SERVICE & SACRIFICE

FROM SOUTH CAROLINA TO THE NATION



2027

South Carolina African American History Calendar

SERVICE & SACRIFICE

FROM SOUTH CAROLINA TO THE NATION

Dear Fellow South Carolinian:

As our nation continues to commemorate America's 250th birthday, we are reminded that the story of freedom did not end with our founding. The generations that followed were called to extend and strengthen the blessings of liberty, often through extraordinary sacrifice, steadfast faith, and quiet perseverance.

This calendar honors African Americans whose lives and legacies helped our nation more fully realize its highest ideals.

Throughout our history, African Americans have answered the call to serve. They stood on battlefields and in classrooms, worked in laboratories and hospitals, championed justice in courtrooms, and strengthened communities through leadership, innovation, and courage. Many faced formidable obstacles, yet remained faithful to the promise that every person is endowed by God with immeasurable worth and dignity.

Through the power of education, we strive to ensure that every South Carolina student understands not only the events of history, but also the character of those who shaped it. By learning the stories of these trailblazers, students gain a deeper appreciation for the sturdy shoulders upon which they stand and a clearer understanding of the responsibilities they carry forward.

The individuals highlighted in this 2027 African American History Calendar walked different paths and answered different callings, but they share a common commitment to something greater than themselves. They served their communities, their state, and their nation with conviction, helping to expand opportunity, advance justice, and open doors for future generations.

Their stories remind us that progress is not inevitable. It is built, generation by generation, by people willing to sacrifice, to lead, and to persevere in pursuit of what is right. By God's grace, their contributions helped strengthen our nation and enrich the American story.

As you journey through these pages, I hope you are inspired and grateful for their service. May their lives encourage each of us to embrace our own opportunities to serve others, steward the blessings we have received, and leave our communities stronger than we found them.

May we carry their example forward with the same faith, courage, and determination they brought to the work of making America's promise more fully real.

Together in Freedom,

Ellen E. Weaver

Ellen E. Weaver
State Superintendent of Education







Photos from the July 2026 parade in Bishopville, SC, honoring Major James Capers.

Bishop Morris Brown *(1770–1849)*

Called to Serve



Background

Morris Brown was born in Charleston on February 13, 1770, to free parents of color. Raised in Charleston's small free Black community, he had little formal education and learned the shoemaker's trade. By his twenties, he was a successful artisan with a growing family. After a powerful religious experience, Brown joined the Methodist Church and was licensed to preach in the early 1800s.

A Church of Their Own

In 1818, after white Methodist officials in Charleston limited Black members' control, Brown led thousands of African Americans out of Bethel Methodist Church and formed Mother Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal (AME), the South's oldest AME congregation. It grew to more than 3,000 members before being shut down in 1822 during the Denmark Vesey investigation. Brown was imprisoned for nearly a year on suspicion of involvement but was never convicted. After his release, he moved with his family to Philadelphia to continue his ministry at Mother Bethel AME with Bishop Richard Allen.

Accomplishments

- Founded Mother Emanuel AME Church in Charleston (1818).
- Elected the second bishop of the African Methodist Episcopal Church (1828).
- Expanded the AME denomination to six conferences, nearly 300 churches, and more than 17,000 members.
- Mentored fellow Charlestonian Daniel Payne, who championed formal education for AME ministers.

Lasting Impact

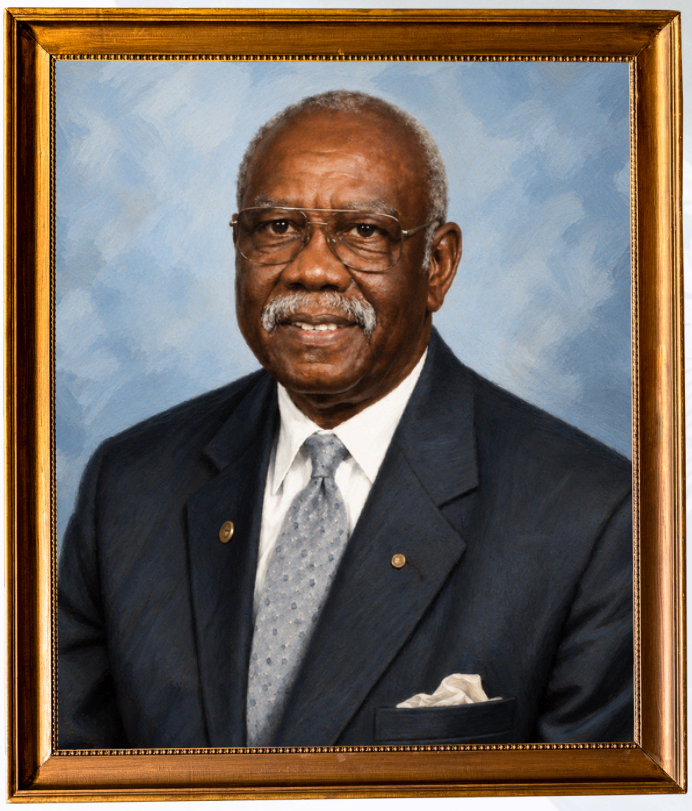
Bishop Brown began as a Charleston shoemaker who could read the Bible but could not write. He ended as an international bishop and founder of lasting institutions, including Mother Emanuel AME, a historic African American church. His life exemplifies the theme "Called to Serve," as he rose from a small Charleston congregation to influence Black religious life nationwide.

