

Black History Month Facts of the Day 2012

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Preface

Ms. Dawn Smith is a research editor in the Technology Development & Clearinghouse Management directorate (J-93) at the Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute (DEOMI). She was responsible for compiling the information contained in this report. Her main research interests involve communication within a culture and the family. Ms. Smith received her Bachelor Degree in Interpersonal/Organizational Communications from the University of Central Florida.

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<u>Date</u>	<u>Fact</u>	<u>Source</u>
1	The 2012 Black History Month theme is "Black Women in American Culture and History." This year's theme honors the efforts of women of African descent who have played countless roles in shaping our nation. These women of indomitable spirit have enriched the nation through their leadership, patriotism, intellect, and artistic expression.	www.deomi.org
2	To commemorate and celebrate the contributions to our nation made by people of African descent, American historian, Carter G. Woodson, established Black History Week. The first celebration occurred on Feb. 12, 1926.	http://www.census.gov/newsroom/releases/archives/facts_for_features_special_editions/cb12-ff01.html
3	Since 1976, every U.S. President has officially designated the month of February as Black History Month. Other countries around the world, including Canada and the United Kingdom, also devote a month to celebrating Black history.	http://www.history.com/topics/black-history-month
4	In the 2010 Census, forty-two million people identified as Black, either alone or in combination with one or more other races, making up 13.6 percent of the total U.S. population. The Black population grew by 15.4 percent from 2000 to 2010.	http://www.census.gov/newsroom/releases/archives/facts_for_features_special_editions/cb12-ff01.html
5	According to the U.S. Census in 2010, 2.4 million military veterans were Black.	http://www.census.gov/newsroom/releases/archives/facts_for_features_special_editions/cb12-ff01.html
6	Wal-Mart Stores, the world's biggest retailer, has named Rosalind Brewer CEO of Sam's Club—the first woman and the first Black to hold a CEO position at one of the company's business units.	http://www.blacknews.com/news/rosalind_brewer_ceo_sams_club101.shtml

7	<p>Founded in 1942, the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) became one of the leading activist organizations of the American Civil Rights Movement. In the early 1960s, CORE worked with other civil rights groups and launched a series of initiatives: the Freedom Rides, aimed at desegregating public facilities, the Freedom Summer voter registration project, and the March on Washington in 1963.</p>	<p>http://www.history.com/topics/congress-of-racial-equality</p>
8	<p>In 1988, while at Temple University, scholar Molefi Asante founded the first Ph.D. program in African-American studies.</p>	<p>http://www.biography.com/tv/classroom/black-history-firsts</p>
9	<p>The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) is the nation's largest and strongest civil rights organization. Founded in 1909, in New York City by a group of Black and White citizens committed to social justice, the NAACP's principal objective is to ensure the political, educational, social, and economic equality of minority group citizens of United States and eliminate racial prejudice.</p>	<p>http://www.blackfacts.com/fact/9f0a9876-88f7-409e-8525-665c5dcf13c6</p>
10	<p>After ten days of debate, the U.S. House of Representatives passed the Civil Rights Act of 1964 by a vote of 290-130. The bill prohibited any state or local government or public facility from denying access to anyone because of race or ethnic origin.</p>	<p>http://www.floridablackhistory.com/</p>
11	<p>According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the annual median income of Black households in 2010 was \$32,068, a decline of 3.2 percent from 2009.</p>	<p>http://www.census.gov/newsroom/releases/archives/facts_for_features_special_editions/cb12-ff01.html</p>

