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THE MASSACHUSETTS STATE HOUSE BLACK HISTORY MONTH ART DISPLAY FEBRUARY 4TH TO 14TH

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Secretary, Office of Elder Affairs

**THE MASSACHUSETTS STATE HOUSE
BLACK HISTORY MONTH ART DISPLAY
FEBRUARY 4TH TO 14TH**

OPENING CEREMONY:

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 1997 - NOON TO 1:00 P.M.
DORIC HALL, 2ND FLOOR OF THE
MASSACHUSETTS STATE HOUSE**

**GREETINGS: FRANKLIN P. OLLIVIERRE
SECRETARY, ELDER AFFAIRS**

**WELCOMING
REMARKS: CARL CRUZ, BRIDGEWATER
STATE COLLEGE, HALL OF
BLACK ACHIEVERS (HOBA).**

**TERRI CAPPUCCI, PHOTO -
JOURNALIST.**

**MARY FERNANDES,
NANTUCKET'S HISTORIC
AFRICAN MEETING HOUSE.**

FEATURED SPEAKER: SENATOR DIANNE WILKERSON

CLOSING: SHARNA SMALL, MBTA

APPRECIATION AND SPECIAL THANKS TO:

BANK OF BOSTON

HOUGHTON MIFFLIN COMPANY

**BHM Committee: Secretary Franklin P. Ollivierre, Jacqueline Whyte, Mary Fernandes,
Sharna Small, Philmore Anderson III, Annette Peele and Maurice Lewis**



Hall of Black Achievement is a Project of The Bridgewater State College Foundation.

WHAT IS HOBA?

“The Hall of Black Achievement (HOBA) is a project of the Bridgewater State College Foundation. HOBA is a repository of the records of the significant achievements and contributions of Blacks, Cape Verdeans, and Hispanics of African descent. The Hall serves as a forum for research, discussion, and analysis of the contributions that people of color continue to make to this country and beyond.

Bridgewater State College has taken a leadership role in the recognition of the achievements of people of color, the celebration of diversity, and the effort to make this country’s history inclusive. The hope is that HOBA will serve as a national model for the promotion of black history.”

*The 21 HOBA Inductees:

(*the details in back of program)

Charlotte Hawkins Brown, Educator
1882-1963

Frederick B. Douglas, Statesman,
Publisher, Abolitionist
1817-1895

W.E.B. DuBois, Scholar
1868-1963

Lewis Temple, Inventor
1800-1864

Sergeant William H. Carney, C.M.H.
Civil War Hero
1840-1908

Meta Vaux Warrick Fuller, Sculptor
1877-1968

Jorge H. Hernandez, Social Activist
1951-1986

Mary Eliza Mahoney, R.N.
First Black Nurse
1845-1926

Prince Hall, Founder First Black
Masonic Lodge
1735-1807

Roland Hayes, Musician & Composer
1887-1977

Jan Ernst Matzeliger, Inventor
1852-1889

Captain Paul Cuffee, Merchant Captain,
Businessman
1759-1817

Melnea Cass, Matriarch
1896-1979

William Monroe Trotter,
Publisher/Journalist
1872-1934

Elizabeth Carter Brooks, Social Activist
1861-1951

Phyllis Wheatley, Poet
1753-1784

Alfred J. Gomes, Esq. Attorney
1897-1974

Harriet Tubman, "The Moses of Her People"

Crius Attucks, American Revolution Hero
c.1723-1770

Major Taylor, World Championship 1 Mile Bicycle Race
1878-1932

Marian Anderson, Acclaimed opera contralto

Biography of Larry Johnson, Artist - HOBA Portraits:

"Born and raised in the Boston area, Larry Johnson has become a fixture of New England sports media. As a cartoonist for The Boston Globe sports page for over 25 years, Larry chronicles the highs and lows of the Boston sports scene. His humor is always fan directed and timely. Larry has seen Boston fans through the soaring Celtic seasons of the 80's as well as the seasonal roller coaster ride of the Red Sox. With his work syndicated nationally, as well as his role as the editorial cartoonist for the National Sports Daily, Larry's unique perspective on the world of sports is enjoyed from coast to coast.

In addition to his work in the sports world, both as a cartoonist and as a fine artist, Larry is very well respected and applauded for his limited edition prints and paintings. In recent years he has established himself as a sought after illustrator of children's works, bringing noted authors words to color such as poet Nikki Giovanni. For his work on Giovanni's "Knoxville Tennessee", Larry was admitted into The Society of Illustrators.

In recent years, Larry has also worn the hat of Vice President/Creative Director for Hanover Sport, an imprinted wear company specializing in apparel imprinted with his art.

Larry is frequently requested as a motivational speaker to youth groups, schools and organizations. He is the youth minister at Mt. Moriah Baptist Church in Brockton, MA. Both Larry and his work are featured on sports programming in the New England Broadcast market.

Larry was twice awarded the Associated Press' Editorial Cartoon Award. He was featured in magazines such as American Visions, Decor, Black Enterprise, Art Expo's preview and The Cosby Show, A Different World".

"Life In South Africa"

Looking for hope through the eyes of an American photojournalist determined to capture South African people in their every day reality.

The exhibit includes:

1. Razor Fence: School boys of the Umzumbe Mission School in South Africa, hold on to a razor fence. The fence was constructed to protect the students during school hours. Several months earlier, the schools principal was murdered on the school's property.
2. School Girl: A little girl hangs on to her lunch box at a primary school in Port Shepstone, South Africa.
3. Blind Man Votes: Escorted by a poll worker, a blond man is assisted as he votes for a president for the first time in his life. In April of 1994, south Africa experienced its first ever, all race election.

