

DREAM^{OF}
DESTINY

**BLACK
HISTORY
MONTH**

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A Diversity and Inclusion Ministry of Shepherd Church

Dream of Destiny | Black History Month | February Facts

Date	Historical Facts
February 1, 1865	Abraham Lincoln approves Congress's joint resolution and submits the proposed 13th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution to abolish slavery to the state legislators for ratification.
February 1, 1902	Langston Hughes , an American poet, playwright, social activist, and leader of Harlem Renaissance was born.
February 1, 1960	The Greensboro Four College students, Ezell Blair, Jr., David Richmond, Franklin McCain and Joseph McNeil, ignited a 1960 non-violent sit in movement at Woolworth's lunch counter in Greensboro North Carolina. Woolworth's policy was to serve only whites, but the young men protested peacefully by remaining seated.
February 3, 1870	15th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was ratified, granting black men the right to vote.
February 4, 1913	Rosa Parks , mother of the Civil Rights Movement was born. Ms. Parks was arrested in 1955 for refusing to give up her seat to a white patron and move to the back of a bus. Her civil disobedience started the Montgomery Bus Boycott that lasted 371 days, leading to the Supreme Court's ruling that segregation on public buses was unconstitutional.
February 5, 1934	Henry "Hank" Aaron , is born in Mobile Alabama. An American baseball legend who started his career as a short stop in the Negro Leagues, Aaron would go on to play 23 seasons as a right fielder in Major League Baseball. Aaron faced extreme overt racism, suffering verbal abuse, violent threats, and physical attacks for passing Babe Ruth's record. The Atlanta Braves and Milwaukee Brewers later retired his jersey — #44.
February 7, 1791	Benjamin Banneker , mathematician, astronomer, inventor and surveyor, travels with Commissioner Andrew Ellicott to assist in plotting out the original borders of the District of Columbia.
February 7, 1926	Carter G. Woodson , "Father of Black History" is born. Woodson, an American historian, author and journalist, established Negro History Week in 1926 which is now recognized as Black History Month, celebrated annually in February. In 1933, Woodson wrote the book, <i>The Mis-education of the Negro</i> and it is often required reading in colleges and universities today.
February 8, 1944	Harry S. McAlpin becomes the first black journalist to receive White House press credentials. He attended his first White House Press Conference during President Franklin Roosevelt's time in office. McAlpin was a U.S. Air Force Veteran and war correspondent during World War I.
February 9, 1995	NASA astronaut, Bernard Anthony Harris, Jr. , becomes the first black man to walk in space on two Space Shuttle flights. Harris would continue at NASA as a clinical scientist and flight surgeon.
February 10, 1927	American Soprano, Leontyne Price is born. Ms. Price later rose to international acclaim as one of the greatest opera singers of all times. Ms. Price was a leading performer with the Metropolitan Opera.

Date	Historical Facts
February 10, 2007	Former President Barrack Obama formally announces the start of his presidential campaign in Springfield, Illinois.
February 11, 1990	Nelson Mandela , a lawyer and Deputy President of the African National Congress (ANC) an organization advocating for non-violent resistance to South African apartheid, is released from prison after being detained for 27 years as a political prisoner.
February 12, 1809	Abraham Lincoln , the 16 th President of the United States, was born. Responsible for leading America through the Civil War, Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation on September 22, 1862, thereby abolishing slavery and declaring <i>“that all persons held as slaves ... are now and henceforth forever free.”</i>
February 12, 1909	The NAACP , America’s oldest and largest civil rights organization, is founded by black and white activists in New York City. The organization’s first official meeting was conducted on the 100 th anniversary of Abraham Lincoln’s birthday.
February 13, 1920	The National Negro League was formed by Andrew “Rube” Foster, an American baseball player (pitcher) executive, and manager. Foster was later elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1981.
February 14, 1818	Frederick Douglass , “The Great Emancipator”, activist, and leader of the Abolitionist Movement, did not know the month and day he was born, but choose to celebrate his birthday on February 14 th .
February 14, 1867	Morehouse College , a historically black and all male four-year Liberal Arts college in Atlanta, Georgia, is founded.
February 16, 1970	Joe Frazier , known as “Smokin” Joe, becomes the undisputed Heavyweight Boxing Champion of the World until 1973 when he lost to George Foreman. Frazier is best remembered for beating Muhammad Ali in the “Fight of the Century” in Madison Square Garden. He would eventually lose to Ali in the famous 1975 rematch dubbed, “Thrilla in Manila” held in the Philippines.
February 17, 1963	World-renowned basketball legend and Hall of Famer, Michael Jordan is born. Known as “Air Jordan” and “MJ”, Jordan played 15 seasons with the Chicago Bulls and won six NBA “Most Valuable Player” awards, among many. Jordan is now principle owner of the Charlotte Hornets.
February 18, 1931	Toni Morrison , an American novelist, Pulitzer and Nobel Prize winner, is born in Lorain, Ohio. Toni Morrison's best-known novels are <i>The Bluest Eye</i> , <i>Sula</i> , <i>Song of Solomon</i> , and <i>Beloved</i> . She also wrote <i>Playing in the Dark: Whiteness and the Literary Imagination</i> and <i>Remember: The Journey to School Integration</i> .
February 19, 1991	John Singleton becomes the first black Hollywood director to receive an Academy Award nomination for <i>Boyz N The Hood</i> . The 64 th Academy Award announcements were made on this date.
February 23, 1868	W.E.B. DuBois is born. DuBois was an American sociologist, historian, Civil Rights activist, professor and writer. His critically acclaimed book, <i>The Souls of Black Folk</i> , continues to be required reading in African American Studies at universities across the nation and studied world-wide.

Date	Historical Facts
February 25, 1948	Martin Luther King, Jr. is ordained as a minister at the historic Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta, Georgia, at age 19 where his father, Martin Luther King, Sr. presided as pastor.
February 25, 1870	Hiram Rhodes Revels is sworn in as the first black U.S. Senator for the state of Mississippi. Washington legislators argued that he should not be elected as senator. One reason was because he only became a U.S. citizen in 1868, the year the 14 th amendment was ratified. He was seated after a 48 to 8 vote.
February 29, 1940	Hattie McDaniel wins the Academy Award for Best Supporting Actress, becoming the first black woman to win an Oscar for her role in <i>Gone with the Wind</i> . According to media reports, she was unable to sit with the cast at the ceremony held at the Ambassador Hotel in Los Angeles due to its “no blacks allowed” policy. However, the hotel made an exception to allow her to attend at the request of the film’s producer. Upon McDaniel’s arrival to the ceremony, she was escorted to a small table along the back wall where she was seated.

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