



The Clerk's Black History Series

Debra DeBerry Clerk of Superior Court DeKalb County



Tony Atlas and Rocky Johnson

(November 15, 1983)

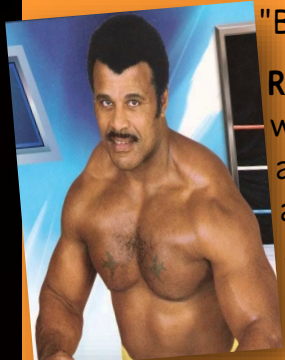
“First African-American WWF Tag Team Champions”



Tony Atlas and Rocky Johnson made history on November 15, 1983, in Allentown, Pennsylvania. Billed as *The Soul Patrol*, the dynamic wrestling duo defeated The Wild Samoans to win WWF Tag Team Championship Title Wrestling belts, becoming the first-ever, African-American tag team champions in WWF history.



Tony Atlas was born Anthony White on April 23, 1954. An American bodybuilder, powerlifter, and professional wrestler, he has held multiple titles and championships in each sport. He is also known by his three-time bodybuilding title, "Mr. USA" - his assumed identity, the "Black Superman," as well as an alter ego named "Saba Simba."

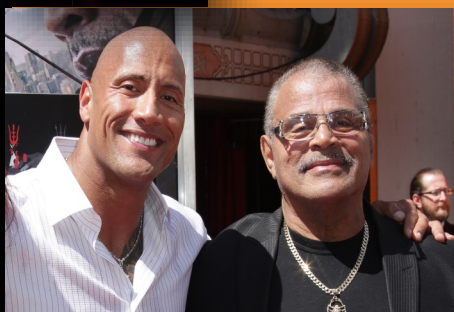
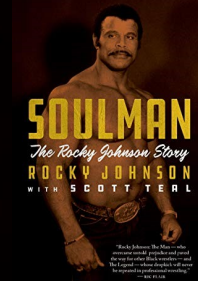


Rocky Johnson, born Wayde Douglas Bowles on August 24, 1944, was a Canadian professional wrestler and first black Georgia and Florida Heavyweight Champion. He began his career as a professional wrestler in 1964 in Southern Ontario, but soon after his debut, he legally changed his name to "Rocky Johnson" as a tribute to two of his favorite boxers, Rocky Marciano and Jack Johnson - the first black heavyweight boxing champion.



The famous wrestling duo's Championship reign would last 154 days before being defeated by Adrian Adonis and Dick Murdoch. Those titles would be referred to later as the World Tag Team Championships.

Both men had full and successful wrestling careers that lasted well into their later years. Tony Atlas's biography **Atlas, Too Much...Too Soon** was published in March 2014. Rocky Johnson's biography, **Soulman, The Rocky Johnson Story** was published in October 2019.



Rocky Johnson, the father of actor and former WWE wrestler Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson, died January 15, 2020.

