

The Valley Weekly

"There's something about being around a long time that puts stuff in perspective."

- Reg E. Cathey, Jr.

FREE

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Volume 4, No. 23

www.valleyweeklyllc.com

Friday, February 16, 2018

AAMU Grad Promoted to Major General

Brig. Gen. Patrick Burden, formerly program executive officer for U.S. Army enterprise information systems, will transition to a new role as deputy commander for the Combined Security Transition Command-Afghanistan, the Defense Department announced recently.

The service branch assigned Burden to the position as part of Operation Freedom's Sentinel, a U.S.-backed coalition effort to increase stability and security across Afghanistan.

OFS falls under NATO's Resolute Support Mission and works to train, advise and assist Afghan forces in support of counterterrorism efforts against Al-Qaeda remnants.

Burden joined the military in 1987 and was initially assigned to Army Field Artillery. He served as deputy PEO for ammunition and senior commander at Picatinny Arsenal before he took on the PEO EIS position, as well as previously held multiple acquisition roles within the Army.

Burden holds a bach-



elor's degree in computer science from Alabama A&M University and a master's degree in management information systems from Florida Institute of Technology.

New Officers to Lead Forestry Commission

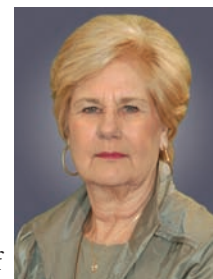
The Alabama Forestry Commission (AFC) elected Jane T. Russell of Lapine, Ala., as new chair and Katrenia Pruitt Kier of Huntsville, Ala., as vice-chair.

Russell has been a member of the Commission since February 2014, and Kier since February 2016. Although females have previously served as chairs, this is the first time in the history of the AFC that both officers have been women.

According to Alabama's State Forester Rick Oates, "We look forward to working with these two leaders as our agency faces the challenges of the coming year. Mrs. Russell's experience as an Alabama forest landowner combined with Ms. Kier's corporate knowledge make them great assets to the Forestry Commission."

Originally from Petrey in Crenshaw County, Mrs. Russell graduated from high school in Luverne and earned a Bachelor of Science degree in elementary education from Troy University. Currently,

she serves as scholarship chair for the organization, a role she says she has greatly enjoyed for the last 12 years. Mrs. Russell and her husband are landowners and operate a cattle farm.



Russell

Kier, born in Chicago, Ill., has strong family ties in Alabama, with both parents being from Madison County, Ala. She earned a Bachelor of Science in psychology from Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio, and received a Business Management Certificate from the University of



Kier

Alabama at Huntsville in 1993.

She is the owner of Kier Realestate, LLC, a real estate brokerage firm in Huntsville, established by her late husband, Richard Kier, in 1987.

After 30 years, the business continues to successfully serve Alabama clients.

Additionally, Kier serves as national assistant secretary for the National Association of Real Estate Brokers (NAREB), and also as minister and youth committee coordinator

for the Greater Huntsville Interdenominational Ministerial Fellowship.

She is a widow with two adult children.

ADC to Hold Annual Meeting Feb. 24

The Madison County Unit of the Alabama Democratic Conference (ADC) will host its Annual Membership Breakfast Saturday, February 24, 2018, at the Ernest L. Knight Reception Center on the campus of Alabama A&M University, 4900 Meridian Street, Normal, Ala., at 8 a.m.

The theme for this year's event is "Political Transition," and the program will memorialize ADC's long time member and po-



litical strategist, Dr. Eddie Greene.

All state and local candidates for elective office will be invited and given an opportunity to

introduce themselves to the attendees, and they will be permitted to distribute campaign materials.

The breakfast will begin at 8 a.m., and includes a one-year ADC membership and a full Southern breakfast.

Tickets and reserved tables may be purchased from Eddie C. Sherrod at (256) 508-1782 or (256) 881-9529, Eva Smith at (256) 859-6512 or any ADC member.

The Valley Weekly
INSIDE THIS ISSUE!