January 2027

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
27	28	29	30	31	01 1863 – At Camp Saxton in Port Royal, S.C., thousands of African Americans gathered to celebrate Emancipation Day. New Year's Day Kwanzaa Ends	02
03	04	05	06 2017 – Donald W. Beatty, a native of Spartanburg, was sworn in as Chief Justice of the S.C. Supreme Court.	07	08	09 1963 – In the wake of civil rights protests and lawsuits, Governor Ernest "Fritz" Hollings used his last speech in office to acknowledge that "the day of segregation has passed" and called for the integration process to be handled "with dignity."
10	11 1931 – Kay Patterson, politician and recipient of the Inaugural Clementa C. Pinckney Award presented by the SC Legislative Black Caucus, was born in Darlington, SC.	12 1944 – Boxer Joseph "Smoking Joe" Frazier was born in Beaufort. He would later become an Olympic gold medalist and heavy weight champion.	13	14	15 1963 – Donald Russell was inaugurated as Governor of S.C. At the inaugural barbecue held on the grounds of the Governor's Mansion, over 100 black citizens were in attendance.	16
17 1927 – Actress Eartha Kitt was born in North, SC. 2000 – More than 46,000 rallied at the state capitol in Columbia to protest the Confederate battle flag flying atop the statehouse dome. Sponsors of the march included the NAACP, the Urban League, and the A.M.E. Church.	18 Martin Luther King Jr. Day	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28 1986 – Astronaut Dr. Ronald E. McNair, a native of Lake City, died in the tragic explosion of the space shuttle Challenger. 1963 – Harvey Gantt, a graduate of Charleston's Burke High School, arrived at Clemson College and enrolled as the school's first African American student.	29	30
31						

William "Bill" Saunders *(b. 1935)*

Freedom, Citizenship, & the Cost of Courage



Background

William "Bill" Saunders was born on February 14, 1935, on Johns Island, SC. He served in the Korean War and was honorably discharged as a staff sergeant in 1954. Upon returning home, he faced racial discrimination when told he couldn't ride the "white" bus, even while white soldiers he fought with stood by. This experience strengthened his belief that citizenship must be actively practiced.

From Islander to Organizer

Back on Johns Island, Saunders was inspired by Esau Jenkins and the Citizenship School movement, which focused on reading and civic literacy. While working at a mattress factory, he trained at Highlander Folk School and became a respected community organizer. In 1969, he was the principal negotiator during a hospital workers' strike, was briefly jailed, and returned to the picket line. He founded Committee on Better Racial Assurance (COBRA) to serve the community and bought WPAL radio to promote civic education. Later, he served three terms on the South Carolina Public Service Commission, continuing his lifelong work for justice.

Accomplishments

- Korean War veteran, honorably discharged as a staff sergeant, received Purple Heart more than 50 years later.
- Led negotiations during the 1969 Charleston Hospital Workers Strike.
- Founded and led COBRA to serve the community.
- Owned WPAL radio, using it for civic education.
- Served three terms on the S.C. Public Service Commission ('94–'04).
- Inducted into the South Carolina Broadcasters Hall of Fame.

Lasting Impact

Bill Saunders' life connects the Johns Island Gullah community to the labor, communications, and public-service traditions of modern South Carolina. He fits February's theme because he understood freedom and citizenship as duties that came at a cost — the cost of showing up, of taking the punches, and of building the institutions that outlast a movement.

February

2027

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
31	01 **1834** - Henry McNeal Turner was born in Hannah Circuit. As an A.M.E. minister, he became the first African American appointed as a U.S. Army chaplain by President Lincoln in 1863. **1870** - Jonathan Jasper Wright, a Beaufort County senator, was the first African American elected to the South Carolina Supreme Court as an Associate Justice.	02 Groundhog Day	03	04	05	06
07 **1965** - Actor, comedian, and author Chris Rock was born in Andrews.	08 **1968** - The Orangeburg Massacre occurred on February 8, 1968, when South Carolina Highway Patrol officers opened fire on a group of African American students protesting segregation at a local bowling alley in Orangeburg, resulting in the deaths of three students and injuries to numerous others.	09	10 Ash Wednesday	11	12 **1909** - Georgetown native Dr. William A. Sinclair, born enslaved in 1858 and studied at the University of South Carolina, helped create the NAACP. **1960** - Days after protests in Greensboro, N.C., the first sit-ins in S.C. began in Rock Hill when nearly 100 students sat in at Woolworth's and McCrory's.	13
14 **1874** - Charlotta Amanda Bass, a newspaper editor and the first African American woman nominated for the office of Vice President in 1952 as a candidate of the Progressive Party, was born in Sumter. Valentine's Day	15 President's Day	16	17	18 **1961** - Students were arrested after attempting to integrate a skating rink in Greenville's Cleveland Park. In a lawsuit named Walker v. Shaw, the students were defended by NAACP attorneys Donald J. Sampson, Matthew J. Perry, and Lincoln C. Jenkins.	19	20
21	22 **1898** - Frazier Baker, a Republican appointed African American post-master of Lake City, and his two-year old daughter, were lynched in an attack by a white mob. Other members of the Baker family were severely injured. The known assailants were never convicted.	23	24	25 1963 - In the ruling Edwards v. South Carolina, the U.S. Supreme Court declared that the State may not "make criminal the peaceful expression of unpopular views." The lawsuit was filed after 187 student demonstrators were arrested following protests against segregation on the grounds of the S.C. State House.	26	27
28	01	02	03	04	05	06

Rosenwald Schools in South Carolina *(1917–1932)*

Service Through Education





Background

After Reconstruction, support for African American education in the rural South was limited and unequal. Beginning in 1917, Booker T. Washington and Julius Rosenwald partnered to establish nearly 500 Rosenwald schools in South Carolina. Communities contributed land, labor, and matching funds, helping to expand educational opportunities for African American children across the state.

A Matching-Grant Movement

The Rosenwald model succeeded because African American families contributed land, labor, and resources. The Rosenwald Fund matched these contributions and provided standardized architectural plans focused on natural light, ventilation, and conducive learning environments. By 1932, nearly one-third of Black schoolchildren in the South attended Rosenwald schools. These schools were built in almost every county across South Carolina, from the Lowcountry rice districts to the Upcountry mill towns, dramatically expanding educational opportunities for Black children.

