1990

Southern Bell Salutes

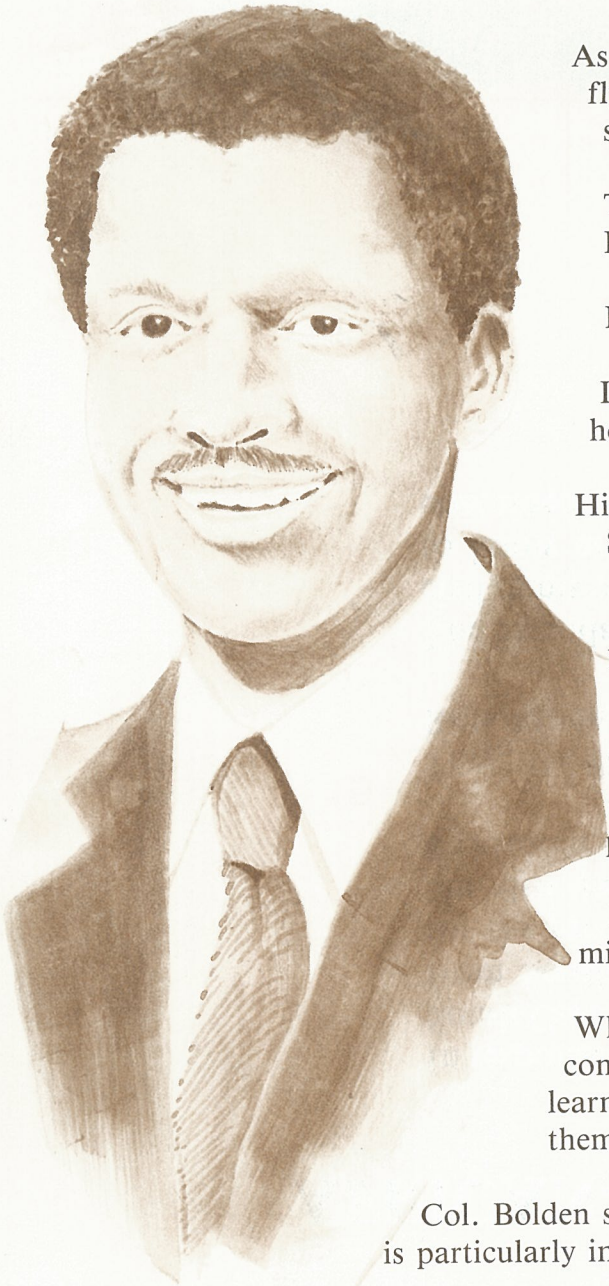
SOUTH CAROLINA'S African - American Role Models

THE SOUTHERN BELL
SOUTH CAROLINA
AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY CALENDAR

In response to the need to educate children in our state about Black native South Carolinians, Southern Bell decided to recognize African-Americans from South Carolina for their achievements. Citing the need not only for the recording of Black history and updating it in a timely manner, but also the need for ready access and daily availability, the vehicle of a calendar was agreed upon.

Thus, the first Annual calendar of South Carolina's African-American Role Models was born.

The calendar is available to educational institutions, libraries, civic and civil rights organizations, public offices and officials and others who desire to know and understand more about Black history. The information contained therein is of value long after the calendar year ends.



As a child, Colonel Charles F. Bolden, Jr., U.S.M.C., was full of curiosity and interested in flying. "It was not a time for black kids growing up in Columbia to have those thoughts," he said, "but I never gave up on the thought of flying."

Today, Col. Bolden is an astronaut and will pilot the 1990 space shuttle mission to launch the Hubble Space Telescope.

Born in Columbia in 1946, Bolden grew up during the civil rights struggles.

Later he was refused admission into the then-segregated University of South Carolina. Today he holds an honorary degree from the University of South Carolina.

His father, the late Charles Bolden, who taught and coached football at C.A. Johnson High School, often told his son that he would overcome the problems of prejudice.

And he did. In 1964, Bolden was one of the few blacks to enter the U.S. Naval Academy. A year later, he was elected president of his sophomore class.

After graduating with a degree in electrical science from Annapolis in 1968, he earned a commission as a Marine Corps pilot and served in Vietnam. Later, he earned a master's degree in systems management from the University of Southern California and completed test pilot training at the Patuxent Naval Air Station.

In 1980, Bolden joined the space shuttle program. He was pilot of the shuttle Columbia mission on January 12, 1986, the last successful mission before the fiery Challenger explosion.

When he first entered the space shuttle program, he felt frustrated. "I walked into NASA control and there were no black controllers. There are now. I guess I bit my lip at the time, but I learned it was not NASA's fault. Blacks just didn't apply, so when I talk to young people, I tell them to get with it."

Col. Bolden spends much of his time speaking to students about the importance of staying in school, and he is particularly interested in encouraging black students to join the space program.

Charles Bolden

JANUARY, 1990

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 Emancipation proclamation issued, 1863 New Year's Day	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10 Southern Christian Leadership Conference founded, 1957	11	12	13
14	15 Martin Luther King, Jr. born, 1929	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

As president, owner, and chief operating officer of American Development Corporation (ADCOR), Mr. W. Melvin Brown is one of South Carolina's most successful businessmen.