4. Cold Water: A poll worker hands a thirsty woman a cup of cold water as she waits in line to vote during the historical all race elections held in April of 1994. The voting process took over 3 days. Some of the voting lines were a mile long. Many people experienced heat stroke and dehydration due to waiting in the hot sun.
5. Funeral: The father of the child in the coffin weeps as family and friends gather to say good bye to the 5 year old girl who was killed along with four other family members in a car accident.
6. Mourning: A grandmother is comforted at the funeral of her only grandchild who was killed in a car accident along with four other family members. Extended family living in South Africa is still very common and many grandparents take care of their grandchildren during the day while the parents work.
7. Gilima Camp: A mother holds her sleeping child at the Gilima refugee Camp. The tents were donated and constructed by a local violence intervention organization. Many of the victims are women and children who are now surviving on food donations.
8. Cry: A small boy cries while he hands on to his mother's hand in the township of Gilima, where a refugee camp was set up after more violence erupted and homes were burned.
9. Wise: The details in the face of this older man shows the stress of years of struggle and pain. On Christmas morning of 1995, his entire family was murdered in front of him during an attack on the township of Shobashobane. This day is known as the Christmas Day Massacre of 1995.
10. Trivet: A young man holds a trivet found in a heap of rubble and ashes in what is left to his home in Shobashobane, South Africa. This is a result of the Christmas Massacre of 1995.
11. Albino: A beautiful albino boy stares into the photographers camera during a church service in the township of Gamalake. His mother told the photographer that her son has never seen anyone with fare skin other than himself.
12. Thirsty: A woman and her child offers the photographer a cup of water on a hot day in the Shobashobane Refugee Camp.
13. Orphan: A young boy stands at the window of his former home that was destroyed by fire during the "Christmas Massacre of 95" in Shobashobane , Port Shepstone, South Africa. The boy lost his family to violence.
14. Brothers: Two brothers stand in the doorway of their home that was built with mud and sticks in the squatters camp known as "Louisiana", outside of Port Shepstone, South Africa. After townships are destroyed through violence, many families are forced to relocate for their own protection.
15. Doorway: A boy stand in the doorway of his home in a squatters camp in the township of Gamalake in South Africa.
16. Mama's Broom: A domestic worker sits on the steps to take a break from sweeping. Years of being uneducated in the old South Africa has left many of the older generation

to continue in the only line of work that they know.

**Biography of Terri Cappucci,
Photo/Journalist of "Life In South
Africa":**

Terri Cappucci was born and raised in western Massachusetts. She graduated from Pioneer Valley Regional School in Northfield and attended a non denominational ministry training school in Nelspruite, South Africa in 1986. She graduated from Greenfield Community College in Greenfield with an associates degree in Liberal Arts. With photography being a hobby since her early teens, her professional experience began in January of 1993 with an internship as a news photographer for the Recorder, a daily Greenfield newspaper. In the same year, Cappucci became a freelance news photographer for the Union News in Springfield where she is now employed as a staff photographer. She recently won an honorable mention for the 1996 Gordon Parks Photography competition.

During her consistent travels to South Africa, Cappucci has developed close ties with both government organizations and social groups in South Africa. This has made it possible for her to meet President Nelson Mandella and former President of Zambia, Kenneth Kouhunda. She works closely with Reverend Danny Chetty, Director of Practical Ministries in Port Shepstone. Ms. Cappucci volunteers her time to document violent torn areas that this organization represents as they help to rebuild their homes, bring in food, medical and clothing to these families.

Her photographs are used in the organizations magazine.

Presently, Ms. Cappucci returns to South Africa twice a year to work on her photo documentary. When she is home in the United States, she is busy editing and printing photographs she has taken in the hopes of publishing a book. She currently resides in Turners Falls, Massachusetts with her husband and their six year old son. Both her husband and son have accompanied her in the past to South Africa, but they are now planning another trip together for June of 1997.

**African Meeting House On
Nantucket**

"The African Meeting House on Nantucket, at York and Pleasant Streets, was built in the 1820s by the trustees of; the African Baptist Church, which included Nantucket's only known black whaling captain, Absalom Boston. It stands in the center of a once flourishing community of free African Americans, Native Americans and Cape Verdeans which had its own stores, social institutions, and churches. Now owned by the Museum of Afro American History; on 46 Joy Street, the building first housed the African School and provided worship space for the York Street Baptist Church. Abolitionist and suffragist Anna Gardner, a Nantucket native, taught here for four years. The island public schools were integrated in the late 1840s after legal action by Eunice Ross, one of Gardner's pupils. Ross's action resulted in the passage by the Massachusetts legislature of the nation's first state equal educational opportunity law.

After the public schools were integrated, the African School closed and the congregation reorganized as the Pleasant

Street Baptist Church under the Reverend James E. Crawford. He served the congregation for forty years, the longest tenure of any island minister before or since. One of the nation's oldest community building built by free Africans for their own use, the building ceased being used for this purpose in the early decades of this century. It was sold, and the new owner remodeled the front in the 1920s to convert the building to a garage and warehouse.

The building was purchased in 1989 by the Museum of Afro American History in Boston and, thanks to a recent grant from the Massachusetts Historical Commission, is now in the process of restoration to its appearance when the Pleasant Street Baptist Society flourished there. Its restoration will provide a portal into life in a nearly forgotten island culture. A capital campaign is under way to complete the restoration. For information on tax-deductible contribution, call the Museum of Afro American History at 617-742-1854 and specify Nantucket".

The Nantucket African Meeting House exhibit includes:

1. Bless This House - Contralto Josephine White Hall.
2. African Meeting House On Nantucket 1991
3. Interior - Window And Wainscotting 1991
4. Interior Ceiling 1991
5. African Meeting House c1880
6. Portrait Of Captain Absalom F. Boston
7. African Meeting House On Nantucket 1989
8. Cross Sectional Views - Drawings Of African Meeting House - Interior

Special Thank You To:

The Black History Month Committee:

Secretary Franklin P. Ollivierre, Chairman.

Committee Members:

Jacqueline Whyte
Mary Fernandes
Sharna Small
Philmore Anderson III
Annette Peele
Maurice Lewis

Appreciation To Others:

Thomacina Dyett
Julius Babbit
Mark Bolling
Judge Joanne Thompson
Rachel Kemp
Toye Browne
and
THE CENTRAL
REPROGRAPHICS
DIVISION

Bridgewater State College
Hall of Black Achievement Inductees

Charlotte Hawkins Brown

Educator

1988 Hall of Black Achievement Inductee

Charlotte Hawkins Brown (1883-1961), founder of Palmer Memorial Institute, was born in Henderson, North Carolina. Her family moved to Cambridge, Massachusetts, where she attended the public schools of the city. She graduated from the State Normal School in Salem in 1901, and returned immediately to North Carolina determined to start a "farm-life" school. Near Sedalia she found an unoccupied shack. With the cooperation of residents and area churches, she opened a school and completed a year of teaching.

She returned to Massachusetts in the summer, organized a Sedalia Club to support the work of the school, and interested two families who underwrote the work for one year and donated a large tract of land for future growth and development.

Disaster struck the institution in December 1917, when a fire destroyed the wooden building. This loss opened the way for a series of new brick buildings, since staunch friends of Mrs. Brown, in both North Carolina and New England, raised money for the school. By 1920, the Julius Rosenwald Fund contributed to the maintenance and building program. Charlotte Brown continued to study while building and directing Palmer Memorial Institute. She received her college degree at Wellesley.

Frederick A. Douglass

Abolitionist

1988 Hall of Black Achievement Inductee

Frederick Douglass was the leading spokesman of American Negroes in the 1800's. Born a slave, Douglass became a noted author and speaker. He devoted his life to the abolition of slavery and the fight for Negro rights.

