



### **Harriet Tubman (February 1, 1978)**

Born a slave, abolitionist Tubman was the first African-American woman to be honored on a U.S. stamp, and the first honoree in the Black Heritage series. Tubman was the conductor for the famed Underground Railroad by which many slaves escaped to freedom in the years leading to the Civil War.

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### **Martin Luther King, Jr. (January 13, 1979)**

King is considered one of the most powerful and popular leaders of the African-American Civil Rights movement of the 1950s and 1960s. He spearheaded a massive peace movement through marches, sit-ins, boycotts, and demonstrations that profoundly and positively affected America's attitudes toward race relations. He was presented the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964.

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### **Benjamin Banneker (February 15, 1980)**

In 1753, Banneker constructed the first wooden striking clock made in America. At age 60 he was chosen by George Washington to help lay out blueprints for the Capitol in Washington, D.C.

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### **Whitney Moore Young, Jr. (January 30, 1981)**

Young served for 10 years as the executive director of the National Urban League. In 1969, he received the nation's highest civilian honor — the Medal of Freedom.

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### **Jackie Robinson (August 2, 1982)**

Robinson broke the Major League Baseball color barrier in 1947. After retirement from baseball in 1956, he remained active in civil rights and youth activities. In 1962, he became the first African American inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame.

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### **Scott Joplin (June 9, 1983)**

A composer and pianist, Joplin was the "King of Ragtime," fighting for recognition of ragtime as a significant genre in modern music. Some 50 years after his death, he was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for his ragtime opera Treemonisha.



### **Dr. Carter G. Woodson (February 1, 1984)**

A prominent historian and the son of former slaves from Virginia, Woodson is credited with starting the observance of Negro History Week in 1926.

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### **Mary McLeod Bethune (March 5, 1985)**

A noted educator and social activist, Bethune was an advisor to President Franklin D. Roosevelt. She founded the National Council of Negro Women in 1935.

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### **Sojourner Truth (February 4, 1986)**

Born into slavery, Isabella Baum Free went to live in New York City after acquiring freedom. In 1843, she changed her name to Sojourner Truth and began traveling and lecturing on women's rights and the evils of slavery. She was considered one of the greatest orators of her time.

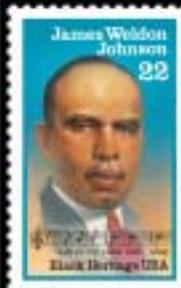
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### **Jean Baptiste DuSable (February 20, 1987)**

A pioneer and entrepreneur, DuSable was the first settler in the community that was known as the cornerstone of America's heartland — Chicago. The stamp was issued during the city's sesquicentennial.

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### **James Weldon Johnson (February 2, 1988)**

Johnson was noted as a lawyer, educator, and writer. His composition, "Lift Every Voice and Sing", is sung today as the Black National Anthem.

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### **A. Philip Randolph (February 3, 1989)**

An eloquent spokesperson for civil rights and minority labor, Randolph organized the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters. After 10 years of fierce struggle, he achieved the first union contract signed by a white employee and an African-American leader.



### Ida B. Wells (February 1, 1990)

Wells devoted her life to educating people about the horrors of discrimination and lynching.

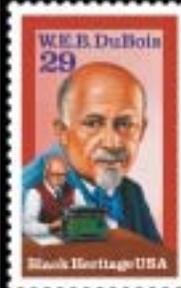
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### Jan E. Matzeliger (September 15, 1991)

Matzeliger's invention, the shoe-lacing machine, patented in 1883, revolutionized the shoemaking industry and made mass-produced shoes a reality in America.

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### W.E.B. Du Bois (January 31, 1992)

Critic, editor, scholar, author, civil rights leader, and one of the most influential African Americans of the 20th century, Du Bois was one of the founders of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) in 1909.

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### Percy Lavon Julian (January 29, 1993)

Julian won fame for his work as a research chemist. He synthesized cortisone for arthritis, a drug for glaucoma, and progesterone. In 1990, he was inducted into the National Inventors Hall of Fame.

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### Dr. Allison Davis (February 1, 1994)

A psychologist and educator, Davis served on the President's Commission on Civil Rights and was vice chairman of the Department of Labor's Commission Manpower Retraining during the Johnson and Nixon Administrations. He was a Fellow of the Academy of Arts and Sciences and of the National Academy of Education.

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### Bessie Coleman (April 27, 1995)

Coleman was the first woman to earn an international aviation license and the world's first licensed African American aviator.



### **Ernest E. Just (February 1, 1996)**

Known primarily for his research in marine biology, Just pioneered experiments in the process of the fertilization of marine invertebrates. He also studied the fundamental role of the cell surface in the development of organisms.

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### **Benjamin O. Davis, Sr. (January 28, 1997)**

Davis distinguished himself in a long military career that saw him become the nation's first African-American Brigadier General. He was a driving force in the eventual integration of the U.S. armed forces.

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### **Madam C. J. Walker (January 28, 1998)**

Walker was an early 20th century beauty product pioneer and one of the nation's first female millionaires. An early advocate of women's economic independence and empowerment, her hair products manufacturing company employed thousands of women as sales agents and beauty consultants.

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### **Malcolm X (El-Hajj Malik El-Shabazz) (January 20, 1999)**

In the late 1950s Malcolm X emerged as a major spokesperson for African Americans. He was both a brilliant scholar and a fiery orator whose persuasive and passionate views helped define the debate on race relations.

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### **Patricia Roberts Harris (January 27, 2000)**

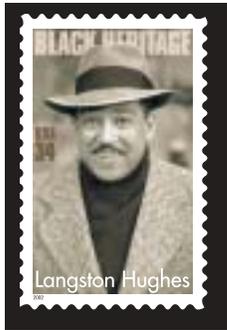
An extraordinary leader, committed public servant, and champion of civil rights, Harris dedicated her life to improving the quality of life for all Americans. She was the first African-American woman to hold a U.S. ambassadorship and the first African-American woman to serve as a member of a presidential Cabinet.

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### **Roy Wilkins (January 24, 2001)**

Wilkins advocated tirelessly for racial equality. In 1931 Wilkins joined the NAACP and led the organization from 1955 to 1977 as executive secretary and executive director. Under his leadership, the NAACP campaigned for the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Voting Rights Act of 1965, and the Fair Housing Act of 1968. Wilkins helped organize the August 1963 March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom, during which he also delivered a speech.



### Langston Hughes (February 1, 2002)

Writer Langston Hughes is acclaimed for his vivid portrayals of black America from the Harlem Renaissance to the Civil Rights era. Although he considered himself a poet first, the prolific and versatile Hughes also wrote short stories, novels, plays, and nonfiction.