

# Black History Month



# The Great Migration

Between 1910-1970, more than 6 million Black people moved from the South northward to better opportunities.

These families were hoping to escape racial violence and Jim Crow laws to find better jobs and schools.

The movement had its roots in Reconstruction, the period following the Civil War. During that time, Southern states elected more than 2,000 Black politicians to office, including to the U.S. Congress. Some white people bore a grudge against this upswelling of power, starting a campaign of racial violence that was stoked by U.S. troops leaving the South.

## THE FIRST GREAT MIGRATION (1910-1940)

This Migration coincides with World War I. Black Southerners moved north to cities including New York, Chicago, Detroit and Pittsburgh. As the U.S. defense industry ramped up to join the conflict, Black people took industrial jobs left by men being shipped off to war. But this migration was not without conflict. White communities resisted inroads Black families made in northern cities, and tensions ran high.

## THE SECOND GREAT MIGRATION

World War II brought



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another expansion of jobs to America and with it, another migration. Not only did Black families move north this time, they also ventured west to California, Oregon and Washington, settling in Oakland, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Portland and Seattle. Within 20 years of World War II, three million Black

people migrated out of the South.

These families also met tensions. White communities implemented restrictive housing covenants to keep Black people out. Jobs paid Black people less or refused to hire them all together, creating deep pockets of economic disenfranchisement.

## WHITE FLIGHT

As Black families moved into communities, many white families moved out, a phenomenon known as white flight. Research found white flight may have triggered a reduction in tax revenues and public spending that exacerbated economic difficulties in Black communities in northern and western cities.

Police departments, Harvard University says, sometimes took advantage of segregation in cities to patrol and arrest Black people disproportionately, laying the groundwork for mistrust between the police and Black communities and contributing to a loss of economic opportunity and social mobility for Black families.

# Black Inventors, Scientists

Without Black inventors and scientists, our modern life would be less convenient and a lot more boring.

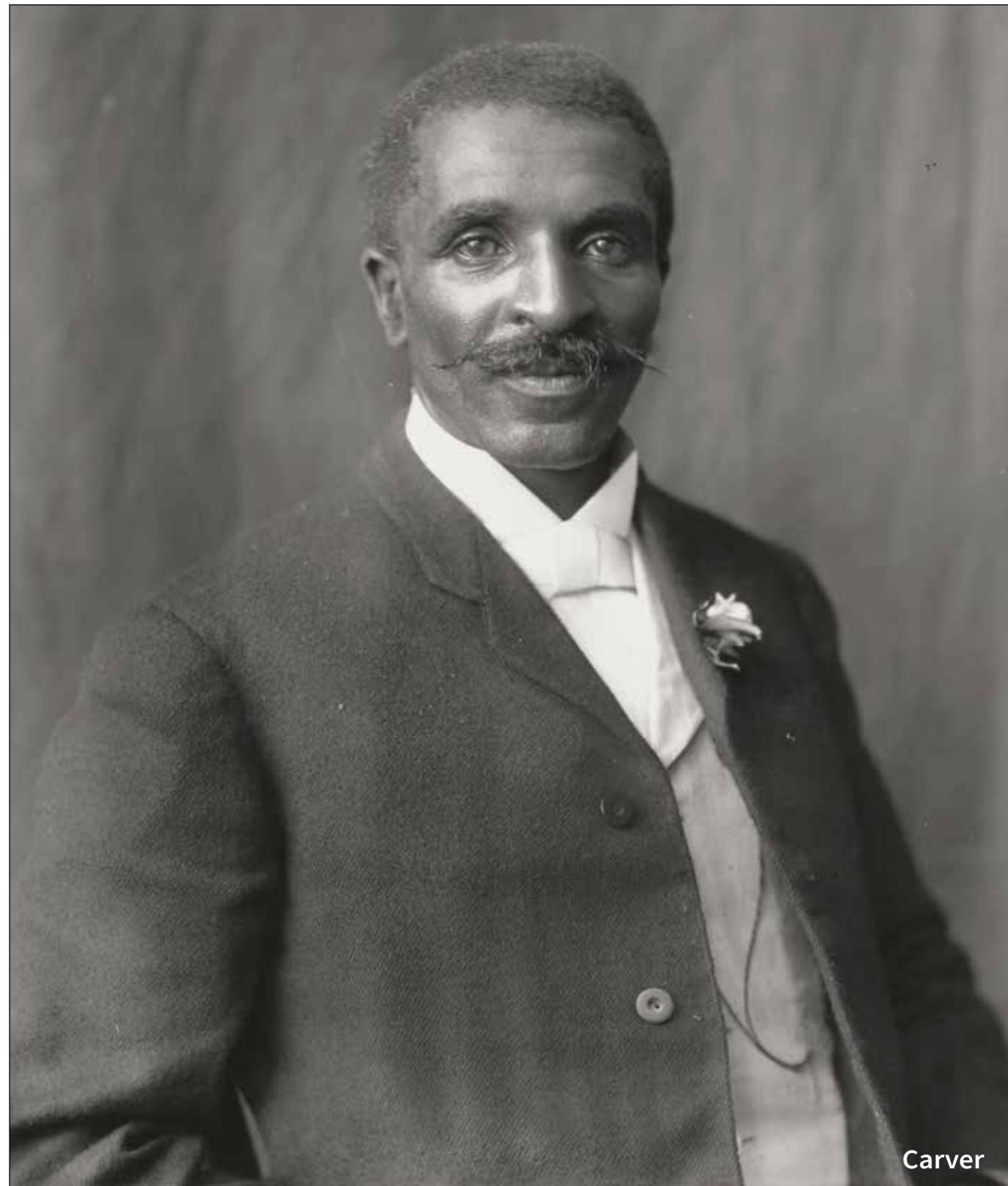
From outer space to our lunch plates, we owe a debt to these geniuses and their work.

