

WHAT DOES BLACK HISTORY MONTH MEAN TO YOU?



Laresha Baker LVN
WellMed at Mesquite

- F- Four Hundred and two years ago, Black history arrived
 - E- Eager to survive and overcome injustice, our tenacious spirits thrived
 - B- Bearing suffering and suppression, which seemed to never end
 - R- Risking lives for a better tomorrow, sadly remains the current trend
 - U- Unapologetically proud and bearing witness to prophetic events
 - A-Ancestry speaks as the present day descendants continue to represent
 - R- Rarest in our form, Black heritage soars with grace rather than misery
 - Y- Yahweh has been there every step of the way, and yet still as we celebrate Black history
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Arlitha Ivey Williams
Clinical Operations- North Rim Corporate Campus

"Black history is a reflection of the past accomplishments and sacrifices my ancestors made for me, my family and the betterment of this country. Raising Black boys, we highlight the untold stories of amazing Black humans, who despite impossible circumstances, served an inspiring purpose that constructed this great nation. I celebrate the legacy and contributions of my ancestors while emphasizing to my children the unrestricted boundaries of the future. Black History Month is a celebration of Black excellence! While acknowledging the struggles of the past, we embrace the limitless potential of the future."



Janelle Jackson
Physician Business Manager

"So many African Americans have done amazing things in science, medicine, technology, music, sports, activism and community leadership, and, let's not forget the first Black president of the United States. When I think of Black history, I celebrate the positive figures that have inspired, motivated and shaped the world as we know it.

My family and I are unbelievably fortunate to have one of those positive figures in our lives who we celebrate, during not only Black History Month, but year 'round – my father, Andre Shelby.

My father is a Navy Veteran who was in a devastating motorcycle accident in 2004 that left him paralyzed from the chest down. Wheelchair-bound, he discovered he had a natural talent for archery and began competing throughout the world.

He was the first Black archer to compete in the Paralympics in the Rio 2016 games in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. In his Paralympic debut, representing Team USA, he won the gold medal by one point! He is an inspiration not only to me and my family, but to so many others as a reminder that nothing is impossible. In his darkest moment, he still found his light.

To me, that light is what we celebrate during Black History Month."

Theresa Tillman

Management Training and Education

"African-American culture, Black culture is so rich, so strong and so very fun!

The impact Black Culture has made on the entire world is enormous. The contributions from the Black community by way of education, inventions, fine arts, community outreach, spirituality/church and so much more, have created a space for the expression of Black existence; offering the rest of the world a chance to expand their minds and hearts.

The perseverance, boldness, tenacity, strength and light of Blackness is a magnificent culture to experience -- the generational family bonds, deep-rooted spirituality, demographical slang, unique style, lyrical genius, mental fortitude, capacity towards forgiveness and an unwavering determination to learn, grow and lead well!

Don't forget the family barbecues and soul food, high top fades/locs/kinky hair/head wraps, smiles/laughter/sense of humor, dance moves/spitting bars/open mic night poetry, entrepreneurs and black owned business, community centers on the blocks, educated scholars thinking outside the box, marching for our rights, defending our dignity, facing fear with courage and honoring our ancestors with peace, love and faith as we walk in our own skin into tomorrow.

Black History Month is a time to recognize and share in the beauty, love and power of Black culture!"

Mark Brown

Information Security Architect

"In a day and age when we depend on vaccines more than ever to maintain our health, I am thankful for the African American scientific pioneers who not only helped eradicate polio, but helped provide the building blocks for health care technology and techniques that continue to improve our lives today. Without their medical breakthroughs, the world might be a much different (and much scarier) place."

Tonya Martin Cash

Clinic Admin Coordinator

"Black history is celebrating and honoring the legacy black leaders have laid for future generations to follow, and supporting the advancement of the Black community amidst the racial injustices that continue to happen throughout the United States today."

Felicia Royal-Baham
Senior Claims Representative

"When I think of Black history, I think of people who used their ingenuity and innovation to make an impact on their community and the world. One example is C.R. Patterson & Sons, the only black-owned automotive company in America, makers of the Patterson-Greenfield automobile from 1915 to 1918.

I think of Dr. George Washington Carver, an inventor, educator, humanitarian and botanist whose scientific discoveries have continued to impact communities throughout the world.

I think of people like Christine Darden, who worked as a human computer for NASA in the 1960s and whose first assignment was to write a computer program for sonic boom. I think of Dr. Patricia Bath, who invented and patented a laser device in the 1980s that aided in minimal invasive cataract surgery.

I think of Shern Peters, founder of NANco Aero, a company currently working to create "flying cars" that can be used as "R.I.V.I.R" -- Rapid Intervention Vehicles For Immediate Response. NANco's flying car prototype is currently a Hybrid VTOL (vertical take-off and landing) vehicle that will revolutionize the history of transportation throughout the world. Black History taught in schools and organizations throughout North America has helped encourage future generations to strive for leadership and service through discovery, inclusion, innovation and positive impact, which in turn, helps fuel economic growth and stability for communities throughout the world. "

Regina Britton LVN
Clinical Quality Consultant II

"Black history is American history. Black History Month was created to honor the contributions that African Americans have made to the betterment of this country and the world. We should remember these contributions; the things that should simply be part of our everyday culture but do not seem to be.

And there are many things -- accomplishments we have forgotten and accomplishment that many people never knew.

Black people are responsible for many inventions and firsts, such as the first three-position traffic signal, the first heart transplant, blood banks, filament for "Thomas Edison's" light bulb, Elijah McCoy's lubricator for steam engines, the idiom "The Real McCoy," the modern ironing board and the patented model for today's home security systems, to name only a few. Accomplishments that with the deletion of many of these references from textbooks, and the cancellation of many African-American history classes, may ultimately be erased from history altogether. We cannot allow this to happen.

Black History Month is, at the very least, a reminder. A reminder that we must not forget."
