

AMERICAN LEGACY PRESENTS THE 2010

Heritage AWARDS

As *American Legacy* magazine celebrates its 15th year of publication, it honors **these 15 outstanding individuals and groups** for their accomplishments in promoting and preserving African-American history and culture. While many deserving nominees were considered, our panel of judges deemed these recipients to embody the importance and urgency of *American Legacy*'s call to "Know *Your* History."

With the extraordinary efforts of such people of passion, future generations will be able to learn, find connections, appreciate and build upon the rich heritage that is theirs.

"The story of black people is one of hard-won triumph—over brutal, forced passage to a new land; the shackles of bondage; and the legacy of oppression. If you ask yourself, "How do we know things?" the answer is quite simple. We know because someone has always taken it upon themselves to tell the story, and by telling the story, they prompt us to remember, even as it has become increasingly easy in these times to forget the lessons taught and wisdom learned from those who came before us."

—Rodney J. Reynolds, Founder and Publisher, American Legacy

McDONALD'S WWW.365BLACK.COM



The website www.365Black.com was created to celebrate African-American culture and achievement every day of the year. The interactive site offers visitors a deeper and broader connection with the African-American community, and explores the many ways in which McDonald's is a part of that community. McDonald's commitment is rooted in the

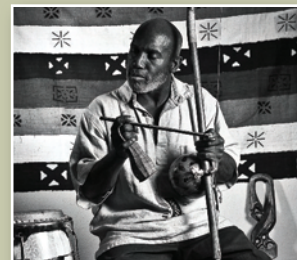
simple yet powerful mantra of its founder, Ray Kroc: "Give back to the communities that we serve." The McDonald's relationship as communicated through 365Black.com informs and inspires the viewer with relevant content. It covers cultural sponsorships and programs, education, employment, career advancement, and entrepreneurship opportunities through the eyes and faces of people from the African-American community.

The unique Web site engages visitors with a changing array of content, including video clips, photography, and links to special events. Through 365Black.com, McDonald's offers not only informative and inspiring moments to viewers and customers, but also opportunities that will empower them to become more "deeply rooted" and an inspiration to their communities.

DENNIS NEWSOME

In 2002 Dennis Newsome became the first African-American to earn the rank of *mestre* ("master") in the centuries-old African-Brazilian folk art of Capoeira. Capoeira Angola São Bento Grande is a style of martial arts that was brought to Brazil from Africa by captured Angolans during the slave trade. Newsome has dedicated his life to keeping the art form alive within the African community.

Throughout his career, Newsome has choreographed and enacted fight scenes and stunts for television, film, and live performances. He worked as fight master for Bravo TV's *Alex Reid: The Fight of His Life* earlier this year. A lifelong student of African traditions of self-defense, Newsome travels to present lectures, perform and demonstrate such techniques as Reisy or Testa (Eritrean head butting) and the Kalenda stick fight/dance style. In 2007 Newsome was inducted into the U.S. Masters Hall of Fame as a Pioneer of African Martial Arts Worldwide.

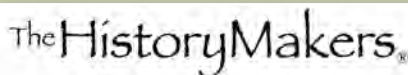


AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE SOCIETY OF LONG BEACH

In 1997, 50 concerned California citizens joined forces to form the African American Heritage Society of Long Beach (AAHS-LB). Together, the society's 13-member board of directors and members established the African American Resource Area at Burnett Library in Long Beach to preserve the history of African-Americans throughout the world.

To date, the society has raised over \$35,000 and has started seven book collections, totaling more than 3,000 books and videotapes. The resource area now offers to the public African-American nonfiction, fiction by black authors, black women's history, and children's books. AAHS-LB has helped to present programs on African-American history and heritage and has hosted tributes to U.S. military veterans. The society has also published *The Heritage of African Americans in Long Beach: Over 100 Years*. Edited by Aaron Day and Indira Hale Tucker, the book is the first to chronicle the black community in Long Beach.

THE HISTORYMAKERS, INC.



The HistoryMakers is the single largest archival collection of its kind in the world. Established by the HistoryMakers, Inc., a national nonprofit organization, the archive has already recorded 8,000 hours of first-person accounts. Interview subjects are African-Americans both well-known and unsung, as well as individuals involved in

organizations, events, and activities significant to the African-American community. The group's historical research has focused largely on slavery, the civil rights movement, music, sports, and entertainment. The stories captured will be made available in a digital collection as a resource for students, teachers, scholars, documentary producers, and the media. To date, the eldest HistoryMaker is 105 years old and the youngest is 29. Interviewers have traveled to more than 80 cities and towns as well as the Caribbean, Mexico, and Norway.

Headquartered in Chicago, The HistoryMakers was incorporated in 1999 by public historian Julieanna L. Richardson, a Harvard-trained lawyer, video producer, and former American Studies major. She now serves as its executive director.