He was born February 19, 1934, in Charleston. He holds several degrees including a B.S. in Science from S.C. State College, a M.S. in Science from Atlanta University, a M.B.A. from Webster College, and an Advanced Studies degree from Boston University. He taught science in Atlanta and Charleston and sold insurance before forming ADCOR in 1972.

ADCOR, a defense manufacturing firm in North Charleston, is one of the largest African-American owned firms of its kind. The company employs approximately 300 people and grosses more than $25 million each year. For 13 years, ADCOR has been one of Black Enterprise Magazine's top 100 companies. It ranked 40th in 1988.

Mr. Brown served on the boards of a number of institutions, including NCNB, Clemson University, Talladega College, the South Carolina Ports Authority, the Charleston Aviation Authority, Porter-Gaud School, and the South Carolina Chamber of Commerce. He is a Life Member and past president of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., and past chairman of the City of Charleston Election Commission.

W. Melvin Brown

FEBRUARY, 1990

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12 NAACP founded, 1909	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23 W.E.B. Dubois born, 1868	24
25	26	27	28 Ash Wednesday			

A native of Aiken County, Dr. Alma Byrd has spent 45 years educating the children of South Carolina. After 17 years in the public school system, she began teaching at Benedict College in Columbia.

She heads the English and Foreign Language Department and is a professor of French and World Literature.

Dr. Byrd's educational background is almost as impressive as her teaching career. After attending Schofield High School in Aiken County, she received a bachelor's degree in French and English from Benedict College. She later earned a master's degree in French from Columbia University in New York. Seeking to perfect her French, she continued her education at the Sorbonne in Paris and the University de Poiteire in La Rochelle. In 1978, she received her Ph.D. in comparative literature from the University of South Carolina.

Dr. Byrd has also made contributions to society by her involvement in community service. She co-founded the James Clark Sickle Cell Anemia Foundation. She was awarded the Palmetto Lady Award by Governor Richard W. Riley.

As president of the Columbia section of the National Council of Negro Women, she is working to provide drug education for teenagers.

In 1980, she was elected to the Richland County School District One Board of Trustees. Five years later, she was elected chair of the school board, a position she held for one year. In 1987, she ran unopposed for reelection and has served on the school board since that election.

Dr. Byrd's goal has been to instill in her students "a sense of moral integrity so that they can become effective servants of mankind."

Alma Byrd

MARCH, 1990

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2 Slave trade banned, 1807	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12 Andrew Young born, 1932	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25 Poll tax ruled unconstitutional, 1966	26	27	28	29	30	31

Long before sit-in demonstrations and bus boycotts, Mrs. Septima Poinsette Clark waged a personal war against racism. In the early 1920s, she was involved in efforts to allow blacks to teach in public schools in Charleston.

But after she was named vice president of the Charleston branch of the NAACP, she was barred from teaching in South Carolina public schools. She was firm in her resolve and never wavered in her support of the NAACP.

Mrs. Clark spent all of her life to insure a better lifestyle for all people. She worked with the YWCA, the Tuberculosis Association, and the Charleston Health Department. She provided valuable training to the residents of the Carolina sea islands. She also established schools for illiterate adults.

