

### Lansing Labor News

**VOLUME 79, ISSUE 1** 

### **VOICE OF 25,000 UAW MEMBERS**

FEBRUARY, 2023

LOCAL 1753 Yvonne Vincent, President



Hello 1753 Union Family,

Thank you to everyone who participated in our local election of 1st Shift Committee, Trustee, C.A.P. Chair and Recreation Chair, voters, and election committee.

The new election of 1st Shift Alternate Committee and Recording Secretary is coming, with nominations Feb. 23 and 28 and voting Mar. 7. Please look for a posting in this paper and in the Plant. The run-off election for the International Executive Board Positions is also coming to an end. Please vote and mail your ballot by Feb. 18.

Who you vote for is very important. This is a negotiation year. You should save money from your profit share and monthly from now on because a strike in the near future is very likely. Our national contract ends Sept. 15, 2023, so please be prepared. The best way to do that is to start thinking ahead NOW.

We gave up so much in 2008 and need to gain it back. The tier system heavily contributes to members not being in solidarity and other concessions that were given up like job security and retiree health care contribute to the division. This is the time/year to gain it back! We have seen year after year that GM has made billions in North America alone and that their gains far outweigh ours. We have a Labor-friendly U.S. President and Senate and Michigan politicians that support the UAW in high state-wide offices. Support is very important in negotiations. This is another reason it is important to vote. Voting in Union elections, local elections, state elections and national elections makes your voice heard and very important in the count of who is in office. Educate yourself on the candidates and vote Laborfriendly, Union-strong.

Labor leader A. Philip Randolph is a name we should all know. Starting in 1925, he led the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters to become a recognized Union by the Pullman Car Company (their employer), the American Federation of Labor and the U.S. government. After this 12-year-struggle, he continued to fight against racism in the workplace throughout the heydey of the Civil Rights and Labor movements.

Randolph was also instrumental in the work of the Southern Farmers' Tenant Union, which represented agricultural laborers and sharecroppers under the leadership of Harry L. Mitchell. In order to demand justice, better working and living conditions and fair profit shares, the farmers staged public demonstrations and protests throughout the 1930s. Their collective struggle resulted in the Bankhead-Jones Farm Tenant Act, which provided programs to assist migrant workers and low-interest loans to farm tenants, laborers and sharecroppers. This allowed more African-Americans to gain control of their own lives, rise out of poverty, own their own farms and live more liberated lives.

It is important to educate yourself on the Labor icons who paved the way for our current Labor victories – not just during Black History month, but all year long. One way to do this is to read, learn and reflect on the information that has been hidden from us by our schools, religious institutions, government agencies and popular culture. I recommend subscribing to a daily email blast like "Anti-Racism Daily". They are currently doing a special blog called, "28 days of Black History." You can sign up at the-ard.com

Another way to get a quick hit of useful information on a regular basis is by checking out the Civil Rights column on the standing committee board outside of the cafeteria. In February, I have been sharing daily snippets from "28 Days of Black History."

Lastly, our first Game Night at the Union Hall in January was a success! There was a lot of laughter, a good amount of friendly competition and even some surprises as we learned who had skills we never knew about! We are planning for the next one in March or April and hope you all will come again. Keep an eye on the Union standing committe board for details on the date and time.

Remember, active members are the most educated members.

In solidarity,

Yvonne Vincent

2023 UAW INTERNATIONAL OFFICER RUN-OFF ELECTION

FOR IEB POSITIONS:
INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT
INTERNATIONAL VICE PRESIDENT
REGION 9 DIRECTOR



