

# 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.*

**The emerald is the stone for the month of May**

Archeologists have traced the history of emeralds back to 3000 BC in ancient Egypt and India. Cleopatra prized her emeralds more than any other stone. One of the world's largest emeralds dates back to 1695, weight 214.8 carats and is about 10 cm high. One side is inscribed with prayers and the other with opulent flowers. Ancient scholar Pliny writes, "Sight is refreshed by gazing upon this stone." Roman emperor Nero took his advice by wearing sunglasses made of emerald to watch the gladiators. Omar Khayyam, a Persian mathematician and philosopher, took a copy of his book, with a cover made from gold and over 1,000 emeralds and rubies aboard the Titanic. Emerald is believed to insure loyalty, improve memory, quicken intelligence and forecast upcoming events. It was once thought that if you kept an emerald under your pillow you would dream about the future.

## May 3

*You are punctilious and exacting and expect the same in others. You are shrewd, calculating and cautious, never entering into any undertaking until it has been thoroughly considered. Your family is devoted to you and you could be happier in your home if you would let yourself.*

**1887** Edward Lewis is awarded patent 362,096 for the spring gun.

**1887** E.W. Stewart is awarded patent 362,190 for the punching machine.

**1898** Septima Poinsette Clark, grandmother of the civil rights movement is born in Charleston, SC.

**1901** Estelle Massey Riddle Osborne, first African American nurse inducted into the American Academy of Nursing as an Honorary Fellow is born in Palestine, TX.

**1920** (Daniel Robert) Dan Bankhead, first African American pitcher in Major League Baseball is born in Empire, AL.

**1920** John Aaron Lewis, pianist, composer who initiated the Modern Jazz Quartet is born in LaGrange, IL.

**1921** (Walker Smith, Jr.) Sugar Ray Robinson, the first African American boxer to the middleweight title on five separate occasions is born in Ailey, GA.

**1928** Roxanne H. Jones, member of the Pennsylvania State Senate is born in South Carolina.

**1933** James Joseph Brown, vocalist, composer, arranger and The Godfather of Soul is born in Barnwell, SC.

**1940** Henry Ossian Flipper, the first African American graduate of West Point Military Academy dies in Thomasville, GA.

**1942** John N. Ford, member of the Tennessee State Senate is born in Memphis, TN.

**1945** (David Earle) Davey Lopes, Major League Baseball player is born in East Providence, RI.

**1946** Greg Gumble, sportscaster (brother of Bryant Gumble) is born in New Orleans, LA.

**1952** Wonderful Terrific Monds, Jr., National Football League player is born in Fort Pierce, FL.

**1956** (Jeffrey Roger) Jeff Gardere, psychologist, media personality and one of the first African American students to attend the St. Francis Xavier Catholic Academy School is born in Brooklyn, NY.

**1959** Alvin Moore, National Football League player is born in Randolph, AZ.

**1966** Lowell Hamilton, a McDonald's All American and Parade magazine High School All American is born in Chicago, IL.

**1967** Nina Mae McKinney, first African American actor to appear on British television dies in New York, NY.

**1971** Damon Dash, actor and one-third founder of Roc-a-Fella Records is born in New York, NY.

**1975** Dulé Hill, actor (Psych) is born in East Brunswick, NJ.

**1977** Jarious K. Jackson, National Football and Canadian Football League player is born in Tupelo, MS.

**1979** Kwame Cavil, Gridiron Football and National Football League player is born in Waco, TX.

**1981** Farrah Destiny Franklin, singer with Destiny's Child is born in Des Moines, IA.

**1984** Demetress Carte Bell, National Football League player is born in Summerfield, LA.

**1985** Meagan Yvonne Tandy, Miss California USA



**James Joseph Brown**

and actor (Unstoppable) is born in Fremont, CA.

**1988** Ben Daniel Revere, Major League Baseball player is born in Atlanta, GA.

**1997** James Melvin Washington, historian, education and minister dies in Knoxville, TN.

**2001** Billy Higgins, jazz drummer dies in Inglewood, CA.

**2006** Earl Dennison Woods, US Army Lieutenant Colonel (father of Tiger Woods) dies in Cypress, CA.

**2010** Kirt Bruce Bennett, businessman and founder of the Young Leaders Academy of Baton Rouge dies in Baton Rouge, LA.

**2012** Bobby Thomas, lead singer with The Orioles (Crying in the Chapel) dies.

## May 4

*You are witty, original, intelligent and always doing the unexpected. You are friendly and are very popular. You can adapt yourself to circumstances or environment and are loving and fond of children.*

**1890** Nellie Pratt Russell, incorporator of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority is born in Macon, GA.

**1897** J. H. Smith is awarded patent 581,785 for the lawn sprinkler.

**1920** M. Toland is awarded patent for a flop operated circuit closer.

**1923** (Kofi Ghanaba) Guy Warren, inventor of Afro-jazz is born in Greater Accra, Ghana.

**1926** (Percival) Sonny Payne, jazz drummer is born in New York, NY.

**1930** Katherine (Esther Scruse) Jackson, matriarch of the Jackson musical family is born in Barbour County, AL.

**1935** Shirley Mathis McBay, first African American Dean at Massachusetts Institute of Technology is born in Bainbridge, GA.

