

O'Neal Smalls

O'Neal Smalls credits his career success to the lessons he learned in culture and character on the farm where his parents raised him in the Freewoods section of Horry County, South Carolina. Smalls attended St. James Rosenwald School, built by black farmers with assistance from the Julian Rosenwald Fund, and later graduated from Whittemore High School in Conway.

Smalls earned his bachelor's degree at Tuskegee University, studying under Dr. Charles G. Gomillion, a fellow South Carolina native and Civil Rights pioneer who inspired Smalls' participation in voter registration drives and sit-ins in the fight against discrimination. Smalls also served as student body president at Tuskegee. He received his Juris Doctorate from Harvard University School of Law and the Master of Laws from the Georgetown University School of Law.

Smalls earned the Bronze Star for his distinguished service to his country during his career as an officer in the United States Army. His tour of duty included an assignment as Administrative Assistant to the Army Provost Marshall in Vietnam.

Smalls launched his academic career at the American University School of Law in Washington, D.C., earning the rank of full professor. He also taught law at George Washington University and the University of South Carolina. During his tenure at USC, Smalls chaired a committee that studied the status of desegregation at the university. He was also active in local bar associations, the National Bar Association, and other civic organizations and published the Manhood Training Manual for Boys 11-14 that is widely used in churches and other organizations in several states.

In his retirement, Smalls would return to his farming roots as founder of the Freewoods Farm, a living farm museum. Located in Myrtle Beach, its mission is to highlight and commemorate the role of farming in African American history, their contributions through farming and the influence of farming on their culture and character. This Freewoods Farms is now his classroom.



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October

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 Colin Powell was appointed first African American chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff in 1989.	2 Thurgood Marshall was sworn in, becoming the first African American Supreme Court Justice in 1967
3 Nat King Cole was the first Black performer to host his own television show in 1956.	4 National Black Convention met in Syracuse, N.Y. in 1864.	5 Congresswoman Yvonne Burke was born in 1932.	6 Fisk Jubilee Singers began national tour in 1871.	7 Toni Morrison became first African American to win Nobel Prize in literature.	8 Jesse Jackson was born in 1941.	9 O.B. Clare patented the rail trestle in 1888.
10 Singer Ben Vereen was born in 1946.	11 Columbus Day A. Miles patented the elevator in 1887.	12 Richard ("Dick") Gregory was born in 1932.	13 Arna W. Bontemps, noted poet, was born in 1902.	14 Martin Luther King, Jr. awarded Nobel Peace Prize in 1964.	15 Clarence Thomas confirmed to the U.S. Supreme Court in 1992.	16 John Brown led attack on Harper's Ferry in 1859.
17 Capital Savings Bank opened in Washington, D.C. in 1888.	18 Novelist Terry McMillan was born in 1951.	19 The U.S. Navy was opened to African American women in 1944.	20 John Merrick organized North Carolina Mutual Life Insurance Company in 1898.	21 "Dizzy" Gillespie was born in Cheraw, S.C. in 1917.	22 Clarence S. Green became the first African American certified in neurological surgery.	23 The NAACP petitioned the United Nations about racial injustice in 1947.
24 Jackie Robinson died in 1972.	25 Benjamin O. Davis became the first African American general in the U.S. Army in 1940.	26 Inventor T. Marshall patented the fire extinguisher in 1872.	27 D. B. Downing, inventor, patented his street letter box in 1891.	28 Founder of The Underground Railroad, Levi Coffin, was born in 1798.	29 The Supreme Court ordered end to segregation in schools "at once" in 1969.	30 Richard Arrington was elected the first Black mayor of Birmingham, Ala., in 1979.
31 Halloween Ethel Waters, actress and singer, was born in 1900.						