Your vote is your voice - Be Heard!
RETURN YOUR BALLOT

RECOMMENDED DATE TO PUT YOUR BALLOT IN THE MAIL FOR TIMELY RECEIPT -FEBRUARY 17, 2023

BALLOTS MUST BE RECEIVED AT VOTE COUNT SITE FEBRUARY 28, 2023

For more information go to www.uawmonitor.com/election UAW Local 1753

election notice page 5



Lansing Labor News—Periodical postage paid at Lansing, MI and other post offices

LOCAL 4911 Muhammad Qawwee, President



Happy Black History month to all my sisters and brothers of UAW Local 4911. As the seasons are constantly changing, so are the ways we treat and interact with one another. Our nation seems to be getting more and more divided, but this is not something that has to be the norm. We can look at one another and appreciate each other and value our likenesses and differences that make us who we are. There is nothing wrong with thinking different than your brother or sister if we are striving for the same common goal. We all want to live happy, successful, loving lives and enjoy the fruits of our labor. Help your fellow man or woman when they are down for more fulfillment. Give a helping hand regardless of bitterness you may feel toward someone that is different than you or has different beliefs than you. A smile is contagious and so is a positive attitude. In the Army, I trusted my brothers and sisters on the line to have my back regardless of race, creed, or color. We were united as one Army, one team - one suffers, we all suffer. Stay humble, empathetic and love your co-workers, neighbors, and even strangers you meet just as you love God, your family and close friends. Learn to respect and accept someone or something that is different than yourself. This world and your everyday life will be so much more positive when you show kindness to one another. Remember I am Man, I am Woman, I am Human.

In Solidarity,
Muhammad Qawwee II

The Labor News is also available online at lansinglabornews.org

LOCAL 602 Mike Huerta, President



I hope you all enjoyed a much deserved holiday break and were able to enjoy some downtime with your families. Our extra two weeks off came with some headaches getting our Sub pay but I am so thankful for our Beneftis reps and our Unemployment rep that helped us navigate those systems.

February brings us Black History month and UAW local 602 will be joining with UAW local 2256 to hold our Taste of Black History program on Sunday February 19th with doors opening at 2:30 pm and program beginning at 3 pm. Our address is 2510 W. Michigan Ave. Lansing, MI 48917. This is the first time we have been able to have this event since prior to COVID and we hope you will be able to join us! We will have food, prizes, entertainment and speakers the event is free so bring your family and enjoy the afternoon with friends.

Next month our Women's committee will be having their women's international day event on March 25th. Please keep an eye on www.local602.org for more soon to come details.

I received a surprising phone call the other day. Rep. Elissa Slotkin called me to ask if I would like to be her guest at the State of the Union in Washington D.C., she said that she wanted to shine a light on supply chain issues and that I would be speaking media and elected officials about the chips shortage and our parts shortages. I was stunned but of course I accepted the offer. By the time you read this I will be back from Washington D.C. but I think its important that the country hears from us as often as possible that America needs to build things. Shipping manufacturing jobs outside of the United States for decades has eroded our stability and made us beholden to other parts of the world that may not have our best interest at heart. Rep. Slotkin told me that I wouldn't be representing just local

602 but all autoworkers and working families that have been affected by this issue. It is an honor and I couldn't be prouder to be the voice speaking for all of us!

In Solidarity,

Mike Huerta

LOCAL 652 Ben Frantz, President



Greetings, Brothers and Sisters. I expect none of us are too upset at the pleasant late winter or early spring we seem to be experiencing to begin our year. Here at Local 652, the weather isn't the only reason for our excitement. We have some significant events coming this spring to set us up for a great summer season! I know our Civil Rights committee is pleased to get our black history program running again. This year, they have set the event up for success with a fantastic lineup sure to entertain and inspire all who attend. This event will be on February 26 and starts at 3:00 p.m. It is open to Union members and community members. Following our Civil Rights program, our Women's committee has an event scheduled on March 19 from 1:00-4:00 p.m. with a focus on empowering women, which is very fitting since March is Women's international month and Women's history month. Credit for March being the month to honor women started in 1908 with an organized protest by thousands of women marching through New York City for better labor laws and working conditions. These strong women deserve all the credit for standing up and banding together to fight for a better future for themselves and all women who have followed.