## LEWIS LATIMER

Born in Massachusetts in 1848, Lewis Howard Latimer invented such items as the evaporative air conditioner and a better toilet system for railroad cars. However, he is best known for inventing a better process for making carbon filaments for electric light bulbs for Thomas Edison. He also worked with Alexander Graham Bell on the telephone and holds patents for a locking rack for hats, coats and umbrellas; a book supporter and a lamp fixture.

## GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER

George Washington Carver was an agricultural scientist and inventor, born into slavery, who promoted alternative crops to cotton and farming methods to prevent soil depletion through his work at the Tuskegee Institute. He encouraged farmers to grow peanuts, soybeans and cowpeas to restore nitrogen to the soil and supplement their



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## SHIRLEY ANN JACKSON

Jackson is the first Black woman to earn a doctorate from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, earning

own diets and incomes. He established the George Washington Carver Foundation in 1938 to continue agricultural research.



Jackson

RENSSELAER POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE/WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

chairman of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, where she helped establish the International Nuclear Regulators Association. She became the 18th president of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in 1999 and has helped raise more than \$1 billion for philanthropic causes.

## RODNEY C. ADKINS

The first Black person to hold the position of IBM's corporate officer and senior vice president, Adkins helped develop the personal computing industry, including the launch of the IBM ThinkPad and pioneering the company's Internet of Things portfolio. He is a founding donor of the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture and an advocate for increasing Black presence in science, technology, engineering and mathematics fields. He serves on the board of UPS, PayPal, W.W. Grainger and Avnet. He is a trustee of Georgia Tech University and Rollins College.



Mahalia Jackson

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# Gospel Music and Black Culture

Gospel music has roots in the spiritual music that arose from the slave cabins of the South. It became popular during the 1930s as Black families moved out of the rural South into cities in the North and West. Gospel music became a strong symbol of Black community and cultural identity.

## AFRICAN AMERICAN SPIRITUALS

Enslaved Africans were introduced to Christian worship in the 17th century. As the religion spread through the population, enslaved people integrated African music into worship

songs, resulting in spirituals such as "Swing Low, Sweet Chariot," and "Deep Down in My Heart." These songs are typically sung in a call-and-response form. They can be sorrowful ("Sometimes I Feel Like a Motherless Child"), joyful ("Fare Ye Well") or even as a protest ("Go Down, Moses").