LWV Voter Drives, Page 4
"The Shift" Conference, Page 5
Private Screening of "Panther," Page 6
A&M Freshman on "The Chi," Page 7
Honoring State's Finest, Page 8

Oakwood University Black History Month Program

Dr. David R. Williams

Harvard Public Health and African-American Studies Professor

February 8, 2017



OU Black History Month Observance Lecture: *Dr. David R. Williams, Florence Sprague Norman and Laura Smart Norman Professor of Public Health at the Harvard T. H. Chan School of Public Health and Professor of African and African American Studies and of Sociology at Harvard University, spoke at Oakwood University as part of its Black History Month celebration on February 8.*

Spotlight on Our Elders ... Featuring

Mrs. Thelma Alexander Fuqua

Born in the small Mississippi River Delta town of Market Tree, Ark., Thelma Alexander Fuqua enrolled at Alabama A&M University in vocational home economics. After completing two years of her college education, it was interrupted due to World War II.

The draft caused a shortage of teachers at all levels and anyone with col-

lege training was eligible to teach under an Emergency Issued Teaching Certificate. With dedication to the education profession, Mrs. Fuqua accepted the

opportunity to teach and was employed by the Lawrence County School Board as an elementary and high school teacher.

She taught for four years, married and started

her family. In 1956, she and her family moved to Huntsville, Ala. This move afforded her the opportunity to complete her college education.

In 1960, she received the Bachelor of Science degree in vocational home economics, and later received the Master of Science degree in elementary education with a concentration in special education from Alabama A&M University. Mrs. Fuqua was a dedicated and loyal educator who served 31 years in the teaching profession.



Champion Game Plan for Life

by Preston Brown

In Mark 9: 22, a concerned father asked Jesus, "If you can do anything, take pity on us and help us," because his son had severe mental problems. So Jesus questions him and says, "If you can?" Then, he goes on to say, "Everything is possible for one who believes."

You know, the problems that so many of us have is our un-belief. Anytime we have a challenging situation in our lives, our faith will be tested, just like we find with the father in this text. Now, there is a "faith bridge" that we need to cross over to handle difficult situations. These are situations that we have to go deeper spiritually to get anything resolved. These are



problems that only Jesus can handle, like we found with the woman with the issue of blood who had been suffering for years until Jesus got involved and healed her with the hem of His garment.

When we cross this bridge of faith, we allow Jesus to come into our circumstance. But our unbelief keeps us from crossing over and staying in a place that God did not intend for us to be. This is when we need to grow in our faith. In Mat-

thew 17:20, Jesus said: *If we have faith as small as a mustard seed, then we can move mountains.* Now, a mustard seed is small but the life inside of the mustard seed is large.

So, in order for us to grow our faith, first we need to put life into our faith. Then we need to start putting our belief before our sight. We need to stop "not believing." We need to stop saying, "if you can" and start saying "when you can."

Finally, we need to ask Jesus to help our unbelief. The only way to accomplish this is to cross over the "faith bridge" that God has constructed for us ... Stay encouraged, my brothers and sisters.

The Valley Weekly

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The Valley Weekly

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From the Editor

Brick and Mortar, iPads, Education and Stuff:

As children, we learned the old-fashioned way. The teachers taught, we listened, engaged and learned. The best teachers provided opportunities for different types of students to excel. So, most of us succeeded. We didn't have failing schools, even where those of us who were poor went to school because all of us were expected to be successful at something. We had robust academic and vocational programs. Some of the students who enrolled in our vocational programs went on to own their own businesses as barbers, cosmetologists, mechanics, brick masons, home builders, car dealers, day care owners, electricians, supervisors in local, state and national industries where they chose to live and work.

Others volunteered for various armed services, advancing as career service men and women and officers. They saw their service as an opportunity to serve our country, support their families, and travel the world. Still others became teachers, preachers, doctors, nurses, police and law enforcement officers, lawyers, researchers, television and media personalities, along with diverse and meaningful careers to which their passion led them.

Our village was made up of farmers, domestic workers--working class parents who expected their children to each do better than their parents. Teachers were respected as some of the highest authorities on teaching and learning. Parents listened to the teachers rather than their children. If the teacher said it, that was the end of it. When children were failing a particular class, it was an indictment on the teacher, not the children. Failing teachers were not allowed to hang around. Either you were committed to the education of children or you were in the wrong profession.

So many do not understand that teaching is a profession. It is not for everyone. It requires not only an understanding of the pedagogy of teaching but also a healthy dose of patience, pride and persistence. It didn't matter that my parents did not finish grade school or attend college, both my parents and teachers expected me to excel--at something.

