

South Carolina
AFRICAN AMERICAN
HISTORY CALENDAR



2024

"The whole world opened to me
when I learned to read."

Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune

Mayesville, S.C.

*Dear Fellow-
South Carolinian:*

WELCOME TO THE 2024 SOUTH CAROLINA
AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY CALENDAR!

On the pages that follow you will find inspiring stories of the extraordinary impact esteemed sons and daughters of our beloved Palmetto State have made locally, nationally, and even globally.

And whether you are a student, parent, educator, business partner, faith leader, or member of the community, your ability to access the amazing history of this calendar depends on a fundamental life-skill: reading.

Newly aware that reading was his pathway to freedom, Frederick Douglass wrote, "Though conscious of the difficulty of learning without a teacher, I set out with high hope, and a fixed purpose, at whatever cost of trouble, to learn how to read." His iron determination was shared by a little girl from Mayesville named Mary McLeod, who graces our calendar cover, and whose legacy of educational entrepreneurship and literacy is still changing lives today.

An eye-opening documentary titled *The Right to Read* recently spotlighted illiteracy as the civil rights struggle of our generation. Nothing is more foundational to equality of educational opportunity ... and that is why our top educational priority for every South Carolina student is—and must steadfastly remain—reading. I'd invite you to learn more about this fiercely urgent focus at www.ed.sc.gov/literacy.

August 28, 2023, also marked the 60th anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I have a dream" speech, one of the 20th century's most transformational calls to action. In recognition of this historic anniversary, the South Carolina Department of Education invited South Carolina students to stand in Dr. King's "symbolic shadow," and give their own speech highlighting their American dream for

our shared future and discussing how we can follow Dr. King's exhortation to "walk together" to achieve their goals.

Our winner was Ms. Emory Holness from Summerville High School in Dorchester School District 2. Her submission was a beautiful description of shared dreams for how we can "bridge the gaps in educational opportunities and provide every child with a chance to thrive." I'll leave you with Emory's poignant call to action:

In this dream, the blockades to education crumble, and every child, regardless of his or her background, has access to the immeasurable treasure of knowledge. No child is left behind, and no dream is too big to achieve through the power of education. So let us dream together, work together, and strive together to make this dream a reality.

May we each find our own way to answer her call, to ensure every South Carolina student the opportunity of an education that equips them to reach their full, God-given potential.

Together for Students,



Ellen E. Weaver
State Superintendent of Education



01 January

A'ja Wilson is a highly-accomplished professional basketball player for the two-time world champion Las Vegas Aces of the Women's National Basketball Association (WNBA). Wilson played for the South Carolina Gamecocks in college, where she became the school's all-time leading scorer and helped lead the Gamecocks to their first NCAA Women's Basketball Championship in 2017.

The consensus National Player of the Year in 2018, Wilson was selected first overall in the WNBA draft and went on to claim WNBA Rookie of the Year honors with the Aces. In subsequent years, Wilson has won two WNBA Most Valuable Player Awards, two WNBA Defensive Player of the Year Awards, a Best WNBA Player ESPY Award, and an Olympic gold medal (as part of the 2020 U.S. team).

Wilson has led the Aces to two WNBA championships, been named to the WNBA All-Star team five times, and won First-Team All WNBA accolades three times. Her versatility and all-

around talent can be seen in the fact that she holds the single-game WNBA scoring record (53) while also leading the league in blocked shots three different times.

Off the court, A'ja is an entrepreneur, author, and spokeswoman. She started the Burnt Wax Candle Company with her mother, Eva, and is publishing a book entitled, "Dear Black Girls." A'ja also serves as a spokeswoman for Nike and Stary and has been named to Forbes magazine's "30 Under 30 List."

A family-oriented, homegrown, and down-to-earth media darling, Wilson is a graduate of Columbia's Heathwood Hall Episcopal School and the University of South Carolina (where she majored in Mass Communications). Her A'ja Wilson Foundation advocates for preventing bullying and education around dyslexia.



A'JA WILSON
PROFESSIONAL ATHLETE

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
31	01 1863 - At Camp Saxton in Port Royal, S.C., thousands of African Americans gathered to celebrate Emancipation Day. New Year's Day Kwanzaa Ends	02	03	04	05	06 2017 - Donald W. Beatty, a native of Spartanburg, was sworn in as Chief Justice of the S.C. Supreme Court.
07	08	09 1963 - In the wake of civil rights protests and lawsuits, Governor Ernest "Fritz" Hollings used his last speech in office to acknowledge that "the day of segregation has passed" and called for the integration process to be handled "with dignity."	10	11	12 1944 - Joseph Frazier was born in Beaufort.	13
14	15 1963 - Donald Russell was inaugurated as Governor of S.C. at the inaugural barbecue held on the grounds of the Governor's Mansion, over 100 African American citizens were in attendance. Martin Luther King Jr. Day	16	17 1927 - Actress Eartha Kitt was born in North. 2000 - Confederate flag protest at the South Carolina Statehouse.	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28 1986 - Astronaut Dr. Ronald E. McNair died in the tragic explosion of the space shuttle Challenger. 1963 - Harvey Gantt enrolled as Clemson's first African American student.	29	30	31 1961 - Friendship Nine	01	02	03

02 February

BROWN V. SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 20, CHARLESTON, SC

JUDICIAL RULING

Nine years after the U.S. Supreme Court issued its landmark decision in *Brown v. Board of Education*, public schools in South Carolina remained segregated. Despite the Supreme Court's requirement that integration proceed with "all deliberate speed," public school officials throughout the South sought to thwart desegregation by any means possible.