After emancipation, a group called the Jubilee Singers, former enslaved people from Fisk University in Tennessee, sparked international interest in spirituals. They toured throughout Europe and the U.S., giving rise to more singers, including the Hampton Singers of Hampton Institute and performers such as Marian Anderson and

Paul Robeson.

## THE RISE OF GOSPEL

During the 1930s, Gospel emerged from the hymn style of Charles Albert Tindley, who composed hymns based on spirituals; the minimalist rural Gospel tunes that arose with the blues; and the exuberant worship style of the Holiness-Pentecostal Christian church.

Thomas A. Dorsey, often referred to as the father of Gospel music, was born in Chicago in 1899, the son of a Baptist preacher from Georgia. His music was tinged with energetic rhythms and secular growls that challenged the church establishment. He

wrote more than 3,000 songs, including "Take My Hand, Precious Lord" and "Peace in the Valley," teaming up with Mahalia Jackson to spread the music.

Gospel, in turn, was a powerful influence on soul, R&B and other genres. Sam Cooke and Aretha Franklin both began their careers as gospel singers and brought that powerful singing style with them to the mainstream pop charts. Gospel's influence can also be heard in other artists as diverse as The Rolling Stones, John Coltrane, Bob Dylan, Beyoncé, Marvin Gaye, Kanye West, John Legend, Alicia Keys and Adele.

# Athletes Make a Powerful Play

Athletes are some of the most popular celebrities on the planet and, for many of them, sports are a platform to shine a light on social injustice, even using their skill to fight back.

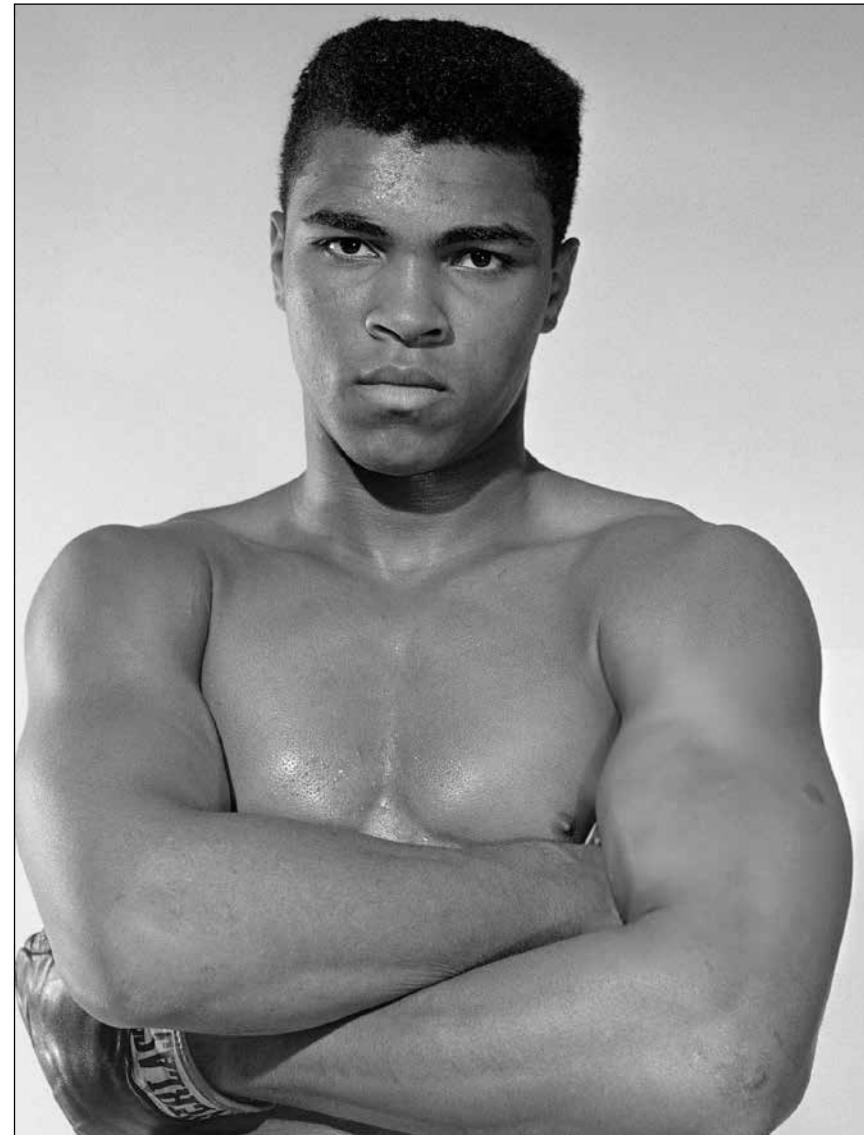
Here are some athletes that have used their fame to raise awareness of society's problems.