A local citizen at the District 1 School Board meeting indicated last Tuesday evening that the failing school scores are not a reflection of the children who attend those schools. "Thank you" District 1 School Board Member Michelle Watkins and Superintendent Matt Atkin for hosting the community for an open forum. Neither of you are hiding from the community or dodging the questions from parents and the media. You took the questions, the criticism and the compliments "head-on" and with a commitment that you understand the challenges and are dedicated to addressing them. This position can be respected. And, there are many organizations and individuals in this community who volunteered to pitch-in and help. Together, we can inspire, encourage and achieve success in our schools. The late Dr. Marva Collins, my homegirl from Monroeville, proved that better than any other single individual in America: *Almost all children can learn something and excel, with properly trained educators and a dedicated community.* I believe we have both in Huntsville.

Let's make and take time to help a child be successful. It will do a lot of good for all of us. We cannot have a progressive city, thriving industry, scientists and engineers from all over the world, forward-thinking young professionals *and* failing schools. There is something wrong with that picture--and, it's not the children. The poor will always be with us. What will we do to make sure that we live rightly and justly with them?

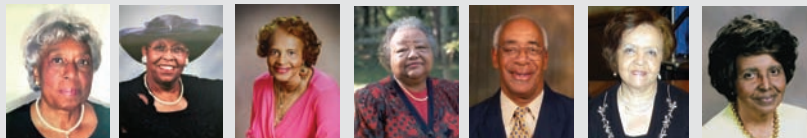
I will await your answer. Until next week ...



Dorothy

The 12th Annual Rosetta James Foundation "Honoring Our Elders" Celebration

2018



Mrs. Amy Lewis Draper Mrs. Effie Gaines Mrs. Jacquelyn Ifill Elder Dorothy B. Johnson Mr. Bob Petty Mrs. Alice Sams Mrs. Rosa Walker

- Also Honoring Pioneers -

Dr. Army Daniel
Mrs. Loretta Spencer
Mrs. Beulah Toney
Dr. Arthur L. Walker

Save the Date!

Saturday, March 10, 2018

The Jackson Center
(Cummings Research Park) - Moquin Drive
Huntsville, Ala.

5 p.m.

Tickets: \$50/Each

For additional information, call
Linda Burruss at (256) 536-9717



PUBLIC FORUM: The Madison County State Legislative Delegation held a two-hour public forum in the Huntsville City Council Chambers Monday, February 5, 2018. State Representative Laura Hall, center, who moderated the forum, called it an opportunity to meet state senators and representatives to express views on local and state issues.

LWV Holds Registration Drives

The Tennessee Valley Unit of the League of Women Voters (LWV) has planned a series of registration drives at local high schools throughout February.

A voter registration

drive was held for students at Lee and New Century High Schools on Monday, February 12.

Similar drives have also been planned for Grissom High School on Wednesday, February 21, from

1-3 p.m. The date for Bob Jones High School has not been set.

The voter registration drive at Jemison was cancelled due to weather and will be rescheduled.

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Region Mourns Death of Actor, Native Son

The Tennessee Valley community and beyond is mourning the recent death of Huntsville native and acclaimed actor Reg E. Cathey, who died Friday, February 9, 2018, at age 59.

Just two short years ago, on February 14, 2016, Cathey took much delight in returning to his boyhood church of Holy Cross-St. Christopher's Episcopal Church (right) as the speaker for its 60th anniversary.

The Emmy award-

winning actor of "House of Cards," "The Wire," "Oz," and other dramatic ventures was a proud graduate of J.O. Johnson High School. He also attended the University of Michigan and Yale School of Drama.

Over more than three decades, Cathey was praised for his commanding baritone voice and a unique sense of humor he brought to his roles.

He also had roles in several network TV series such as "Law & Order," "30 Rock," "Grimm," and in movies like "Fantas-



tic Four" and "Hands of Stone."

In 2015, he won an Emmy for his role in "House of Cards" as Freddy Hayes, the owner of a barbecue restaurant that Kevin Spacey's character Frank Underwood often visited.

'The Shift' Provides Awareness of Valley Assistance

Through Patricia Haley Foundation, Haley is sponsoring a city-wide conference, "The Shift: From Broken to Healed," on Monday, February 19, in the Clyde Foster Auditorium on the Alabama A&M University campus from 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

The conference will feature health screenings and representatives from various non-profit and community organizations. At 6 p.m., a banquet will be held at the DesignLab on Meridian Street (former Lincoln Mill area), with inspiration from Pastor Carlton Byrd of Oakwood University Church and the Gospel Choir.

