

# ScoopUSA Black History Corner

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TAURUS - April 20 - May 20



*Taurus (The Enduring One)*

*Charming but aggressive. Can come off as boring, but they are not hard workers. Warm-hearted. Strong, has endurance. Solid being that are stable and secure in their ways. Not looking for shortcuts. Take pride in their beauty. Patient and reliable. Make great friends and give good advice. Loving and kind. Loves hard. Passionate. Express themselves emotionally. Prone to ferocious temper-tantrums. Determined. Indulge themselves often. Very generous.*

**Diamond is the jewel for the month of April**

The world's first known reference to the diamond comes from a Sanskrit manuscript written during the Mauryan Dynasty, around 321 BC to 185 BC. Cupid's arrow was supposedly tipped in diamonds having a magical effect of no equal. The ancient Greeks and Romans believed diamonds to be tears of the gods and the splinters from stars. A home or garden touched in each corner with a diamond was supposed to be protected from blight, lightning and storms. A diamond set in gold and worn on the left side is believed to ward off phantoms and diamonds and drive away nightmares. Diamond is derived from the Greek word 'adamas' meaning invincible. The Romans adorned themselves with diamonds for strength and courage. For hundreds of years diamonds were thought to have gender. In 1568 Francois Ruet described two diamonds producing offspring.

**April 26**

*You are shrewd, far-sighted and ambitious. Your friends and associates have confidence in you and respect you. Your most valuable possessions are your friends who are staunch and loyal and will help you when in need. You love your home life and are kind and considerate of your family.*

**1785** John James Audubon, ornithologist, naturalist and painter is born in Les Cayes, Saint Dominique (Haiti).

**1886** (Gertrude Malissa Pridgett) Ma Rainey, the Mother of the Blues is born in Columbus, GA.

**1886** William Levi Dawson, Congressman who was the first African American to chair the Committee on Expenditures is born in Albany, GA.

**1887** J. Gregory is awarded patent 361,937 for a motor.

**1892** Sarah Boone is awarded patent 473,653 for a narrow wooded board with a padded covering and collapsible leg support, ironing board.

**1898** J. A. Joyce is awarded patent 603,143 for the ore bucket.

**1908** Shirley Griffith, blues singer and guitarist (Bad Luck Blues) is born in Brandon, MS.

**1915** (John Ned) Johnny Shines, blues singer and guitarist is born in Frayser, Memphis TN.

**1921** Preston Haines Love, alto saxophonist and band-leader is born in Omaha, NB.

**1926** (Joseph Benjamin) J.B. Hutto, blues musician is born in Blackville, SC.

**1926** J. Tabor Bolden, Jr. first African American station manager for a major network (NBC) is born in Cleveland, OH.

**1927** (Robert Louis) Bob Boozer, National Basketball Association player is born in Omaha, NE.

**1928** Herman Foster, jazz pianist is born in Philadelphia, PA.

**1931** (Maurice LaFrancis) Mo Bassett, National Football League player is born in Chickasha, OK.

**1937** (Robert Louis) Bob Boozer, National Football League player is born in Omaha, NE.

**1938** Maurice Williams, singer with The Zodiacs (Stay) is born in Lancaster, CA.

**1943** *Benedita Souza da Silva Sampaio, first female and African Brazilian governor of the State of Rio de Janeiro is born in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.*

**1944** Ba'im Akbar, clinical psychologist is born in Tallahassee, FL.

**1946** Marilyn Nelson, poet and children's book author (Sweethearts of Rhythm: The Story of the Greatest All-Girl Swing Band in the World) is born in Cleveland, OH.

