

We join in celebration of Black History When We Show The World Why We are Proud



THE FACTS 11th Annual
"Salute to BLACK History"

The Achievements Of Black Americans Form A Long List

FROM "Fitzgerald Beaver, Publisher-

The curse of slavery mars much of Black History. It is a curse that continues to haunt Black Americans today. But long before the centuries of bondage, there was an incredibly rich history of human achievement; the five-thousand-year heritage of African culture.

White Americans have an image of Africa as simply "the dark continent," a land of steaming jungles and black-skinned head-hunters. There are parts of Africa that fit this description, but other areas are strikingly different. The population of Africa is as diverse as the populations of Europe or the United States, and its cultures are as rich and varied.

The African heritage is probably the oldest on earth. Many anthropologists think that the first human beings were Africans. The earliest

evidence of prehistoric man comes from a desolate region in East Africa where anthropologist Louis S. B. Leakey and his wife, working in an area called the Olduvai Gorge, uncovered human skull fragments that are more than six hundred thousand years old.

Blacks also helped build America. They dreamed its dreams, fought its wars, contributed to its greatness and, more than most Americans, felt the weight of its failures. But their greatest struggle has been against a myth—the myth of racial inferiority. This myth obscures and distorts the image of Black achievement. Today, because of Black History Weeks and Black History classes, the

myth is dying. Centuries of indifference and suppression are beginning to dissolve away revealing

a proud tradition that has remained invisible to many Americans both white and Black.

The names and achievements of Black Americans form a long list. America's history is young, but the history of Black achievement is old.

Today, we are living in an era that demands a unified nation if we are to continue to exist. The contribution of all Americans are needed if we are to survive.

There is strength and inspiration in Black American history: the ancient wisdom of Africa, the long Black fight against oppression, the brilliance of Black Art and science, the dignity and bravery of Black athletes and soldiers. We must acknowledge this history and the history of all Americans if we are to fulfill this nation's great potential.

You will find in the following pages a pictorial and documentary summary of black history in America. It is our hope that This Edition will be used by schools and religious and community groups—and individuals.

With the hope to make an important educational contribution to the American people with the preparation and distribution of this 14 page "Celebration Of Black History."

The Voice Of The Black Community
THE FACTS

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