## COLIN KAEPERNICK

Colin Kaepernick played college football for the Nevada Wolfpack and was selected by the San Francisco 49ers in the NFL. He played six seasons and, in 2016, kneeled during the national anthem to protest police brutality and racial inequality. The protest, though a simple gesture, was polarizing. President Donald Trump said players who kneeled should be fired. After that season, Kaepernick became a free agent and was not signed by another team. He eventually reached a confidential settlement with the NFL after filing suit alleging the league colluded to keep him from playing.

## TOMMIE SMITH AND JOHN CARLOS

Tommie Smith and John Carlos were two U.S. athletes who won the gold and bronze medals, respectively, in the 1968 Summer Olympics in the 200-meter race. As the national anthem played during the medal ceremony, the two men each raised a black-gloved fist in a Black Power salute. All three men receiving medals, including Australia's Peter Norman, wore human rights badges



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during the ceremony. The International Olympic Committee deemed the gesture a political statement that violated the spirit of the games. After the games, both men's families were threatened, but also found defenders, such as the president of the college both men attended.

## MUHAMMAD ALI

Born Cassius Clay, boxer Muhammad Ali is widely known as the greatest heavyweight boxer of all time. The Kentucky native joined the Nation of Islam in the 1960s, disavowing his birth name as a "slave name," and changing it to Muhammad Ali. He

refused to be drafted to fight in the Vietnam War and was found guilty of draft evasion in 1967 before the conviction was overturned by the Supreme Court in 1971, losing years of peak performance. He became a popular speaker at colleges and universities, delivering a speech titled "Black as Best" at Howard University.

**Clockwise from top left:** Ali, Kaepernick, and Smith and Carlos.



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# The Life of Thurgood Marshall

Thurgood Marshall was born in 1908 in Baltimore.

His father held several jobs as a waiter and his mother was a teacher. William, his father, liked to follow legal cases and Thurgood often went with him to court. He rose to become the first Black justice on the Supreme Court, nominated by President Lyndon B. Johnson in 1965.

## CIVIL RIGHTS RECORD

Before he became a justice, Marshall was a Lincoln University and Howard University School of Law-educated lawyer who won 29 of 32 civil rights cases argued before the Supreme Court, including 1954's *Brown v. Board of Education*. That case held segregation to be unconstitutional. He also participated in such cases as *Smith v. Allwright* (voting rights and segregation), *Morgan v. Virginia* (segregation on interstate buses), *Shelley v. Kraemer* (racially restrictive housing covenants), *Sweatt v. Painter* (precursor to *Brown*), and others.

## COURT OF APPEALS AND SOLICITOR GENERAL

President John F. Kennedy appointed Marshall to the Second Circuit Court of Appeals in 1961. Southern senators delayed his confirmation for more than eight months before he was confirmed in 1962. Once on the court, he authored 98 majority opinions, none of which were reversed