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ELSIE L. SCOTT, PH.D.

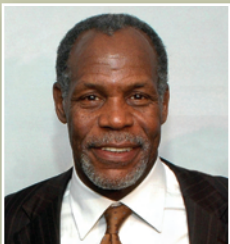
History is being made every day by African-American legislators. Collecting, storing, and disseminating these contributions is the vision of Elsie L. Scott, Ph.D., president and CEO of the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation (CBCF). When the devastation that accompanied Hurricane Katrina in 2005 brought to light the fragility of historical artifacts, CBCF took action. Under Dr. Scott's leadership, partnerships were formed with the University of Texas in Austin, Howard University, and Dell, Inc., to create the Avoice Virtual Library Project in 2006.

Avoice now serves as a free online interactive source of information about historical and contemporary African-American policy issues. Dr. Scott has been adamant that the project should be far more than an archive. It achieves this by means of interactive learning modules on such topics as voting rights, anti-apartheid, and environmental justice for minority and low-income communities. It also maintains authenticity through oral histories from the founding members of the Congressional Black Caucus.

RENEE KEMP-ROTAN

The urban designer Renee Kemp-Rotan is director of capital projects in the Birmingham, Alabama Mayor's Office. Building upon the research of local and national historians, Kemp-Rotan has led the design and development of the Birmingham Civil Rights Heritage Trail. Life-size photographic signs are used to mark the sites of memorable civil rights events. Some of the images were contributed by the Birmingham News, mined from its previously unseen collection of photographs.

Many trail sites have been recognized by the National Register of Historic Places, and when complete, the routes will encompass several historic districts. The first three interpretive signs, describing the "March to Government," were erected in August 2009. Additional signs will depict downtown store sit-ins and the church and business sites where protest campaigns were planned and funded. Kemp-Rotan's unique design for the trail markers engages visitors with text, quotes, and lesson assignments to encourage further exploration of important events in Birmingham's civil rights history.



DANNY GLOVER

The actor Danny Glover's body of work spans three decades, and he has demonstrated a lifelong passion for public service. He has received NAACP Image Awards for his film and television performances, including Best Actor for *Lethal Weapon*, *Beloved*, and HBO's production of *Mandela. To Sleep With Anger* marked Glover's debut as an executive producer. Other films he has produced include *The Saint of Fort Washington*; HBO's America's Dream series for Black History Month; TNT's *Buffalo Soldiers*, a dramatic story of America's first all-black cavalry unit; and TNT's *Freedom Song*, a story about the civil rights movement.

Glover's newest projects, in conjunction with Louverture Films, focus on the development and production of films of historical relevance, social purpose, commercial value, and artistic integrity. Taking its name and inspiration from the great leader of the Haitian Revolution, Toussaint-Louverture, Louverture Films partners with progressive filmmakers and producers around the world and proactively supports the employment and training of cast and crew from communities of color in the United States.

DR. OLIVIA J. HOOKER

In a 2009 interview with American Legacy, Olivia Hooker, Ph.D., recalled being awakened from her bed by her mother and the sound of gunfire during a wave of white-against-black violence that destroyed the prosperous Tulsa neighborhood of Greenwood, once known as the Black Wall Street.

Dr. Hooker went on to make history by becoming the first African-American woman to enlist and go on active duty in the Coast Guard, then part of the U.S. Navy, in World War II. She earned an M.A. from Columbia University Teachers College on the GI Bill, and a Ph.D. at the University of Rochester, where she was one of two black female students. She taught at the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences at Fordham University and retired as associate professor in 1985. Earlier this year, the 95-year-old Dr. Hooker was honored with a legislative resolution by the New York State Senate for her outstanding achievements and contributions to the advancement of women and civil rights.



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REVEREND DOCTOR LILLIAN ANTHONY

Rev. Dr. Lillian Anthony grew up in Indianapolis, defying a childhood illness that threatened her life. She graduated from Lincoln University in Jefferson City, Missouri, and Pittsburgh Xenia Seminary. As an African-American woman, she was denied ordination and was sent to the mission field of Assiut, Egypt. While there, she discovered the Nubians as part of her cultural lineage. She later earned a Ph.D. with study focused on Ghanaian culture and was ordained at the age of 65. In the 1970s she established and chaired the African-American Studies departments at the Universities of Minnesota and Nebraska, both of which are still in place.

Over the years, Anthony has amassed an extensive collection of research, archival artifacts, and rare documents related to people of African descent. While the collection and library is not currently on public display, Anthony continues procure items of importance as she orchestrates efforts to maintain African-American heritage.



OREGON NORTHWEST BLACK PIONEERS



Oregon Northwest Black Pioneers (ONBP), a nonprofit organization, was founded in 1993. The Salem, Oregon-based group recognizes and commemorates the historical contributions of pioneering African-Americans in the development of the Oregon Territories.

