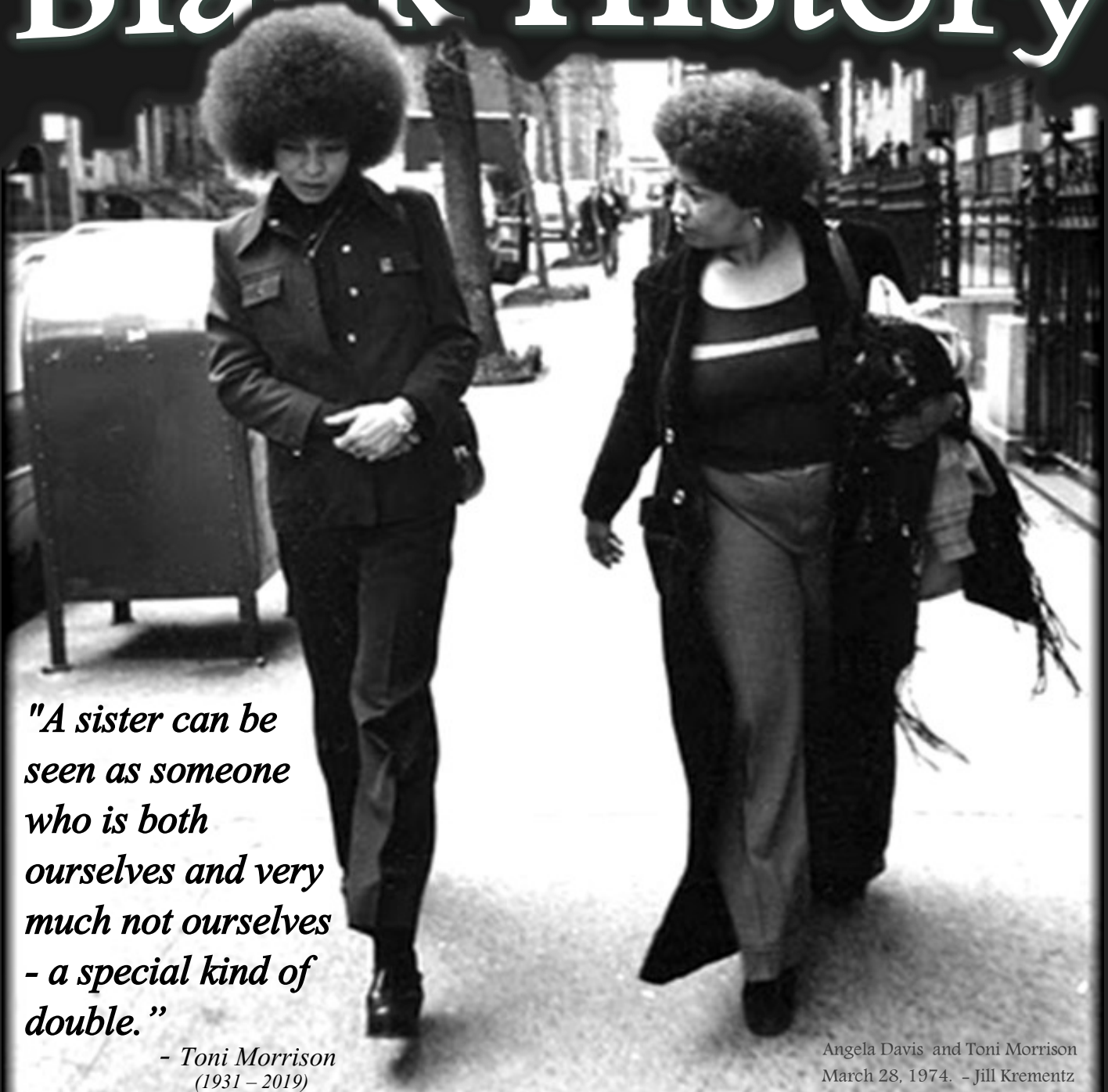




DEBRA DEBERRY
CLERK OF SUPERIOR COURT
DEKALB COUNTY, GEORGIA



Celebrate Black History



"A sister can be seen as someone who is both ourselves and very much not ourselves - a special kind of double."

- Toni Morrison
(1931 - 2019)

Angela Davis and Toni Morrison
March 28, 1974. - Jill Kremetz

The Clerk's Black History Series

Debra DeBerry
Clerk of Superior Court
DeKalb County



"The Harp" (1939)

August Savage, The Harp Sculptress



In 1937, celebrated African-American Sculptress, Augusta Savage was commissioned by the New York World's Fair to create one of 110 murals to be on display at the 1939 New York World's Fair. Augusta Savage, born Augusta Christine Fells, February 29, 1892, was an artist, educator, civil rights activist and community leader. Augusta was intensely involved in the Harlem arts community, and a longtime member of the "306

Group"— so named for the art studio at 306 West 141st Street, where Savage exchanged techniques and ideas with black artists such as Charles Alston, Romare Bearden, Jacob Lawrence, and Morgan and Marvin Smith.

Throughout the early 1930s, Augusta sculpted portrait busts of many African-American leaders, including NAACP leader, James Weldon Johnson, who wrote the lyrics of the anthem "Lift Every Voice and Sing." For the World's Fair piece she chose to commemorate the musical contributions of African-Americans, and "Lift Every Voice and Sing" was her inspiration and the subsequent name of her finished artwork. However, before its reveal, World's Fair officials changed the name of the sculpture to "The Harp."

The sculpture, in the shape of the so named musical instrument, depicted a group of twelve African-American choir singers in graduated heights. The strings of the harp are formed by the folds of choir robes, symbolizing the strings of the harp. Positioned in front of the singers is a man, kneeling with his arms extended, holding sheet music, representing the foot pedal of the harp. An outstretched arm extends from the base of the harp upwards while a large hand, representing the hand of God, cradles the furthest and smallest singer. The singers are the instruments of God. The sculpture was sixteen feet high and made of painted plaster. "The Harp" was the most popular and most photographed work at the fair, boasting five million visitors. Small metal souvenir copies were sold, and many postcards of the piece were purchased. A small bronze version of the original sculpture is held by New York Public Library's Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture. Augusta did not have funds to have "The Harp" cast in bronze or to move and store it. So, like the other temporary installations at the fair, the sculpture was destroyed at the close of the fair.



"The Harp" faced Rainbow Avenue from the garden adjacent to the Contemporary Arts Building at the New York World's Fair 1939.

Much of Augusta's work was in clay or plaster, as she could not often afford bronze. One of her most famous busts is titled "Gamin" which is on permanent display at the Smithsonian American Art Museum in Washington, D.C.; a life-sized version is in the collection of the Cleveland Museum of Art. At the time of its creation, Gamin, which is modeled after a Harlem youth, was voted most popular in an exhibition of over 200 works by black artists.

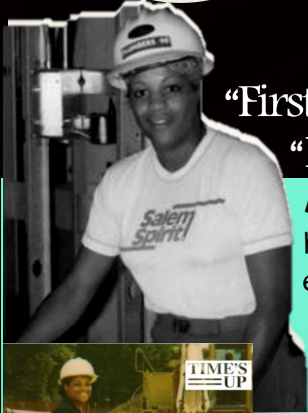


Though her art and influence within the art community are documented, the location of much of her work is unknown. In 1945 Augusta moved to Saugerties, New York. She taught art to children and wrote children's stories. Augusta Savage died of cancer on March 26, 1962, in New York City.