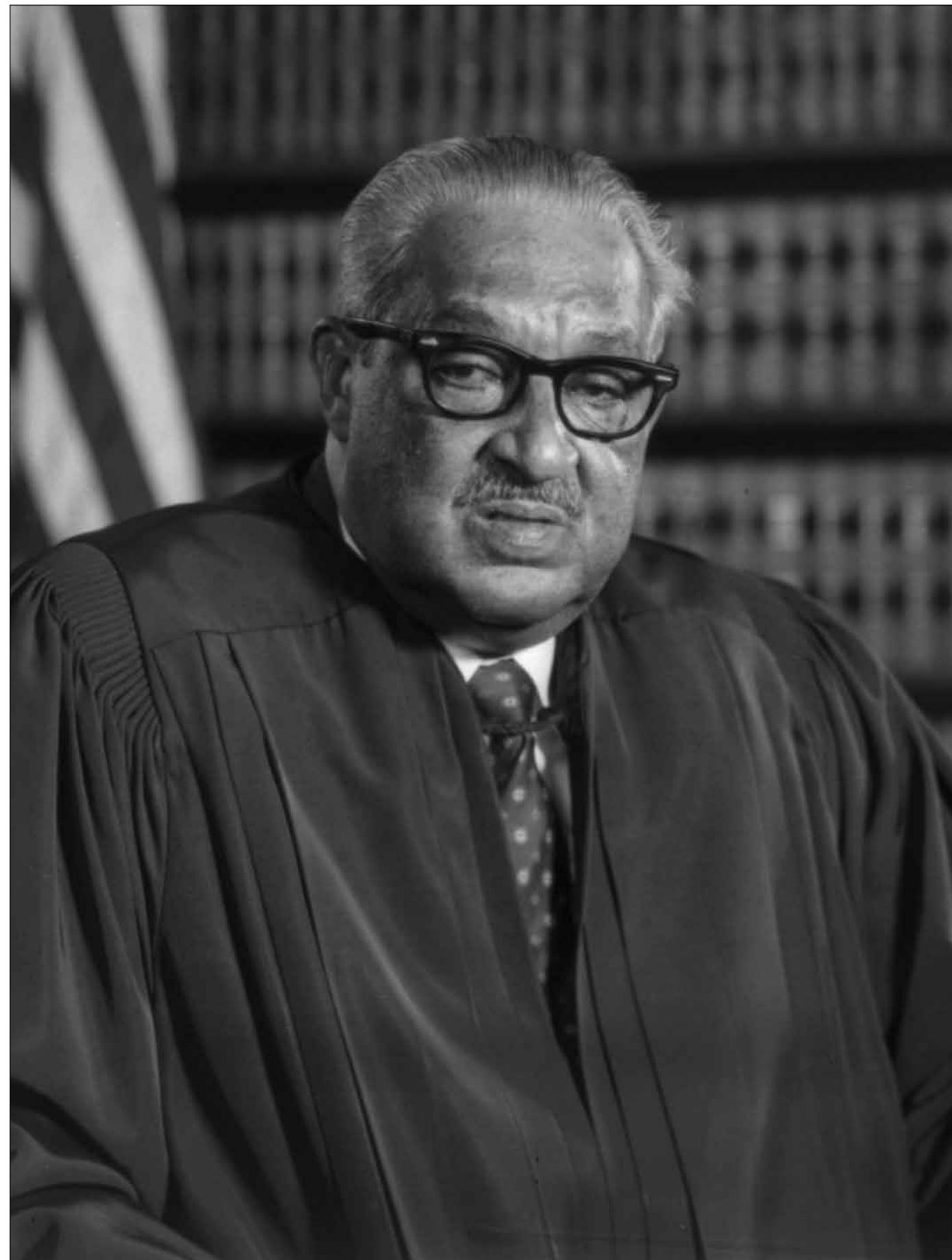
by the Supreme Court.

He was nominated to the office of solicitor general by President Johnson, winning 14 of the 19 Supreme Court cases he argued. Marshall called it "maybe the best" job he ever held. As solicitor general, he defended the Voting Rights Act of 1965 in *South Carolina v. Katzenbach* and *Katzenbach v. Morgan*, winning both cases.

## ON THE SUPREME COURT

Marshall served on the Supreme Court for 24 years, retiring in 1991. Under Chief Justice Warren, the more liberal Marshall typically landed in the court's majority. President Richard Nixon appointed four Supreme Court justices, giving it a more conservative slant under Chief Justice Warren Burger, which put Marshall on the dissenting side more often than not.