The power of good information rang true one day when Dr. Haley happened upon a woman stricken with breast cancer. The woman's talent was her livelihood, so severe illness meant that she was unable to support herself.

"The woman lost everything," recalled Haley, a native of Jacksonville, Fla., who admits that she, too, experienced many problems in her own life.

Haley said she told the woman about services offered through United Way and her to contact the offices for assistance. Haley then began to wonder whether there were others out there who were in

desperate need of help but had no idea about where to find it.

Patricia Haley Ministries is a two-year-old 501c charity that works with cancer patients, offering encouragement and assisting with the provision of needed medicine.

While she has been a resident of Huntsville for some 26 years, she has been active in ministry for 15 years. Haley believes that guidance and proper information can have a life-changing impact on individuals.

For more information about the conference and the organization, call (256) 683-7287.



Deltas Deliver on Promise

It was an eventful and delightful occasion "Delivering on Delta's Promise" as Huntsville Alumnae (AL) Chapter celebrated the sorority's 105th Founders Day. The celebration, chaired by Patricia Sims, Laura Clift and Amanda Watkins, was held at the Huntsville Botanical Gardens Grand Hall. WAAY-TV31 (Huntsville, Ala.) news anchor Demetria McClenton (Dothan alumnae) served as Mistress of Ceremony.

The program proceeded with three local chapter presidents (Jackie Perry, Huntsville Alumnae; Brijanae Law, Delta Delta - Alabama A&M University; and Maya Glover, Omicron Gamma, University of Alabama Huntsville) welcoming over 300 guests, followed by greetings from Immediate Past President Mychelle Leonard. A tribute by Sheila Baxter recognized the accomplished charter

and past presidents of Huntsville Alumnae. Members reaching 25- and 50-year anniversaries within the sorority were celebrated. Musical selections from the Huntsville Alumnae Chapter Sisters in Praise captivated the audience, as well as an amazing dance tribute paying homage to members entering Omega Omega.

The highlight of the evening featured Past Huntsville Alumnae President, Alabama State Representative District 19 A. Laura Hall as Founders Day speaker. Representative Hall received a standing ovation for her powerful words igniting efforts of the sorority to continue delivering on its promise through social action and education. Hall praised the unceasing efforts of Huntsville Alumnae as advocates of historical



change.

Huntsville Alumnae delivered on its promise in educational development. Symbolizing 105 years, the chapter's goal was to collect 105 books for the fairly new Cavalry Hill Library. The chapter surpassed expectations with over 700 book donations!

Additionally, Huntsville Alumnae delivered on its promise in sisterhood by attending Sunday church services at Union Chapel Missionary Baptist Church and a fellowship brunch.

Jackie Perry currently serves as its President. To learn more, visit <http://www.dsthuntsville.org>



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February 16 - LEVAR BURTON - Actor and Television personality. He perhaps best known for his role as the young Kunta Kente in the award-winning TV mini-series, "Roots."

- *BlackinTime.info*

Valley Deaths

- Nelms Memorial Funeral Home -

Funeral service for MOTHER ALICE HEREFORD (b. 1949) was scheduled for Saturday, February 17, at Indian Creek Primitive Baptist Association Tabernacle with Pastor Mylon Burwell officiating.

Funeral service for MR. CLINTON C. SANDERS (b. 1948) was held February 11, at Nelms Memorial Funeral Home Chapel with Reverend Phillip Ford officiating.

Funeral service for MR. BERNIES BURNETT, SR., (b. 1922) was held Saturday, February 10, at New Jerusalem Missionary Baptist Church.

Funeral service for MR. MARLON MALONE (b. 1958) was held on Friday, February 9, at Nelms Memorial Funeral Home.

Graveside service for MRS. ALICE MARIE KELLY MCCOMB (b. 1945) was held on Monday, February 5, 2018 at Meadowlawn Garden of Peace with Pastor Tremaine Snodgrass officiating.

- Royal Funeral Home -

Funeral service for MR. O'NEAIL GOREE was scheduled for Sunday, February 18, 2018, at the First Seventh-day Adventist Church (1303 Evangel Drive, Huntsville, Ala.) with Pastor Norman Miles officiating.