The Clerk's Black History Series

Debra DeBerry Clerk of Superior Court DeKalb County Adrienne Bennett



(1954 -)
"First African-American Woman Master Plumber in the United States"
"First Woman Plumbing Inspector in the State of Michigan."

Adrienne Bennett was born in Chicago, Illinois. When she was nine years old, her family moved to Detroit, Michigan where she attended parochial school and excelled in math and science. As a child, she spent free time assembling aircraft and spaceship models. Her fascination with building and assembling led her to apply for an entry-level training program with an engineering firm in Detroit that would be a pathway into Lawrence Technology University, where she could study mechanical engineering. Adrienne dropped out of the program within a year after a racially charged encounter with a male student. She worked odd jobs, including advocating for people on public assistance programs, until a chance meeting at a 1976 Jimmy Carter election rally. A recruiter from the Mechanical Contractors Association of Detroit approached Adrienne with information about a federally-sponsored skilled trade apprenticeship program for minority women. At the age of 22, Adrienne took the admission test for the five-year apprenticeship program with the Plumbers' Union, Local 98, and passed.

The program was tough and when other female recruits dropped out, Adrienne endured, overcoming the challenges of working in extreme cold, driving two-hours each way for her first assignment and being the only woman on an all-male work-site. With each new level of success Adrienne earned, came a new level of hostility and harassment from her male counterparts. Even though she downplayed her appearance - wearing men's plaid shirts, work pants, a scarf covering her hair and no make-up or nail polish - verbal abuse and physical violations were a constant part of her training. In one incident, a male co-worker rushed her, lifting her off of the ground and pushing her into construction materials, causing her leg to bleed. Adrienne responded by throwing a large plumber's wrench at the man, splitting the back of his hard hat. The harassment ceased after that incident.

When she was finished, she became the first woman in Michigan to complete a plumbing apprenticeship program. In 1987, Adrienne had logged the 4,000 hours of experience required to qualify for the master plumber exam. She took the test and received her state license, becoming not only the first African-American female master plumber in the state of Michigan - but also in the United States. Michigan's Department of Labor recognized her historical achievement with a commemorative letter, praising her "unblemished record."



Adrienne and son, A.K. Bennett

In 2008, Adrienne Bennett opened her own company, Benkari, LLC - a commercial plumbing and water conservation business, with her son, A.K. Bennett. They were recently contracted by the Ford Motor Company to rebuild the historic and abandoned, Michigan Central Station in Detroit, Michigan. Adrienne remains the first and only African-American licensed female Master Plumber, (a title she's held for over 30 years) as well as a Certified Plumbing Contractor, Plumbing Inspector and Certified Medical Gas Inspector and Installer.





The Clerk's Black History Series

Debra DeBerry Clerk of Superior Court DeKalb County



Amanda "Mandy" Randolph

(September 2, 1896 – August 24, 1967)

“First African-American Performer Reoccurring Role on Network T.V.”

“First African-American Woman Musician to Record Jazz Piano Rolls”



Amanda Randolph was born September 2, 1896, in Louisville, Kentucky. Her father was a Methodist minister and her mother, a teacher. Her professional career began as a teenager playing piano and organ in theatres around Cleveland, Ohio. When the family moved to Cincinnati in 1919, Amanda began working as a musician in Ohio's Lyric Theatre. She is the first African-American woman to record Piano Rolls of hot Jazz. A piano roll is a continuous roll of paper with perforations, used to create musical notes on a player piano. She is listed as the performer of "The Yellow Dog Blues", piano roll by W. C. Handy in 1919 as Mandy Randolph. She wrote several songs and cut several records in the early 1920s.



Throughout the twenties and early 1930's, Amanda worked in black vaudeville and in several all black musicals. She also appeared in films and on the radio while cutting new records and performing live. She was known as a mistress of every entertainment medium. She could do it all. Her first film,



“Black Network” was a short film where she shared her comedic talents. Most of her earliest movies were considered “race films” - produced and directed by independent African-American entrepreneur film maker, Oscar Micheaux. She married Harry Hansberry in 1940 and had two children. The couple separated after the birth of her 2nd child.

With all of her movie and musical accomplishments, it was television that made her a true pioneer. She was the first African-American to star in her own tv show, The Laytons, that premiered on the DuMont Network in 1948. Amanda was also the first African-American to have her own daytime program “Amanda,” a mid-day musical TV program, which ran on Dumont from 1948 to 1949. She appeared on numerous tv shows including Amos 'n' Andy, Beulah, and The Danny Thomas Show throughout the 1950's. Amanda's sister Lillian Randolph, was also a popular screen and radio character actress.



In 1955, Amanda opened a restaurant in Los Angeles called "Mama's Place", where she did the cooking.

Amanda “Mandy” Randolph died of a stroke in Duarte, California, on August 24, 1967, at the age of 70.





The Clerk's Black History Series

Debra DeBerry Clerk of Superior Court DeKalb County



“Charity Edna Adams Earley”

(December 5, 1918 – January 13, 2002)

“First African-American Woman Officer in Women's Army Auxiliary Corps”
“Highest Ranking African-American Woman in Army at end of WWII”



Charity Edna Adams Earley was born December 5, 1918, in Kittrell, North Carolina. Charity was Valedictorian in high school and graduated from Wilberforce University in 1938, with a degree in Mathematics and Physics. She taught high-school mathematics while studying part-time for her Master's degree. She put her degree on hold when she enlisted in the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps (WAAC) in July 1942. The newly formed WAAC was an auxiliary unit in the Women's branch of the U.S. Army, created on May 15, 1942, signed into law by President Franklin D. Roosevelt. When the WAAC converted to active status on July 1, 1943, First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt and civil rights leader Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune successfully advocated for the admittance of African-American women as enlisted personnel and officers in the (Women's Army Corps) WAC. Charity Adams became the first African-American woman to be an Officer in the WAC.

During the war, there was a shortage of soldiers able to manage the postal service for the U.S. Army overseas. After several units of white women soldiers were sent to serve in Europe, Mary McLeod Bethune again worked with Eleanor Roosevelt, advocating for the War Department to extend the same opportunity to serve overseas to black women. In November 1944, the War department recruited a battalion of black women - 824 enlisted and 31 officers - to create the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion, nicknamed “Six Triple Eight.” The 6888th included a Headquarters and four Companies, each commanded by a captain or first lieutenant. Major Charity Adams (later Lieutenant Colonel) was selected to command the entire Battalion, making her the first African-American woman to do so. On February 3, 1945, the first contingent of her battalion sailed for Britain, arriving in Glasgow, Scotland, on February 14th. The 2nd contingent arrived 50 days later. They traveled by train to their unit in Birmingham, England.

The women of the “Six Triple Eight” were sent to unheated, dimly lit, rat-infested warehouses filled with millions of pieces of unprocessed mail. The mail, intended for members of the U.S. military and Government, sat for over six months, affecting the morale of the troops.



Under Major Adams' command, the 6888th organized three eight-hour shifts, working around the clock, seven days a week. They tracked servicemembers by maintaining seven million information cards including serial numbers to distinguish different individuals with the same name. They dealt with “undeliverable” mail and investigated insufficiently addressed mail to find the intended recipient. They also had the sad duty of returning mail addressed to servicemembers who had died.