African-Americans traversed the Oregon Trail and settled in Oregon as early as 1788, documents show. Despite fugitive slave laws and Oregon's exclusion laws, history reveals that these hardy individuals and their families moved northwest and proceeded to contribute to the communities in which they settled.

The ONBP's small board of directors consists of tireless working volunteers. They conduct research, develop exhibits, and provide presentations to schools, historical societies, and civic organizations. The ONBP also provides scholarships to high school seniors for African-American heritage studies. The group is currently producing a book of local African-American history, and it continues to work toward the goal of developing an Oregon Museum of African-American History.

MCINTOSH COUNTY SHOUTERS

Their numbers may be dwindling, but the McIntosh County Shouters hope their voices will reach and teach many generations to come. The group is keeping alive the traditional ring shout, a form of communication rooted in African slave traditions. Organized to perform professionally in 1980, the Shouters' storytelling, singing, and shouting unflinchingly amazes audiences of all ages.

The McIntosh County Shouters are all direct descendants of Georgia Gullah-Geechee slaves who landed in the coastal Georgia community of Bolden some 300 years ago. One of only a handful of Georgia Gullah-Geechee groups still in existence, the Shouters are considered a national treasure. Their story has been chronicled in the book *Shout Because You're Free: The African American Ring Shout Tradition in Coastal Georgia* (University of Georgia, 1998) by the renowned folklorist Art Rosenbaum. In May 2010 the McIntosh County Shouters were honored with a Georgia Governor's Award in the Humanities in Atlanta.





REVEREND DOCTOR WYATT TEE WALKER

The pastor and civil rights activist Wyatt Tee Walker, also known as the “Harlem Preacher,” has been instrumental in his roles with the NAACP, the Congress of Racial Equality, and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC). In 1960 Walker became the third—and first full-time—executive director of the SCLC and became Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.’s Chief of Staff.

For 37 years Walker led the congregation of the Canaan Baptist Church in Harlem, New York City, as senior pastor. He concerned himself deeply with the apartheid struggle in South Africa as founder of the Religious Action Network of the American Committee on Africa. Walker also served as urban affairs liaison for New York’s governor Nelson A. Rockefeller. Walker’s published essays include “The Soul of Black Worship: A Trilogy—Preaching, Praying and Singing.” He was honored by *Ebony* as one of its *15 Greatest Black*

Preachers. Following his retirement, Walker was inducted into the International Civil Rights Walk of Fame at the Martin Luther King, Jr., National Historic Site in Atlanta.

MICHELLE NICHOLE

A student of art, history, communications, and storytelling, Michelle Nichole has used her talents to bring history to life for future generations. Described by her college classmates as one of the smartest women on campus, Nichole admits she was less than enthralled by the study of history as a youngster. As she gained an appreciation of the role of African-Americans in the nation’s history, she undertook an artistic project that has now blossomed into the “In Hopes of Freedom” series.

Nichole’s extensively researched oil paintings depict the heroic deeds of blacks who participated in the American Revolution. “These are American heroes—doctors, business owners, lawyers, and, of course, soldiers,” she says. “Their lives were testaments to the strength and ingenuity of a people striving for freedom.” Since its initial exhibition in Charlotte, North Carolina, in 2005, the series has traveled to other venues throughout the southeastern United States.



AMERICAN AIRLINES WWW.BLACKHISTORYINAVIATION.COM



American Airlines was the first major passenger airline to hire an African-American pilot. Dave Harris joined American Airlines in 1964 to fly DC-6 aircraft. Following his interview with American, Harris recalls, “I felt compelled to tell [the interviewer] I was black.” The chief pilot who conducted the interview responded, “This is American Airlines, and we don’t care if you’re black, white, or chartreuse. We only want to know, can you fly the plane?”

Harris retired from American in 1994 as a captain, flying America’s largest airplane at that time, the wide-body MD-11. The American Airlines C. R. Smith Museum in Fort Worth, Texas, has a permanent exhibit honoring Harris. His story, along with vignettes of the Tuskegee Airmen, black flight attendants, and others, is featured on the website www.BlackHistoryinAviation.com. Produced by American Airlines, the site is a tribute to black aviation pioneers and professionals.

ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton, now in her tenth term as the Congresswoman for the District of Columbia, is the chair of the House Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings, and Emergency Management. She serves on three, rather than the customary two, committees: the Committee on Homeland Security, the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

Before her congressional service, Norton was appointed by President Jimmy Carter to serve as the first woman to chair the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. She came to Congress as a national figure: a civil rights and feminist leader, a tenured professor of law, and a board member at three Fortune 500 companies. Congresswoman Norton has been named one of the 100 most important American women and one of the most powerful women in Washington. Her work for full congressional voting representation and for full democracy for the people of the District of Columbia continues her lifelong struggle for universal human and civil rights.