**1937** Melvin Edwards, sculptor whose works are exhibit in the Museum of Modern Art is born in Houston, TX.

**1937** (Ronald Levin) Ron Carter, jazz bassist is born in Ferndale, MI.

**1938** Tyrone Davis (Fettson), singer (Turn Back The Hands of Time) is born in Greenville, MS.

**1942** (Nicholas) Nick Ashford, composer and singer (Ashford & Simpson) is born on Fairfield, SC.

**1943** (Normal Blann) Norm Rice, mayor of Seattle, Washington is born in Denver, CO.

**1946** Renee Powell, professional golfer is born in East Canton, OH.

**1950** Hilly Gene Hicks character actor (Roots) is born in Los Angeles, CA.

**1951** (Harold) Doc West, jazz drummer dies in Cleveland, OH.

**1951** (Sigmund Esco) Jackie Jackson, member of the Jackson Family is born in Gary, IN.

**1953** Oleta Angela Adams, jazz and gospel singer and pianist is born in Seattle, WA.

**1956** Sharon Lafaye Jones, singer (Dap Dippin' with Sharon Jones and the Dap-Kings) is born in Augusta, GA.

**1959** Alice Randall, songwriter and author (The Wind Done Gone) is born in Detroit, MI.

**1961** Donald Lawrence, Gospel songwriter and record producer (A Songwriter's Point Of View) is born.

**1975** Kimora Lee (Perkins) Simmons, model is born in St. Louis, MO.

**1976** (Big) Jim Robinson, jazz trombone player dies in New Orleans, LA.

**1978** James Andrew Harrison, Jr., National Football League player is born in Akron, OH.

**1985** Martin Rucker, Jr., National Football League player is born in St. Joseph, MO.

**1990** (John Richard) Johnny Wright, Negro Baseball League player dies in Jackson, MS.

**1993** Ray Douglas McDonald, National Football League player dies in Dallas, TX.

**1997** Varnado Simpson, participated in the My Lai Massacre in Vietnam and 30 years later commits suicide in Jackson, MS.

**2006** Michael Taliferro, National Football League player and actor (Sister Act 2: Back in the Habit) dies in Los Angeles, CA.

## May 5

**2010** Donald Andrew Spencer, Sr., first African American realtor in Cincinnati, Ohio and first African American trustee at Ohio University in Athens, Ohio dies in Cincinnati, OH.

*You are imaginative, almost visionary. You take pride in being well dressed. You like flattery and enjoy society. Responsibility does not mean much to you. However, you are a charming person, pleasant to live with and should have a happy home life.*

**1865** Adam Clayton Powell, Sr, religious leader at Abyssinian Baptist Church in New York is born in Soak Creek, VA.

**1887** Estelle Hemsley, actor (Take a Giant Step) is born.

**1894** Madeline A. (Worthy) Williams, first African American woman elected to the New Jersey Legislature is born in Brunswick, GA.

**1898** (William Samuel McTier) Blind Willie McTell, ragtime blues singer and guitarist is born in Thomson, GA.

**1899** (Adolphe) Paul Barbarin, drummer is born in New Orleans, LA.

**1905** Josiah Thomas Wall, congressional representative from the State of Florida dies in Tallahassee, FL.

**1911** James Alan Bland, songwriter and the first African American to compose a song that became an official state song (Carry me Back to Ole Virginy) dies at 1012 Wood Street, Philadelphia, PA.

**1914** Red Miller, singer (Bewildered) is born in Atlanta, GA.

**1924** Montrose Hagins, actor is born in Columbus County, NC.

**1925** Sonny Parker, singer, dancer and drummer is born in Youngstown, OH.

**1927** Alton Abraham, social entrepreneur and business manager for Sun Ray is born in Chicago, IL.

**1930** Douglass Turner Ward, playwright (Happy Ending/Day of Absence) and artistic director of the Negro Ensemble Company is born in Burnside, LA.

**1934** Johnnie Harrison Taylor, singer (Who's Making Love) is born in Crawfordsville, AR.

**1941** Stanley Cowell, Jazz pianist and co-founder of the Strata-East Records is born in Toledo, OH.

**1945** Lois Marie DeBerry, member of the Tennessee House of Representatives is born in Memphis, TN.

**1946** Jim M. 'The Dragon' Kelly, Karate Master and actor (Three The Hard Way) is born in Paris, KY.

**1947** Larry Eugene Hisle, Major League Baseball player is born in Portsmouth, OH.

**1951** Andrew Pulley, Socialist Workers Party candidate for Vice President of the US is born.

**1962** George Biddle Kelley, one of the founders of Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity dies in Troy, NY.

**1963** Mason Howard Gibson, professional kick boxer is born in Chicago, IL.

**1966** (Reginald Bernard) Reggie Williams, Major League Baseball player is born in Laurens, SC.

**1972** Darrin Dewitt Henson, director and actor (Soul Food) is born in The Bronx, NY.

**1972** (Blind) Gary Davis, blues and gospel singer dies in Hammonton, NJ.

**1973** (Melvin Darnell Campbell, Jr.) Muhsin Muhammad, II, National Football League player is born in Lansing, MI.

**1975** (Christopher L.) Chris Howard, National Football League player is born in Kenner, LA.

**1975** Marva Hick, actor (One Live to Live) is born in Petersburg, VA.

**1975** Raheem DeVaughn, singer and songwriter (The Love Experience) is born in Newark, NJ.

**1980** (Ivan) Ike Taylor, National Football League player is born in Gretna, LA.

**1985** Terrence Wheatley, National Football League player is born in Walnut Creek, CA.

**1989** (Christopher Maurice) Chris Brown, singer (Kiss Kiss) is born in Tappahannock, VA.

**1995** Al Sanders, news anchorman in Baltimore, Maryland dies in Baltimore, MD.

**2004** (Clement Seymour) Sir Cocksone Dodd, record producer influential in the development of ska and reggae dies in Kingston, Jamaica

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