The 6888th processed an average of 65,000 pieces of mail per shift and cleared the six-month backlog of mail in three months. Members of the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion were awarded the European

African Middle Eastern Campaign Medal, the Good Conduct Medal and the World War II Victory Medal for their service. By the completion of the war, Lieutenant Colonel Charity Adams was the highest ranking African-American woman in the military. She left the military in 1946 when she was called to serve at the Pentagon and completed her Masters Degree in Psychology from The Ohio State University the same year. She married Stanley A. Early in 1949 and had two children.



Charity Adams Earley devoted most of her post-military life to service, both in education and community, teaching and volunteering. She worked for Veterans Administration in Cleveland, Ohio, and taught education at the HBCU - Georgia State College (Now Savannah State College). Charity Edna Adams Early died at age 83 on January 13, 2002, in Dayton, Ohio. She received numerous honors during her life, including a Woman of the Year from the National Council of Negro Women in 1946. She was listed on the Smithsonian Institution's 110 most important historical Black women, Black



Women Against the Odds, in 1982. She was inducted into the Ohio Women's Hall of Fame in 1979 and the Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame in 1993

On November 30, 2018, Fort Leavenworth dedicated a monument to the women of the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion. Five women from the Battalion were present at the dedication.



The Clerk's Black History Series



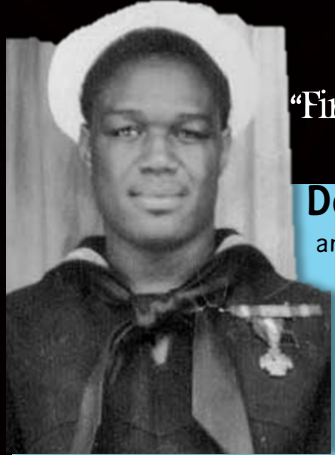
Debra DeBerry
Clerk of Superior Court
DeKalb County



Doris "Dorie" Miller

October 12, 1919 – November 24, 1943

"First African-American to have U.S. Navy Aircraft Carrier Named in his Honor"
"First African-American Recipient of the Navy Cross"



Doris "Dorie" Miller was born October 12, 1919, in Waco, Texas, to sharecroppers Connerly and Henrietta Miller. Along with his siblings, Doris worked to support the family farm and became an excellent marksman, hunting for small game. Doris used his height and large frame to his advantage, making a name for himself playing fullback on his high school football team. But after dropping out of high school, Doris enlisted in the United States Navy in 1939 at the age of 20. Due to the limited areas of service for Black people in the military at this time, Doris was assigned as a Mess Attendant. However, he quickly advanced up the ranks and was promoted to Cook, Third Class. Immediately following his training, he was assigned to the U.S.S. West Virginia.

The U.S.S. West Virginia was moored in Battleship Row when Japan attacked Pearl Harbor on the morning of December 7th 1941, bringing the United States into World War II. Doris was serving breakfast when the first of nine torpedoes hit the ship and destroyed the anti-aircraft battery magazine, midship. Doris, responding to the call of "battle stations," headed toward the quarterdeck where he began retrieving injured shipmates and moving them to safety. He attempted to move the ship's injured



Captain, Mervyn Bennion to safety, but the Captain refused to leave his post. Doris assisted another sailor in pulling the Captain to a sheltered location and headed toward the ship's anti-aircraft machine guns. As the attack continued, and with no combat training, Doris began firing the Browning .50 Caliber Anti-Aircraft Machine Gun towards the dive-bombing Japanese planes. He courageously returned fire until he was out of ammunition. Japanese aircraft eventually dropped two armor-piercing bombs, destroying the deck of the battleship, and launched five 18-inch (460 mm) aircraft torpedoes into her port side. When the attack subsided, Doris returned to Captain Bennion, who had succumbed to his injuries. Doris bravely continued pulling injured sailors to safety amid the burning oil, smoke and mortally wounded. The ship was heavily damaged by the attack, but the crew prevented her from capsizing by counter-flooding a number of compartments. Instead, U.S.S. West Virginia sank to the harbor bottom as her surviving crew, including Doris Miller, fled to safety. The ship was later refloated and rebuilt by 1944.

Doris' valiant actions during the attack earned him commendations from the Secretary of the Navy. He became the first black recipient of the prestigious Navy Cross Award. Many petitioned for Doris to receive the Medal of Honor - and although he never received the award - he was awarded the Purple Heart Medal, the American Defense Service Medal, Fleet Clasp, the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal, and the World War II Victory Medal.

On May 15, 1943, Doris reported to Puget Sound Navy Yard to the escort carrier, Liscome Bay. After training in Hawaii, the Liscome Bay headed toward the Battle of Makin during the Pacific campaign of World War II, beginning November 20, 1943. Just four days later, the Liscome Bay was struck in the stern by a torpedo from a Japanese submarine causing the ship to sink in just 23 minutes. There were 272 survivors from the crew of over 900, but Miller was among the crew listed as "presumed dead". His parents were informed that he was missing in action on December 7, 1943. Exactly two years after his heroic actions at Pearl Harbor.



On January 20th, 2020 - on the holiday marking the birthday of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. - the United States Navy officially named its newest aircraft carrier, the U.S.S. Doris Miller (CVN 81). The Gerald R. Ford-class carrier, is the first of its kind to be named after an African-American and will be deployed in major combat operations, crisis response, and humanitarian relief.





The Clerk's Black History Series

Debra DeBerry Clerk of Superior Court DeKalb County



Ella Fitzgerald & Count Basie

(May 4, 1959)

“First African-American Grammy Winners”



The first Grammy awards ceremony was held simultaneously in two locations on May 4, 1959 - at the Beverly Hilton Hotel in Beverly Hills California, and the Park Sheraton Hotel in New York City, to honor the musical accomplishments of performers for 1958. Initially the awards were called the First Annual Awards Banquet of the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences. Only 28 Grammys were awarded that night, the least amount of Grammys awarded ever.

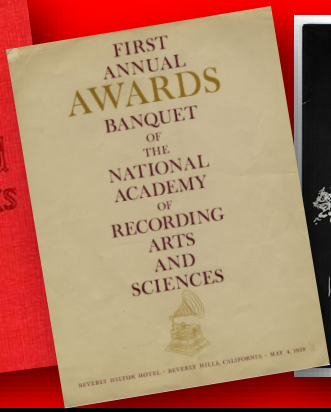
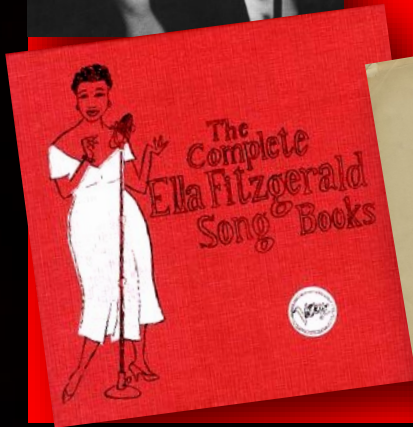


Ella Fitzgerald won Best Vocal Performance, Female for Ella Fitzgerald Sings The Irving Berlin Songbook and Best Jazz Vocal Performance, Individual for Ella Fitzgerald Sings The Duke Ellington Songbook.



Count Basie won in the category of Best Jazz Performance Group and Best Performance by a Dance Band.

In the years that followed, Ella Fitzgerald would take home 13 Grammys with a total of 20 nominations. Count Basie won nine Grammy Awards, with 20 nominations.



The Clerk's Black History Series

Debra DeBerry Clerk of Superior Court DeKalb County Lelia K. Foley-Davis

(November 7, 1942 -)

“First African-American Woman Mayor in the U.S.”