Frederick Augustus Washington Bailey was born in 1817, in Tuckahoe, Maryland. At the age of 8, he was sent to Baltimore to work for one of his master's relatives. There, helped by his new master's wife, he began to educate himself. He later worked in a shipyard, where he calked ships, making them watertight.

In 1838, the young man fled his master and went to New Bedford, Massachusetts. To avoid capture, he dropped his two middle names and changed his last name to Douglass. He got a job as a calker, but the other men refused to work with him because he was black.

Douglass then held a number of jobs, among them collecting rubbish and digging cellars.

In 1841, at a meeting of the Massachusetts Antislavery Society, Douglass told what freedom meant to him. The audience was so impressed that the society hired him to lecture about his experience as a slave. During the early 1840's, Douglass protested against segregated seating on trains by sitting

in cars reserved for whites. He had to be dragged from the white cars. Douglass also protested against religious discrimination. He walked out of church that kept blacks from taking part in a service until the whites had finished participating.

In 1845, Douglass published his autobiography, *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass*. He feared his identity as a runaway slave would be revealed when the book was published, so he went to England that same year. In England, Douglass continued to speak against slavery. He also found friends who raised enough money to buy his freedom.

Douglass returned to the United States in 1847 and founded an antislavery newspaper, *The North Star*, in Rochester, NY. In the 1850's, Douglass charged that employers hired white immigrants ahead of Black Americans. He felt the black man was being pushed aside in favor of the white immigrant "whose color is thought to give him a better title to the place." He accused even some abolitionist businessmen of job discrimination against Negroes.

Douglass also led a successful attack against segregated schools in Rochester. His home was a station on the underground railroad, which helped runaway slaves reach freedom.

During the Civil War, Douglass helped recruit blacks for the Union Army. He discussed the problems of slavery with President Abraham Lincoln several times. Douglas served as *Recorder of Deeds* in the District of Columbia from 1881 to 1886 and as U.S. minister to Haiti from 1889 to 1891. He wrote two expanded versions of his autobiography-- *My Bondage and My Freedom* (1855) and *Life and Times of Frederick Douglass* (1881). Frederick Douglass, fighter for justice, died in 1895.

William Edward Burghardt DuBois

Scholar

1988 Hall of Black Achievement Inductee

William E. B. DuBois (1868-1963), outstanding among Negro intellectuals and a militant civil rights leader, was born in Great Barrington, Massachusetts. His childhood in New England was a happy one until he experienced his first rejection because he was a Negro, when he was sharply snubbed by a newcomer at a school party. This incident helped set the course of the gifted youth's life. He became determined to establish a record of excellence in all of his school activities. At the age of sixteen, he graduated from college preparatory school with honors. Because of the influence of his mother and one of his teachers, he went to Fisk University instead of Harvard, where he had planned to study.

In 1888, DuBois entered Harvard, where he won the Boylston oratorical contest and was one of the six commencement speakers. After two years of study in Germany, he returned to America, receiving his Ph.D. in 1895. He accepted appointments to teach at Wilberforce University and the University of Pennsylvania before moving to Atlanta University to head the department of history and economics for 13 years. Here he wrote, for the *Atlantic Monthly*, *World's Work* and other magazines, articles that later were collected in *The Souls of Black Folk*, a sociological study of the Negro people.

Infuriated by the compromising leadership of Booker T. Washington at the turn of the century and by the denial of protection to Negro citizens as race riots spread throughout the North, DuBois backed the Niagara movement, advocating civil rights for Negroes. When the Springfield, Illinois, race riot shocked a group of liberal whites into forming a civil rights group, which later became the NAACP, they invited the participants of the Niagara movement to join them. With the establishment of the NAACP, DuBois became the editor of its *Crisis* magazine.

In 1919, he launched the Pan-African Congresses in Paris, to focus world opinion on the conditions and status of black men. In his fight against discrimination and economic exploitation of the Negro, DuBois published books, articles, and poems to set forth his views. Some of his works are: *The Suppression of the African Slave Trade*, 1896; *John Brown*, 1909; *Darkwater*, 1920; *Black Reconstruction*, 1935; *Black Folk Then and Now*; *Color and Democracy*, 1945; and *The World and Africa*. At the time of his death, he was living in Ghana and serving as editor-in-chief of the *Encyclopedia Africana*.

DuBois was generally recognized as one of the most incisive thinkers and effective platform orators in the United States, as well as one of the most profound scholars of his time and generation.

Lewis Temple (1800-1854)

Inventor

1988 Hall of Black Achievement Inductee

Lewis Temple was the inventor of a whaling harpoon, known as "Temple's Toggle" and "Temple's Iron," that became the standard harpoon of the whaling industry in the middle of the 19th century. Lewis Temple was a skilled blacksmith, not a whaler. He had never gone to sea. Temple was born a slave in Richmond, Virginia in 1800, and arrived in New Bedford, Massachusetts in 1829. By 1836, Temple was one of the 315,000 free Black people in the United States and a successful businessman who operated a whale craft shop on the New Bedford waterfront.

By 1836, Temple, a well-known citizen of New Bedford, was working as a blacksmith to support his wife, Mary Clark, whom he married in 1829, and their three children. In 1845, Temple was able to open a larger store.

The procuring of whale oil, whale meat and by-products was a leading industry in Massachusetts and New England. Whaling also provided thousands of jobs for seamen, many of whom were Black. Based on conversations with the whalers who came to his shop to have their whaling tools made and to buy harpoons, Temple probably learned that many whales escaped, since the harpoons used at the time were not particularly effective in holding a struggling whale.

In 1848, Lewis Temple invented a new type of harpoon, with a movable head that prevented the whale from slipping loose. The Temple Iron was more effective than any other harpoon that had ever been manufactured. The head on Temple's harpoon became locked in the whale's flesh, and the only way to free the harpoon was to cut it loose after the whale was killed.

Initially, whalers did not accept Temple's harpoon. However, after some trials, most whaling captains were convinced that Temple's "Toggle-Iron" was far superior to the ordinary barbed head harpoon. Lewis Temple never patented his invention, but was able to make a fairly good living

from his harpoon sales. This sum, of course, was nowhere near the fortune he could have made if he had patented his invention. Temple was able to buy the building next to his shop and, in 1854, arranged for construction of a blacksmith shop near Steamboat Wharf.

Temple accidentally fell one night while walking near his new shop construction site. He never fully recovered from his injuries. Temple was unable to return to work and money became scarce for his family. He died destitute in May 1854, at the age of 54. When his estate was settled, practically everything he owned was used to pay off his debts. Clifford Ashley, said in his book, *The Yankee Whaler*, that Temple's harpoon was "the single most important invention in the whole history of whaling."