So, the parents of Millicent F. Brown and 12 other students petitioned the U.S. District Court to require Charleston's School District No. 20 to let them attend a school other than the one to which they had been assigned.

The school district sought to convince the court that the African-American families had voluntarily chosen racially-segregated schools since they had initially enrolled their children in assigned schools. Moreover, school district officials tried to claim that any court action would be premature since transfer requests that had been denied could still be appealed to the local School Board.

The U.S. District Court would have none of it. The justices noted that the school district had drawn two sets of attendance lines – "one for whites and one for Negroes" – rather than using the same lines for all students. Moreover, they said that consistently denying transfer applications "amounts to involuntary segregation" and that "the rules and regulations of the Board are inadequate, since they fail to establish a right of choice, to a child or his parents, at the time of enrollment."

While the 1963 Brown decision is rightly seen as a reaffirmation of the landmark 1954 Brown case, it is still significant in its own right. For South Carolina's 1963 Brown case made it clear that "massive resistance" was doomed to be a massive failure. And that the days of racial discrimination were (happily) numbered.



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
28	29	30	31	1 1834 - Henry McNeal Turner was born in Hannah Circuit. The A.M.E. minister was the first African American appointed as an U.S. Army chaplain by President Lincoln in 1863. 1870 - Jonathan Jasper Wright	2 Groundhog Day	3
4	5	6	7 1965 Actor, comedian, and author Chris Rock was born in Andrews.	8 1968 - Orangeburg Massacre	9	10
11	12 1909 - Georgetown native Dr. William A. Sinclair helped create the NAACP. 1960 - The first sit-ins began in S.C. when nearly 100 students sat in at Woolworth's and McCrory's in Rock Hill. Lincoln's Birthday	13	14 1874 - Charlotta Amanda Bass, a newspaper editor and the first African American woman nominated for the office of Vice President in 1952 as a candidate of the Progressive Party, was born in Sumter. Valentine's Day Ash Wednesday	15	16	17
18 1961 - Students were arrested after attempting to integrate a skating rink in Greenville's Cleveland Park. In a lawsuit named <i>Walker v. Shaw</i> , the students were defended by NAACP attorneys Donald J. Sampson, Matthew J. Perry, and Lincoln C. Jenkins.	19 President's Day	20	21	22 1898 - Frazier Baker, a Republican appointed African American post-master of Lake City, and his two-year old daughter, were lynched in an attack by a white mob. Other members of the Baker family were severely injured. The known assailants were never convicted.	23	24
25 1963 - In the ruling <i>Edwards v. South Carolina</i> , the U.S. Supreme Court declared that the State may not "make criminal the peaceful expression of unpopular views." The lawsuit was filed after 187 student demonstrators were arrested following protests against segregation on the grounds of the S.C. State House.	26	27	28	29	1	2

03 March

The younger of two children born to the late Jerome Levy and Rebecca Whitmore, Jackie J. Whitmore was reared by his maternal grandmother Lucinda Jackson Whitmore and his paternal grandfather Chappelle Levy. He grew up in the Bluff Estates community of Columbia.

A 1987 graduate of Dreher High School in Columbia, Jackie completed his undergraduate studies at Allen University in 1993 and earned his Master's in Social Work from the University of South Carolina in 1999. He worked for the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) and Palmetto Health as a community social worker. He also served as a professor of Social Science at Midlands Tech and Voorhees College.

A lifelong member of the Bibleway Church of Atlas Road, Whitmore serves as a deacon and as one of the church historians. He is a proud Veteran of the South Carolina Army National Guard and served a tour of duty in Bosnia. He's an active member of the Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity.

With the help of family and friends, he successfully coordinated the installation of six state historical markers across South Carolina, highlighting African American history in Richland, Calhoun, and Williamsburg counties. He led an effort to erect memorial stones in Fort Motte, S.C. honoring his relatives Senator Samuel L. Duncan and Representative Edward I. Cain who served in the S.C. Legislature during Reconstruction. He also created the Ben Hanes Historical Display in Fort Motte.

He coordinates four reunions: The United Family Reunion Descendants and Related Families of Lang Syne Plantation, The Bruorton-Brewington Reunion, The United Levy Reunion and the Old Guard Military Reunion.

Jackie is married to Mrs. Stephanie Tucker Whitmore. They have two children, Jackson and Rebecca.



JACKIE J.
WHITMORE
HISTORIAN

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
25	26	27	28	29	1	2
					1948 - Denmark Trade School, later technical college, began operation.	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1970 - Lamar residents opposed to school integration attacked and overturned three buses carrying African American students to newly desegregated school. Eventually, state police dispersed the crowd with tear gas.	1960 - Nearly 70 students in Florence peacefully protested by marching from Trinity Baptist Church to a local Kress store. This peaceful protest led to the arrest of 48 people for "parading without a permit."					
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Daylight Saving		1974 - The community denounced Richland County school officials' plans to close legendary Booker T. Washington High School to sell it to University of South Carolina. Faculty member Frankie B. Outten described her alma mater as the "Great Mother of the African American Community."		1960 - While waiting to be served at an Eckerd's Drug Store in downtown Columbia, students Simon Bouie and Talmadge Neal were charged and convicted of criminal trespass. Their convictions were overturned in the landmark U.S. Supreme Court decision Bell v. Maryland in June 1964.	1960 - During demonstrations protesting racial segregation in Orangeburg, police water hosed and tear gassed more than a thousand students from Claflin University and South Carolina State College. Three hundred and eighty students were jailed. The protest was a lead story in the New York Times.	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
St. Patrick's Day			1969 - More than 400 African American hospital workers, most of them female, held a strike against the all-white administrations of the Medical College Hospital and Charleston County Hospital for better wages and working conditions.	1909 - Booker T. Washington, the famed leader of Tuskegee Institute and the Negro Business League, concluded a seven-day tour of S.C. prominent African American leaders.		
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
1961 - In response to the stabbing of Lennie Glover, African American students initiated a boycott of Main St. businesses in Columbia. Palm Sunday					Good Friday	
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
Easter						