Lelia K. Foley-Davis was born Lelia Kasensia Smith in Taft, Oklahoma on November 7, 1942. Her father was a sharecropper and her mother was a midwife. They lived in a three-room shotgun shack. The youngest of 10 children, Lelia graduated from Moton High School in 1960 and by 1973, she was an unemployed, divorced mother of five, relying on unemployment to pay the bills, having just been laid off from her job as a teacher's aide due to budget cuts.

Wanting to make a difference in the struggling school system, Lelia decided to run for a seat on the school board. Unsuccessful and undeterred, she set her sights higher and ran for the office of Mayor of Taft. With \$200 of campaign donations from friends, she began campaigning door to door, introducing herself in churches and throughout the city. Taft was a small town of less than 500 black residents and many thought this “30 year old, unemployed, unmarried, mother of five, surviving off of public assistance,” wasn't qualified for the job. But, the majority did, and on April 3, 1973, Lelia won with 93 votes, beating the incumbent. And with that win, Lelia Foley-Davis became the first African-American women Mayor in the United States.



With the Mayor's salary a mere \$200 a year, Lelia continued drawing unemployment until she began working as a law librarian at the courthouse. In 1974, Oklahoma named Lelia “Outstanding Woman of the Year” and President Gerald Ford invited her to the White House. She told President Ford she was there to talk about housing for her community and within three months, she had coordinated with the administration on a plan for more housing. The community of Taft ultimately received 24 rural rental houses to help its lower income residents, including young mothers on welfare, obtain affordable housing. She considered it one of her most significant achievements. When then Senator Ted Kennedy offered her a position with his office in Washington, she declined, citing her work and love for the City of Taft.

With success came disappointments and the closing of the city's only schools was perhaps her biggest defeat. Although she fought to keep the schools open, the population had dwindled to about 200 people and the schools closed for good in 1989. Local children were bussed to nearby Muskogee and Haskell. Another defeat came when the state decided to convert two facilities that served Taft special needs children - one for those with mentally disabilities, the other for the “deaf, blind and orphaned” children - into minimum-security prisons for men and women.

Lelia lost her position as mayor in 1989 but was reelected in 2000. After an unsuccessful bid for the House or Representatives that same year, Lelia Foley-Davis retired from politics but continued to advocate for the citizens of Taft.

At the age of 77, her current project is creating a memorial in the small field that sat adjacent to the former institution for special needs children - where many of the orphaned children who died there are buried in unmarked graves.

She hopes to one day be included in the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture as a trailblazer for Black Women Mayors.





The Clerk's Black History Series

Debra DeBerry Clerk of Superior Court DeKalb County Matthew Henson



(August 8, 1866 – March 9, 1955)

“First African–American Artic Explorer” “First African–American to Reach North Pole”

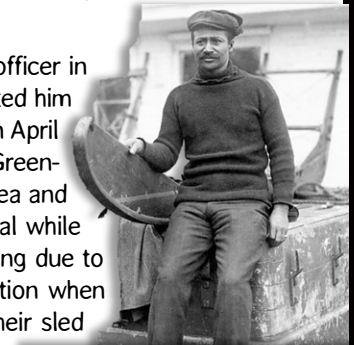
Matthew Henson was born August 8, 1866, in Nanjemoy, Maryland, to freeborn black sharecropper parents. In 1867, his parents and three sisters moved to Georgetown to escape racial violence where his mother died when Matthew was seven years old. When Matthew's father died, he went to live with his uncle in Washington, D.C. When Matthew was ten years old, he attended a ceremony honoring Abraham Lincoln where he heard social reformer and abolitionist, Frederick Douglas speak. Shortly thereafter, he left home, determined to find his own way. After working briefly in a restaurant, he walked all the way to Baltimore, Maryland. At the age of 12, Matthew went to sea as a cabin boy on the merchant ship *Katie Hines*, traveling to Asia, Africa and Europe under the watchful eye of the ship's skipper, Captain Childs. After Captain Childs died, Matthew moved back to Washington, D.C.



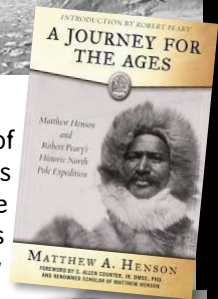
When Matthew was 21 years old, he met Commander Robert E. Peary, an explorer and officer in the U.S. Navy Corps of Civil Engineers. Impressed with Matthew's seafaring experience, Commander Peary recruited him for an upcoming voyage to Nicaragua. After returning from Nicaragua, Matthew found work in Philadelphia, and in April 1891 he met and married Eva Flint. But shortly thereafter, the two explorers were off again for an expedition to Greenland and the marriage to Eva ended. Matthew and the Commander would cover thousands of miles across the sea and the world, exploring and making multiple attempts to reach the North Pole. Some expeditions proved beneficial while others ended in tragedy. A 1902 attempt to reach the North Pole ended with six Eskimo team members perishing due to lack of food. An earlier journey also left the team on the brink of starvation when members of the expedition managed to survive by eating all but one of their sled dogs. During their extended expeditions to Greenland, Matthew and Commander Peary both fathered children with Inuit women. In 1906, Akatingwah, an Inuit woman, bore his only known child, a son named Anauakaq. But when he returned home the same year, he married Lucy Ross.



In the team's 8th and final attempt to reach the North Pole, a very large expedition boarded the ship and left Greenland on August 18, 1909. In February 1909, Matthew Henson and Commander Peary anchored their ship at Ellesmere Island's Cape Sheridan, and set out with Inuit men and 130 dogs laying a trail of supplies along the route to the Pole. Cape Sheridan is on the northeastern coast of Ellesmere Island, Canada situated on the Lincoln Sea in the Arctic Ocean. It is one of the closest points of land to the geographic North Pole.



Commander Peary, Matthew Henson along with three Inuit men set out on foot with sled dogs for the final, most difficult leg of the trip to the North Pole. When Commander Peary became ill and unable to continue by foot, Matthew Henson set out alone as a scout. He returned to the group and when Commander Peary regained his strength, Matthew lead the group back in the direction of his scouting trip. When the men reached the North Pole, they saw Matthew Henson's footprints from his previous scouting trip. Following this momentous expedition, the men returned to New York where Matthew was honored at many dinners within the black community, but his role was downplayed to Commander Peary's more public celebrations.



In 1912, Matthew published his memoirs titled "A Negro Explorer at the North Pole" and was admitted as a member of the prestigious "Explorers Club" in New York City in 1937. In 1947, Matthew collaborated with author Bradley Robinson on his biography, "Dark Companion." In 1948, he was promoted to Honorary Member of the exclusive "Explorers Club" when only 20 a year were named, and was honored by both President Truman and Eisenhower.

Matthew Henson died in New York City on March 9, 1955, and was buried in Woodlawn Cemetery. The body of his wife, Lucy, was buried beside him in 1968. In a move to honor Henson, in 1987, President Ronald Reagan approved the transportation of Henson and Lucy's remains for reinternment at Arlington National Cemetery, per the request of Dr. S. Allen Counter of Harvard University. The national cemetery is also the burial site of Commander Peary and his wife, Josephine.





The Clerk's Black History Series

Debra DeBerry Clerk of Superior Court DeKalb County



"Muhammad Ali Saves a Life"

(January 19, 1981)

"Muhammad Ali Stops a Man Threatening to Jump from a Window"

Muhammad Ali - Everyone knows he's "The Greatest" - "The Champ" - that he "Floats like a Butterfly and Stings like Bee," winning 56 fights and only losing 5 during his career, but did you know that Muhammed Ali once stopped a man that was threatening to jump to his death?