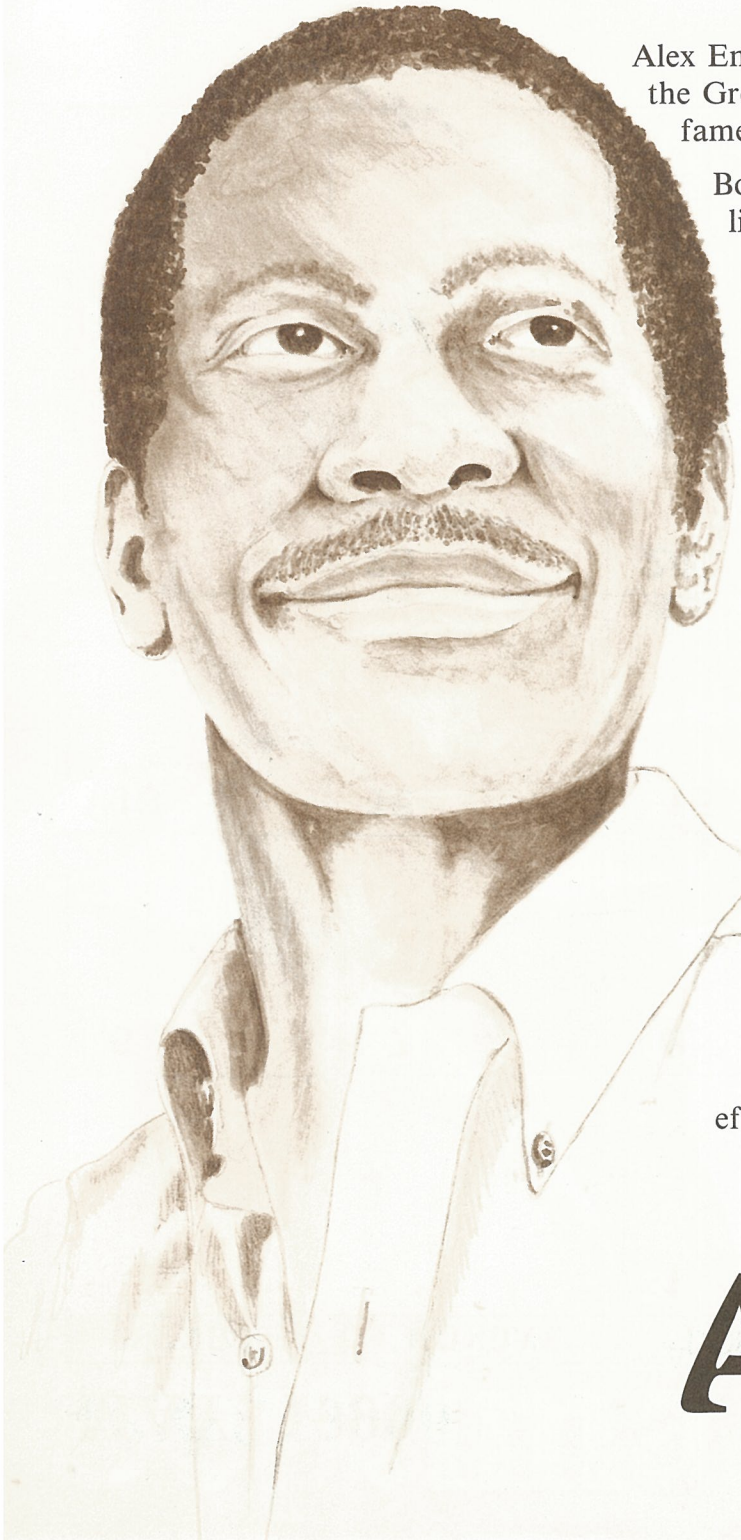
Septima Clark's national prominence came as a result of her work to establish citizenship schools throughout the 11 states of the Deep South. When legislation called for Americans to be able to read and interpret portions of the Constitution in order to register to vote, Mrs. Clark devoted her time to teaching these skills to thousands of southern blacks. Based on her experiences at the Highlander Folk School near Chattanoogo, Tennessee, the citizenship schools were formed to teach blacks to read, write and understand the basic structure of the government. Mrs. Clark recruited teachers to help in the citizenship schools with the help of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

Until her death in 1987, Septima Clark symbolized the strength of the American civil rights movement. Her decades of devotion to the cause of freedom have earned her the title, "the grandmother of the civil rights movement."

Septima Poinsette Clark

APRIL, 1990

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8 Palm Sunday	9	10 Passover	11	12	13 Good Friday	14
15 Easter Sunday	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23 National Urban League founded, 1913	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					



Alex English's mother must be a modern-day prophet. She named her baby boy for Alexander the Great because she felt he would become a great man. She was right. Her son has earned fame, not only as a basketball player, but also as an actor and a humanitarian.

Born in Columbia on January 8, 1954, English spent the first few years of his life living with his grandmother. She was a laundry presser who, at times, took care of as many as 11 of her 13 grandchildren. Alex attended Hand Junior High School and Dreher High School.

English was a starter in 78 high school basketball games and averaged 31 points per game in his junior year. More than 100 colleges recruited him, but he decided to attend the University of South Carolina.

He holds the career scoring record of 1,972 points for the University of South Carolina basketball team. He was named an Independent All-American several times. After graduating from Carolina in 1976, he played professional basketball for the Milwaukee Bucks, the Indiana Pacers, and the Denver Nuggets. He has participated in a number of NBA All-Star games. He was the NBA's top scorer in 1983. Currently, English is seventh on the list of All-Time NBA scoring leaders and is first among the active All-Time scoring leaders.

English has many interests beyond basketball. He is a poet, an author, an actor, and a humanitarian. "I've always been a reader," English said. "It's odd, but I was an English major...I always loved to read." He also enjoys writing.

He co-authored his autobiography, **The English Language**, and he has written three volumes of poetry. He had a leading role in the movie "Amazing Grace and Chuck" and can be seen in occasional television programs.

As a philanthropist, his work is becoming legendary. In 1984, he persuaded players in the All-Star game to donate their earnings to Intervention Ethiopia. This effort raised more than $100,000 for the famine relief organization.

Alex English

MAY, 1990

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13 Mother's Day	14	15	16	17 Brown vs. Board of Education, 1954	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28 Memorial Day Observed	29	30	31		

Known for her aggressive style, Mrs. Modjeska Simkins has fought for human rights for 50 years. Her work has touched the lives of many South Carolinians.

Born in Columbia in 1899, she attended what is now Benedict College from the first grade through college. She began her career as a teacher at Booker T. Washington High School in Columbia. Later, she served as publicity officer and branch manager for Victory Savings Bank, which was founded by her brother in the 1920s.