Accomplishments

- Nearly 500 schools built in South Carolina between 1917 and 1932, some still standing.
- Designs improved light, ventilation, and classroom function.
- Trained African American teachers who served rural schools for decades.
- Graduates became clergy, physicians, teachers, farmers, and community leaders statewide.

Lasting Impact

The Rosenwald Schools embody the March theme, "Service Through Education." Built with matching efforts—Northern philanthropy and Southern hard work and dollars—they stand as reminders that quality education requires sustained partnership among families, teachers, and communities working together for children's good. Some are now restored as museums or community centers.

March

2027

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
28	01 1948 - Denmark Trade School, later technical college, began operation.	02	03 1970 - Angry white residents in Lamar, who opposed school integration, attacked three buses carrying African American students to newly desegregated schools in Darlington County. They overturned the buses by pummeling them with axe handles, chains, and rocks. Eventually, state police dispersed the crowd with tear gas.	04 1960 - Nearly seventy students in Florence continued protests from the day prior, marching from Trinity Baptist Church to a local Kress store. They demanded service at a lunch counter. When the students resumed their peaceful protests, 48 people were arrested for "parading without a permit."	05	06
07	08	09	10	11	12 1974 - The community denounced Richland County school officials' plans to close legendary Booker T. Washington High School to sell it to University of South Carolina. Faculty member Frankie B. Outten described her alma mater as the "Great Mother of the Black Community."	13
14 1960 - Allen University and Benedict College Students Simon Bouie and Talmadge Neal were convicted of trespass at an Eckerd's in Columbia, but their convictions were overturned in the 1964 Supreme Court case Bell v. Maryland. Daylight Saving Time Begins	15 1960 - During demonstrations protesting racial segregation in Orangeburg, police water hosed and tear gassed more than a thousand students form Claflin University and South Carolina State College. Three hundred and eighty students were jailed. The protest was a lead story in the New York Times.	16	17 St. Patrick's Day	18	19	20 1969 - More than 400 African American hospital workers, most of them female, held a strike against the all-white administrations of the Medical College Hospital and Charleston County Hospital for better wages and working conditions.
21 1909 - Booker T. Washington, the famed leader of Tuskegee Institute and the Negro Business League, concluded a seven-day tour of S.C. Prominent African American leaders. Palm Sunday	22	23	24 1961 - In response to the stabbing of Lennie Glover, African American students initiated a boycott of Main St. businesses in Columbia. The "Easter Lennie Glover No Buying Campaign" featured daily picketing and sit-ins.	25	26 Good Friday	27
28 Easter	29	30	31	01	02	03

Dr. Grace Jordan McFadden *(1944–2004)*

Educational Leadership & Lifelong Service



Background

Grace Jordan McFadden joined the University of South Carolina in 1971 to work at the South Carolina School Desegregation Center. Trained as a historian, she combined scholarship, teaching, and public memory in a career spanning three decades. Known as a rigorous scholar, she had a rare talent for connecting the university to the porches and pulpits of ordinary South Carolinians.

A First — and a Founder

McFadden became the first African American woman to earn tenure at USC's Columbia campus. In 1986, she founded USC's Oral History and Cultural Project, producing a 25-part videotaped series, The Quest for Human Rights, which aired statewide and remains a valuable model for community oral history. From 1988 to 1994, she chaired USC's African American Studies Program, hosting conferences and mentoring students. She also served as lead historian for the South Carolina African American History Calendar, a series that continues today, preserving her legacy.

Accomplishments

- First African American woman to earn tenure at USC Columbia.
- Founded USC's Oral History and Cultural Project (1986).
- Produced The Quest for Human Rights: Oral History of Black South Carolinians (SCETV, 25 parts).
- Chaired USC's African American Studies Program (1988–1994).
- Lead historian for the early SC African American History Calendar.

Lasting Impact

McFadden believed a teacher's classroom extended from the university to the SCETV studio and the front porch of South Carolinians with stories to tell. Her Grace Jordan McFadden Professors Program at USC continues her work, mentoring doctoral and MFA students through teaching, community engagement, and preparation. Honored in April 2027, she exemplifies connecting the state's K–12 desegregation history to today's classrooms and archives.

April

2027

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
28	29	30	31	01	02	03
04 1949 – Allen University sponsored a performance by famed vocalist Marian Anderson at Columbia's Township Auditorium.	05 1983 – Attorneys Luther J. Battiste, III and E. W. Cromartie, II were sworn in as the first African Americans on the Columbia City Council since the Reconstruction era.	06	07	08	09	10
11 1877 – Following the Hayes-Tilden Compromise, federal troops were removed from S.C., setting the stage for the collapse of the state's Reconstruction government and the resurgence of white Democratic leadership.	12	13	14	15	16 1868 – A new S.C. constitution, shaped by African American leaders, is adopted. The 1868 constitution required integrated education and contained a strong Bill of Rights that protected citizens of all races.	17
18	19 1839 – Robert Smalls, a politician and Civil War hero who commandeered a Confederate ship during the Civil War to escape slavery, was born in Beaufort.	20 2010 – Stephen K. Benjamin was elected as Columbia's first African American mayor.	21	22 Passover Begins	23	24
25 1906 – The Palmetto Medical Association, composed of African American physicians, dentists, and pharmacists, gathered in Camden to mark its 10th Anniversary.	26	27	28 1969 – Journalists reported that armed students at Voorhees College in Denmark took over the library and other offices on campus to protest conditions and to "obtain a more meaningful education in the interest of black people."	29 Passover Ends	30 1967 – Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. spoke at the Greenville Memorial Auditorium. In his address, King remarks: "It is time for a Second Reconstruction in South Carolina."	01

Michael B. Moore *(b. 1962)*

Builders of Opportunity



Background

Michael Boulware Moore is a descendant of Robert Smalls, the enslaved Beaufort waterman who commandeered the CSS Planter in 1862 and later served in Congress. Though he grew up in the Northeast, Smalls's legacy was central to his family. On his 17th birthday, Moore received a letter from his grandfather, civil rights leader Dr. C.E. Boulware, reminding him that voting was an inheritance and duty.

