made her debut in the Metropolitan Opera House in 1955.	8 Fannie M. Jackson, educator and first African American woman college graduate in the US, was born in 1836. Butterfly McQueen, actress, born in 1911.	9 Fisk University established in 1866
10 Southern Christian Leadership Conference founded in 1957.	11 Charles W. Anderson becomes first African American member of the Kentucky Legislature in 1936.	12 The Congressional Black Caucus organized in 1971.	13 Don Barksdale became 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. was born in 1929.	16 Jefferson Franklin Long took oath of office as first African American Congressman from Georgia, 1871.
17 Cassius Clay (Muhammad Ali) born in 1942.	18 Martin Luther King Jr. Day Robert C. Weaver became first African American presidential cabinet member, 1966.	19 Freed Blacks organized Savannah, GA's first Baptist church in 1788.	20 Barack Obama is sworn in as the first African American President in 2009. Barbara Jordan, congresswoman, was born in 1936.	21 William Brown-Chappell, pioneer aviator, was born in 1906.	22 Nat Turner, leader of the Virginia slave revolt, was born in 1800.	23 Dr. Daniel Hale Williams, pioneer in surgery, founded Provident Hospital in Chicago, IL, in 1889
24 Coach Clarence "Big House" Gaines won record 800th college basketball game in 1990.	25 Sojourner Truth addressed the first Black Women's Rights Convention, 1851.	26 Bessie Coleman, first African American woman aviator, born in 1893. Angela Davis, activist, born in 1944	27 Leontyne Price, world-renowned opera singer, made her debut at the Metropolitan Opera House, 1961.	28 Astronaut Ronald McNair died in Challenger explosion in 1986.	29 Oprah Winfrey born in 1954.	30 William Wells Brown, novelist and dramatist, published first Black drama, <i>Leap to Freedom</i> , 1858.
31 Jackie Robinson, first African American baseball player in the major leagues, was born in 1919.						