It was Monday, January 19, 1981 when a 21-year-old man from Michigan, the newspapers referred to as "Joe," slipped around on the narrow edge of a rail on the ninth floor of a high-rise office building on Wilshire Boulevard.

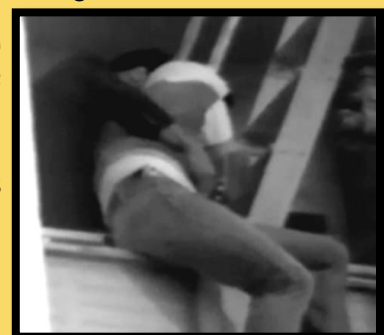
Police negotiators, a psychologist and a minister tried for three hours to persuade the man to come down from the edge, but to no avail. Muhammad Ali's fast thinking public relations manager was on the scene watching things unfold when he saw that negotiation efforts were failing. He asked the police if Ali could help, but they told him no. Knowing the power and influence Ali had on the nation, he called anyway and told the Champ what was happening just a mile away from his Los Angeles home.

Ali arrived about four minutes later, driving his Rolls-Royce on the wrong side of the street toward the chaotic scene. Seconds later, with that Ali persuasion, the police relented and allowed The Champ to enter the building. Soon he appeared at a window next to where "Joe" was positioned on a fire escape. He reportedly told him "You're my brother, I love you and I wouldn't lie to you. You got to listen. I want you to come home with me, meet some friends of mine." Ali then went into the vestibule area where Joe was sitting on the ledge and continued pleading. Twenty minutes later, with tears flowing from Ali's eyes as well as Joe's, Ali wrapped his arms around him as he relinquished his ledge and came down.

Muhammed Ali, dressed in a suit and tie, walked with Joe out of the building as news cameras and reporters surrounded the two men. Ali drove Joe to the police station in his Rolls-Royce and later went with him to a psychiatric hospital.

The crowd that gathered that day chanted "USA! Digs Ali, USA! Digs Ali," as he left the scene with the man he had saved.

Muhammad Ali was indeed, The Greatest of All Time.



The Clerk's Black History Series



Debra DeBerry Clerk of Superior Court DeKalb County Nick Gabaldon



(February 23, 1927 – June 6, 1951)

“First African-American Surfer”

Nick Gabaldon - was born Nicolás Rolando Gabaldón on February 23, 1927 in Los Angeles, California to an African-American mother and a Mexican father. “Nick” grew up and attended school in the Santa Monica area. He was a very active teen and often skipped school to spend the afternoons at the beach, riding waves with only his body. In the early 1940’s, California’s segregation was enforced by harassment and intimidation and the “white” beaches were off limits. Bay Street Beach, a 200-foot, roped off area, of the Santa Monica State Beach, was the only place in Southern California that minorities could visit without fear of harassment or

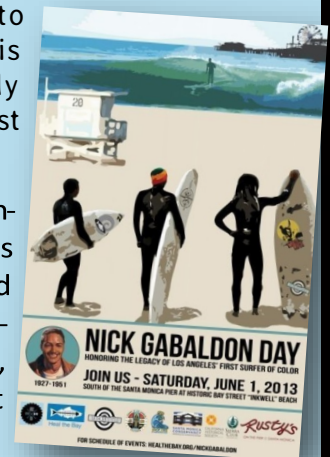
violence. This seaside refuge was located down the hill from nearby Phillips Chapel Christian Methodist Episcopal (CME) Church, the first African-American church established in Santa Monica in 1905, and the earliest African-American community settlement in the 4th and Bay Streets vicinity. And it was there, on that tiny sliver of beach, that Nick Gabaldon borrowed a lifeguard’s paddleboard and taught himself to surf, on the small waves of the Bay Street Beach.

After serving a stint in the Navy Reserves during WWII, Nick enrolled in Santa Monica College where he continued working a lifeguard at Bay Street Beach. In 1949, Nick met Buzzy Trent, a white surfer and lifeguard, who was so impressed with Nick’s surfing talent, he invited him to surf in Malibu. Malibu was the West Coast’s mecca of surfing. Unfortunately, Malibu Beach was an all white beach and Nick could not walk onto the beach without fear of confrontation or violence. In order to surf with his new friends, Nick would get to Malibu Beach by entering the ocean with his surfboard at Bay Street Beach and paddle 12 miles up the coast to Malibu. Nick would arrive and ride a wave into the beach, as if he had been there the whole time.

Buzzy introduced Nick to the other surfers and it wasn't long before Nick became part of the group. They soon became a surfing clique - surfing from sunrise to sunset, all summer long.

On June 6, 1951, Nick was surfing in Malibu, attempting a move known as “shooting the pier.” The swells were coming from the south creating some of the biggest waves ever witnessed in that area. Nick, rode his board toward the pier when a monstrous eight-foot wave broke, smashing his body into the pilings of the pier. Nick disappeared under the waves, under the pier. His friends and other surfers responded instantly, searching for Nick, but they only found his surfboard. Three days later his body washed up on Las Flores Beach, further east of the Pier. His surfing friends were called over to identify his body.

On February 7, 2008, the City of Santa Monica officially recognized Bay Street Beach, as well as Nick Gabaldon, the first documented southern California surfer of African-American and Mexican-American descent, with a landmark monument at Bay Street and Oceanfront Walk.



The Clerk's Black History Series



Debra DeBerry
Clerk of Superior Court
DeKalb County



Dr. Patricia E. Bath

(November 4, 1942 – May 30, 2019)

“First African-American Woman Doctor to Receive Patent for Medical Invention – Laserphaco Probe”

“First African-American to Complete a Residency in Ophthalmology”



Patricia Era Bath was born on November 4, 1942 in Harlem, New York to Rupert and Gladys Bath. Her mother was a homemaker and her father was an immigrant from Trinidad who worked for the city. Patricia excelled at math and science, and won a National Science Foundation Scholarship while in high school. At the age of 16, she completed a research project at Yeshiva University and Harlem Hospital Center where she found connections between cancer, nutrition, and stress. That year, the head of the research program published her findings in a scientific paper.

Patricia graduated with a Bachelor of Arts from Manhattan's Hunter College in 1964 and relocated to Washington, D.C. to attend Howard University College of Medicine. In her freshman year, she co-founded the Student National Medical Association and became its first woman president in 1965.



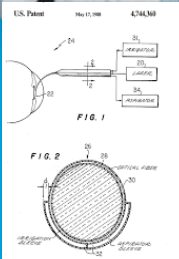
Her college years coincided with the Civil Rights Movement and Patricia became an active member of several organizations that fought for equality, especially in health care. After the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Patricia became involved the Poor Peoples Campaign, organizing Howard University medical students to provide volunteer healthcare services in Resurrection City. She graduated and returned home to intern at Harlem Hospital Center. There she observed large percentages of blind patients at Harlem Hospital in comparison to patients at the Columbia University Eye Clinic. She noted that Harlem Hospital had no ophthalmologists on staff and soon persuaded doctors from Columbia to operate on blind patients at the Harlem Hospital Center, for free. She participated with the Columbia team that performed the first eye surgery at Harlem Hospital, November 1969. From 1970 to 1973, Patricia Bath became the first African-American to serve her residency in ophthalmology at New York University.



