# February is Black History Month

## Sunday (SUN)
- **Bassie Coleman**, an aviation pioneer, was the first licensed Black pilot in the world. She received her license in 1921.
- **Robert Sengstacke Abbott** founded The Chicago Defender in 1905. It grew to have the highest circulation of any Black-owned newspaper in the U.S.
- **Henrietta Lacks** is known as the "mother of modern medicine." Her "HeLa cells" have been vital to medical research.

## Monday (MON)
- **Dr. Rebecca Lee Crumpler** was the first Black female doctor in the United States. She practiced in the late 1800s.
- **Freddie Figgers** operates Figgers Communication, the only Black-owned telecom company in America. He’s the youngest person to get an FCC license.
- **Mary Fields**, or "Stagecoach Mary," was the first Black woman to carry mail on a Star Route for the U.S. Post Office Department. She was born a slave.

## Tuesday (TUE)
- **Dr. Kizzmekia Corbett** is one of the key NIH scientists behind the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine.
- **Amanda Gorman** is a poet and activist. This year, she made history as the youngest presidential inaugural poet in U.S. history.
- **James West**, PhD invented the foil electret microphone. They are used in everything from telephones to computers.

## Wednesday (WED)
- **In 1960, sprinter Wilma Rudolph became the first American woman to win 3 gold medals in 1 Olympic Game.**
- **Brehanna Daniels** is the first Black woman to work in a NASA/CPR pit crew (fire changer).
- **In 2016, author&historian Ibram X. Kendi became the youngest author to receive a National Book Award for Nonfiction.**

## Thursday (THU)
- **Bayard Rustin**, known as "Mr. March on Washington," was one of the most effective organizers of the Civil Rights Movement.
- **Dr. Patricia Bath** was the first Black female doctor to receive a medical patent in the U.S. for her laser technology for cataract surgery.
- **Dr. Jennifer Eberhardt**’s work has contributed to the creation of one of the most effective bias training programs.

## Friday (FRI)
- **Martin Robinson Delaney** was the first African American field officer in the U.S. Army, one of the most serving during the Civil War, and an abolitionist.
- **Dr. Solomon Carter Fuller** was the first Black psychiatrist in the U.S. He did groundbreaking research on Alzheimer’s disease.
- **Brian Michael Smith** is the first Black trans man to be cast in a regular role on a TV series. He plays a firefighter in "Lone Star."**

## Saturday (SAT)
- **Bill Willis**, of the Cleveland Browns, broke pro football’s “color barrier” a full year prior to Jackie Robinson doing the same in major league baseball.
- **The U.S. Post Office on a Star Route for woman to carry mail was the first Black “Stagecoach Mary.”**
- **Marsha P. Johnson**, a Black trans woman and LGBTQ activist, was a prominent figure in the Stonewall uprising of 1969.
- **Freddie Figgers**, the youngest person to get an FCC license, is the first Black-owned telecom company in America. He’s the youngest person to get a FCC license.
- **Stephen Burrows** is the first Black fashion designer to gain international recognition. He won the Battle of Versailles in 1973.

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**Black History Month** recognizes and celebrates the achievements of the Black community and their contributions to this country. Black American history is indeed America’s history. Check out our calendar to learn some history, old and new. There is much to learn in February, and beyond.