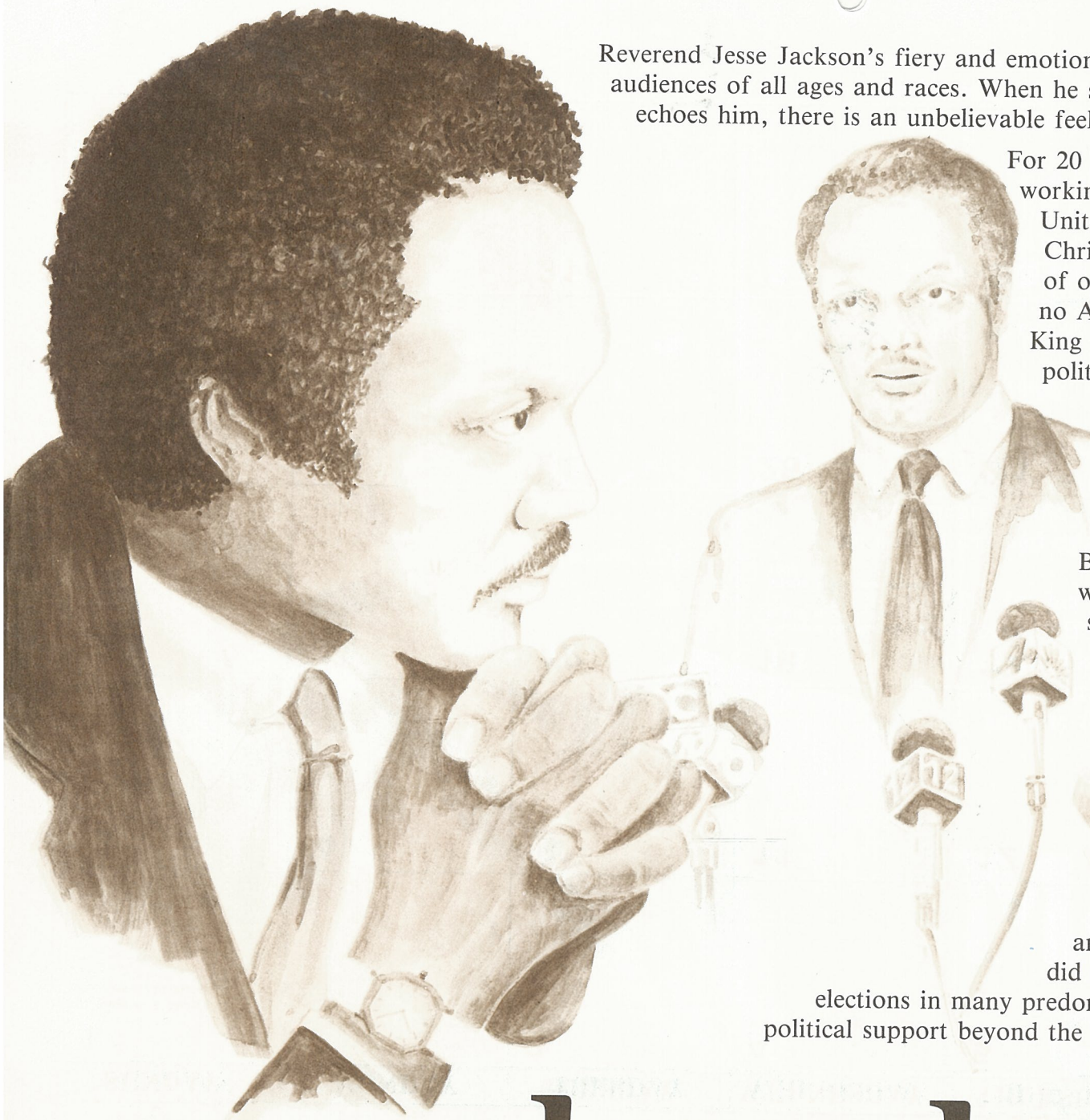
During the 1940s, Mrs. Simkins helped organize the newly formed NAACP conference of branches in South Carolina. She served as NAACP secretary for 15 years and increased the number of branches from 10 to 110. Many say that the civil rights achievements of the 1960s were a result of the framework which she and others had established.

Often criticized for her outspoken manner, Modjeska Simkins' motto has always been, "If the civil liberties of any person, whether a communist or klansman, are trampled on, then mine are trampled on. If I know a person has been mistreated, he's my friend."

Modjeska Simkins

JUNE, 1990

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3	4	5	6 Congress of Racial Equality founded, 1942	7	8	9
10	11	12	13 Thurgood Marshall appointed to U.S. Supreme Court, 1967 Medger Evers assassinated, 1963	14	15	16
17 Father's Day	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30



Reverend Jesse Jackson's fiery and emotional speeches send chills down the spines of audiences of all ages and races. When he shouts, "I am somebody," and the audience echoes him, there is an unbelievable feeling of energy and power.

For 20 years, the Rev. Jesse Lewis Jackson has been working toward improved race relations in the United States. From his work with the Southern Christian Leadership Conference to his founding of operation PUSH to his presidential campaigns, no African-American since Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., has had such an impact on American politics.