Two years later, she became the first female faculty member in the Department of Ophthalmology at UCLA's Jules Stein Eye Institute. In 1976, she co-founded the American Institute for the Prevention of Blindness, which established that "eyesight was a basic human right." In 1981, her interest, experience, and research on cataracts lead to the



invention of a new device and method to remove cataracts: the Laserphaco Probe. She patented the device in 1988, becoming the first African-American female doctor to receive a medical patent.



In 1993, Dr. Patricia Bath retired from her position at the UCLA Medical Center and subsequently became the first woman on its honorary medical staff. That same year, she was named a "Howard University Pioneer in Academic Medicine." Among her many roles in the medical field, she was a strong advocate of telemedicine, which uses technology to provide medical services in remote areas. She continued receiving patents up until 2003. She held five medical patents altogether. Dr. Patricia Bath died of cancer on May 30, 2019, in San Francisco, California at the age of 76.





The Clerk's Black History Series

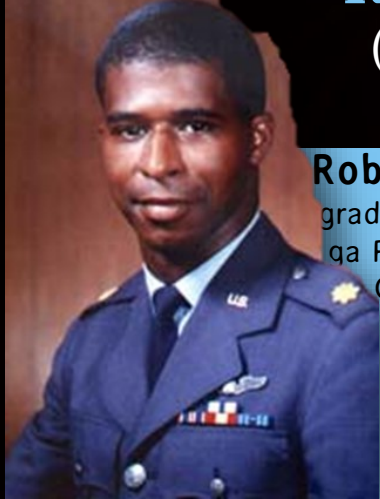
Debra DeBerry Clerk of Superior Court DeKalb County



“Robert Henry Lawrence, Jr.”

(October 2, 1935 – December 8, 1967)

“First African-American Astronaut”



Robert H. Lawrence Jr., was born October 2, 1935, in Chicago Illinois. He graduated in the top ten percent of his high school in 1952. And, as a member of Omega Psi Phi fraternity, he graduated from Bradley University with a bachelors degree in Chemistry and was a Cadet Commander in the Air Force ROTC. By the age of 21, Robert completed flight training school to become a U.S. Air Force pilot and by the age of 25, he had completed an Air Force training as an instructor pilot.

By the age of 30, Robert was a senior United States Air Force (USAF) pilot, who had over 2500 hours of flight time, with most of that time spent in Lockheed F-104 Starfighter jets. He tested and compiled data on the gliding flight of unpowered spacecraft returning to Earth from orbit. NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration), commended Robert for his accomplishments and his flight maneuver data that was critical to the development of the Space Shuttle. In 1965, Robert earned a Ph.D. in physical chemistry from The Ohio State University.



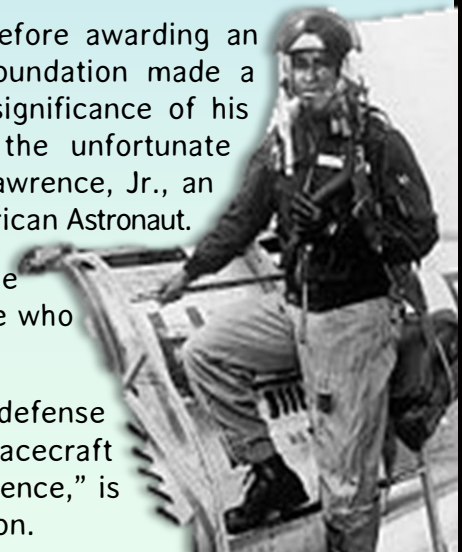
In June 1967, Robert completed the U.S. Air Force Test Pilot School at Edwards Air Force Base in California and was selected by the USAF as an astronaut in the Air Force's Manned Orbital Laboratory (MOL) space program. However, the celebration was short-lived, when, just six months later, on December 8, 1967, Robert was flying backseat as an instructor pilot on an F-104 Starfighter trainee mission. The airplane, when coming in for a final landing, struck the ground and its main landing gear failed. The plane caught fire and rolled and although the student pilot ejected from the plane and survived with major injuries, Robert's seat ejected sideways, killing him instantly. The MOL program was cancelled in 1969. Seven of the 16 Air Force, Navy and Marine Corps astronauts, who were under the age of 35, were transferred to NASA. Robert Lawrence would have been one of those transferred, had he survived. All those transferred later flew space shuttle missions.



At the time of his death, the Air Force policy required a flight in space before awarding an “astronaut” rating. However, on Jan. 2, 1997, the Astronaut Memorial Foundation made a formal request for the Air Force to reconsider Robert's case. In light of the significance of his selection, being the first African-American selected for the MOL, and the unfortunate circumstances of his death, the Air Force retroactively designated Robert H. Lawrence, Jr., an astronaut—making him officially, the first, African-American Astronaut.

On December 8, 2017, Robert's name was added to the Space Mirror Memorial - a memorial dedicated to those who died while serving in America's space program.

Recently, an American global aerospace and defense technology company, named their NG-13 Cygnus spacecraft after Robert. When launched, the “S.S. Robert H. Lawrence,” is scheduled for a mission to the International Space Station.



The Clerk's Black History Series



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DeKalb County

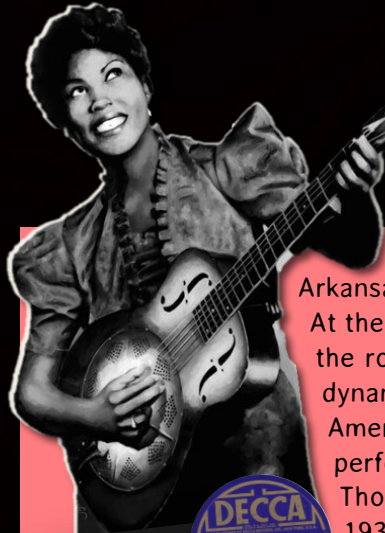


Sister Rosetta Tharpe

(March 20, 1915 – October 9, 1973)

“Godmother of Rock & Roll”

“Gospel Guitar Pioneer”



Sister Rosetta Tharpe was born Rosetta Nubin on March 20, 1915, in Cotton Plant, Arkansas to Katie Bell Nubin and Willis Atkins. Rosetta's mother was a singer, musician and preacher. At the age of four, Rosetta learned to play the guitar and by the age of six, had joined her mother on the road in a traveling evangelical act, singing and playing the guitar as Little Rosetta Nubin. Their dynamic performances were part sermon and part gospel concert before audiences across the American South. In the mid-1920s, her mother relocated to Chicago, Illinois where they continued performing while Rosetta perfected her guitar playing skills. In 1934, at age 19, Rosetta married Thomas Tharpe, a preacher, who accompanied her and her mother on many of their tours. In 1938, she left her husband and moved with her mother to New York City. Although she married several more times, she performed as Sister Rosetta Tharpe for the rest of her life.

At the age of 23, Rosetta recorded her own music for the first time with Decca Records. It was the first time Decca recorded gospel music. Her first four songs were instant hits and established Rosetta as one of the first commercially successful gospel recording artists. Her spirited recording of “Rock Me” influenced Rock & Roll singers such as, Elvis Presley, Little Richard and Jerry Lee Lewis. Her style of singing was described as “Rock & Roll Spiritual Singing”.