Paul Cuffee

Colonizer

1990 Hall of Black Achievement Inductee

Paul Coffee (1759-1817), Negro shipowner and colonizer, was born near New Bedford, Massachusetts. As a free Negro whose father had been a slave, Cuffee became greatly concerned over the status of the Negro in his native state and throughout America to the extent that he became one of the first to advocate African colonization as a solution to the incipient racial problem. In 1811, he traveled to Sierra Leone, a British colony on the West Coast of Africa, where he founded the Friendly Society of Sierra Leone, for the emigration of free Negroes from America. In 1815, he spent \$4,000 of his own funds to transport 38 Negroes to Sierra Leone. He had planned more expeditions to Africa, but his health failed and he dies in 1817.

A successful shipbuilder and shipowner, he accumulated an estate worth more than \$20,000. In 1797, at a price of \$3,500, he purchased for himself and his Indian wife, Alice Pequit, a farm on which he built a school for free Negro children. He and his brother, John Cuffee, entered a suit, as taxpayers, against the state of Massachusetts for the right to vote; but they were unsuccessful in winning the case. Several years later, legislation was adopted to correct this unjust practice. The Negro entrepreneur campaigned regularly against discriminatory practices faced by the Negroes in America. His association with whites was unquestioned, and he was received by the Quakers as a member of the Westport Society of Friends.

Melnea Cass (1896-1978)

First Lady of Roxbury

1990 Hall of Black Achievement Inductee

Melnea Agnes Cass was born in Richmond Virginia, on June 16, 1896, the eldest of three daughters of Mary Drew Jones and Albert Jones, who grew up in Richmond and had perhaps a fourth or fifth grade education. Her father was a janitor and her mother a domestic worker. As her father wished to improve the family's economic and educational opportunities, he moved them to Boston, Massachusetts to the South End, when Cass was five years old. Cass was eight years old when her mother dies; thereafter, she and her sisters were raised by their father and their Aunt Ella, as Cass said "stepped in as a second mother". After a few years their aunt moved the girls to Newburyport, Massachusetts and placed in the care of Amy Smith.

Melnea Jones Cass began her education in the public schools of Boston. After graduating from grammar school in Newburyport, she attended Girls' High School in Boston for one year. Her aunt then enrolled her in St. Frances de Sales Convent School, a Catholic school for black and Indian girls in Rock Castle, Virginia. Cass graduated in 1914 as Valedictorian of her class. She returned to Boston to the home that her Aunt Ella had established for the girls.

Cass looked for work as a salesgirl in Boston, but found that there were no opportunities for blacks. She decided to become a domestic worker. She did this type of work until her marriage in December, 1917 to Marshall Cass. While her husband was in the service, their first child, Marshall, was born. After his return from the war, they had two other children, Marianne and Melanie. Her husband died in 1958.

Cass became involved in community projects. She helped to organize people to register to vote after the Nineteenth amendment to the Constitution was passed in 1920. Cass organized black women to cast their first vote. She was involved in women's suffrage activities for the rest of her life. As a young woman, she attended William Monroe Trotter's lectures and protest meetings and was a faithful reader of *The Guardian*.

It was in the 1930's that Melnea Cass began a lifetime of volunteer work on the local, state, and national level. She first contributed her services to the Robert Gould Shaw House, a settlement house and community center. She was the founder of the Kindergarten Mothers. her community activities over the years were numerous and varied: Pansy Embroidery Club, Harriet Tubman Mothers' Club and the Sojourner Truth Club, worked in the Northeastern Region of the National Association of Colored Women's Clubs as a secretary, helped form the Boston local of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters to name a few. During World War II she was one of the organizers of Women in Community Service, which later became Boston's sponsor of the Job Corps. In 1949 she was a founder and charter member of Freedom house which was conceived by Muriel and Otto Snowden. Her other community activities are too numerous to mention. Melnea Cass was always at the forefront of making opportunities for the improvement in the quality of life for Blacks in Boston.

Melnea Cass closed her eyes in death on December 16, 1978. She was known for her selflessness, goodwill, common sense, humility, and enthusiasm.

William Harvey Carney

Civil War Hero

1991 Hall of Black Achievement Inductee

William Harvey Carney (1840-1908), famed for the words "The Old Flag never touched the ground!" and hero of the 54th Massachusetts Regiment in the Civil War, was born in Norfolk, Virginia, and attended a private school that was conducted secretly by a minister. His home, which is now officially called the "Sergeant Carney Memorial House," has become a shrine. Carney himself is depicted in the Saint-Gaudens monument which immortalizes Colonel Robert Gould Shaw and his intrepid colored troops. Carney's features are represented on the face of one of the soldiers following his commander. The flag rescued by Carney is enshrined in Memorial Hall, Boston.

Early in 1863, William Carney, then 23 years old, enlisted in the Morgan Guards, which became part of the 54th Massachusetts regiment. In July 1863, the regiment was engaged in the disastrous battle at Fort Wagner. When Carney saw that the color sergeant, the soldier who carried the flag, had been wounded, he rescued the flag, going through a volley of enemy bullets. Delivering it to a squad of his own regiment, he shouted, "The Old Flag never touched the ground!" Then Carney fell to the ground in a dead faint, weak from the wounds that he had received. Mustered out of the army in 1864, he went to New Bedford, Massachusetts before going to California. In 1870, he returned to New Bedford and became one of the four men employed as letter carriers. After 31 years in the postal service, he retired in 1901, then spent his last years as an employee at the state capitol, in Boston.

Carney was in great demand as a leader of Memorial Day parades and as a speaker at patriotic events. In 1904, he was the Memorial Day orator at the Shaw Monument on Boston Common.

William Monroe Trotter (1872-1934)

Civil Rights Leader and Journalist

1991 Hall of Black Achievement Inductee

William Monroe Trotter, a reform journalist and militant civil rights leader, was born in Boston, Massachusetts. He graduated from the Hyde Park High School in 1890 as an honor student and entered Harvard University, where he received his Bachelor's degree magna cum laude. He had been elected to the Phi Beta Kappa honor fraternity during his junior year.

Trotter's career was launched in Boston as a real estate broker, but his ultimate goal was achieved in 1901, when he established the militant newspaper, *The Guardian*. The main purpose of the newspaper was "propaganda against discrimination based on color and denial of citizenship rights because of color".

The *Guardian* became a national institution, and so did its editor William Monroe Trotter. He opposed all compromises on civil rights, whether they were proposed by Booker T. Washington or President William Howard Taft. On July 30, 1903, at the Columbus Avenue African Zion Church in Boston, Booker T. Washington was the featured speaker. Trotter and his followers hissed and interjected remarks to such an extent during the course of Washington's address that the police had to be called; some sources say that Trotter threw a stench bomb in the audience. Trotter and his cohorts were arrested, fined and sentenced to the Charles Street Jail for 30 days. He detested Washington's leadership and compromising position, collaborating instead with W.E.B. DuBois, in 1905, in the organization of the Niagara movement, forerunner of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

As the "watchdog" of discrimination, Trotter did not hesitate to protest to the President of the United States. In 1906, he challenged Theodore Roosevelt over the discharge of three companies of the 25th United States Infantry Regiment in an incident in Brownsville, Texas. In 1910, he organized a successful demonstration against the showing of the Negro-baiting play, *The Clansman in Boston*; and again, in 1915, he picketed the theater where *Birth of a Nation* was being shown. He was arrested, tried, and eventually acquitted for this demonstration.