12	The Black population of the United States (including those of more than one race) is projected to be 65.7 million by July 1, 2050. Blacks would constitute 15 percent of the nation's total population.	http://www.census.gov/newsroom/releases/archives/facts_for_features_special_editions/cb12-ff01.html
13	Before being selected Surgeon General of the United States in 2009, physician Regina Benjamin was the first Black female, and the youngest person, to be elected to the American Medical Association's board of trustees.	http://www.biography.com/tv/classroom/black-history-firsts
14	In 1954, the U.S. Supreme Court handed down its ruling in the landmark case of Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas. The Court's unanimous decision overturned the 1896 Plessy v. Ferguson decision, which allowed for "separate but equal" public facilities. Declaring that "separate educational facilities are inherently unequal," the Brown v. Board decision helped break the state-sponsored segregation, and provided a spark to the American Civil Rights Movement.	http://www.history.com/topics/brown-v-board-of-education-of-topeka
15	In 2007, Barbara Hillary became the first recorded Black woman to reach the North Pole. Hillary was 75 years old.	pbs.org
16	The New York City Council passed a bill prohibiting racial discrimination in city-assisted housing developments on February 16, 1951.	http://www.blackfacts.com/fact/a02eab5d-4e20-411b-b2a2-3f5dfe2d22c0
17	On February 17, 1997, the Virginia House of Delegates voted unanimously to retire the state song, " <i>Carry Me Back to Old Virginia</i> ," a tune which many felt glorified slavery.	http://www.blackfacts.com/fact/6d58b9ee-4f38-42d1-8c8d-2f293293f935

18	The first formal protest against slavery in America was made in Germantown, Pennsylvania, by Quakers at a monthly meeting. The historic "Germantown Protest" denounced slavery and the slave trade.	http://www.blackfacts.com/fact/aa3465fc750f-4787-baac-1db1c6172a95
19	The Tuskegee Airmen were the first African American pilots in the U.S. Armed Forces. Beginning in 1941, select groups of extensively tested and rigorously trained African Americans were trained at the Tuskegee Institute in Alabama.	http://www.biography.com/tv/classroom/black-history-firsts
20	Human rights activist Clara "Mother" Hale founded the first and, at the time, only Black social services agency in America in 1975. Over the course of her life, Mother Hale received more than 370 awards for her work in the fight against AIDS and inner-city drug use.	http://www.biography.com/tv/classroom/black-history-firsts
21	Henry Ossian Flipper was the first African American to graduate from West Point academy in 1877. He became the first Black commander when he was assigned to the 10th Cavalry, a Buffalo Soldier regiment.	http://www.biography.com/tv/classroom/black-history-firsts
22	In 1948, President Harry Truman enacted Executive Order Number 9981, which directed equality of treatment and opportunity in all of the United States armed forces. This order, in time, led to the end of racial segregation in the military forces.	http://www.tuskegeeairmennationalmuseum.org/history/who-were-they
23	Black civil rights activist Ida B. Wells was one of the first American women to continue to keep her last name after her marriage.	http://www.biography.com/tv/classroom/black-history-firsts

24	George Washington Carver, who made agricultural advancements and inventions pertaining to the use of peanuts, and Percy Julian, who helped create drugs to combat glaucoma, were the first African Americans admitted into the National Inventors Hall of Fame in 1990.	http://www.biography.com/tv/classroom/black-history-firsts
25	On this day in 1991, Adrienne Mitchell was the first Black woman to die in combat in the Persian Gulf War in her military barracks in Dharaan, Saudi Arabia.	http://www.blackfacts.com/fact/75cf5713-ddcf-4169-9bfd-6f5c21071352
26	In 1993, Maya Angelou recited her poem, "On the Pulse of Morning" at President Bill Clinton's inauguration. She was the first poet to do an inaugural recitation since Robert Frost spoke for President John F. Kennedy in 1961.	http://www.biography.com/tv/classroom/black-history-firsts
27	Alain Locke, a writer, philosopher, and intellectual, was the first Black Rhodes Scholar. A strong supporter of African American arts, he wrote about the Harlem Renaissance in <i>The New Negro</i> (1925).	http://www.biography.com/tv/classroom/black-history-firsts
28	In 1932, Jane Bolin became the first Black woman to become a judge in the United States. She was also the first Black woman to receive a law degree from Yale.	http://www.biography.com/tv/classroom/black-history-firsts
29	A housemaid and former slave, Hattie McDaniel was the first Black actor to be honored with an Oscar on this day in 1940. She won Best Supporting Actress for her role in <i>Gone with the Wind</i> . In addition to acting, she was in fact the first Black woman to sing on the radio in America.	http://www.notablebiographies.com/Ma-Mo/McDaniel-Hattie.html