

# Timothy R. McConnell

Timothy R. McConnell was an influential businessman who overcame poverty and racial barriers to achieve many firsts in South Carolina, including founding the first African American-owned and operated certified public accounting firm in South Carolina, T.R. McConnell and Co. As managing partner in the firm from 1976-1988, McConnell was awarded numerous contracts from the U.S. Department of Commerce to establish minority business development centers in Greenville, Columbia and Charleston.

Born in Fairfield County, he attended segregated McCrory-Liston School before entering newly desegregated Winnsboro High, where he graduated in the top five percent of his class. He received the Bachelor of Science in Business Administration and Master of Accountancy degrees from the University of South Carolina. While at USC, he became the first African American elected to serve as Vice President of the student body at the university. His interest in public service piqued, he served as a legislative aide to former Governor John C. West. He also worked at Peat, Marwick, Mitchell & Co. in Charlotte, N.C. before forming his own company.

McConnell was actively engaged in several community organizations and on various community boards. His honors and recognition include an appointment as Tax Commissioner and recipient of the Order of the Palmetto by former Governor Carroll Campbell. He also served as President and CEO of Victory Savings Bank.

His many accomplishments and accolades not only made him an astute businessman but a driving force in improving race relations in the state. For example, he is credited with spearheading the integration of private country and business clubs in Columbia. Also, in another effort to give back to the community and support future generations, he established a scholarship at USC for African-Americans majoring in business.

His wife, Claudette, and their children survive McConnell.



*A driving force in  
improving race relations in  
the state.*

# May

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## South Carolina African American History Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1  Howard University in Washington, D.C. opened in 1867.
2  Elijah McCoy, inventor and holder of more than fifty patents, was born in 1844.	3  James Brown, Godfather of Soul, was born in 1933. Sugar Ray Robinson, middleweight boxing champion, was born in 1920.	4  Freedom Rides began in 1961.	5  <b>Cinco de Mayo</b>  Gwendolyn Brooks became the first Black Pulitzer Prize winner for Annie Allen in 1950.	6  Civil Rights Act signed by President Eisenhower in 1960.	7  J.R. Winters patented the fire escape, 1878.	8  Rev. Henry McNeal Turner died in 1915.
9  <b>Mother's Day</b>  Slaves in Georgia, Florida and South Carolina were freed, 1862.	10  P.B.S. Pinchback, first Black state governor, was born in 1837.	11  Dancer Martha Graham was born in 1854.	12  Robert Smalls seized Confederate warship in 1862.	13  Boxer Joe Louis was born in 1914.	14  In 1804, a slave known only as York accompanied Lewis and Clark on their expedition.	15  Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, founded at Indiana University, was incorporated in 1911.
16  Sammy Davis Jr. died in 1990.	17  Brown vs. Board of Education made "Separate But Equal" in public schools unconstitutional in 1954.	18  Reggie Jackson, baseball player, was born in 1946.	19  Malcolm X was born in 1925.	20  Robert N.C. Nix was elected to U.S. Congress in 1958.	21  Lowell W. Perry was confirmed as chairman of the Equal Opportunity Commission (EEOC) in 1975.	22  Claude McKay, poet, died in 1948.
23  Bob Marley, reggae legend, died in 1981.	24  Hal McRae was named manager of the Kansas City Royals in 1991.	25  Madame C.J. Walker, entrepreneur, died in 1919.	26  Althea Gibson won the French Open, becoming the first Black tennis player to win a major tennis title, 1956.	27  Louis Gossett Jr., actor, was born in 1936.	28  Eliza Ann Gardner, Underground Railroad conductor was born in 1831.	29  Thomas Bradley was elected mayor of Los Angeles in 1973.
30  Countee Cullen, poet, was born in 1903.	31  <b>Memorial Day</b>  NAACP held first conference (as the National Negro Committee) in 1909.					