Trotter led a delegation to protest the discriminatory policy against Negro employees in government offices. His greatest feat occurred in 1919, when the Paris Peace Conference was convened. Trotter applied for a passport and was denied. In order to get around the denial, Trotter learned to cook and to reach Europe he obtained a job on a transatlantic steamer as a second cook. In Paris, he appeared at the conference as a delegate of the National Equal Rights League and as Secretary of the Race petitioners to the Peace Conference. Returning home, Trotter continued his militant struggle until his death in 1934. By this time, he was practically penniless, having exerted all of his efforts in the fight for civil rights. William Monroe Trotter as a dedicated man to the cause of civil rights for Black people worldwide.

Meta Vaux Warrick Fuller (1877-1968)

Sculptor

1992 Hall of Black Achievement Inductee

Celebrated as a sculptor whose artistic and understanding of the Black Experience was well ahead of her contemporaries. Meta Fuller was the first Black American artist to draw heavily on African themes and folk tales for her subject matter. She was a native of Philadelphia and the product of Black middle-class rearing. She attended the Pennsylvania Museum School of Industrial Arts (now the Philadelphia College of Art) from 1894 to 1899 and continued her studies at the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts in Philadelphia from 1903 to 1907. By 1902, however, Fuller was already an established artist in Paris, where her work had been exhibited at S. Bing's famous gallery for modern art and design.

In choosing her subject matter she looked to the songs of Black Americans and to African folk tales for inspirational themes that focused on pathos and joy in the human condition. Fuller introduced America to the power of Black American and African subjects long before the Harlem Renaissance was under way. Under Fuller, the aesthetics of the Black visual artist seemed inextricably tied to the taste of white America; more particularly, perhaps, to subject matter and definitions of form derived from European art. Framingham, Massachusetts, and the city of Boston represented for her the partial fulfillment of the European ideal in America. Indeed, Harlem itself was never home for Meta Warrick Fuller, but the ideals of the Harlem renaissance were hers in form and spirit. She exhibited in Washington, D.C. with the Harmon Foundation and later traveled to New York to serve as a juror for their exhibitions, which represented the most outstanding examples of art by Black Americans at that time.

In 1914, Fuller created a sculpture which anticipated the spirit and style of the Harlem renaissance. Entitled *Ethiopia Awakening*, it symbolized the emergence of the New Negro. Her desire to awaken Black people to the consciousness of nationhood and anticolonialism is evident in her choice of the African motif: Africa is on the brink of self-propulsion and self-fulfillment in *Ethiopia Awakening*. Fuller's work was precocious, communicating a message of hope in what seemed like a hopeless world beset with war and famine which made a travesty of the edict of peace purported to exist among the nations of the Western world.

The culminating statement of the artist's career is found in her celebrated work, *Talking Skull*, executed in 1937. An African male kneels gently in front of a skull silently communicating his thoughts, undisturbed by the gulf which separates life from death. Dramatic in its appeal to have us

reason with ourselves to see our final end, the work is convincing in its symbolic traditional means of communicating the mysteries of life and death.

Jorge Hernandez- (1951-1986)

Social Activist

1992 Hall of Black Achievement Inductee

Leaving behind his native land of Puerto Rico, Jorge N. Hernandez moved to Massachusetts in 1961 to study and to fight for the Puerto Rican Community in Boston. He received his undergraduate degree from Cornell University and a Masters Degree in Design from Harvard.

He served as the driving force behind IBA (Inquilinos Boricuas en Accion, or Puerto Rican Tenants in Action) and continued the development of Villa Victoria. Jorge N. Hernandez was executive director of IBA (Inquilinos b. in accion) from 1977 to 1986 after serving as special assistant to the executive director for two years.

Inquilinos Boricuas en Accion (IBA) was established in 1968 largely by the Puerto Rican residents of Parcel 19, a South End community whose existence was threatened by Urban Renewal. rallying to the cry "We shall not be moved from Parcel 19," the residents won the right to control their community's redevelopment. The result was the creation of Villa Victoria, an 884-unity low and moderate income neighborhood which today houses more than 3,000 residents. IBA is proud to hold the distinction of being one of the most successful community development models in the United States.

Jorge N. Hernandez was what the Boston Globe called an "articulate voice" and Boston's mayor Ray Flynn described Jorge Hernandez as "one of the truly great community leaders in the long history of Boston's ethnic development. A dedicated fighter, a hard-working visionary, Jorge was able to harness and direct the enormously productive energy of Boston's Hispanic community."

Mary Eliza Mahoney (1845-1926)

First Black Trained Nurse in America

1992 Hall of Black Achievement Inductee

At the New England Hospital for Women and Children in Roxbury, Massachusetts, a three-by-five, black, paper-covered memorandum book is kept under lock and key, along with other historical materials dealing with the founding and operation of this institution devoted to the medical and nursing education of women. On page 52 of this simple little book, the name Mary Mahoney has been inscribed. Thus began the record of the indomitable courage of the 90 pound Negro woman who became the first graduate nurse of her race in America.

Mary Mahoney was born in Boston in 1845, an unverified report gives the date as April 16. She lived with her parents, Charles Mahoney and Mary Jane Stewart Mahoney, at 31 Westminster Street, Roxbury.

Could she have known how much her enrollment in a school of nursing was to mean to the future of nursing, that knowledge might have helped her over the rough places which she trod. It might have eased for her the fatigue of the 16 hour day and the weariness of a 7 day week devoted to washing and ironing, cleaning and scrubbing which was the lot of student nurses of her day.

Unlike many blacks of her day, Mary Mahoney decided not to go into domestic work, but enrolled in nursing school. In 1879, out of a class of 40 students, only she, at age 34, and two other white students graduated. With her graduation, Mahoney changed the face of nursing. Black students were accepted to the school as long as they met the requirements. Also, as a professionally trained nurse, she was noted for her expert care of the sick.

Mahoney recognized the need for nurses to work together to improve the status of blacks in the profession. She became an inspiration to The National Association of Colored Graduate Nurses and helped make it possible for the nurses to be received at the White House by President Warren G. Harding. Because of her dedication and untiring will to inspire future generations, Mary Eliza Mahoney has been an inspiration to thousands of men and women of color who are part of the nursing profession.