Public viewing was held for Mr. Lawrence Young (b. 1930) Saturday, February 10, at Royal Funeral Home. Funeral service was scheduled to take place in Detroit, Mich.)

Memorial service for MS. CHERI DARLENE ROBINSON (b. 1954) was scheduled for 12:00 p.m., Thursday, February 15, 2018, at the Doctrinal Bible Church, 1215 Russell Street, Huntsville, Ala., with Pastor Larry Robinson officiating.

Funeral service MRS. ATHELSTINE MALONE (b. 1933) was held Wednesday, February 14, at the New Hope Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America (28520 Wall Street, Madison, Ala.) with Pastor Ernestine Gordon officiating.

Funeral service for Mrs. Ruby Marie Payton (b. 1961) was held Saturday, February 10, at the Union Hill Primitive Baptist Church with Dr. Oscar L. Montgomery officiating.

Local Entrepreneur Throws Private Screening of 'Black Panther'

by Reggie Allen

Sneaker Phetish, a local shoe boutique, is partnering with Cinemark Theaters to host a private screening of "Marvel's Black Panther" on Feb. 18.

Owner David Daniels said the concept for the private showing stemmed from a previous collaboration with the Boys & Girls Club of North Alabama, where the business donated 25 pairs of shoes. After speaking with his business partner, the two decided to do "something bigger" for the community in hope that others would follow suit.

"I have believed we must be the change we want to see and that change begins at home," Daniels told The Valley Weekly. "If I have been blessed with the ability to bless others, it's not just my choice to do so, it's my responsibility to do so."

Tickets for the film became available at the beginning of the month, but quickly sold out within 20 minutes. Due to high demand, additional tickets were released, yet sold out once more. The exclusive showing not only covers admission but a medium-sized popcorn and beverage to wash it all down.

Sneaker Phetish and the Boys & Girls Club are teaming up again. In addition to their new footwear, 20 children will be provided transportation to the popular cinema, located at Bridge Street Town Centre. "Marvel's Black Panther", the 18th installment in the ever-expanding Marvel Cinematic Universe, stars Chadwick Boseman as the titular feline and heir to the technology-advanced kingdom of Wakanda. Helmed by Creed

director Ryan Coogler, the film features an all-star cast including Michael B. Jordan, Angela Bassett, Forest Whitaker, Martin Freeman, Lupita Nyong'o and David Kaluuya.

While Boseman brought the character to life in the summer blockbuster "Captain America: Civil War," King T'Challa made



his official debut in July 1966 alongside the Fantastic Four, making him the first African American superhero to appear in mainstream comics. As of January, Black Panther holds the record for highest

presales for a Marvel film.

Since the film critic embargo was lifted, publications like the Washington Post have flooded social media with riveting reviews, calling it "exhilarating, ground-breaking and more than worth the wait."

Daniels isn't the only one spreading the love. A video from Ron Clark Academy went viral after the Atlanta middle school announced plans to send students to see the anticipated film. Last month, Academy Award winner Octavia Spencer announced plans to buy out a Mississippi theatre on opening weekend to "ensure that all our brown children can see themselves as a superhero."

Daniels also saw this as an early opportunity for

young people of color to see empowering characters that look like them. Due to the constant misconceptions and stigma against minorities, the Huntsville native said he could not let this chance slip by.

"We thought this was important to make sure the youth saw this imagery of us to counteract the negative imagery they see on a daily basis via news outlets or otherwise," Daniels said. "We want the children to know that Barack Obama isn't the only thing a person of color can aspire to be like. We can have our superheroes and musicians and comic book characters, too. Not to mention that I'm just a nerd that loves comics and the Black Panther story."

"Black Panther" hits theaters nationwide on Feb. 16.



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Rocket City Barber Shop

Sam and Greg's Pizza

Sav-A-Lot

Sneed's Cleaners

Starbucks (Governors Drive, N. Parkway at

Mastin Lake Road/University Drive)

Union Chapel Missionary Baptist Church

Calhoun's Career Services Accepting F.A.M.E. Program

Calhoun Community College's Career Services department is currently accepting applications for the Federation for Advanced Manufacturing Education (F.A.M.E.) Advanced Manufacturing Technician Program (AMT).