From the Boardroom to Gadsden's Wharf

After careers at Coca-Cola, Kraft, and Glory Foods, Moore became the founding president and CEO of the International African American Museum (IAAM) in 2016, overseeing its development. Under his leadership, the museum completed its capital campaign and prepared to open at Gadsden's Wharf, where many enslaved Africans first arrived in the U.S. The IAAM opened in June 2023 after Moore transitioned to the private sector. A public speaker and TEDx presenter, his talk "The Audacity of Robert Smalls" has reached international audiences. He is a leading narrator of his family's history and Robert Smalls' role in American history.

Accomplishments

- Founding President and CEO of the International African American Museum, Charleston (2016–2019).
- Advocate and family historian for the Robert Smalls legacy in public speaking, writing, and documentary work.
- Business leader with senior roles at Coca-Cola, Kraft, and Glory Foods.
- Named to Charleston Business Magazine's "50 Most Influential."

Lasting Impact

Moore exemplifies the May theme, "Builders of Opportunity," through the institutions he helped create. The IAAM at Gadsden's Wharf now educates hundreds of thousands annually and transforms family and community history into a shared national story. His work turns ancestral memory into present-day service—a reminder that a South Carolinian's inheritance is meant to be shared with future generations, not just admired.

May

2027

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
25	26	27	28	29	30	01
02 2000 – S.C. Governor, Jim Hodges, signed a bill to make Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday an official state holiday.	03 1898 – Educator and organizer, Septima Poinsette Clark, commonly referred to as the "Mother of the Movement" by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and others, was born in Charleston. 1933 – James Brown, "The Godfather of Soul" was born in Barnwell.	04	05 Cinco de Mayo	06 1966 – Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. spoke to over 5000 people gathered in Kingstree. As African Americans in Kingstree and around the state ran for political office, King championed voter registrations and encouraged his audience to "march on ballot boxes" in upcoming primaries.	07	08
09 1961 – Twenty-one-year-old John Lewis was beaten while participating in the Freedom Rides at the Rock Hill Greyhound Bus Station. Other riders were assaulted in Winnsboro. Lewis later is elected to the U.S. House of Representatives from Georgia. Mother's Day	10 1919 – A deadly race riot called the Charleston Riot of 1919, which was instigated by members of the US Navy, led to the death of two African Americans. During the course of the following months of the "red summer," racial violence erupted across the U.S.	11	12	13 1872 – Dr. Matilda Evans was born in Aiken and was one of the first licensed African American female physicians in the state. She established a nurses training program in Columbia.	14	15
16 1956 – Twenty-one African American teachers in Elloree were dismissed from their jobs after they refused to acknowledge their memberships in the NAACP. African American teachers were often fired for their participation in the Civil Rights Movement.	17 1954 – The US Supreme Court ruled school segregation as unconstitutional in the landmark decision of Brown v. Board of Education. The first of the five cases that made up the Brown suit was Briggs v. Elliott from Clarendon County.	18	19	20 1963 – Over 1,000 white University of South Carolina students participated in an anti-integration rally on the Horseshoe green. After a cross was lit on the campus in retaliation, some students then marched to the State House to oppose the admission of African American students.	21	22 1967 – Ordie P. Taylor Jr., Anthony M. Hurley, and Mable B. Ashe applied for a charter of incorporation for the newly organized Columbia Urban League, Inc.
23	24 1944 – Led by John McCray, the Progressive Democratic Party held its first convention in Columbia, advocating for racial inclusion and civil rights.	25	26	27	28	29
30	31 Memorial Day					

The Story of Mitchelville *(1862–c. 1890)*

Gullah Roots & Freedom's First School





Background

On November 7, 1861, the Battle of Port Royal gave the Union control of South Carolina's Sea Islands. Confederate planters fled, leaving enslaved people on Hilton Head and nearby islands to face uncertain freedom. In 1862, Union Major General Ormsby M. Mitchel, an abolitionist whose father had owned slaves, helped formerly enslaved people build their own town on about 300 acres. Within months, around 1,500 residents built nearly 500 homes, with streets, gardens, and a public square.

The First Compulsory School Law in South Carolina

Mitchelville was the first U.S. town governed by formerly enslaved people. Its residents elected a mayor and council, enforced ordinances, ran a police force and post office, worshipped at First African Baptist Church, and enacted South Carolina's first compulsory school law, requiring children aged six to fifteen to attend school. Teachers from the American Missionary Association and Black educators from the North and freedmen staffed classrooms, while adults attended evening classes. Learning became the first act of their freedom.

Accomplishments

- First self-governed town of formerly enslaved Americans (established 1862).
- First compulsory school attendance law in South Carolina history.
- Population of approximately 1,500 at its height, with nearly 500 residences.
- Elected town government, churches, post office, and police force.
- Listed on the National Register of Historic Places (1988).

Lasting Impact

Mitchelville declined after Reconstruction as residents moved for work or land. However, its example persisted, inspiring other Gullah Geechee communities with lessons of self-government and education. Today, the Historic Mitchelville Freedom Park on Hilton Head Island preserves the site, and a new research center is being developed to study its legacy.