Prince Hall

*Founder First Black Masonic Lodge
1992 Hall of Black Achievement Inductee*

Prince Hall (1735-1807), founder of the oldest Negro fraternal organization in America, was born in Barbados, British West Indies, in 1735, the son of an English father and a free Negro mother. he was first trained to become a skilled leather worker but after a few years of training gave up that apprenticeship and migrated to Boston, Massachusetts, where he became a leader in the Negro community of the city.

During the Revolutionary War, Prince Hall and 14 other free men of color were inducted into the Masonic Lodge by a group of British soldiers stationed in Boston, When the British Army evacuated the area the following year, Hall organized the first Masonic Lodge for Negroes in America. He obtained a charter from England in 1787 for the African Lodge Number 459. he was elected master of the organization and set up African Lodges in Philadelphia and Rhode Island in 1797. The name African Grand Lodge was changed to the Prince Hall Grand Lodge after the organizer's death in 1807.

The founder of Negro Freemasonry was a champion of Negro rights. A self-educated man and a clergyman, he recognized the value of education and, in 1787, campaigned for the establishment of schools for Negro children in Boston. He was a property owner of the city, which entitled him to vote and participate in the affairs of the state. He petitioned the Massachusetts legislature to support the cause of emancipation and especially the protection of free Negroes from kidnapping and being sold into slavery.

As a patriotic citizen of Massachusetts, he had asked the Committee of Safety for the colonies to allow him to join the Continental Army, which was organized by the Second Continental Congress with George Washington as the commander-in-chief. His petition was approved, and he served in the Continental Army during the Revolution.

Dr. Elizabeth Carter Brooks (1867-1951)

Social Activist

1993 Hall of Black Achievement Inductee

The first African-American woman hired as a public school teacher in New Bedford, Massachusetts, Elizabeth Carter Brooks was committed to equality. The child of a former slave, she studied diligently at New Bedford High School, the Swain Free School of Design, and the Harrington Normal Training in New Bedford.

In 1895, as an outgrowth of the First National Conference of the Colored Women of America, the National Federation of Afro-American Women was formed. Mrs. Brooks, then living in Brooklyn, New York, where she taught school, became the first recording secretary. She helped form and then served as president of the Northeastern Federation of Colored Women's Clubs. Mrs. Brooks would later become the fourth president of the National Association of Colored Women, a post she held from 1908-1912.

It was always her dream to provide a home for the New Bedford's elderly citizens. She saw her dream realized in 1897 when she opened the New Bedford Home for the Aged. She served as president of the city's first organized home for the elderly and served the home for many years thereafter.

Elizabeth Carter married Bishop William Sampson Brooks in 1930 and relocated to Texas where she lived until his death in 1934. On June 14, 1934, she was awarded the doctor of law degree from Wilberforce University in Wilberforce, Ohio. She returned to New Bedford and became active as president of the New England Conference Branch Woman's Mite Missionary Society. She also presided over the regional conference of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People as well as headed its New Bedford branch.

The Martha Briggs Educational Club was a beneficiary of Carter Brooks' generosity when, in 1939, she loaned them the money to purchase the home of Sgt. William H. Carney, for historical purposes. The home still serves as a memorial today. Following her death in 1951, she was honored by New Bedford when the Elizabeth Carter Brooks School was dedicated in her name.

Phillis Wheatley (1753-1784)

Poet

1994 Hall of Black Achievement Inductee

A young girl believed to be between the ages of six and eight came to America aboard a slave ship in 1761. This young girl, Phillis Wheatley, was believed to have come from Ethiopia or Senegal, West Africa, and left a substantial mark on American history. She was to overcome the inhumane institution of slavery to become one of this country's greatest poets and the first black American woman to publish a book.

Luckily for Phillis Wheatley she was purchased from John Wheatley, a wealthy merchant tailor, for his wife Susannah. Once in the Wheatley home, Phillis was treated as a daughter and assigned chores relative to the status of a lady. Phillis exhibited an astounding ability to learn and in just sixteen months she mastered the English language. At the age of 14, she began to write poetry and quickly gained the attention of the most distinguished Bostonians.

In 1770, only nine years after her arrival to this country, she published her first poem, "On the Death of the Rev. Mr. George Whitefield," which gained the attention of the Countess of Huntington in England. Three years later, Phillis visited England and before she left, the Countess arranged to have a volume of her poems published. In 1773, the first book of poems by an American black woman was published, *Poems on Various Subjects, Religious and Moral*.

In 1774, shortly after this historic occasion, her mistress, Mrs. Susannah Wheatley died. Four years later, after the death of her master, Mr. Wheatley, Phillis became a free woman, leading to hard times and poverty. One month after the death of John Wheatley, she married John Peters. This marriage did not improve Phillis' circumstances and she was forced to work as a servant. She bore three children, all died shortly after birth, and Phillis herself died within a few hours of her third delivery on December 5, 1784.

Alfred J. Gomes (1897-1974)

Attorney

1994 Hall of Black Achievement Inductee

Born June 14, 1897 in the Cape Verdean Islands, he came to New Bedford at the age of seven and was educated in the New Bedford Public Schools. He worked to finance his own college education and graduated from Boston University Law School in 1923. Having attained this level of education he became one of the first Cape Verdean-born Americans to receive a doctor of jurisprudence degree.

Returning to New Bedford after graduation he became one of the city's most prominent civic and community leaders. He was especially concerned with promoting the aspirations and betterment of the Cape Verdean people in this country and in his homeland.

Attorney Gomes' accomplishments are vast and substantial. Some of his most significant activities and contributions include: serving as a member of the New Bedford Institute of Technology Board of Trustees, now known as the University of Massachusetts- Dartmouth; founding the Nantucket Lightship Memorial Scholarship Fund/ The Seaman's Memorial Scholarship Fund which assisted many Cape Verdean-Americans to achieve academic prominence; helping establish the Verdean Veterans Achievement Awards; serving as a member of the Fall River Diocesan School committee for which he received the Marian Award for his works of charity; serving on the New Bedford Boys' Club Board of Directors for more than 40 years; and organizing the first Cape Verdean Boy Scout troop at the Cape Verdean Benefit Association.

Attorney Gomes was an extremely successful fund raiser and philanthropist. In 1942, he organized a Cape Verde Relief fund and succeeded in raising forty thousand dollars for food and clothing for the needy, and in 1956 he helped to organize the Our Lady of the Assumption Fund Drive. In addition to fundraising and financial support, he organized and donated much time to promoting

Cape Verdean models, instrumentalists, dancers, and vocalist presenting them in exhibits and festivals. He was considered one of the prolific historians and researchers of Cape Verdean history and culture.

On November 7, 1974, Attorney Alfred J. Gomes died. His whole life was one of dedication and service to his fellow citizens, with particular concern for the youth of the city of New Bedford.