A native of Greenville, Jackson was born in 1941. He graduated from North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University and attended the Chicago Theological Seminary. As director of Operation Breadbasket from 1966-71, he persuaded many white-owned companies to hire blacks and to sell products made by black vendors.

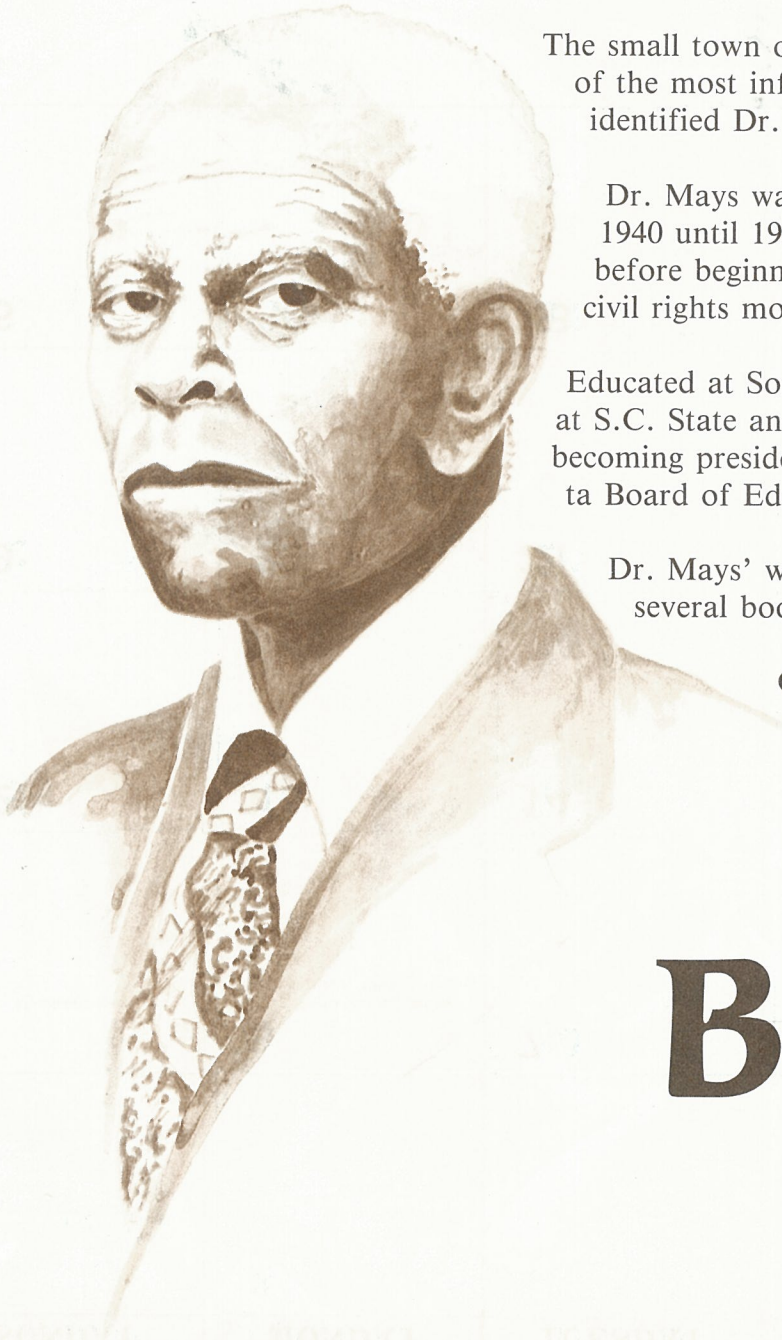
In 1971, he founded PUSH, People United to Serve Humanity. Later he began the "Push for Excellence Project" to encourage black students to take advantage of educational opportunities.

Rev. Jackson first attempted to gain the Democratic presidential nomination in 1984. He tried again in 1988. This campaign focused on the problems of the poor and working classes of all races. Although he did not win the nomination, he won primary elections in many predominantly white areas and had a base of political support beyond the black community.

Jesse Jackson

JULY, 1990

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Dr. Benjamin E. Mays becomes president of Morehouse College	2 Civil Rights Act of 1964 signed Thurgood Marshall born, 1908	3	4 Independence Day	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				



The small town of Epworth in Greenwood County saw one of its sons go on to become one of the most influential educators in American history. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., identified Dr. Benjamin E. Mays as one of the most important influences in his life.

Dr. Mays was president of Morehouse College in Atlanta, Dr. King's alma mater, from 1940 until 1967. Students at Morehouse held planning sessions in the home of Dr. Mays before beginning sit-in demonstrations in Atlanta restaurants to help launch the Sixties civil rights movement.

Educated at South Carolina State College and the University of Chicago, Dr. Mays taught at S.C. State and served as dean of the School of Religion at Howard University before becoming president of Morehouse. In 1970, he became the first black president of the Atlanta Board of Education. He also served as chairman of the United Negro College Fund.