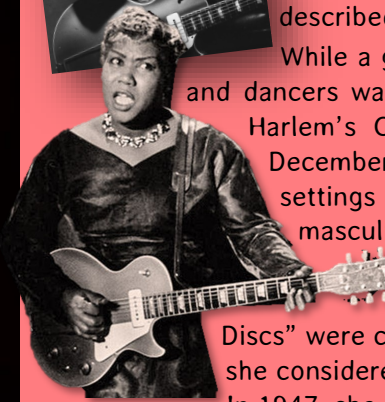
While a guitar playing woman singing gospel music along-side blues and jazz musicians and dancers was unusual, Rosetta made the most of her newfound fame. She worked with Cab Calloway in Harlem's Cotton Club and in John Hammond's “Spirituals to Swing” concert in Carnegie Hall, in December 1938. But conservative religious circles frowned upon a woman playing the guitar in such settings and Tharpe fell out of favor with segments of the gospel community. During this time masculinity was directly linked to guitar skills. Tharpe was often offered a back-handed compliment that she could “play like a man”, when demonstrating her skills in guitar battles at the Apollo.

In 1943, Rosetta was one of only two African-American gospel acts to record “V-Discs.” “V-Discs” were created by Victory Records to provide records for U.S. Military personnel during WWII. By 1943 she considered rebuilding a strictly gospel act, but was contractually required to perform her secular music.

In 1947, she heard Little Richard sing before her concert at the Macon City Auditorium and later invited him on stage to sing with her for his first public performance outside of the church. Rosetta paid Little Richard for his performance and inspired him to continue with his music career. In 1951, Rosetta married her manager, Russell Morrison (her third marriage), followed by a vocal performance at Griffith Stadium in Washington, D.C. The wedding/performance attracted 25,000 paying customers. She continued touring with a Blues and Gospel Caravan, over the next 20 years.

In 1970, while Rosetta was touring Europe with the American Folk, Blues, and Gospel Festival, she felt the first signs of a serious health issue. Doctors discovered that diabetes was the source of the problem, but not before her leg had to be amputated. Rosetta, ever lively and spirited, didn't let that slow her down. During subsequent shows, she could be seen hopping around the stage on one leg. She had a series of strokes following the amputation and on October 9, 1973, on the eve of a scheduled recording session, she died in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, from another stroke. She was buried at Northwood Cemetery Blues and Gospel Caravan, in Philadelphia.

Nearly 20 years after her death, legendary country singer Johnny Cash referred to Rosetta Tharpe as his favorite singer in his induction speech at the 1992 Rock n Roll Hall of Fame.





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Tony Atlas and Rocky Johnson

(November 15, 1983)

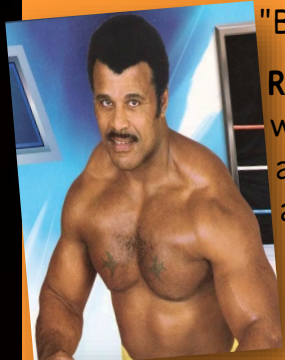
“First African-American WWF Tag Team Champions”



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."

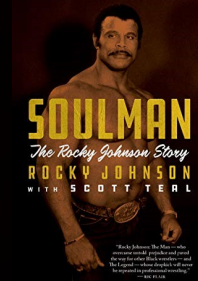
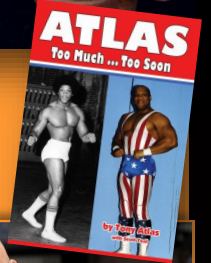


Rocky Johnson, born Wayde Douglas Bowles on August 24, 1944, was a Canadian professional wrestler and first black Georgia and Florida Heavyweight Champion. He began his career as a professional wrestler in 1964 in Southern Ontario, but soon after his debut, he legally changed his name to "Rocky Johnson"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

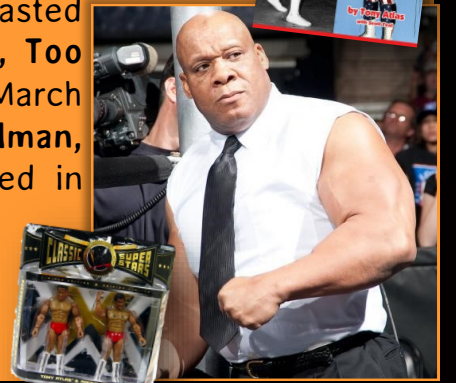


The famous wrestling duo's Championship reign would last 154 days before being defeated by Adrian Adonis and Dick Murdoch. Those titles would be referred to later as the World Tag Team Championships.

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.





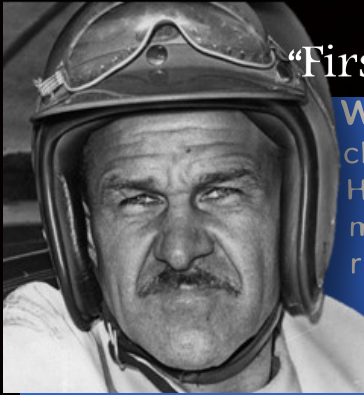
The Clerk's Black History Series

Debra DeBerry Clerk of Superior Court DeKalb County Wendell Oliver Scott



(August 29, 1921 – December 23, 1990)

“First African-American to be Inducted in NASCAR Hall of Fame”



Wendell Oliver Scott was born August 29, 1921 in Danville, Virginia. As a child, Wendell loved speed and raced everything from bicycles to roller skates. He began learning auto mechanics from his father, who worked as a driver and mechanic for two well-to-do white families. He dropped out of high school, got married and drove taxis until he joined the segregated Army, during WWII.

After serving three years in the military as a mechanic in the motor pool, Wendell returned home and opened an auto-repair shop. He took side jobs running moonshine and honed his “racing” skills, running from the police. The police caught Wendell only once in 1949 and he was sentenced to three years probation.

On the weekends, Wendell attended stock car races in Danville. He wanted to drive for NASCAR, but was repeatedly denied, because of his race. He then started racing in the Dixie Circuit and won his first race just 12 days later.

Wendell competed in up to five races a week, facing constant harassment and racial discrimination. Although he was a quiet man, some of the other drivers would wreck his car on purpose - knowing he wouldn't retaliate. However, his calm demeanor and superior driving skills soon won over spectators and other drivers who saw Wendell as just another hard-working, blue-collar man, who loved the sport of race car driving.

Even though he was successful in the Dixie Circuit, Wendell knew the only way to earn real racing credibility was by entering the all-white ranks of NASCAR. He towed his car to the next NASCAR event at old Richmond Speedway. There, he approached the race steward and asked him face-to-face for a NASCAR race license. The race steward was hesitant and warned Wendell that some people might retaliate, but issued the license anyway. Wendell was in. He was officially licensed for a NASCAR event.

Wendell went on to win dozens of races and earned the admiration of white fans and fellow racers. In 1959 he won two championships and in 1961, he moved up to the Grand National Series.

On December 1, 1963, at Speedway Park in Jacksonville, Florida, driving a baby blue #34 Chevrolet Bel Air, Wendell Scott won his first Grand National event - the first ever won by an African-American.

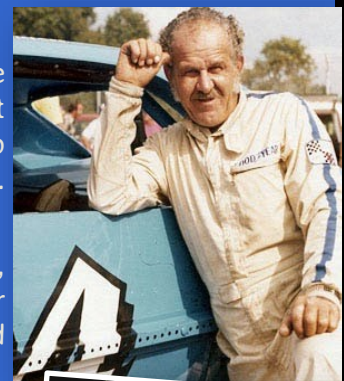
Unfortunately, Wendell was not announced as the winner at the time. The second-place driver was initially declared the winner, but race officials discovered two hours later that Wendell had not only won, but was two laps in front of the rest of the field, in the 100-lap event. By the time they corrected the error, the crowd was gone as well as the trophy. Wendell left with only the winning check of \$1000.