04 April

John L. Scott, Jr., served as an elected official for over three decades, starting as a member of the Richland County Council, then as a member of the South Carolina House of Representatives and finally as the state senator representing the 19th District until his passing in August 2023.

Throughout his notable political career, Scott focused on promoting economic development, improving internet access, supporting veterans and advocating for workforce development through Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) programs.

During his 18 years in the South Carolina House, Scott was instrumental in enhancing the state's voting system and in adopting a state-run lottery, among other initiatives. In his more than 13 years in the Senate, he was dedicated to repairing and rebuilding the state's deteriorating roads, bridges and school buildings. He also secured an \$18 million appropriation for South Carolina's seven Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) to develop "Institutes for Innovation",

fostering progressive partnerships with various businesses and industries.

Scott received the Order of the Palmetto, South Carolina's highest civilian honor. His other awards include the MLK Drum Major for Justice Award, the MLK Humanitarian Award, the South Carolina Legislative Black Caucus Ernest Finney Chairman Award and the Anderson County Democratic Party Living Legend Award.

After being inducted into the C.A. Johnson High School Wall of Fame, Scott graduated from South Carolina State University and completed the Diversity Leadership Academy at Furman University's Richard E. Riley Institute. He held a Doctorate of Humane Letters from Clinton College.

Scott, a dog lover and vintage car enthusiast, was the founding owner of a real estate brokerage and co-owned a consulting firm with his wife, Joan.



JOHN L. SCOTT, JR.
LAWMAKER

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
31	1	2	3	4 <small>1949 - Allen University sponsored a performance by famed vocalist Marian Anderson at Columbia's Township Auditorium.</small>	5 <small>1983 - Attorneys Luther J. Battiste, III and E. W. Cromartie, II were sworn in as the first African Americans on the Columbia City Council since the Reconstruction era.</small>	6
7	8	9	10	11 <small>1877 - Following the Hayes-Tilden Compromise, federal troops were removed from S.C., setting the stage for the collapse of the state's Reconstruction government and the resurgence of white Democratic leadership.</small>	12	13
14	15	16 <small>1868 - A new S.C. constitution, shaped by African American leaders, is adopted. The 1868 constitution required integrated education and contained a strong Bill of Rights that protected citizens of all races.</small>	17	18	19	20 <small>2010 - Stephen K. Benjamin was elected as Columbia's first African American mayor.</small>
21	22 <small>Passover Begins</small>	23	24	25 <small>1906 - The Palmetto Medical Association, composed of African American physicians, dentists, and pharmacists, gathered in Camden to mark its 10th Anniversary.</small>	26	27 
28 <small>1969 - Journalists reported that armed students at Voorhees College in Denmark took over the library and other offices on campus to protest conditions and to "obtain a more meaningful education in the interest of African American people."</small>	29	30 <small>1967 - Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. spoke at the Greenville Memorial Auditorium. In his address, King remarks: "It is time for a Second Reconstruction in South Carolina." <small>Passover Ends</small></small>	1	2	3	4

05 May

For more than two decades, Clifton Newman has served as a circuit court judge in South Carolina—the culmination of a lifelong legal career which was inspired in part by his role in a high school play. While in high school at Williamsburg County Training School in Greeleyville, he was cast to play the role of a civil rights attorney in a theatrical production based on the historic 1954 U.S. Supreme Court case outlawing school segregation.

After graduating as valedictorian, he attended Cleveland State University where he served as student body president and met his wife, Patricia. He earned his law degree from Cleveland State University College of Law, where he was recently inducted into the CSU Law Hall of Fame.

Newman practiced law in Ohio for six years before returning to South Carolina where he opened a criminal defense and civil litigation firm based in Kingstree and Columbia. In

1983, he was appointed Assistant Solicitor in Williamsburg County while continuing his civil practice. His considerable experience and success in nearly all aspects of the law led to his unanimous election to the Circuit Court bench by the South Carolina General Assembly in 2000. As a trial judge, Newman rose to national prominence in handling some of the state's most complex and high-profile cases.

Judge Newman continues a family legacy of dedicated public service committed to "Do justice, love mercy and walk humbly with God." A proud family man, his late son, Brian DeQuincey Newman, was the youngest person ever elected to the Columbia City Council. His daughter, Jocelyn T. Newman, currently serves with him on the Circuit Court – the only father and daughter serving together on the circuit court in the history of South Carolina. Their other children are Corwyn, a mathematician, and Kellee, a civil engineer.