The F.A.M.E. AMT Program is a partnership among Calhoun Community College, Toyota Motor Manufacturing Alabama, and other area manufacturing businesses and industries. Each year, approximately 15-20 students are selected to be a part of this exclusive two-year technical degree program, which includes cutting-edge curriculum that supports advanced manufacturing technology, paid working experience, along with the opportunity to learn highly sought-after business principles and best practices of a world class manufacturer.

The F.A.M.E. AMT program is ideal for students who have a high interest in STEM or who have participated in activities such as the BEST Robotics competition or Project Lead the Way. Students interested in applying must test into credit-bearing math and English courses based on their ACT or Accuplacer score.

"Once enrolled in the program, students have the opportunity to begin working with sponsor companies such as Brown Precision Inc., EFi Automotive, Georgia-Pacific, Packaging Corporation of America, Polaris, Snap-on Tools, Sonoco and Toyota. Starting salaries begin at \$13.55/hour with the potential for performance-based raises and bonuses," commented Kelli Morris, Director of Career Services and Co-op Learning.

Interested students can apply online at www.calhoun.edu/amt until 11:59 PM CST on March 1, 2018. For more information, please contact Kelli Morris at 256-306-2993 or at fame@calhoun.edu.



DLC Accepting Applications

Applications are being accepted for Cohort IX of the Diveristy Leadership Colloquium until February 27.

Classes will begin March 6 and end April 24, running 6-9 p.m. every Tuesday evening. Graduation will be held on May 1.

Applications are available online at www.diveristyleadershipcolloquium.com. Questions should be emailed to Mrs. Georgia Valrie at gvalrie1971@gmail.com or call (256) 656-4698.

AAMU Freshman Student in Showtime Series "The Chi"

"It's a case where I can feel other people's spirit. I can understand how other people feel. So, when the acting opportunity came, about six years ago, I took it."

Now, Alabama A&M University freshman Julian Williams has an IMDb page, and a recurring role on the Showtime drama series "The Chi." The series details the dangers of living on the South Side of Chicago.

"I'm from Chicago and Nigeria," states Williams. Williams began his career as an extra, which led to roles on several television shows, including, 'Chicago P.D.' and 'Chicago



Med."

"I did 'Shameless.' Actually, I was with Rick in the jail scene. I had a big role in 'Empire,' states Williams. He was an extra on 'The Chi,' until March 2017, when he auditioned and won the role of "Chop." "He's a little gang-banger. And this gold ring is a key to his name on the show," states Williams.

Williams is a communications major and theater minor. And yes, when called, he flies to Chicago to shoot and returns to Huntsville for class. "I'm going to continue acting. That's my passion. I'm not giving it up."

by Debra Daniel

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Honoring Some of the State's Finest: Alabama-Born African-American Notables

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

by Jerome Saintjones*

Hank Aaron, baseballer, Mobile
Joel "Jojo" Adams, bluesman, Rural
Ralph Abernathy, activist, Linden
Arthur Alexander, singer, Sheffield
Inez Andrews, gospel, Birmingham
Robert Avery, activist hitchhiker to 1963 March, Gadsden
Charles Barkley, NBA star, Leeds
Andrew Jackson Beard, inventor of railroad coupler, Pinson
Jo Jo Benson, R&B/soul singer, Phenix City

Herman Blount aka "Sun Ra," Visionary musician, Birmingham
Willie D. Burton, Oscar-winning sound engineer, Tuscaloosa
Clarence and Curtis Butler "Butler Twins," Detroit blues, Killen
George "Wild Child" Butler, Blues harmonica player, Autaugaville
James Anthony Carmichael, Grammy-winning arranger, Gadsden
Johnnie Carr, activist, Montgomery
Clarence Carter, singer, Montgomery
Nell Carter, actress/singer, Birmingham
Reg E. Cathey, actor, Huntsville
John Henrik Clarke, Pan Africanist,

