



**First Woman Representative:** [Shirley Chisholm](#) was the first African American woman elected to the [House of Representatives](#). She was elected in 1968 and represented the state of [New York](#). She broke ground again four years later in 1972 when she was the first major party African American candidate and the first female candidate for president of the United States.



**First Professional Black Baseball Player:** On April 5, 1947, [Jackie Robinson](#) became the first African American to play Major League Baseball when he joined the Brooklyn Dodgers. He led the league in stolen bases that season and was named Rookie of the Year.