CLIFTON B.
NEWMAN
JUDGE

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
28	29	30	1	2	3	4
				2000 - S.C. Governor, Jim Hodges, signed a bill to make Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday an official state holiday.	1898 - Educator and organizer, Septima Poinsette Clark, commonly referred to as the "Mother of the Movement" by Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was born in Charleston. 1933 - James Brown was born in Barnwell.	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Cinco de Mayo	1966 - Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. spoke to over 5000 people gathered in Kingstree. As African Americans in Kingstree and around the state ran for political office, King championed voter registrations and encouraged his audience to "march on ballot boxes" in upcoming primaries.			1961 - Twenty-one-year-old John Lewis was beaten while participating in the Freedom Rides at the Rock Hill Greyhound Bus Station. Other riders were assaulted in Winnsboro. Lewis later is elected to the U.S. House of Representatives from Georgia.		
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Mother's Day	1862 - Robert Smalls liberates 16 slaves. 1872 - Dr. Matilda Evans was born in Aiken.			1956 - Twenty-one African American teachers in Ellore were dismissed from their jobs after they refused to acknowledge their memberships in the NAACP. African American teachers were often fired for their participation in the Civil Rights Movement.	1954 - The U.S. Supreme Court ruled school segregation as unconstitutional in the landmark decision of Brown v. Board of Education. The first of the five cases that made up the Brown suit were Briggs v. Elliott from Clarendon County.	Armed Forces Day
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
	1963 - Over 1,000 white University of South Carolina students participated in an anti-integration rally on the Horseshoe green. After a cross was lit on the campus in retaliation, some students then marched to the State House to oppose the admission of African American students.		1967 - Ordie P. Taylor Jr., Anthony M. Hurley, and Mable B. Ashe applied for a charter of incorporation for the newly organized Columbia Urban League, Inc.		1944 - Led by Lighthouse and Informer newspaper editor John McCray, the Progressive Democratic Party (South Carolina) held its first convention in Columbia. They sought racial inclusion politically and civil rights.	
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
	Memorial Day					

06 June

Leola Clement Robinson has been a civil rights leader her entire adult life. At the age of 15, she became the president of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) Youth Councils and College Chapters in South Carolina, a position she held for several years. During the 1960s, Robinson led numerous state and regional civil rights protests and was arrested multiple times.

Professionally, Robinson dedicated her career to supporting individuals striving for upward mobility. She directed the award-winning Education and Secondary School Act (ESSA) Youth Program for the Greenville Urban League, led the Greenville Chamber of Commerce's School-to Work Employment Program, supervised a \$10 million job training program for the Greenville Private Industry Council, served as the training director for the City of Greenville and managed Greenville Technical College's TRIO Tutoring and Support Program for students.

Beyond her employment, Robinson served for 16 years on the Greenville County School Board and for 10 years in the South Carolina House of Representatives, where she chaired two legislative subcommittees. She authored a book documenting the history of African Americans in Greenville County from the 1770s to the present and co-founded a nonprofit after-school program for disadvantaged youth, coined the Center for Educational Equity.

Robinson graduated with honors from Sterling High School in Greenville. She earned an undergraduate degree from the City University of New York, a graduate certificate in Public Policy and Program Planning from Brandeis University and a Master of Education degree from Furman University.

Robinson is the mother of four adult children, including one deceased son, and has 17 grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.



LEOLA CLEMENT ROBINSON
LAWMAKER

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
26	27	28	29	30	31	1 <small>1863 - The Union Army began a series of raids along the Combahee River in Beaufort and Colleton counties that freed enslaved people. Acclaimed abolitionist and Underground Railroad leader Harriet Tubman participated in the raids as she worked as a spy along the S.C. coast.</small>
2	3	4	5	6 <small>1939 - Marian Wright Edelman was born in Bennettsville</small>	7	8
9	10	11	12	13 <small>1910 - Dr. William D. Crum, a S.C. physician was appointed the U. S. minister to Liberia.</small>	14 <small>Flag Day</small>	15
16 <small>1944 - George Stinney Jr. was executed at 14-years-old for the murder of two white girls. His conviction was overturned in 2014 due to Constitutional violations of due process.</small> <small>Father's Day</small>	17 <small>2015 - Mass shooting at Mother Emanuel AME Church killed nine African American worshippers.</small>	18	19 <small>Juneteenth</small>	20	21 <small>1985 - I. S. Leevy Johnson was sworn in as the first African American president of the S.C. Bar Association.</small>	22 <small>1822 - Denmark Vesey and followers were arrested in Charleston for planning the largest African American slave insurrection in the nation's history.</small>
23	24	25	26	27	28	29 <small>1954 - Sarah Mae Flemming challenged segregation on SGE&G buses in Columbia.</small>
30						

07 July

Dr. Lonnie Randolph, who ran a private optometric practice in Columbia for over 40 years, has been a significant contributor to optometric services. His work extended beyond his regular patients, as he also provided care to individuals in the South Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice and the South Carolina Department of Corrections.

In addition to his practice, Dr. Randolph founded the free eye clinic at Palmetto Health, which provides care for K-12 students. He also served on the board of the Columbia Free Medical Clinic and participated in the Diabetes Task Force of the South Carolina Commission for the Blind.