June

2027

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
30	31	01 1863 - The Union Army began a series of raids along the Combahee River in Beaufort and Colleton counties that freed enslaved people. Acclaimed abolitionist and Underground Railroad leader Harriet Tubman participated in the raids as she worked as a spy along the S.C. coast.	02	03 1942 - Lonnie Randolph, Jr., a physician and civil rights activist was born in Columbia. He led the South Carolina Conference of the NAACP for fourteen years and was instrumental in the campaigns for 'King Day at the Dome' and the removal of the Confederate flag from the State House grounds.	04	05
06 1939 - Marian Wright Edelman, founder of the Children's Defense Fund and a graduate of Spelman College and the Yale University Law School, was born in Bennettsville.	07	08	09	10	11	12
13 1910 - Dr. William D. Crum, a S.C. physician was appointed the U. S. minister to Liberia.	14 Flag Day	15	16 1944 - George Stinney Jr., a 14-year old young man from Alcolu, was executed for the death of two white girls in his community. In 2014, Stinney's conviction was vacated after a judge concluded that the original prosecution was marked by "fundamental, Constitutional violations of due process."	17 2015 - Nine members of Mother Emanuel AME Church in Charleston were killed during a Bible study in a racist attack. They included Pastor and State Senator Clementa C. Pinckney, Cynthia Marie Graham Hurd, Susie Jackson, Ethel Lee Lance, Depayne Middleton, Tywanza Sanders, Daniel L. Simmons, Sharonda Coleman, and Myra Thompson.	18	19 Juneteenth
20 Father's Day	21 1985 - Columbia attorney and former member of the General Assembly I. S. Leevy Johnson was sworn in as the first African American president of the South Carolina Bar Association.	22 1822 - Denmark Vesey and followers were arrested in Charleston for planning the largest African American slave insurrection in the nation's history. 1954 - Sarah Mae Flemming was hit and ejected from a Columbia bus for sitting in a seat reserved for white passengers, 17 months before Rosa Parks.	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	01	02	03

Major James Capers Jr., USMC (Ret.) (b. 1937)

Service & Sacrifice: South Carolinians in Uniform





Background

James Charles Capers Jr. was born on August 25, 1937, in Bishopville, South Carolina, to a family of sharecroppers. As a boy, his family joined the Great Migration and moved to Baltimore, Maryland, where he met and married his beloved wife, Dottie Green. In 1956, at age nineteen, Capers enlisted in the Marine Corps, beginning a career that took him from a segregated childhood to the White House East Room.

Four Days at Phu Loc

On March 31, 1967, then-Second Lieutenant Capers led a nine-man Force Reconnaissance team on a four-day patrol in Vietnam, seeking a North Vietnamese base near Phu Loc. Over 96 hours, they fought multiple engagements against a larger force. Severely wounded, Capers continued to direct fire, coordinate support, and lead his Marines. When the helicopter arrived, he refused to board until all his Marines were safe, then climbed in. In June 2026, President Trump awarded him the Medal of Honor.

Accomplishments

- Medal of Honor (2026) for actions at Phu Loc, Vietnam, March–April 1967.
- Silver Star, two Bronze Stars with Combat V, three Purple Hearts, Vietnam Cross of Gallantry, and other awards.
- First Black Marine in Force Reconnaissance and to command a reconnaissance company.
- Battlefield commission from Staff Sergeant to Second Lieutenant.
- Inducted into U.S. Special Operations Command Hall of Honor (2010).

Lasting Impact

Major Capers is a Marine's Marine — a pioneer whose reconnaissance training is still studied by U.S. Special Operations Forces. His life reflects the July theme through his lifelong dedication to his men, faith, and country. He consistently followed the Marine Corps commitment, "Leave No Man Behind." A historical marker in Bishopville and a portrait in his hometown honor the boy from Lee County who became one of America's most decorated Marines.

July

2027

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
27	28	29	30	01 1992 – Dr. Edward Sawyer Cooper, a native of Columbia and a professor at the University of Pennsylvania, began his tenure as the first African American president of the American Heart Association.	02 1964 – President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the Civil Rights Act of 1664 into law, banning segregation in public places and outlawing employment discrimination on the basis of race.	03 1910 – Civil rights leader and businessman, Esau Jenkins was born on Johns Island.
04 Independence Day	05 1947 – Camden, S.C. native, Larry Doby, was signed to the Cleveland Indians, becoming the first African American to play in the American League. 1979 – Matthew J. Perry Jr., a graduate of the SC State Law School in Orangeburg, was nominated by President Jimmy Carter as a judge for the U.S. District Court for the District of S.C.	06	07	08	09 2015 – Following the death of 9 parishioners at Charleston's Mother Emanuel A.M.E. Church, public protest, and intense debates in the General Assembly, S.C. Governor Nikki Haley signed a bill to remove the Confederate flag from the state capitol grounds.	10 1875 – Educator, civic leader, and political advisor Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune was born in Mayesville.
11	12	13	14	15	16 1960 – A group of students, known as the "Greenville Eight" were arrested for disorderly conduct when they staged a sit-in at a Greenville library.	17
18 1863 – Distinguished mathematician, essayist, and Howard University professor Dr. Kelly Miller was born in Winnsboro.	19	20 1966 – S.C. State Parks were reopened as fully integrated facilities after being closed by the South Carolina Forestry Commission in response to Brown v. S.C. Forestry Commission.	21	22 1942 – Columbia NAACP President Rev. E.A. Adams and other members of the state conference formed the Negro Citizens Committee of South Carolina (NCC) to rally support for a voting rights campaign.	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Rev. Dr. Simon P. Bouie *(1939–2026)*

Mentorship & Preparing the Next Generation



Background

Simon P. Bouie was born in Columbia in 1939 and grew up on the streets around Booker T. Washington High School, where he became a student leader. By his sophomore year at Allen University in the spring of 1960, he was twenty years old and had earned the trust of fellow students preparing to challenge segregation at Columbia's downtown lunch counters.