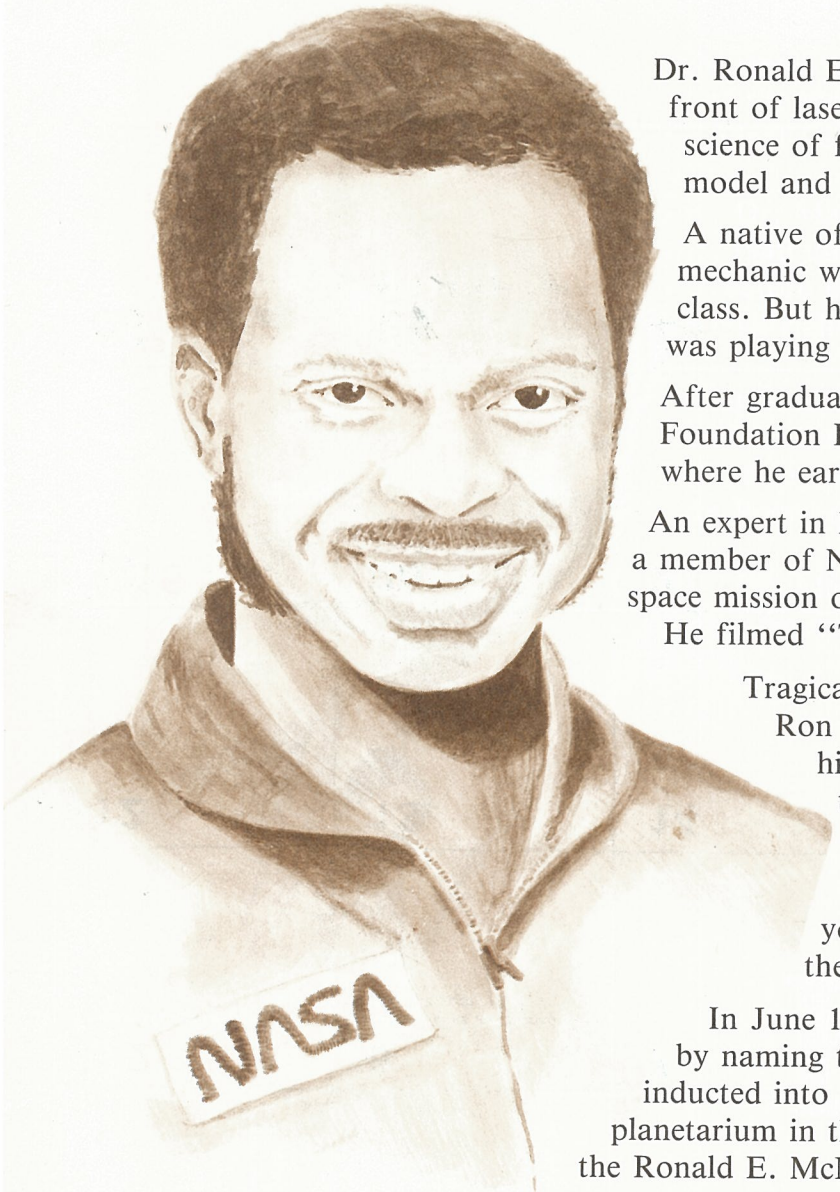
Dr. Mays' writings have been an inspiration to scores of Americans. He has written several books, including two autobiographies.

One of his memorable and poignant statements is, "Whatever you do, do it well so that no man living, no man dead, and no man yet to be born could ever do it better."

Benjamin E. Mays

AUGUST, 1990

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 Benjamin E. Mays born, 1895	2	3	4
5 Nelson Mandela imprisoned, 1962	6 Voting Rights Act signed by Pres. Johnson, 1965	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17 Marcus Garvey born, 1887	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27 W.E.B. Dubois dies, 1963	28	29	30	31	



Dr. Ronald E. McNair forged a remarkable career as a research scientist. He was in the forefront of laser technology with applications in the field of satellite communications and the science of flight in outer space. He was not only a pioneering astronaut, but also a role model and proponent of education.

A native of Lake City, Ron McNair was always a gifted student. The son of an auto mechanic who never finished high school, McNair was valedictorian of his high school class. But he also lettered in football, basketball, and baseball. Another of his great loves was playing the saxophone in the Carver High School jazz band.

After graduating Magna Cum Laude from North Carolina A&T, McNair became a Ford Foundation Fellow and a Presidential Scholar at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, where he earned a doctorate in physics in 1976.

An expert in laser technology, Dr. McNair was chosen from a pool of 1,000 applicants to be a member of NASA's space shuttle program in 1978. In February 1984, he completed his first space mission on the Challenger, receiving recognition as the world's first orbital cameraman. He filmed "The Space Shuttle: An American Odyssey."

Tragically on January 28, 1986, the whole world watched in horror as astronaut Ron McNair was killed in the explosion of the space shuttle Challenger. Although his life was relatively short, his work and accomplishments will live as a testament to young people.