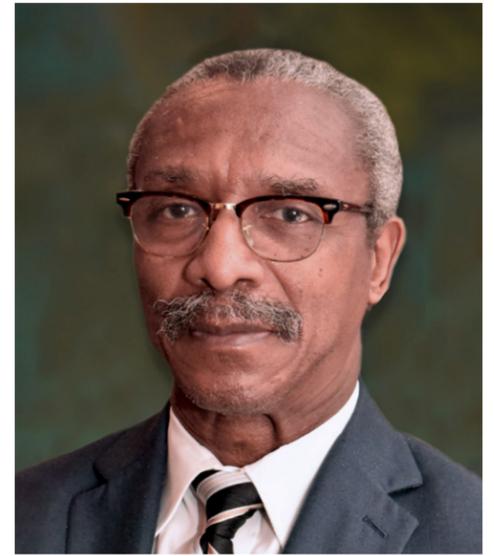
Dr. Randolph's prominence in his field is evident from his recognition as Optometrist of the Year by the South Carolina Optometric Association, which also elected him to its president. He served as the chairman of the South Carolina Consumer Affairs Commission, providing over 30 years of distinguished service. His contributions earned him the Order of the Palmetto, South

Carolina's highest civilian honor, recognizing his efforts to improve the lives of others.

Dr. Randolph has a long and distinguished record of community service. He was instrumental in the Campaign for Dignity in South Carolina, focusing on removing the Confederate battle flag from the South Carolina State House grounds. He also played a key role in organizing the first King Day at the Dome march in Columbia and served as president of the South Carolina Conference of the NAACP and its Columbia chapter for over a decade.

A Columbia native and Dreher High School graduate, Randolph earned his undergraduate degree in biology from Benedict College before obtaining his Doctor of Optometry from the Southern College of Optometry.

Dr. Randolph is married to Patricia Reuben.



**DR. LONNIE
RANDOLPH**
MEDICAL PROFESSIONAL

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
30	1 1992 - Dr. Edward Sawyer Cooper. 	2 1964 - President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the Civil Rights Act of 1964 into law, banning segregation in public places and outlawing employment discrimination on the basis of race.	3 1910 - Esau Jenkins was born on Johns Island. 	4 Independence Day	5 1947 - Larry Doby. 1979 - Matthew J. Perry Jr. 	6
7	8	9 2015 - Following the death of 9 parishioners at Charleston's Mother Emanuel A.M.E. Church, public protest, and intense debates in the General Assembly, S.C. Governor Nikki Haley signed a bill to remove the Confederate flag from the state capitol grounds. 	10 1875 - Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune was born in Mayesville.	11	12	13
14	15	16 1960 - A group of students, known as the "Greenville Eight" were arrested for disorderly conduct when they staged a sit-in at a Greenville library.	17	18 1863 - Dr. Kelly Miller was born in Mayesville. 	19	20 1966 - S.C. State Parks were reopened as fully integrated facilities after being closed by the South Carolina Forestry Commission in response to Brown v. S.C. Forestry Commission.
21	22 1942 - Columbia NAACP President Rev. E.A. Adams and other members of the state conference formed the Negro Citizens Committee of South Carolina (NCC) to rally support for a voting rights campaign.	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31	1	2	3

08 August

LT. GENERAL ARTHUR J. GREGG

MILITARY LEADER

Florence native Arthur J. Gregg holds the distinction of being the first African American in the U.S. Army to attain the rank of Lieutenant General and the first African American Brigadier General in the U.S. Army Quartermaster Corps. Additionally, he is the only living person in modern U.S. history to have an American military installation named in his honor.

Gregg's 35-year military career as a logistician began in 1946. He served during wartime in Korea and Vietnam and completed numerous overseas tours during the Cold War, including four in Germany. In the United States, he was stationed at various military installations such as Fort Riley, Fort Leavenworth, and Fort Lee. His final assignments led him to the Pentagon, where he served as the director of logistics for the Joint Chiefs of Staff and later as the deputy chief of staff for logistics for the U.S. Army.

In 2022, the U.S. Army renamed Fort Lee in honor of Lt. Gen. Gregg and Lt. Col. Charity Adams Earley. The Department of the Army also

presents an annual award named after Gregg to its most outstanding logistician.

Post-retirement, Lt. General Gregg held several management positions in the private sector. He served on the board of the Thurgood Marshall College Fund and chaired the board of Excelsior College in upstate New York, which has a significant military student body.

A much-decorated member of the Quartermaster Hall of Fame, Lt. Gen. Gregg is an alumnus of Saint Benedict College, the Army War College and Harvard's Executive Program in National Security.

Lt. General Gregg attributes much of his military success to his supportive wife, Charlene, whom he regards as a "force multiplier."



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
28	29	30	31	1 1894 - Benjamin Elijah Mays was born in Epworth.	2	3
4 1810 - Robert Purvis, an abolitionist, participant in the Underground Railroad, and a founder of the American Anti-Slavery Society, was born in Charleston.	5	6 1965 - President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the Voting Rights Act into law, enforcing the fifteenth amendment and helping to guarantee the right to vote for all Americans, regardless of race.	7	8 	9	10
11 1965 - Tony Award, Academy Award, and Emmy Award winning actress Viola Davis was born in St. Matthews.	12 1922 - Ophelia DeVore-Mitchell was born in Edgefield. 	13 1946 - Elmore v. Rice 	14 1883 - Ernest Everett Just was born in Charleston. 	15	16	17 1849 - Archibald Grimke, one of the first African Americans to attend Harvard Law School and a recipient of the NAACP Spingarn Medal, was born near Charleston.
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25 1862 - Following appeals by Civil War hero Robert Smalls and others, President Abraham Lincoln authorized the creation of the First South Carolina Volunteer Infantry Regiment Volunteers, an all-African American military regiment who served during the Civil War.	26 1955 - All white teams refused to play Charleston's Cannon Street YMCA "All-Stars," and were named state little league baseball champions. Officials ruled their championship win invalid, which denied them the chance to compete in the World Series. 	27 1963 - Henrie Monteith Treadwell's property was bombed days before she was set to desegregate the University of South Carolina. 	28 1963 - South Carolinians joined over 250,000 in Washington, D.C. for the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom. Sumter native James T. McCain, a leader in the Congress on Racial Equality (CORE), joined others in coordinating the logistics of the March. South Carolinian Dr. Benjamin E. Mays delivered the benediction.	29	30 1960 - Rev. I. DeQuincey Newman led a group of civil rights activists to attempt a "wade-in" at Myrtle Beach State Park. Park officials denied the group entry and closed the park.	31