**1947** Amos Joseph Otis, Major League Baseball player is born in Mobile, AL.

**1959** Tukufu Zuberi, sociologist and one of the hosts of History Detectives is born in Oakland, CA.

**1961** Curtis Vernon Wilkerson, Major League Baseball player is born in Petersburg, VA.

**1962** Debra Renee Wilson, actor, comedian (MADtv) is born in South Ozone Park, Queens NY.

**1967** Curtis Alan Jones, electronic and house music singer is born in Chicago, IL.

**1970** (Tionne Tenese Watkins) T-Boz, singer with TLC is born in Des Moines, IA.

**1971** Shondrella Avery, actor (One on One) is born in Los Angeles, CA.



**Benedita Souza da Silva Sampaio**

**1972** Margaret Allison Bonds, pianist and composer (The Negro Speaks of Rivers) dies in Los Angeles, CA.

**1981** Wade Leon Smith, National Football League player is born in Dallas, TX.

**1983** Mike Jones, professional welterweight boxer is born in Philadelphia, PA.

**1984** (William) Count Basie, composer, bandleader and pianist dies in Hollywood, FL.

**1985** (Brittany) Bre Scullark, fashion model who placed third on America's Next Top Model, Cycle 5) is born in Harlem, NY.

**1988** Arbee Stidham, blues singer and multi-instrumentalist dies in Cook County, IL.

**1988** Bennett McVey Stewart, US Representative from Illinois dies in Chicago, IL.

**1988** Frederick Douglass Patterson, president of Tuskegee University and founder of the United Negro College Fund dies.

**2001** Phoebe (Ann Laub) Snow, singer, songwriter (Poetry Man) dies in Edison, NJ.

**2002** Alton Coleman, spree killer is executed in Lucasville, OH.

**2005** Johnny B. Sample, Jr., National Football League player dies.

**2006** Daryl Linnie Mack, found guilty of murder is executed in Carson City, NV.

**2007** Henry LeTang, television choreographer and dance instructor dies in Las Vegas, NV.

**April 27**

*You are stubborn, but not quarrelsome. You are fair with people and expect, in return, fairness. You are strong-willed and your head very definitely rules your heart.*

**1906** Alice Allison Dunnigan, journalist who was the first African American woman gain access to the US Senate and House of Representatives press galleries is born in Russelville, KY.

**1926** Basil Alexander Paterson, lawyer and father of David Paterson, governor of New York is born in Harlem, NY.

**1927** (Hardin) Hop Wilson, blues steel guitar player is born in Grapeland, TX.

**1927** Coretta Scott King, widow of Dr. Martin Luther King is born in Helberger, AL.

**1928** Henry Edwin Baker, Jr., third African American to enter the US Naval Academy and assistant patent examiner in the US Patent Office dies in Washington, DC.

**1938** Bob Foster, boxer is born in Albuquerque, NM.

**1944** Cuba Gooding, Sr., singer with The Main Ingredient is born in New York, NY.

**1945** August Wilson, playwright (The Piano Lesson) is born in Pittsburgh, PA.

**1946** Marcerlla Lowery, actor (The Cosby Show) is born in Queens, NY.

**1947** (George Kenneth) G.K. Butterfield, US Representative for North Carolina is born in Wilson, NC.

**1947** Ann Peebles, singer-songwriter (I Can't Stand the Rain) is born in St. Louis, MO.

**1949** Herbie Murrell, singer with The Stylistics is born in Lane, SC.

**1950** Calvin Eugene Simmons, first African American to conduct a major orchestra (San Francisco Opera) is born in San Francisco, CA.

**1952** (Lawrence Allen) Larry Elder, radio and television personality is born in Los Angeles, CA.

**1952** George 'The Iceman' Gervin, National Basketball Association player is born in Detroit, MI.

**1954** (Herman) Herm Edwards, Jr., National Football League analyst, player and coach is born in Fort Monmouth, NJ.

**1954** Shahrazad Ali, author (The Blackman's guide to Understanding the Black Woman) is born in Cincinnati, OH.

**1957** Willie Clay Upshaw, Major League Baseball player is born in Bianco, TX.

**1962** (Robin Stone) Robin S, songwriter and singer (Show Me Love) is born in Queens, NY.

**1966** (Tracy Lamar Davis) Tray Deee, rap artist (Murder Was the Case) is born in Long Beach, CA.

**1969** Cory Anthony Booker, US Senator from New Jersey is born in Washington, DC.

**1972** Charles Alston, artist and muralist dies in New York, NY.

**1979** (Robert Cooper Phillips) Koopsta Knicca, rap artist and original member of Three 6 Mafia is born in Memphis, TN.

