

Darrin Thomas

Darrin Todd Thomas and his former partner Gerry McCants founded Thomas-McCants Media, Inc., in 1991 to promote minority businesses through Black Pages USA, a print and Internet reference guide, and Black Expo, a series of forums and exhibits that build awareness of minority-owned business products and service among consumers in five southeastern markets.

As president of Thomas Media Group, LLC, Thomas oversees five offices in the Southeast and continues to focus on publishing Black Pages USA directories and hosting Black Expos in Florida, Georgia and South Carolina. He received his undergraduate degree in Marketing and Management at the University of South Carolina, and is a former marketing representative for Xerox Corporation in Greenville, South Carolina.

Thomas has received numerous awards honoring his accomplishments as a communication and marketing entrepreneur, including the 1997 Minority Small Business Person of the Year, and 1997 South Carolina Business Person of the Year, the University of South Carolina-Darla Moore School of Business 1998 Distinguished Young Alumnus Award, the 2004 State Newspaper "Top Twenty Under Forty," 2008 Liberty Fellow, and 2008 Black Alumni of the Year Award, the University of South Carolina.

Thomas serves on the board of directors for the local Boy Scouts of America, Wachovia Bank-Midlands Advisory Board, YES Carolina, Coker College Board of Trustees, Palmetto Health Foundation Board, SCANA Corporation Advisory Board, and the USC School of Business Partnership Foundation Board of Advisors. He is also a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., Savannah Chapter-National Association of Guardsmen, Alpha Iota Boule-Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity, the Columbia Rotary Club, Vice President of the Indian Waters Council Boy Scouts of America, and a vigil honor member of Santee Lodge 116 – Order of the Arrow.

An active member of Francis Burns United Methodist Church, Thomas and his wife, Kela Evans Thomas are the parents of two sons, Todd Asher and Garrison Ervin. Thomas credits his success to his faith in God, the love of his family and the principle of relationship building.



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December

Learn more about the people featured in this calendar at www.scafricanamerican.com



South Carolina African American History Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat on a public bus in 1955.	2 Hanukkah Begins Historian Charles Wesley was born in 1891.	3 First issue of North Star newspaper published in 1847.	4 American Anti-Slavery Society organized in 1833.
5 Mary McLeod Bethune, educator, founded National Council of Negro Women, 1935.	6 In 1971 Lewis Franklin Powell was confirmed as U.S. Supreme Court justice.	7 Lester Granger was named executive director of the National Urban League in 1941.	8 Entertainer Sammy Davis Jr. was born in 1925.	9 Entertainer Redd Foxx was born in 1925.	10 Ralph J. Bunche becomes the first Black person awarded a Nobel Peace Prize in 1950.	11 P.B.S. Pinchback became the first African American governor of an American state, Louisiana, in 1872.
12 Joseph H. Rainey (S.C.) first African American elected to Congress in 1870.	13 First Black women complete officer training for the WAVES, 1944.	14 Congressman John Langston was born in 1829.	15 Maggie Lena Walker, banker, died in 1934.	16 Andrew Young of Georgia named ambassador and chief delegate to the United Nations in 1976.	17 Noble Sissle, lyricist and bandleader, died in 1975.	18 The 13th Amendment was ratified in 1865.
19 Carter G. Woodson, historian, was born in 1875.	20 South Carolina seceded from the Union in 1860.	21 Motown Records established in 1959 by Berry Gordy Jr.	22 Historian, and author of Destruction of Black Civilization, Dr. Chancellor Williams was born in 1898.	23 Alice H. Parker patented the gas heating furnace in 1919.	24 Irwin C. Mollison first African American judge of the Customs Court was born in 1898.	25 Christmas In 1971 Rev. Jesse Jackson organized Operation PUSH (People United to Save Humanity).
26 Kwanzaa Begins In 1924, DeFord Bailey, Sr. became the first African American to perform on the Grand Ole Opry.	27 Pioneer of blood plasma research, Dr. Charles Richard Drew, established a blood bank in New York City in 1941.	28 Earl "Fatha" Hines, famed jazz musician and father of modern jazz piano, was born in 1905.	29 Thomas Bradley was born in 1917.	30 Blues composer and singer Bo Diddas born in 1928.	31 New Year's Eve Odetta Felious Gordon, folk singer and activist, was born in 1930.	