March 14, 1960 — and Sixty Years On

On March 14, 1960, Bouie and student activist Talmadge Neal sat at the Eckerd's lunch counter in Columbia and were arrested. Their case, *Bouie v. City of Columbia* (1964), went to the Supreme Court, which ruled that a state cannot retroactively expand a criminal trespass law to punish conduct that was not illegal at the time. Bouie later reflected, "We fought for what was right," embodying the spirit of civil rights activism. In October 2024, his arrest record was expunged by a judge, 64 years after the incident. He passed away in June 2026 after dedicating 56 years to his ministry.

Accomplishments

- Named party in *Bouie v. City of Columbia*, 378 U.S. 347 (1964), a landmark Supreme Court case.
- Ordained AME minister for 56 years in SC, NY, and Philadelphia.
- Founding partner & advisor to Columbia SC 63 and USC Civil Rights Center.
- Life member of NAACP; member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, 100 Black Men of America, and 1000 Plus Club of Allen University.

Lasting Impact

August's theme, "Mentorship & Preparing the Next Generation," fits Rev. Bouie's life because he never treated his youthful courage as an ending. For sixty-six years afterward, he mentored students, pastored congregations, advocated for affordable housing, and preserved history so that young South Carolinians could see themselves as inheritors of a tradition of principled action. His counsel to the next generation was always the same: know what is right, prepare well, and act.

August

2027

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
01 1894 – Benjamin Elijah Mays, educator, social activist, mentor to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., and the President of Morehouse College, was born in Epworth.	02	03	04 1810 – Robert Purvis, an abolitionist, participant in the Underground Railroad, and a founder of the American Anti-Slavery Society, was born in Charleston.	05	06 1965 – President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the Voting Rights Act into law, enforcing the fifteenth amendment and helping to guarantee the right to vote for all Americans, regardless of race.	07
08	09	10	11 1965 – Tony Award, Academy Award, and Emmy Award winning actress Viola Davis was born in St. Matthews.	12 1922 – One of the first African American models in the U.S., Ophelia DeVore-Mitchell was born in Edgefield.	13	14 1883 – Ernest Everett Just, biologist, Dartmouth College graduate, recipient of the NAACP Spingarn Medal, and a founder of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. was born in Charleston.
15	16	17 1849 – Archibald Grimke, one of the first African Americans to attend Harvard Law School and a recipient of the NAACP Spingarn Medal, was born near Charleston.	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25 1862 – Following appeals by Civil War hero Robert Smalls and others, President Abraham Lincoln authorized the creation of the First South Carolina Volunteer Infantry Regiment Volunteers, an all-black military regiment who served during the Civil War.	26 1955 – All white teams refused to play Charleston's Cannon Street YMCA "All-Stars," and were named state little league baseball champions. Officials ruled their championship win invalid, which denied them the chance to compete in the World Series.	27	28 1963 – South Carolinians joined over 250,000 in Washington, D.C. for the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom. Sumter native James T. McCain, a leader in the Congress on Racial Equality (CORE), joined others in coordinating the logistics of the March. South Carolinian Dr. Benjamin E. Mays delivered the benediction.
29	30	30 1960 – Rev. I. DeQuincey Newman led a group of civil rights activists to attempt a "wade-in" at Myrtle Beach State Park. Park officials denied the group entry and closed the park.	01	02	03	04

Maude E. Callen *(1898–1990)*

Healing as Service



Background

Maude Callen was born in Florida just before the turn of the twentieth century. Orphaned at seven, she was raised by her uncle — the first Black doctor in Tallahassee. From him, she learned the power of medicine, the discipline of study, and the responsibility to serve. She graduated from college in Florida and completed her nurse and midwife training at the Tuskegee Institute in Alabama.

The Angel in Twilight

In the 1920s, Callen moved to Berkeley County, SC, as an Episcopal nurse-midwife in Pineville. Over decades, she delivered up to 800 babies, often traveling alone at night with just a lantern, earning her the nickname "Angel in Twilight." She also trained midwives, taught reading, organized clothing drives, transported patients, and prayed with grieving families. She summed up her calling: "Let me live in my house by the side of the road and be a friend to man." In 1951, LIFE magazine featured her in a powerful photo essay, prompting donations that funded the Maude E. Callen Clinic in Pineville.

Accomplishments

- Delivered up to 800 babies over 60 years in rural nursing.
- Trained many rural midwives in Berkeley County and the Lowcountry.
- Featured in LIFE magazine's 1951 photo essay, raising funds for her clinic.
- Served the community into her eighties, delivering meals to seniors.
- Invited to the White House by President Ronald Reagan.
- Honored in the SCDE Palmetto Pioneers series.

Lasting Impact

Nurse Callen served rural South Carolinians for more than sixty years without waiting for someone else to reach them first. Her example set a standard of compassion, competence, and steady presence that continues to shape how public health nurses view their work today. September's theme, "Healing as Service," is written in the story of her lantern, her hands, and her sixty-year commitment to the people of Pineville.