09 September

Orangeburg native Mac Arthur Goodwin devoted his life to helping others express themselves through the visual and performing arts. He taught at every level from kindergarten through higher education, spent nearly two decades promoting arts education for the South Carolina Department of Education, and served in key leadership positions for numerous state and national arts organizations.

In South Carolina, Goodwin helped establish the Governor's School for the Arts and Humanities and the Arts in the Basic Curriculum (ABC) Project. He played a pivotal role in securing categorical funding for arts education and chaired the South Carolina Alliance for Arts Education.

Beyond the Palmetto State, Goodwin served as president of the National Arts Educators Association, and chaired the Consortium of National Professional Arts Associations. He collaborated with numerous groups, including the Educational Testing Service, to enhance arts education assessments and professional teaching standards.

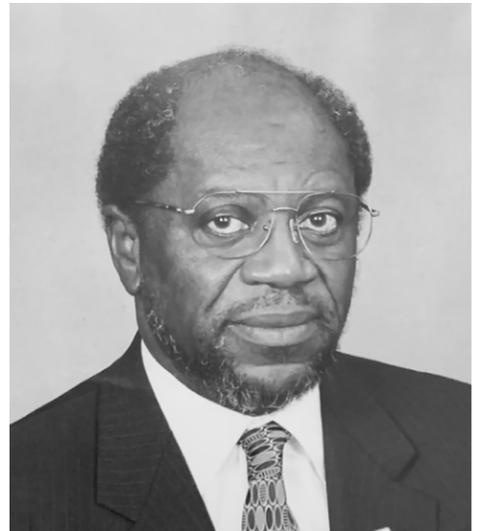
Goodwin considered chairing the South Carolina African American History Monument Citizens Advisory

Committee as his most challenging yet rewarding endeavor. He aimed to create a meaningful representation of African Americans' history in South Carolina on the Capitol grounds.

In recognition of his commitment to arts education, the Columbia Museum of Art established the Mac Arthur Goodwin Award in 2002, presented annually to an individual demonstrating a significant commitment to this field. Goodwin himself received numerous accolades, including the Order of the Palmetto, South Carolina's highest honor and the Elizabeth O'Neill Verner Award, the Governor's Award in the Arts.

An accomplished painter and printmaker, Goodwin frequently included images of the marabou stork in his works. He enjoyed the challenge of transforming a traditionally unattractive subject into aesthetically pleasing art, believing in the deeper, spiritual truths revealed through such artistic endeavors.

A student leader in the civil rights movement during the turbulent 1960s, Goodwin obtained his academic degrees from Claflin University and the University of South Carolina.



MAC
ARTHUR
GOODWIN
ARTS EDUCATOR

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 1983 - Jasper Cureton was sworn in as the first African American member of a newly formed S.C. Appeals Court. 	2 1869 - Anna DeCosta Banks was born in Charleston. <i>Labor Day</i> 	3 1963 - Following the court ruling Millicent Brown et al. v. Charleston County School Board, District 20, 11 African American students desegregated Charleston County schools, setting stage for school desegregation across S.C.	4	5	6	7 1867 - Celia Mann, a free woman of color and a midwife, died in Columbia at 68 years of age. According to family oral tradition, Celia was born into slavery in Charleston, gained her freedom, and walked to Columbia. She and her husband, Ben DeLane, owned their own property, now the site of the Mann-Simons cottage that was maintained by their descendants.
8 2004 - Joseph A. De Laine, Levi Pearson, and Harry and Eliza Briggs were posthumously awarded the Congressional Gold Medal in recognition of their civil rights struggles in Clarendon County.	9 1739 - The Stono Rebellion occurred at Stono Bridge, South of Charleston. This large-scale act of resistance among enslaved African Americans who demanded their freedom struck fear in white citizens who responded with violent assaults and even tighter slave codes and regulations.	10	11 1963 - Henrie Monteith, James L. Solomon Jr., and Robert Anderson enrolled at the University of South Carolina, becoming the first African Americans to attend since Reconstruction.	12	13	14
15	16	17 <i>Constitution Day</i>	18	19 1931 - Brook Benton was born in was born in Lugoff. 	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27 1935 - Mamie "Peanut" Johnson was born in Ridgeway. 	28
29 1997 - Alex English was inducted into the Basketball Hall of Fame. 	30	1	2	3	4	5

10 *October*

MODIE L. RISHER, SR. & DELARIS JOHNSON RISHER

EDUCATION LEADERS

Charleston-native Modie L. Risher, Sr., a remarkable figure in the world of sports, education, and community involvement, left an enduring legacy in the wake of his 2016 passing. DeLaris Johnson Risher is a 93-year-old educator known for her pioneering role in integrating Scarritt College in Nashville, Tennessee in 1952, two years before desegregation in education was legally mandated.

Together, the Rishers raised two children, and became one of the most influential couples in their community – whose impact is still felt today.