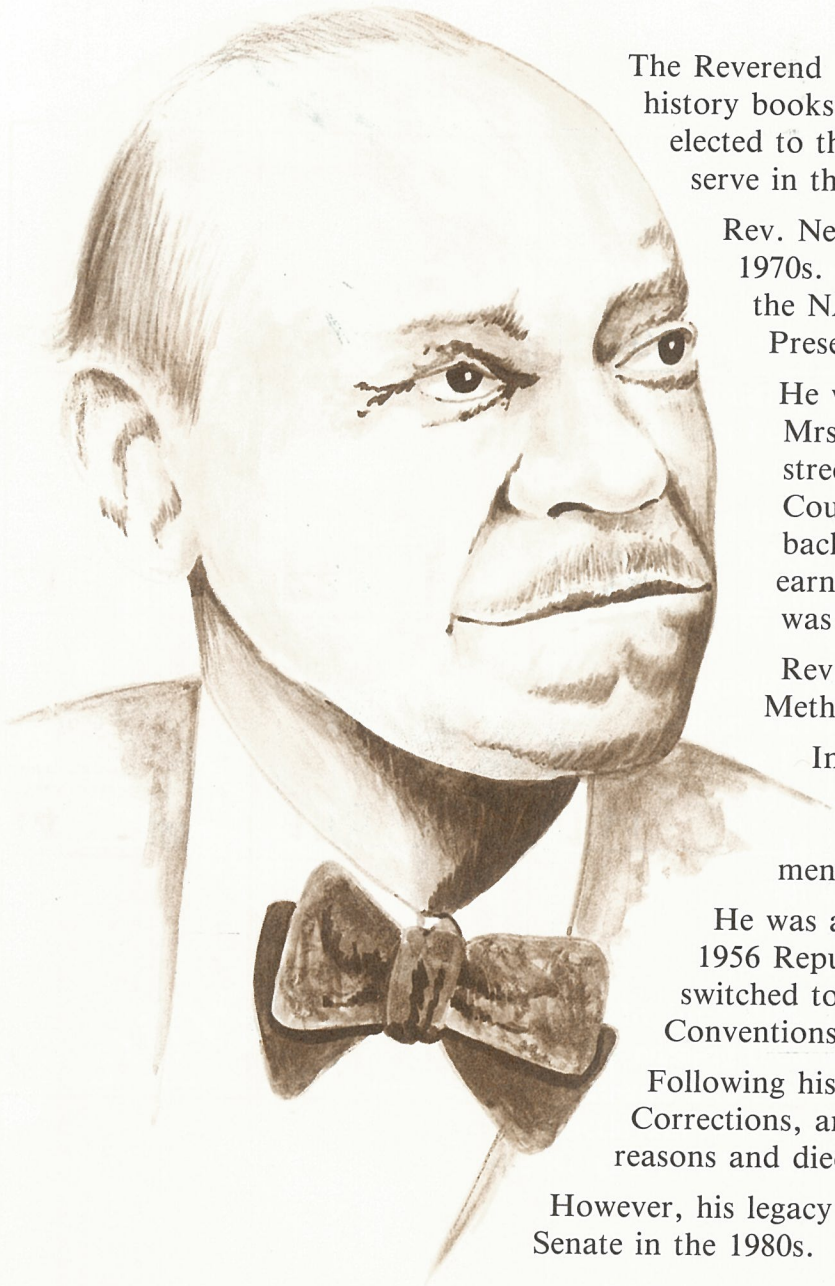
He challenged young people to study and work hard. He told students, "You can achieve your dreams. Look at me, a humble country boy. If I can do it, you can do it too." Today, students in his home town of Lake City are achieving their dreams at the Ronald E. McNair Junior High School.

In June 1986, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology honored their former graduate by naming their space and science building after him. On November 8, 1986, he was inducted into the South Carolina Hall of Science and Technology and in 1988 the largest planetarium in the Southeast, the Davis Planetarium in Jackson, Mississippi, named its theater the Ronald E. McNair Space Theater.

Ron McNair

SEPTEMBER, 1990

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2	3 Labor Day	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20 Rosh Hashanah	21	22
23/30	24	25	26	27	28	29 Yom Kippur



The Reverend Isaiah DeQuincey Newman earned his place in the pages of South Carolina history books on November 8, 1983, when he became the first African-American to be elected to the South Carolina Senate since Reconstruction. He was the first black to serve in the state senate since 1887.

Rev. Newman stood out as a soft-spoken civil rights activist during the 1960s and 1970s. He served as field director of the South Carolina conference of branches of the NAACP for ten years. He also founded and directed the Society for the Preservation of Black History, Art and Folklore.

He was born in Darlington County on April 17, 1911, a son of the Rev. and Mrs. Milton C. Newman. As a youngster, he earned money by shining shoes on street corners and in shops. He attended the public schools of Williamsburg County and attended Claflin College in Orangeburg. In 1934, he earned a bachelor's of art degree from Clark College in Atlanta. Three years later, he earned a divinity degree from Gammon Theological Seminary in Atlanta and was ordained a minister.

Rev. Newman founded two churches in Columbia, the Francis Burns United Methodist Church and the Middleton-Rosemont United Methodist Church.

In addition to his church work, Newman also served the state in other ways. He was assistant to the commissioner of the state Department of Social Services and a board member of the Department of Health and Environmental Control. He also chaired the Governor's Council on Rural Development.