September

2027

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
29	30	31	01 1983 – Jasper Cureton was sworn in as the first African American member of a newly formed S.C. Appeals Court.	02 1869 – Anna DeCosta Banks, RN, a graduate of Hampton Institute and a pioneer in the nursing profession, was born in Charleston. A wing of the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC) is named in her honor.	03 1963 – Following the court ruling Millicent Brown et al. v. Charleston County School Board, District 20, 11 African American students desegregated Charleston County schools, setting stage for school desegregation across S.C.	04
05	06 Labor Day	07 1867 – Celia Mann, a free woman of color and midwife, died in Columbia at 68 years old. According to family oral tradition, Celia was born into slavery in Charleston, gained her freedom, and walked to Columbia. She and her husband owned their own property, now the site of the Mann-Simons cottage.	08 2004 – Joseph A. De Laine, Levi Pearson, and Harry and Eliza Briggs were posthumously awarded the Congressional Gold Medal in recognition of their civil rights struggles in Clarendon County.	09 1739 – The Stono Rebellion occurred at Stono Bridge, South of Charleston. This large-scale act of resistance among enslaved African Americans who demanded their freedom struck fear in white citizens who responded with violent assaults and even tighter slave codes and regulations.	10	11 1963 – Henrie Monteith, James L. Solomon Jr., and Robert G. Anderson enrolled at the University of South Carolina, becoming the first African Americans to attend since Reconstruction.
12	13	14	15	16	17 Constitution Day	18
19 1931 – Brook Benton [Benjamin Franklin Peay], American soul vocalist, was born in Lugoff.	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27 1935 – Mamie "Peanut" Johnson, the first female pitcher to play baseball in the Negro leagues, was born in Ridgeway.	28	29 1997 – Alex English, a native of Columbia, a standout University of South Carolina basketball player, and a prolific NBA scorer, was inducted into the Basketball Hall of Fame.	30	01	02

The USC 3

Opening Doors: The Long Walk to the Horseshoe



Robert G. Anderson (1937–2009), Henrie Monteith Treadwell (b. 1946), and James L. Solomon Jr. (1930–2024)

Background

In September 1963, three African American students registered for classes at USC's Osborne Building, the first since the campus closed in 1877. In a well-known photograph, Robert G. Anderson, Henrie Monteith, and James L. Solomon Jr. walk down the steps together from the doorway, holding textbooks, symbolizing a historic moment in the university's integration.

Sixty Years to a Statue

Henrie Monteith Treadwell applied to USC at sixteen but was rejected. With her mother, aunt Modjeska Simkins, and attorney Matthew Perry Jr., she filed the lawsuit that opened the door for herself and classmates James Solomon and Robert Anderson. On September 11, 1963, they walked from the Osborne Building to the Naval Armory as officers watched. At 17, Treadwell called it "a small step to equality." In 1965, she became USC's first Black graduate since Reconstruction, earning a biochemistry degree and working in public health.

Accomplishments

- Henrie Monteith Treadwell: filed 1962 lawsuit to desegregate USC; first Black bachelor's since Reconstruction (1965); Ph.D. from Atlanta University; founding director at Morehouse.
- Robert G. Anderson: USC student; Vietnam veteran; NYC social worker.
- James L. Solomon Jr.: Morris College faculty; USC graduate; School Board member; social services leader.
- April 2024: USC unveiled a 12-foot desegregation monument on the Horseshoe.

Lasting Impact

The USC 3 unlocked a door that will never close again. Today, every student on the Horseshoe passes their statue, erected by the USC Board of Trustees, on the way to class. October's theme, "Opening Doors," reflects their story because the door they opened stayed open, kept alive by the courage of those who led the way, the loyalty of those who followed, and the institutions that honored them long afterward.

October

2027

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
26	27	28	29	30	01	02
03	04 1862 – The New South newspaper in Beaufort reports about plans to develop a "Negro village" that will provide African Americans "more comfort and freedom of improvement" on Hilton Head Island. The village would soon be known as Mitchelville.	05	06	07 1873 – Henry E. Hayne, the black Republican Secretary of State of S.C., registered as a student in the University of South Carolina's Medical School, becoming the first known African American student in the university's history.	08 1941 – Civil rights leader and two-time presidential candidate Jesse Jackson was born in Greenville.	09
10	11 1891 – Friendship Institute, a private school in Rock Hill held its first classes. Later, named Friendship Junior College, the school trained generations of ministers, educators, and other professionals from around the state until it closed in 1981. Columbus Day	12	13	14 1964 – When Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in Oslo, Norway, he was joined by a number of close associates, including Charleston educator Septima P. Clark.	15 1960 – Students from Allen and Benedict Colleges formed the Student Conference for Human Rights to organize across campuses and the city. 1967 – Winnsboro native Sgt. Webster Anderson of the 101st Airborne received the Medal of Honor for defending against an enemy attack despite injury.	16 1868 – State Senator Benjamin F. Randolph was assassinated while campaigning at Hodges Depot in Abbeville. 1872 – African Americans elected as state officers: Gleaves (Lt. Gov.), Hayne (Sec. of State), and Cardoza (State Treasurer).
17	18	19	20	21 1917 – John Birks "Dizzy" Gillespie, jazz trumpeter and Bebop musician, was born in Cheraw.	22 1945 – African American workers at Charleston American Tobacco Company struck for five months, demanding better wages and conditions. Their song "We Will Overcome" later became the civil rights anthem "We Shall Overcome."	23
24 31 Halloween	25 1983 – Rev. I. DeQuincey Newman, a native of Darlington County, was elected as a S.C. State Senator from Richland County, becoming the first African American to serve in the State Senate since 1888.	26	27	28	29	30

Francis Lewis Cardozo *(1836–1903)*

Public Service & Policy Leadership



Background

Francis Lewis Cardozo was born free in Charleston in 1836 to Lydia Weston and Isaac Cardozo. He and his siblings grew up in Charleston's free Black community and attended a school for free children of color. At 21, Cardozo sailed to Scotland to study at the University of Glasgow, focusing on Latin, Greek, math, logic, and ethics, and completed three years of seminary training in Scotland and England.

Rebuilding a State from the Ground Up

In 1865, Cardozo returned to Charleston as a minister and educator, founding Avery Normal Institute to train Black teachers. He helped establish South Carolina's first public schools in 1868 and was elected Secretary of State at age 32, the first African American to hold statewide office. He reformed the Land Commission and was elected State Treasurer in 1872, serving through three governors. Praised for his honesty, he faced impeachment in 1874 but was cleared and reelected twice, demonstrating his integrity and leadership.