Roland Hayes (1887-1977)

Musician and Composer

1995 Hall of Black Achievement Inductee

Roland Hayes (1887-1977) was the first black male to win acclaim in America and Europe as a concert artist. A native of Georgia and the son of ex-slaves, his family moved to Tennessee when he was thirteen. He obtained his basic music training in Chattanooga with Arthur Calhoun and at Fisk University in Nashville. Later he studied with Arthur Hubbard in Boston and with George Henschel and Amanda Ira Aldridge in London, England. Hayes began singing in public even during his student days and in 1911 toured with the Fiske Jubilee Singers.

Seizing every opportunity to sing before the public, he arranged his own recitals, including several coast to coast tours during the years 1916-19. He became well known in the black communities of the nation and was "imported" to sing at all the important musical events.

Although Roland Hayes was unable to get a professional manager early in his career, that did not stop him from his quest to sing. He invested in himself and raised the money to finance his own concerts at Jordan Hall and Symphony Hall in Boston. Hayes was a talented success but financially didn't do well. Like many American artists before him, Roland Hayes headed for Europe. There he hoped to continue to be the student of vocal art as well as work at his profession. Slowly but surely, he became known in many circles. He gave a number of recitals, one of which was at the Royal Chapel. His recitals of spirituals was well received. He was also invited to sing at Wigmore Hall. Suffering from pneumonia, Roland gave a moving performance and the British newspapers acclaimed him as a musician of the first class. Mr. Hayes was invited to sing before the King and Queen of England.

Roland Hayes returned to America. He was now able to get the professional management and promotion that had been denied him. Boston Symphony's manager, William Brennan, signed him up for 30 concerts. Hayes performed throughout the western world during his long career. He enjoyed an international reputation during the 1920-40's as a concert tenor. He encouraged the development of young talent and served as mentor to several young artists, giving freely of his talent and time as well as financial aid. In 1924, Hayes was awarded the Spingran Medal by the N.A.A.C.P. He taught at Ohio State University and received numerous awards for outstanding contributions in music and the betterment of his people and all people. Roland Hayes dies in 1977, but his contributions will be with us until time indefinite.

Jan Ernst Matzeliger

Inventor

1995 Hall of Black Achievement Inductee

Jan Ernst Matzeliger (1852-1889), a shoemaker, was born in Paramaribo, Dutch Guiana, the son of a Negro woman and a Dutch engineer, in whose machine shop he began working at the age of 10. Although he could speak little English, young Jan earned his passage to the United States as a sailor. He found work in Philadelphia and later moved to Lynn, Massachusetts, where he learned shoemaking, a trade in which he worked for the remainder of his life. Before he died, he had invented the lasting machine which revolutionized the manufacture of shoes and helped make Lynn the shoe capital of the world.

Mechanization of shoemaking had been applied to the cutting and stitching of leather, but the final problem of shaping and attaching the upper portion of the shoe to the leather sole still remained. This slow, tedious task, which was done by the shoemakers working by hand, produced a bottleneck: the men could not finish a shoe rapidly as the machine produced its parts.

Matzeliger recognized the problem as he worked at his bench, stretching, shaping and attaching each shoe to its sole. In secret, he experimented with a crude wooden machine and then with an iron model, on which he worked for 10 years until he had perfected it. He sent his diagrams to Washington D.C., for a patent and on March 20, 1883, received his grant for the "lasting machine." He had invented a machine which held the shoe on the last, gripped and pulled the leather down around the heel, set and drove in the nails and then discharged the completed shoe.

Harriet Tubman

"The Moses of Her People"

1996 Hall of Black Achievement Inductee

Harriet Tubman (c.1820-1913), daring woman conductor on the Underground Railroad, escaped from slavery and then dared to return to her former master's plantation to help others escape to freedom. One of 11 children, she was born in Dorchester County, Maryland. In 1857, at great personal risk, she helped three of her brothers and sisters escape from slavery. Later, she liberated her mother and father.

Harriet's early life on the slave-breeding plantation in Maryland was a typical one, with the exception of an incident which made her incapable of being a "breeder." As a young girl, when she had been hired out as a fieldhand, she received a severe blow on the head from a weight that had been thrown at another slave by an enraged overseer. The damage from the blow caused her to suffer from "sleeping seizures."

Around 1844, she married a free Negro named John Tubman, but she remained a slave. When the master of her plantation died in 1849, the rumor spread among the slaves that they were to be sold in the Deep South. Harriet and two of her brothers decided to escape. Always in dread of recapture, the brothers returned, but Harriet fixed her gaze on the North Star as guide. With sheer determination, walking by night and hiding by day, she finally arrived in Philadelphia.

Two years later, she returned to Maryland for her husband, but he had married another woman. This disappointing news gave her increased determination to help others to escape bondage. She had already rescued a sister and a brother in December 1850, and in December 1851, she had successfully led a party of 11 into Canada. By now, Harriet had developed the hard and dauntless characteristics of a "trail boss." If the fugitive became faint-hearted and wanted to return, she did not hesitate to level her pistol at the victim, saying, "You go on or die." Her reputation as a conductor on the Underground Railroad is best expressed in her own words: "... I nebber run my train off de track and I nebber los' a passenger."

It was in 1857 that she brought her aged parents to freedom and settled them in Auburn, New York, where she purchased a modest home from William H. Seward. The antislavery workers of New England and New York helped her raise the funds for the home, which she turned into a home for the elderly Negroes after the War. She remarried, and some authorities speak of her as Harriet Tubman Davis.

William H. Seward tried to get her a government pension from Congress for her heroic and dauntless courage in the cause of freedom. A tablet commemorating her work was unveiled in Auburn on June 12, 1914, by the Cayuga County Historical Association. Harriet Tubman trusted in God on her many journeys into and out of the South. Prayer was her constant companion and consolation whenever she was in danger.

Crispus Attucks

American Revolution Hero

1996 Hall of Black Achievement Inductee

Crispus Attucks (c.1723-1770), one of the first men to die for American freedom, was a fugitive slave who had escaped from his master and had worked for twenty years as a merchant seaman. When Samuel Adams, prominent leader of the struggle against British domination of the American colonies, called upon the dock workers and seamen in the port of Boston to demonstrate against the British troops guarding the customs commissioners, Crispus Attucks responded to the plea. Aroused by Adams' exhortations, a group of 40 to 50 patriots, armed with clubs, sticks and snowballs, approached the British soldiers. Attucks was apparently in the front line of the aroused citizens, urging them on. Suddenly there was a terse order- "Fire!" The British troops responded with a barrage of rifle fire.