He was a Republican for many years and was named an alternate delegate to the 1956 Republican National Convention. In the 1960s he, like many other blacks, switched to the Democratic party. He served as a delegate to the Democratic Conventions of 1968, 1972, and 1980.

Following his election to the S.C. Senate, he was a member of the Rules, Agricultural, Corrections, and Fish, Game and Forestry Committees. Newman retired in 1985 for health reasons and died two years later.

However, his legacy continues. Five other African-Americans have been elected to the S.C. Senate in the 1980s.

1. DeQuincey Newman

OCTOBER, 1990

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14 Martin Luther King awarded Nobel Peace Prize, 1964	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

The story of Judge Matthew James Perry, Jr. is a remarkable one. Although faced with many hardships, Perry became a distinguished attorney in South Carolina and caught the eye of President Jimmy Carter who named him federal district judge for South Carolina in 1979.

Born on August 3, 1921, he attended Booker T. Washington High School in Columbia. Following the death of his father when he was 12, Matthew was raised by his mother and his grandfather, a strict disciplinarian.

In 1939, he began working part-time jobs to pay for his tuition at South Carolina State College. He served in the U.S. Army during World War II and completed his education with a degree in business administration in 1948. He earned a law degree from South Carolina State College in 1951.

As a young civil rights lawyer, Perry was instrumental in achieving many successes for African-Americans. He tried cases which led to the integration of beaches, parks, restaurants, and public schools. His trial work led to the release of some 7,000 people arrested for sit-in protests. In 1963, he won the case which forced Clemson University to admit black students. Perhaps his most significant case resulted in the reapportionment of the S.C. House of Representatives.

Perry waged an unsuccessful campaign for a seat in the U.S. House of Representatives in 1974. In 1975, he was appointed to the U.S. Military Court of Appeals, and a year later WIS-TV of Columbia named him South Carolinian of the Year.

Matthew Perry

NOVEMBER, 1990

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3
4	5	6 Election Day	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22 Thanksgiving Day	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

Mention the name Dizzy Gillespie and the image of a musician playing the trumpet with his cheeks puffed up with air comes to mind. No doubt some music instructor at some time tried to get him to change his style, but Gillespie persisted and did it his own way.

Throughout an illustrious career, which is in its sixth decade, John Birks "Dizzy" Gillespie has distinguished himself as a truly immortal figure in the history of America's "classical music" as a virtuoso musician, pioneer, innovator, composer, arranger, bandleader, raconteur, and cultural ambassador.

Born in Cheraw in 1917, Gillespie was the last of nine children. His father, who was the leader of a small band, died when Dizzy was ten years old. Until his father's death, the young lad was exposed to many instruments. He first played the trombone. When he was 12-years-old he switched to trumpet and began playing for dances at schools in his area.

Mr. Gillespie has performed before numerous royalty and countless world leaders, including four American presidents; has appeared as guest soloist with symphony orchestras all over the world; has won every imaginable award in the field of jazz; and has received 14 honorary doctoral degrees. In 1989, he was honored by the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences with a Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award.

Mr. Gillespie, with the late Charlie Parker, is acclaimed as the co-founder of Bebop which revolutionized music of the 20th Century. Over 40 years ago, Gillespie began to explore the varied music of cultures throughout the world. He is the catalyst who incorporated Afro-Cuban, Brazilian and Caribbean music and rhythms into the jazz idiom. He believes that jazz "celebrates the internationality of music - our common language, our common bond."

In 1956, Gillespie was the first jazz artist appointed by the Department of State as Cultural Ambassador to tour on behalf of the United States of America. His successful tours through the Near East, Asia, Eastern Europe and Latin America were early landmarks in a lifetime of cultural statesmanship by Gillespie.

In January 1989, Mr. Gillespie was asked to embark on a ground-breaking tour of Africa sponsored by the United States Information Agency/Arts America Program. In Egypt, Morocco, Senegal, Zaire and Nigeria - where, installed as a traditional Chieftain, "Baashere of Iperu," Chief Gillespie became the "King of Entertainers" - the legendary "Master of Bebop" returned proudly to his roots and "wowed 'em!"

His spectacular all-star United Nation Orchestra has performed in 14 countries on 3 continents since its inception in 1988. Mr. Gillespie's synthesis of the African/American and Afro-Cuban experience is the subject of the award-winning film, "A Night in Havana," which is currently in theatrical release throughout the world.

On June 13, 1989, the Maestro was awarded the highest honor in the Arts in France when he was designated a Commandre d'Ordre des Artes et Lettres by the French Minister of Culture. At the White House on November 17, 1989, Mr. Gillespie was honored with the National Medal of Arts by President George Bush.

Dizzy Gillespie

DECEMBER, 1990

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat on a public bus, 1955
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11 Operation Push founded, 1971	12 Hanukkah	13	14	15
16 Andrew Young becomes U.S. delegate to United Nations	17	18	19	20	21	22
23/30	24/31	25 Christmas Day	26	27	28	29

Southern Bell

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