Accomplishments

- First African American statewide officeholder in the U.S. (SC Secretary of State, 1868).
- South Carolina State Treasurer, 1872–1877.
- Delegate and education chair at 1868 Constitutional Convention.
- Helped draft the 1868 Constitution establishing South Carolina's first statewide public school system.
- Founded Avery Normal Institute in Charleston.

Lasting Impact

Cardozo embodied the November theme by using public service to build institutions and expand opportunity, but also faced its risks. After Reconstruction, he was prosecuted on likely political charges; his convictions were overturned, and he was pardoned. He then rebuilt his career as an educator for Black students in Washington. Through both public service and personal adversity, Cardozo remained committed to education, opportunity, and the responsibilities of citizenship.

November 2027

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
31	01	02 Election Day	03 1898 – S.C. State College was established. 1970 – Herbert Fielding, I.S. Leevy Johnson, and James Felder were elected to the S.C. General Assembly as the first African Americans since 1902. 1992 – Sumter native James E. Clyburn was the first African American from S.C. to serve in U.S. Congress since 1890.	04	05 1974 – Juanita Willmon Goggins became the first black woman elected to the S.C. General Assembly.	06
07 Daylight Saving Time Ends	08 1944 – Dr. Cleveland Sellers Jr. was born in Denmark.	09	10 1939 – Twenty-nine representatives from branches around S.C. met in the library at Benedict College in Columbia and founded the South Carolina NAACP State Conference of Branches.	11 Veterans Day	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20 1926 – Nathaniel Jerome Frederick, a Columbia educator, journalist, and NAACP attorney, was recognized by the Palmetto Leader newspaper for his courageous defense of the Lowmans, an African American family in Aiken County accused of killing a white sheriff. He was hailed as the "bravest man in South Carolina."
21 1947 – Aided by the NAACP, John Wrighten sued to integrate the law school at the University of South Carolina. Rather than permit him to enroll, the state of S.C. funded the creation of a separate law school at segregated South Carolina State College.	22	23	24 1874 – After serving in the U.S. Congress, Robert B. Elliott was elected Speaker of the Lower House of the S.C. Legislature during the Reconstruction era.	25 Thanksgiving	26 1872 – The S.C. General Assembly met in Columbia and named four African Americans to the seven-man governing board of the University of South Carolina: Samuel J. Lee, James A. Bowley (a relative of Harriet Tubman), Stephen A. Swails, and W.R. Jervey.	27
28	29 1976 – 1976 – Actor Chadwick Boseman was born in Anderson.	30	01	02	03	04

LTG Milford H. "Beags" Beagle Jr., U.S. Army (Ret.) (b. 1968)

From South Carolina to the Nation



Background

Milford H. Beagle Jr. was born and raised in Enoree, SC, near Woodruff. His great-grandfather, Walter Beagles, trained at Camp Jackson in 1918 before serving in WWI. A century later, Beagle returned there as its commanding general. He won a state track championship at Woodruff High School and commissioned as an infantry officer through ROTC at South Carolina State University in 1990, earning a degree in criminal justice.

A Career That Circled Back Home — and Kept Going

Beagle's 35-year Army career spanned from platoon leader to division commander. He served in Iraq and Afghanistan, advised NATO, and held key roles in Korea. He commanded the 193rd Infantry Brigade (2013–2016), led the U.S. Army Training Center at Fort Jackson in 2018, and commanded the 10th Mountain Division at Fort Drum. He then became the first African American commanding general of the U.S. Army Combined Arms Center at Fort Leavenworth. He retired as a lieutenant general in September 2025.

Accomplishments

- Retired Lt. Gen., U.S. Army (2025).
- Commander, Army Combined Arms Center & Fort Leavenworth (2022–2025).
- Commander, 10th Mountain Division (2021–2022).
- Commander, Fort Jackson (2018–2021).
- Awards: Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit (3), Bronze Star.
- Recipient of the Order of the Palmetto, South Carolina's highest civilian honor.

Lasting Impact

General Beagle's career links a Piedmont mill town, an HBCU ROTC program, and top Army leadership. December's theme, "From South Carolina to the Nation," reflects his family's journey—from a great-grandfather in a segregated battalion in 1918 to a great-grandson commanding the same camp a century later. His life demonstrates that service, honor, and preparation can take a South Carolinian anywhere the country asks him to go.

December

2027

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
28	29	30	01	02	03	04 1899 – Modjeska Monteith Simkins was born in Columbia. 1902 – Annie Green Nelson, one of South Carolina's first known, published, female African American authors, was born in Darlington County.
05	06	07	08	09 1980 – J.C. Caroline, a standout football player at Columbia's Booker T. Washington High School, an All-American at the University of Illinois, and a defensive back for the Chicago Bears, was inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame.	10	11
12 1963 – Five Columbia theaters agreed to gradual desegregation, admitting only two African Americans per show amid protests. 1870 – Joseph Hayne Rainey of Georgetown became the first African American in the U.S. House, serving until 1879.	13	14	15	16	17 2003 – Essie Mae Washington-Williams revealed Strom Thurmond, a segregationist senator and former governor, was her father. 2012 – Tim Scott was appointed by Gov. Nikki Haley as South Carolina's first African American U.S. Senator.	18 1967 – St. Julian Devine was sworn in as the first African American member of the Charleston City Council since the 1870s.
19	20 1860 – South Carolina seceded from the union to preserve the institution of slavery.	21 1865 – S.C. issues one of the first set of black codes "to regulate the relations of persons of color."	22	23	24 Christmas Eve Hanukkah Begins	25 1863 – Robert Blake, powder boy aboard the U.S.S. Marblehead, was the first black awarded the Medal of Honor "for conspicuous gallantry, extraordinary heroism, and intrepidity at the risk of his own life" in a battle that occurred off the coast of S.C. Christmas Day
26 Kwanzaa Begins	27	28	29	30	31 New Year's Eve	01 Hanukkah Ends

January 2028

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