Crispus Attucks was the first to fall in the celebrated "Boston Massacre" of 1770. Four other Americans died that fatal night from the action. Samuel Adams used the incident to incite the colonists to further rebellion. Although only five people were killed, Adams termed it a "massacre" of innocent citizens by the tyrannical mother country. Paul Revere published a poem and a drawing of this famous incident in the *Boston Gazette* on March 12, 1770. Writers who omit Crispus Attucks' name from the accounts of the American revolution might as well dismiss the "Boston Massacre" as an irrelevant incident in the struggle for independence.

Marshall Walter "Major" Taylor (1878-1932)

Champion Cyclist

1997 Hall of Black Achievement Inductee

It is difficult for us today, to reach back in our imaginations to recreate the thrill and excitement of bicycle track racing between 1890 and 1910. Yet it was, nearly one hundred years ago, a hugely popular and surprisingly modern sport. In fact, among spectator sports in the United States during those two decades, it was certainly as popular as, if not more popular than, baseball, boxing or horse racing. About a thousand professional bicycle racers competed fiercely for lucrative prizes, and only a few big champions walked away with the coveted honors. Bicycle racing appealed to people from all social strata. Competition was fast and intense, often rough and dangerous. In a world without cars, motorcycles or airplanes, racing cyclists were the fastest humans on earth. They were heroic and glamorous figures.

Into this supercharged sport, a small wiry and extremely fast black teenager emerged -- Marshall W., nicknamed "Major", Taylor. In a world where black people were expected to know their place and not to challenge the dominance of whites, the success of this plucky, determined youngster against white competitors came as a disturbing shock and his astounding speed as a revelation. Marshall Walter Taylor, the son of Taylor and Saphronia Kelter Taylor, was born on the outskirts of Indianapolis on November 26, 1878. He was one of eight children, five girls and three boys, raised in humble, rural poverty not far from the noise and bustle of a rapidly expanding industrial city. As a young boy, he became the playmate and companion to Dan Southard and lived in the Southards house and was treated like another son. This period of living and learning in the Southard house lasted from the time he was about eight to twelve or thirteen. He was introduced to class, a race, and a world of wealth and privilege. Besides learning to read and write from a private tutor, he learned to talk, think and relate to others in ways different from those he would have learned in a simple rural environment.

Marshall was soon thrust into the real world from the artificial comfort and security when the Southard family decided to move to Chicago. With his most prized possession, the bicycle, the Southards gave him when they left Indianapolis, Marshall began to earn his first few dollars doing what so many children do, getting up early in the morning to deliver newspapers. Taylor then worked in a bicycle shop doing repairs, teaching customers how to ride a bicycle, and doing exhibitions and tricks after regular working hours. He first appeared as an amateur in races around Indianapolis and Chicago and later in Massachusetts, Connecticut and New York. Soon recognized as the "colored Sprint Champion of America" he turned professional when he was just eighteen years old and astonished everyone who saw him with this prodigiously talented performances. He continued to work at the bike shop until prominent bicycle racer "Birdie" Munger coached him for his first professional racing success in 1896. Despite continuous bureaucracy -- and at times, physical opposition, he won his first national championship two years later and became world champion in 1899 in Montreal and American sprint champion in 1899 and 1900. He broke a series of world records and in 1901 received rapturous acclaim during a triumphant tour of Europe -- the most international tour of European countries ever undertaken by a black American athlete. Against the best bicycle racers in the world, he enjoyed a position of unequalled supremacy.

He was almost certainly the first black athlete to be a member of an integrated professional team, the first to have a commercial sponsor, and the first to establish world records. He was the first black athlete to compete regularly in open, integrated competition for an annual American championship. In all of these achievements, Taylor set an example of accomplishment and pride for

Black Americans. He was also a representative of Black America abroad at a time when many people in Europe had never seen a black person. When Marshall Taylor died penniless in 1932 in Chicago at the height of the Depression, he was buried in a pauper's grave. There was no fanfare of eulogies for the man the world had known and cheered. Even when he was reburied in 1948 and his achievements praised at a Chicago memorial ceremony, it was still not the right moment to elevate him to his true stature as one of the preeminent black American sports pioneers.

Marian Anderson (1902-1993)

Opera Contralto

1997 Hall of Black Achievement Inductee

Marian Anderson, who has often been called "the world's greatest contralto," perhaps had a greater influence in opening doors for other Black singers than anyone else. She was the first Black artist to become famous on the concert stage and the first Black soloist to sing with the Metropolitan Opera of New York City.

Ms. Anderson, born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania in February 1902, was the oldest daughter of John and Anna Anderson. From an early age, she had an interest in music; she learned to play the piano and was singing in Union Baptist Church at the age of 6. At the age of 8, she gave her first concert. Although untrained, her talent and versatility were immediately obvious, because she was able to sing soprano, alto, tenor and even bass parts. With the help of her high school principal and Black actor John T. Butler, Ms. Anderson met the famous voice teacher Giuseppe Boghetti. At first, Boghetti was not impressed with what he heard. However, after she sang her rendition of the Negro spiritual, Deep River, he changed his mind.

Aided by a Julius Rosenwald Fellowship, Ms. Anderson studied abroad in Germany. She understood that to be successful in America's opera houses, a European reputation had to be established. She made her European debut in Berlin and was invited to tour the Scandinavian countries, where she sang in both Swedish and Finnish and before King Gustav of Sweden and King Christian of Denmark. Ms. Anderson became a star attraction in Europe. In 1935, during her debut in France, she met the American Impresario Sol Hurok. Hurok was so impressed with her singing that he offered her a management contract that would feature her in 15 concert halls throughout America.

Upon her return to the United States, Marian Anderson performed at New York's Town Hall as a renowned artist. With Hurok's backing, she walked through doors that previously had been closed to Blacks. It was not long before Ms. Anderson became a prima donna. In 1936, she was asked to give a performance at the White House. She confessed that this occasion was the first time that she had really been frightened on stage. She and Eleanor Roosevelt became close friends, and that friendship became evident with the Daughters of the American Revolution affair. Despite Ms. Anderson's tremendous success, the Daughters of the American Revolution refused to let her perform in Constitution Hall in 1939. The public outcry was so great over this issue that Mrs. Roosevelt withdrew her membership from the organization. The White House made arrangements for Ms. Anderson to give her concert on Easter Sunday on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial before an audience of 75,000. She sang from Handel, Haydn and Schubert but her repertoire also included spirituals. Ms. Anderson said the spirituals give an aura of faith, simplicity, humility and hope. Later, she did sing at Constitution Hall.

For more than 30 years, Marian Anderson toured widely throughout the world and broke many racial barriers. She received many honorary degrees and awards for her achievements in the field of music. Some of them were a request for a command performance by the British Crown; a decoration from the government of Finland, the Spingarn Medal; the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1963; the first Black to receive a Congressional Gold Medal; and she was inducted into the Women's Hall of Fame in Seneca Fall's New York.

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