Modie L. Risher, Sr. was an avid athlete and honor student at Burke High School and Allen University. He earned his master's degree at Columbia University in New York City. As a professional baseball player in the Negro Leagues, Modie competed against legends such as Satchel Paige, Josh Gibson, and Jackie Robinson. He returned to Burke as a coach, leading the football team to the 1955 state championship.

Modie served in various athletic supervisory roles and was the first African American recipient of the Palmetto Touchdown Club's "Official of the Year."

Other accolades include the S.C. Basketball Officials' Hall of Fame and the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Charleston Metro Sports Council. In 2006, the Burke gymnasium was named in his honor.

Community-minded Modie served as President and Executive Committeeman for Charleston County Precinct #13 and President for the Charleston Chapter of the National Federation of the Blind.

DeLaris Johnson Risher demonstrates a lifelong commitment to education and community work. In 2022, the Scarritt-Bennett Center honored DeLaris and Leila Robinson Dabbs' remarkable journey as the first African American students to integrate the college in Tennessee with the naming of the Johnson Robinson House.

No stranger to challenging norms, DeLaris' beginnings as a pioneering student led to a long and distinguished career as an educator, and yet another



first: She later became the first African American Methodist deaconess. DeLaris' strength and determination leaves an indelible mark on history.

Together, the Rishers worked to overcome racial discrimination in their community, serving as a reminder of the importance of breaking barriers and working toward a more inclusive and equitable future.

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
29	30	1	2	3	4	5
6	7 1873 - Henry E. Hayne, the African American Republican Secretary of State of S.C., registered as a student in the University of South Carolina's Medical School, becoming the first known African American student in the university's history.	8 1941 - Jesse Jackson was born in Greenville. 	9	10	11 1891 - Friendship Institute, a private school in Rock Hill held its first classes. Later, named Friendship Junior College, the school trained generations of ministers, educators, and other professionals from around the state until it closed in 1981.	12
13	14 1964 - Septima P. Clark accompanied Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. to Oslo, Norway when he received the Nobel Peace Prize. 	15 1960 - Students from Allen University & Benedict College formed the Student Conference for Human Rights to aid cross-campus and city-wide organizing. 1967 - Winnsboro native Sergeant 1st Class Webster Anderson of the 101st Airborne Division received the Congressional Medal of Honor after being injured while successfully defending against sustained enemy attack.	16 1868 - Benjamin F. Randolph, state senator and chairman of the state Republican party, was assassinated as he campaigned at Hodges Depot in Abbeville. 1872 - The following African Americans were elected as state officers: Richard Gleaves, Lieutenant Governor; Henry E. Hayne, Secretary of State; and Francis Cardoza, State Treasurer.	17	18	19
20	21 1917 - John Birks "Dizzy" Gillespie was born in Cheraw. 	22 1945 - Unionized workers from the Charleston American Tobacco Company Cigar Factory composed largely of African American women and men, launched a five-month strike demanding better wages and working conditions. One of their protest songs, "We Will Overcome" was later revised into the civil rights anthem "We Shall Overcome."	23	24	25 1983 - Rev. I. DeQuincey Newman was elected to represent Richland County, making him the first African American since 1888 to serve in the State Senate. 	26
27	28	29	30	31 Halloween	1	2

11 November

Tommy Preston, Jr. is the global vice president of ethics at The Boeing Company, where he leads a team of professionals around the world focused on strengthening Boeing's culture of compliance and ethical behavior rooted in the company's values. Preston works with senior leadership to foster a "speak up culture" to identify potential risks so that they can be addressed.

Prior to his current position, Preston served as Boeing's director of national strategy and engagement, and government operations. In this role, he was responsible for advancing the company's competitive position and providing counsel on various regulatory and public policy issues. In this position, Preston was instrumental in growing Boeing's presence in South Carolina. Before joining Boeing, Preston maintained a private legal practice, where he represented companies and organizations on economic development, public policy, and regulatory matters.

A longtime advocate for advancing manufacturing in the state, Preston currently serves on the

Board of Directors of the South Carolina Manufacturers Alliance, where he is the first African American to serve as chair in the organization's 121-year history.

Preston graduated in political science from the University of South Carolina, where he was a Bill and Melinda Gates Millennium Scholar, served as student body president, and received the prestigious Algernon Sydney Sullivan Award, the highest honor awarded to a University of South Carolina student. He also founded Cockey's Reading Express, a program that has provided books to children across the state.

Preston earned his Juris Doctorate from the University of South Carolina School of Law. He later served as president of the university's alumni association – the first African American and the youngest person in the university's history to ever serve in this position.

Preston and his wife, Felicia, are the proud parents of three children.



**TOMMY
PRESTON, JR.**
BUSINESS LEADER

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
<p>1898 - S.C. State College was established.</p> <p>1970 - Herbert Fielding, I.S. Leevy Johnson, and James Felder were elected to the S.C. General Assembly as the first African Americans since 1902.</p> <p>1992 - James E. Clyburn was elected to serve in U.S. Congress.</p> 		<p>1974 - Juanita Willmon Goggins</p> <p>Election Day</p> 			<p>1944 - Dr. Cleveland Sellers Jr. was born in Denmark.</p> 	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
<p>1939 - Twenty-nine representatives from branches around S.C. met in the library at Benedict College in Columbia and founded the South Carolina NAACP State Conference of Branches.</p>	Veterans Day					
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
			<p>1926 - Nathaniel Jerome Frederick</p> 	<p>1947 - Aided by the NAACP, John Wrighten sued to integrate the law school at the University of South Carolina. Rather than permit him to enroll, the state of S.C. funded the creation of a separate law school at segregated South Carolina State College.</p>		
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
<p>1874 - After serving in the U.S. Congress, Robert B. Elliott was elected Speaker of the Lower House of the S.C. Legislature during the Reconstruction era.</p>		<p>1872 - The S.C. General Assembly met in Columbia and named four African Americans to the seven-man governing board of the University of South Carolina: Samuel J. Lee, James A. Bowley (a relative of Harriet Tubman), Stephen A. Swails, and W.R. Jervey.</p>		Thanksgiving	<p>1976 - Chadwick Boseman was born in Anderson.</p>	

