

James Solomon, Jr.

James Lewis Solomon Jr. blazed the trail for future generations when he enrolled in graduate school at the University of South Carolina in 1963, the first African American to do so since Reconstruction. And for Solomon, that was just the beginning.

He became the first African American to serve in several key state government positions under three governors, as a state agency director under Governor John West, Division Director at the Commission on Higher Education under Governor Richard Riley, and as Commissioner of the Department of Social Services under Riley and Governor Carroll Campbell. Solomon drafted the South Carolina Desegregation Plan for Public Colleges and Universities during his service in the Riley administration that has contributed to the successful recruitment of underrepresented students to the University of South Carolina and other state colleges and universities.

His significant public service earned him the Order of the Palmetto, awarded by both Governors Riley and Campbell. Solomon also received an Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters from Morris College and Doctor of Laws from Columbia College. He was elected to Sumter District 17 and Richland One School Boards, and to Richland County Council.

Solomon has served as president of the American Public Welfare Association and as Chairman of the Columbia Urban League Board. He also serves as Chairman of the Board of the South Carolina Institute on Poverty and Deprivation and the Palmetto Development Group. Solomon is member of the St. John Baptist Church in Columbia, and he and his wife Helen have four children, eight grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

A Georgia native, Solomon received his undergraduate degree from Morris College, and a Master of Science degree from Atlanta University. He taught and served as an administrator at Morris College for three years before pursuing further study at USC.



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November

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South Carolina
**African
 American**
History Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 First issue of Ebony published in 1945. First issue of Crisis published in 1910.	2 Election Day President Ronald Reagan signed law designating the third Monday in January Martin Luther King Jr. Day in 1983.	3 South Carolina State College was established in 1896.	4 T. Elkins patented the refrigerating apparatus in 1879.	5 Walter E. Washington elected Mayor of Washington, D.C. in 1974.	6 Absalom Jones, minister, was born in 1746.
7 Daylight Savings Time Ends David Dinkins elected first Black Mayor of New York City in 1989.	8 Edward W. Brooke was elected first Black U.S. Senator (R- Mass.) in 85 years in 1966.	9 Benjamin Banneker, surveyor, was born in 1731.	10 Andrew Hatcher was named associate press secretary to President John F. Kennedy, becoming the first Black press secretary in 1960.	11 Veteran's Day Nat Turner, leader of a Virginia slave revolt, was hanged in 1831.	12 In 1775, General George Washington issued an order, later rescinded, which forbade recruiting officers to enlist Blacks.	13 Dwight Gooden won baseball's Cy Young Award in 1985.
14 Booker T. Washington died in 1915.	15 In 1979, the Nobel Prize in economics was awarded to Professor Arthur Lewis of Princeton.	16 "Father of the Blues," W.C. Handy, was born in Florence, Ala. in 1873.	17 Omega Psi Phi was founded on the campus of Howard University in 1911.	18 Abolitionist and orator Sojourner Truth was born in 1787.	19 Roy Campanella was named the National League MVP for the second time in 1953.	20 Garrett T. Morgan patented the traffic signal in 1923.
21 Shaw University was founded in 1865.	22 Alruthus A. Taylor, teacher and historian, was born in 1893.	23 J.L. Love put patents on the pencil sharpener in 1897.	24 Scott Joplin, composer, born in 1868.	25 Thanksgiving Luther "Bill" Robinson, dancer, died in 1949.	26 Sojourner Truth, evangelist, died in 1883.	27 Richard Wright, author, died in 1960.
28 Ernie Davis became the first African American to win the Heisman Trophy in 1961.	29 Congressman Adam Clayton Powell, Jr. was born in 1908.	30 Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm was born in 1924.	31			