**1984** Lyman Beecher Brooks, president of Norfolk State University dies in Norfolk, VA.

**1984** (Arzell) ZZ Hill, blues singer (Down Home Blues) dies in Dallas, TX.

**1994** Timothy Wilson Spencer (Southside Strangler), serial killer is executed in Greensville Correctional Centre, VA.

**1998** John Irvin Kennedy, Major League Baseball player is born in Jacksonville, FL.

**1998** Louis Stamford Peterson playwright (Take a Giant Step) dies in New York, NY.

**2009** Frankie Manning, dancer and founding father of the Lindy Hop dies in Manhattan, NY.

**April 28**

*You live within yourself. Rather than make any of those you love unhappy, you keep your troubles and worries to yourself. You have determination of purpose and always do what you plan.*

**1901** Needham Roberts, soldier in the Harlem Hell-fighters and recipient of the Purple Heart is born.

**1910** Everett Barksdale, guitarist and session musician is born in Detroit, MI.

**1922** Jewel Stradford Lafontant-Mankarious, first female deputy solicitor general of the US is born in Chicago, IL.

**1924** Billy Johnson, guitarist with the Moonglows (Most of All) is born in Hartford, CT.

**1932** Calvin Coolidge Hernton, sociologist, poet and author (Sex and Racism in America) is born in Chattanooga, TN.

**1934** Charley Patton, blues singer is born in Edwards, MS.

**1935** (Olatunji Akin Euba) Akin Euba, pianist and composer (Six Yoruba Folk Songs) is born in Lagos, Nigeria.

**1938** Madge (Dorita Walters) Sinclair, actress (Coming to America) is born in St. Ann, Jamaica.

**1940** Jacob Joseph Chestnut, one of the two US Capitol Police officers killed in the line of duty and the first African American to lie in honor in the US Capitol is born.

**1942** Frederick McKinley Jones is awarded patent 132,182 for a design for air conditioning unit.

**1947** (Francine Edna Hurd) Peaches Barker, singer (Peaches & Herb) (Love is Strange) is born in Washington, DC.

**1950** Marita Golden, novelist (A Woman's Place) is born in Washington, DC.

**1962** Annazette Collins, member of the Illinois State Senate is born in Chicago, IL.

**1962** (Arnett William) Ace Mumford, head football coach at historically Black colleges and universities dies in Baton Rouge, LA.

**1964** Barry Louis Larkin, Major League Baseball player is born in Cincinnati, OH.

**1966** (Todd Anthony Shaw) Too \$hort, rap artist (Born to Mack) and actor (Menace II Society) is born in Los Angeles, CA.

**1968** (Charles) Sparky McEwen, Arena Football League player is born in Grand Rapids, MI.

**1971** Rory Flack (Flack-Gurghart), professional figure skater is born in Belleville, IL.

**1971** Simbi Khali, actor (3rd Rock from the Sun) is born in Jackson, MS.

**1973** Earl L. Holmes, National Football League player is born in Tallahassee, FL.

**1977** Derrick Wayne Frazier, convicted murderer is born in Dallas, TX.

**1991** Floyd Bixler McKissick, judge and director of C.O.R.E. (Congress of Racial Equality) dies in North Carolina.

**1992** (Robert Beck) Iceberg Slim, pimp and author (Pimp) dies in Los Angeles, CA.

**1997** Ann Petry, first African American woman author with book sales topping a million copies (The Street) dies in Old Saybrook, CT.

**2005** Percy Heath, bass player with the Modern Jazz Quartet dies in Southampton, NY.

**2008** (William J.) Will Robinson, first African American basketball head coach in Division I (Illinois State University) dies in Detroit, MI.

*Know your History and Culture. If you do not know where you come from, you cannot and will not know where you can go.*