During his time on the court, Marshall emphasized fairness and equal opportunity. He disagreed that the Constitution should be interpreted according to the founding fathers' original understanding, saying it was a living document that, from time to time, required amendments. Marshall opposed capital punishment, arguing it was cruel and unusual, and considered the First Amendment to be among the Constitution's most important principles.



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# Pioneers in Flight

First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt strapped into a Piper J-3 Cub on March 29, 1941, at Tuskegee University. She was only off the ground for half an hour, but the legacy of that flight lasted forever.

The pilot that day was a Black man, C. Alfred "Chief" Anderson, and his program at the university became the Tuskegee Airmen, the first Black military fighter pilots in the U.S. military.

Roosevelt's flight drew attention to the Tuskegee program and she helped arrange a loan to finance the building of Moton Field, home of the Tuskegee Airmen. The field trained hundreds of Black airmen as part of the 99th Pursuit Squadron. The squadron shipped out for combat duty in World War II in 1943, flying its first combat mission on June 2, resulting in the surrender of the island of Pantelleria.

The all-Black 332nd Fighter Group was formed by 1944, joining the 99th Fighter Squadron on the Adriatic coast. The group, commanded by Col. Benjamin O. Davis Jr., flew as an escort for heavy bombers into the Axis powers in Europe, earning the name Red Tails or Red-Tailed Angels because of the red tails painted on the aircraft. An all-Black B-52 bomb group, the 477th Bombardment Group, formed but did not see action. When the 99th returned stateside, it was absorbed into the 477th.

The 99th earned three Distinguished Unit Citations and set a record for destroying five enemy aircraft in under four minutes. Tuskegee Airmen pilots earned 96 Distinguished Flying Crosses. Among Tuskegee pilots, 84 died, including 68 pilots killed in



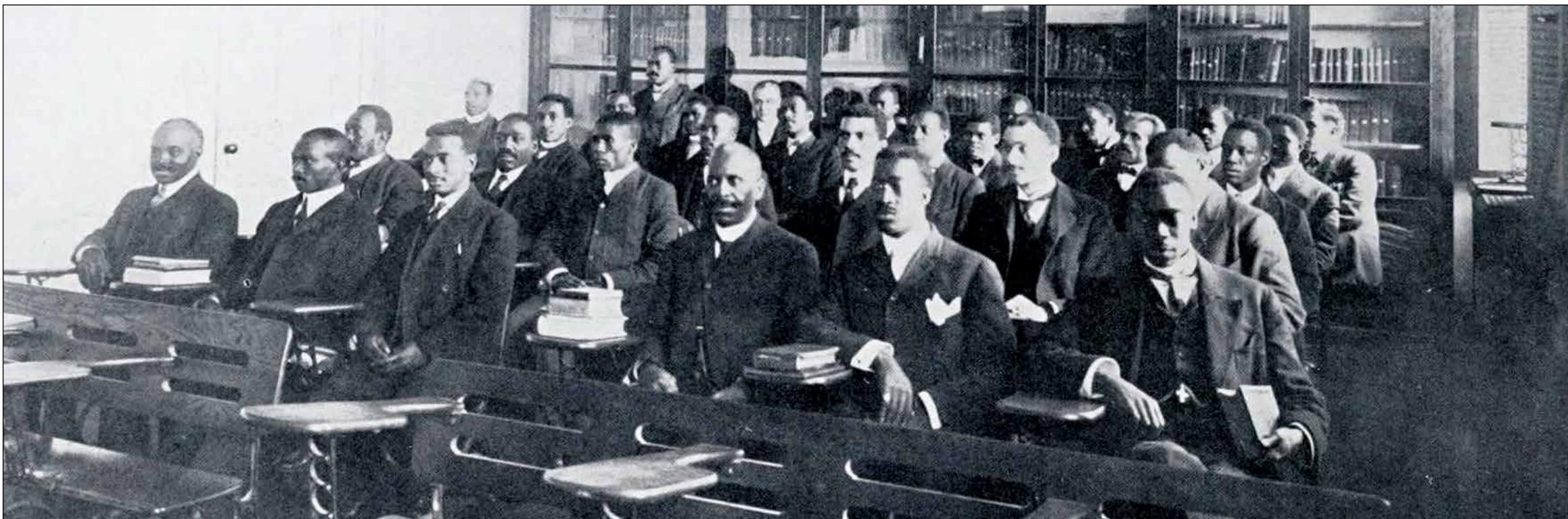
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action and 32 captured as prisoners of war. Tuskegee Airmen destroyed 112 enemy aircraft in the air, 150 on the ground and damaged 148 more. Its pilots earned a Silver Star, 96 Distinguished Flying Crosses, 14 Bronze Stars, 744 Air Medals and 60 Purple Hearts.