Union Springs
Mattie Moss Clarke, singer, Selma
Lorenzo Clemons, actor, Birmingham
Nat King Cole, icon, Montgomery
Burl C. "Jaybird" Coleman, blues harmonica player, Gainesville
Mitty Collier, singer, Birmingham
Marva Collins, educator, Monroeville
Laverne Cox, actress, Mobile
William Dawson, composer, Anniston
Anthony Daniels, Alabama's first black minority House leader, Midway
James Reese Europe, composer, Mobile
Maria Fearing, ex-slave educator and missionary, Gainesville
G-Side, hip hop duo, Huntsville
Fred Gray, civil rights atty. (Rosa Parks Tuskegee Study), Montgomery
Albert Hall, actor, Brighton
Vera Hall, Folk singer, Livingston
W.C. Handy, "Father of the Blues," Florence
Erskine Hawkins, trumpeter, Birmingham
Alexis Herman, former U.S. Secretary of Labor, Mobile
Andre' Holland, actor, Bessemer
Evander Holyfield, boxer, Atmore

James Hood, Education pioneer, Gadsden
Brittany Howard, singer, Athens
Jimmy Hughes, singer, Leighton
Zora Neale Hurston, novelist, Notasulga
Bo Jackson, athlete, Bessemer
Katherine Jackson, matriarch of The Jackson Family, Clayton
Rosetta James, activist, Akron
Mae Jemison, astronaut, Decatur
Mick Jenkins, Hip hop artist, Huntsville
Angela Johnson, children's book author and poet, Tuskegee
Orlando Jones, actor, Mobile
Vivian Malone Jones, pioneer in higher education, Mobile
Tom Joyner, radio personality, Tuskegee
Percy Julian, inventor, Montgomery
Eddie Kendricks, R&B singer/songwriter, Union Springs
Coretta Scott King, civil rights advocate, Marion
Mathew Knowles, talent manager, father of Beyonce, Gadsden
Carl Lewis, track star, Birmingham

John Lewis, congressman, Troy
Joe Louis, famous boxer, LaFayette
Joseph Lowery, minister/civil rights leader, Huntsville
Autherine Lucy, pioneer, Shiloh
Simmie Lee Knox, painter (official portrait of Clinton), Aliceville
Gucci Mane, rapper, Bessemer
Willie Mays, baseball legend, Westfield
Jerry McCain, electric blues musician, Gadsden
Iverson Minter - "Louisiana Red," blues guitarist, Bessemer
Johnny Moore, R&B singer of Drifters fame, Selma
Albert Murray, novelist and literary critic, Nokomis
Fayard Nicholas, "Nicholas Brothers," Tap dancer/choreographer, Mobile
Cliff Nobles, American pop singer, Grove Hill
Odetta, folk singer, Birmingham
Jesse Owens, athlete, Oakville
Terrell Owens, football notable, Alexander City
Satchel Paige, pitcher, Mobile
Henry Panion, conductor/professor, Birmingham

Rosa Parks, civil rights icon, Tuskegee
Wilson Pickett, singer, Prattville
Condoleezza Rice, former Secretary of State, Birmingham
Maurice "Rich Boy" Richards, rapper, Mobile
Lionel Richie, singer, Tuskegee
Robin Roberts, television broadcaster, Tuskegee
John Solomon Sandridge, artist/sculptor, Gadsden
David Satcher, former U.S. Surgeon General, Anniston
Eugene Sawyer, Jr., former mayor of Chicago, Greensboro
Naomi Shelton, singer, Midway
Percy Sledge, singer, Leighton
Broderick "Rickey" Smiley, comedian, Birmingham
James Foster Smith, teen hitchhiker to the 1963 March, Gadsden
Limmie Snell, soul singer, Dalton
Octavia Spencer, actor, Montgomery
John Stallworth, former Pittsburgh Steeler, Tuscaloosa
Ruben Studdard, former "American Idol", Birmingham
Glenn "Doe B" Thomas, rapper,

Montgomery
Robert Frank Thomas, teen hitchhiker to 1963 March, Gadsden
Oscar Toney Jr., soul singer, Selma
Cynthia Tucker, syndicated columnist, Monroeville
Don Varner, singer, Birmingham
Sharon Warren, actor, Opelika
Dinah Washington, blues queen, Tuscaloosa
Thomas Weatherly, poet, Scottsboro
Palmer Williams, actor, Camden
Bill Winston, televangelist, Tuskegee
James Winston, football player, Hueytown
Holland Dai'mon "Mr. Envi" Witherspoon, rapper, Uniontown
Ella Ramah Willis Wofford, mother of Nobel Prize winner
Toni Morrison, Greenville
Roy Wood, Jr., comedian and actor, Birmingham
Coleman Young, former mayor of Detroit, Tuscaloosa

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