12 December

Wilhelmina P. Johnson, a dynamic figure from Darlington, devoted her life to enhancing her community in various capacities. Trained as a home economics educator, she taught in the Darlington County School District for 28 years and worked for the Clemson University Extension Service for nearly a decade. Her dedication to education was recognized when she was named the South Carolina Consumer Education "Teacher of the Year."

Beyond her role as an educator, Johnson served on the Darlington County Council for over two decades, including a period as its chairperson. She was also a member of the Darlington County Task Force for Progress, the South Carolina Human Affairs Commission and on the executive board of the South Carolina Black Arts Coalition.

One of her most notable achievements was founding the Darlington County Cultural Realism Center. This neighborhood-based recreation facility offered a wide range of programs for chil-

dren, including performing arts, life skills, arts, crafts and African-American history. For over 30 years, Johnson's center hosted an annual state-wide Talented Teen competition, which included future Miss America Kimberly Aiken among its participants.

Johnson was featured as the "Hero of the Day" on a CBS Morning News segment, acknowledging her key role in the placement of numerous historical markers to commemorate African-American history in Darlington County. In 1998, she received a prestigious achievement award from the Governor's Office Commission on Women, honoring her extensive community service.

Johnson held an undergraduate degree in home economics and a master's degree in education, both from South Carolina State University. She was a mother to four children and served as a maternal figure and mentor to many others.



**WILHELMINA
P. JOHNSON**
CIVIC LEADER

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 1994 - Ernest A. Finney Jr. 1980 - George Rogers 	2	3	4	5 1899 - Modjeska Monteith Simkins was born in Columbia. 1902 - Annie Green Nelson was born in Darlington County. 	6	7
8	9 1980 - J.C. Caroline, a standout football player at Columbia's Booker T. Washington High School, an All-American at the University of Illinois, and a defensive back for the Chicago Bears, was inducted to the College Football Hall of Fame.	10	11	12 1963 - Facing protest, five movie theaters in Columbia, S.C. agreed to gradual desegregation, admitting just two African American patrons per showing. 1870 - Joseph Hayne Rainey of Georgetown was elected to Congress as the first African American seated in the U.S. House of Representatives; he served until March 3, 1879.	13	14
15	16	17 2003 - Essie Mae Washington-Williams acknowledged that her father was Strom Thurmond, a longtime U.S. Senator and a former governor who championed segregation. 2012 - Appointed by Gov. Nikki Haley, Tim Scott became the first African American from S.C. to serve in the U.S. Senate.	18 1967 - St. Julian Devine was sworn in as the first African American member of the Charleston City Council since the 1870s.	19	20 1860 - South Carolina seceded from the union to preserve the institution of slavery.	21 1865 - S.C. issues one of the first set of African American codes "to regulate the relations of persons of color."
22	23	24 Christmas Eve	25 1863 - Robert Blake, powder boy aboard the U.S.S. Marblehead, was the first African American awarded the Medal of Honor "for conspicuous gallantry, extraordinary heroism, and intrepidity at the risk of his own life" in a battle that occurred off the coast of S.C. Christmas Day Hanukkah Begins	26 Kwanzaa Begins	27	28
29	30	31 New Year's Eve	1	2	3	4

2024 AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY CALENDAR

Honorees

Cover photo: Mary McLeod Bethune, ca. 1915. Photograph by W. L. Coursen. Courtesy of State Archives of Florida.



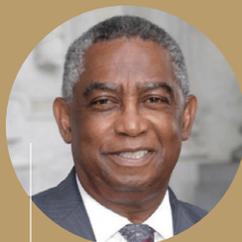
A'JA WILSON
PROFESSIONAL ATHLETE



BROWN V. CHS #20
SCHOOL DISTRICT
JUDICIAL RULING



JACKIE J.
WHITMORE
HISTORIAN



JOHN L.
SCOTT, JR.
LAWMAKER



CLIFTON B.
NEWMAN
JUDGE



LEOLA CLEMENT
ROBINSON
LAWMAKER



DR. LONNIE
RANDOLPH
MEDICAL PROFESSIONAL



LT. GENERAL
ARTHUR J. GREGG
MILITARY LEADER



MAC ARTHUR
GOODWIN
ARTS EDUCATOR



MODIE & DELARIS
JOHNSON RISHER
EDUCATION LEADERS



TOMMY
PRESTON, JR.
BUSINESS LEADER



WILHELMINA
P. JOHNSON
CIVIC LEADER

Calendar honorees are chosen for their accomplishments and profound impacts on African American history and culture. They have helped shape South Carolina and its citizens in extraordinary ways – through business, education, medicine, and public service. We thank the honorees for the achievements and advancements they have made in our society and look to their success to guide us forward. To learn more about our 2024 honorees, visit SCAfricanAmerican.com.