After the war, President Harry S. Truman ended segregation in the military and the Tuskegee Airmen taught in civilian flight schools and Gen. Daniel "Chappie" James Jr. became the first Black four-star general. Marion Rodgers worked in communications for NORAD and became a program devel-

oper in the Apollo 13 program.

President George W. Bush awarded the Congressional Gold Medal to about 300 Tuskegee Airmen or their widows in 2007. The airmen were also honored with a postage stamp in 2006 and at the inauguration of President Barack Obama, the first Black president.



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# A Tradition of Excellence

Historically Black colleges and universities, often abbreviated as HBCUs, are higher education institutions established before the Civil Rights Act of 1964 to serve Black students.

Most HBCUs are in the South and were founded during Reconstruction, mostly by Protestant organizations.

## ESTABLISHMENT AND FRAMEWORKS

In 1890, Congress passed the Second Morrill Act, which required segregated Southern states to provide Black students with higher education opportunities as they were not allowed to enroll at white institutions. The American Missionary Association and the Freedmen's Bureau were instrumental in establishing the schools.

President Jimmy Carter created the White House Initiative on Historically Black Colleges and Universities in 1980 and, in 1989, President George H.W. Bush created a presidential advisory board on HBCUs to counsel the government and the secretary of education on the future development of

these institutions of higher learning. This marked the beginning of an upswell of federal support for HBCUs, including \$4 billion during the Obama administration, \$16 billion during the Biden administration, and a more than \$500 million increase to the current budget during the first half of the second Trump administration. The first Trump administration was noted for making HBCU funding permanent.

## MODERN HBCUS

Today, HBCUs are largely clustered in the southeast. Alabama has the most active HBCUs at 14 followed by North Carolina with 11. Howard University is the first HBCU to achieve Research One Carnegie Classification. In 2024, a study by the United Negro College Fund showed HBCUs had a positive effect on the nation's economy to the tune of \$16.5 billion.

Some notable HBCUs are:

- Alabama A&M University, Normal, Ala., founded 1875.
- Albany State University, Albany, Ga., founded 1903.
- Alcorn State University, Lorman, Miss., founded 1871.
- University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff, Pine Bluff, Ark., founded 1873.
- Bethune-Cookman University, Daytona Beach, Fla., founded 1904.
- Cheyney University of Pennsylvania, Cheyney, Penn., founded 1837.
- Clark Atlanta University, Atlanta, founded 1865.
- Dillard University, New Orleans, founded 1869.
- Fisk University, Nashville, founded 1866.
- Florida A&M University, Tallahassee, Fla., founded 1887.
- Grambling State University, Grambling, La., founded 1901.
- Hampton University, Hampton, Va., founded 1868.
- Howard University, Washington, D.C., founded 1867.
- Jackson State University, Jackson, Miss., founded 1877.
- Lincoln University, Chester County, Penn., founded 1854.
- Morehouse College, Atlanta, founded 1867.
- Prairie View A&M University, Prairie View, Texas, founded 1876.
- Southern University A&M College, Baton Rouge, La., founded 1880.
- Stillman College, Tuscaloosa, Ala., founded 1876.
- Tougaloo College, Hinds County, Miss., founded 1869.
- Tuskegee University, Tuskegee, Ala., founded 1881.
- Wilberforce University, Wilberforce, Ohio, founded 1856.
- Xavier University of Louisiana, New Orleans, founded 1915.