

Darius Rucker

With one of the most identifiable voices of the last two decades, Darius Rucker's soulful baritone can be heard across multiple genres of modern music. From his world-wide success as the lead singer of Hootie & the Blowfish to his solo delve into R&B, to crooning along side a big band orchestra, to his current meteoric rise to the top of the Country Music scene, Darius Rucker has sustained a successful music career spanning a quarter of a century.

Born & raised in Charleston, SC, Darius was exposed to a myriad of musical styles that formed the basis of his love for all music. After enrolling at the University of South Carolina in 1984 as a part of the school's song and dance group, Carolina Alive, Darius soon met up with a few fellow classmates who would band together to become a household name in popular music.

Dean Felber, Mark Bryan & Jim Sonefeld joined with Rucker as Hootie & The Blowfish to carve their own notch in rock music. After catching the attention of Atlantic Records by independently selling thousands of copies of their demo cd, *Kootchypop*, the band signed a major-label record deal and headed into the studio to record what would become the 12th best-selling album of all-time, *Cracked Rear View*.

Songs from their debut album earned the group two Grammy's along with a multitude of other awards, countless television appearances, and a fan base that crosses continents. Hootie & the Blowfish released 7 more albums that have collectively sold more than 25 million copies worldwide.

Through the Hootie & the Blowfish Foundation and their annual fundraiser, The Hootie & the Blowfish Monday After the Masters Celebrity Pro-Am Golf Tournament, Darius and his band mates have donated millions of dollars in funding to SC Jr Golf programs and multitudes of public education needs throughout the state.

Darius' success on the music scene changed gears when he followed his passion for country music and recorded his solo debut, *Learn To Live*, released by Capitol Nashville in 2008. Since its #1 debut on the country charts, *Learn To Live* has been RIAA certified platinum and has produced three No. 1 hits to date. Darius' rise to country super-stardom has landed him on the hallowed Grand Ole Opry stage, performances on television shows such as *The Late Show*, *The Tonight Show*, *The Ellen DeGeneres Show*, as well as a star-studded appearance on *The Oprah Winfrey Show*. Tours with country heavy hitters, Brad Paisley & Rascal Flatts have since followed.

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September

Learn more about the people featured in this calendar at www.scafricanamerican.com



South Carolina
African American
History Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 General Daniel "Chappie" James Jr. named Commander-in-Chief of North American Air Defense Command in 1975.	2 Frank Robinson, professional baseball player, named MVP of the American League, 1966.	3 Charles Houston, NAACP leader, was born in 1895.	4 Louis Latimer, inventor and engineer, was born in 1848.
5 George Washington Murray was elected to Congress from South Carolina in 1895.	6 Labor Day The National Black Convention met in Cleveland in 1848.	7 Integration in public schools began in Washington, D.C. and Baltimore in 1954.	8 Althea Gibson became the first African American athlete to win a U.S. national tennis championship in 1957.	9 Carter G. Woodson founded the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History in 1915.	10 Mordecai Johnson, first Black president of Howard University, died in 1976.	11 "Duke" Ellington won Spingarn Medal for his musical achievements in 1959.
12 Jackie Robinson, first Black baseball player in the major leagues, was named National League Rookie of the Year in 1947.	13 Alain L. Locke, philosopher and first Black Rhodes Scholar, was born in 1886.	14 U.S. Cabinet member Constance Baker Motley was born in 1921.	15 Dr. Mae Jemison became first African American female astronaut in space in 1992.	16 Claude A. Barnett, founder of the Associated Negro Press, was born in 1889.	17 United States Constitution signed in 1787.	18 Booker T. Washington delivered "Atlanta Compromise" address in 1895.
19 Atlanta University was founded in 1865.	20 First episode of 'The Cosby Show' aired in 1984.	21 F.W. Leslie, inventor, patented the envelope seal in 1891.	22 Ralph Bunch awarded Nobel Peace Prize in 1950.	23 First Day of Autumn John Coltrane, innovative and famed jazz musician, was born in 1926.	24 Nine African American students integrated Little Rock High School in 1957.	25 Barbara W. Hancock became the first African American woman named a White House fellow, 1974.
26 Bessie Smith, blues singer, died in 1937.	27 'Memphis Blues' published in 1912.	28 'Appeal to the Colored Citizens of the World' published in 1929.	29 Hugh Mulzac, first African American captain of a U.S. merchant ship, launched with the 'Booker T. Washington' in 1942.	30 Johnny Mathis, singer, was born in 1935.		