Wendell Scott competed in 495 Grand National races, with 147 top -10 finishes before he retired in 1973 after an accident in Talladega, Alabama. He continued working on race cars until his death on December 23, 1990.

In 2010, Wendell's family finally received the 1963 Grand National trophy he had earned 47 years earlier. Twenty years after his death.

Wendell Oliver Scott was Inducted into the NASCAR Hall of Fame on January 30, 2015.





The Clerk's Black History Series

Debra DeBerry Clerk of Superior Court DeKalb County



Yvonne Brathwaite Burke

(October 5, 1932 -)

"The First African-American to represent the West Coast in Congress"

"First Sitting Member of Congress to give Birth While Serving"

"Second African-American Woman Elected to Congress"

Yvonne Brathwaite Burke was born Perle Yvonne Watson on October 5, 1932, in Los Angeles, California as the only child to James A. Watson and the former Lola Moore Watson. Her father worked as a janitor for MGM Studios while her mother was an elementary school teacher and later a stockbroker. Yvonne grew up in a multi-ethnic neighborhood close to the commercial area of Los Angeles and excelled in academics in school. At the age of 15, she decided that she would eventually attend law school. In 1949 she graduated from high school and left home to attend the University of California at Berkeley where she pledged Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority. In her junior year she transferred to the University of California at Los Angeles and earned her undergraduate degree. By moving back in with her parents, she was able to save money to attend law school. In 1956 Yvonne graduated in the top third of her class to earn her juris doctorate from the University of Southern California Law School.



University of Southern California Law School.

Her political career began in earnest in 1966 when she was elected as the first African-American assemblywoman in California. In the 1966 election, Californians voted four new African American legislators into office, tripling the number of the Golden State's black legislators to a total of six.



The next year, these six legislators, including Yvonne, organized the Legislative Black Caucus, the first caucus of its kind in the United States.

She served three two-year terms in the California legislature as representative of the state's 63rd Assembly District. It was during this time that she met her husband, William Burke. Yvonne's next "first" came when she became the first African-American woman elected to Congress from California (or any state in the American West). She was chosen vice-chair of the 1972 Democratic National Convention, another first for African Americans, and remained in Washington D.C. for one six-year term, from 1972 to 1978.

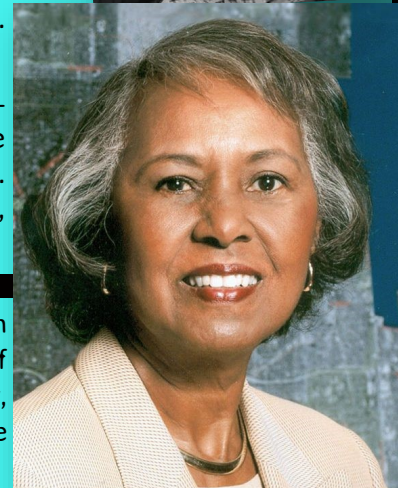


Yvonne Brathwaite Burke in its March 1973 issue, shortly after the birth of her daughter. As the first sitting Member of Congress to give birth while serving, and the second African-American woman in Congress, Burke's article, "The Kind of World I Want for My Child," offered a unique perspective. The essay covered her responsibilities to her community, the need for increased engagement with politics, and the challenges faced by young people in the 1970s.

Ebony magazine featured Representative

While in Congress, Burke also became the first member of Congress to give birth while in office, and the first representative to be granted maternity leave. Autumn, her daughter with husband William A. Burke, a Los Angeles businessman, was born in 1973.

After leaving the nation's capital, she became the first African American member of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors. In 1980, she joined the law firm of Jones, Day, Reavis, & Pogue, where she practiced law for a decade. She retired in December of 2008.





The Clerk's Black History Series

Debra DeBerry Clerk of Superior Court DeKalb County



Raye Jordan Montague

(January 21, 1935 – October 10, 2018)

“1st Woman Professional Engineer Recipient of the Society of Manufacturing Engineers Achievement Award”

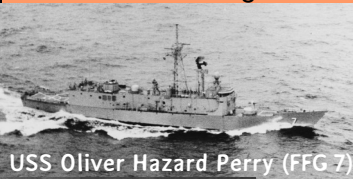
“Created the First Computer Generated Draft of a U.S. Naval Ship”



Raye Jordan was born on January 21, 1935, to Flossie and Rayford Jordan in Little Rock, Arkansas. Raye was a gifted child who excelled at math and science. At the age of seven, she visited a museum with her grandfather and saw captured German ships from WWI. She knew then she wanted to design ships. She graduated from Merrill High School in 1952 and even though she wanted to study in engineering, colleges in Arkansas would not allow African-Americans or anyone of color to pursue the degree at the time. Instead, she attended Arkansas Agricultural, Mechanical & Normal College (now University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff) and graduated in 1956 with a bachelor of science degree in business. Raye is quoted as saying she graduated on Tuesday and on Wednesday, she went to Washington, D.C. to take her resume to the U.S. Navy.

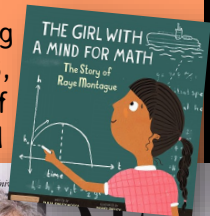
She soon began her career with the Navy in Carderock, Maryland, as a digital computer systems operator. Her desk was next to the department's UNIVAC I computer, and from observation only, she learned how it worked by watching her male, Ivy League colleagues. One day, when all of the engineers were out sick, Raye, used her keen memory and began running the computer. She was soon promoted to work on engineering projects, but only for the night-shift. Having no public transportation to get to work in the evening, Raye purchased a 1949 Pontiac and taught herself to drive. She continued developing her computer programming skills, and progressed, despite the daily obstacles.

In 1971, Raye was asked to design a Naval ship. Although it normally took two years to produce a ship's design on paper, Raye was given a month to complete the task. Eighteen hours and 56 minutes later, Raye Montague produced the first draft design for the FFG-7 frigate (the Oliver Hazard Perry-class ship). In honor of her breakthrough in the ship design process, Raye was awarded the Navy's Meritorious Civilian Service Award in 1972. Raye's design went on to become the lead ship of the class of guided-missile frigates - USS Oliver Hazard Perry (FFG 7). The Oliver Hazard Perry frigates replaced WWII's destroyers.



USS Oliver Hazard Perry (FFG 7)

Raye Montague spent 50 years in Washington, D.C., and 33 years working for the Navy and was honored many times throughout her career. In 1978, she became the first female professional engineer to receive the Society of Manufacturing Engineers Achievement Award. In 1988, she received the National Computer Graphics Association Award for the Advancement of Computer Graphics. When she retired in 1990, she was given a flag that flew over Washington, D.C., along with a certificate saying that it had been raised in her honor. When the movie *Hidden Figures* was released, Raye's name emerged again as another example of an African-American woman in technology whose work was critical to our country's advancement and success. In 2013, she was inducted into the Arkansas Black Hall of Fame and the Naval Sea Systems Command honored her as its own "hidden figure" in 2017.



**ENGINEERED
for GREATNESS**

In 2018, Raye Montague was inducted into the Arkansas Women's Hall of Fame and in the same year, a children's book called *The Girl with a Mind for Math*, a short story of her life, was published.

Raye remained very active with her sorority, Alpha Kappa Alpha, and continued working with many civic organizations until her death on Oct. 22, 2018, in Little Rock, Arkansas.