Such selfless committee chairs willing to work together to create outstanding programs for the membership and surrounding community make my job much more manageable. To witness the effort all these great members put into their committee programs and the willingness of other committees to collaborate to provide the best to our

Members only scratches the surface of why I am so proud to be a member of Local 652.

As we progress through this year, we will have more events to discuss and attend that will work to highlight our stance as community participants and to show solidarity amongst our many units. There will also be plenty of events that will present us with challenges and opportunities to come together as we did in 2019. We will be facing a historic bargaining session this September, where we here at Local 652 will have two of our units in negotiations for National Agreements. Our GMNA Unit and our GM Sub-Systems LOC will both be looking to present updated agreements for our memberships to ratify. Along with the national negotiations, our GM Unit will also be negotiating our new Local Agreement, which expires at the same time in September as our National Agreements. Many thanks to the members who have already submitted dozens of Local demands to be considered by the Local bargaining committee.

Before we here at Local 652 enter into Local negotiations, an important event must happen. Our Local, along with most all other UAW Lansing Locals, will have their General election cycle followed by committee elections during May and June 2023. Elections are an essential step in the Democratic process of our Union. As we see with our International Executive Board elections, participation in the process is paramount to an effective process. Stay tuned for updates on more events happening at our Local by visiting our Union boards and viewing our website at www.uawlocal652.com.

In closing, I hope you have turned in your ballot for the International Executive Board elections and allowed your voice to be heard. By the time you receive this edition, there may not be enough time to rectify that issue, but if you have not received your ballot, please go to uawvote.com and follow the process to see if you can get a ballot mailed to you and returned in time. May you all be blessed until next time. In Solidarity,

Ben Frantz

LOCAL 652 Lena Wyeth, Vice President



As my 1st term as Vice President of Local 652 winds down, I'm sitting here, looking back, reflecting on what stands out the most from the last 3 years. WOW! What a term. Nearly the entire term was uncharted waters for us, which created many firsts the past 3 years. It took a lot of teamwork, communication, understanding, and perseverance to get through it, and we made it.

My term as vice president began just a few months after the start of the pandemic. Nobody had ever experienced, in our lifetime, the uncertainty that covid brought. Most everyone experienced a type of loss, loss of family members, friends, union brothers/sisters, and loss of time because of the virus. It seems as though time flew by, yet, lasted forever. It's hard to believe that we were stuck at home in masks for nearly 2 years and that all union functions had been canceled for almost as long. I would say that 95% of my calls at the hall were COVID related. "I'm sick, what do I do?" "Who do I call?" "I don't want to get fired." Some showed up in the plant with symptoms just to get fired for showing up to work. Thank goodness for an amazing bargaining team to help get those members back to work.

Another first, during the pandemic, we had part shortages along with manpower issues or lack of. Management asked members to build the car and park it in the lot until whatever needed part was available. Part shortages led to layoffs, which led to unemployment benefits and the issues with that. The Michigan Unemployment Office was just not equipped to handle the massive layoffs in the state due to Covid. We had all hands on deck helping members get through this stage. It was also quite the task to keep a record of which plant was working or laid off. At any given week, we could have LGR LOC, GA, paint, and body shop laid off with both stamping plants working, or just one shift working, or one

stamping plant working, and other variables with our Avancez and Ryder facilities.

With all the commotion and the whirlwind we were in, I never had the chance to sit still and think about another first, which was the 1st time a female ever held this position. I never let it sink in until recently. I think of the amazing men that had this position before me and how I have big shoes to fill. I understand that it takes more than just my efforts, to get to this position. I stand on the strong shoulders of the women before me. I also recognize that it takes strong union brothers to take a stance and say, "Yes, we are going to be the first to lift a female high enough to crash through the glass ceiling". I know I wouldn't have had this opportunity without either and I am thankful to both. I'm also appreciative to have a supportive membership, both active and retired! Ok, so yes, I removed the traditional pictures of the deer off the wall in the VP's office and yes, I added flowers and a pink lamp. But, whether it's deer décor or pink flowers, my main focus will always be Local 652 membership.

I'm happy that all those firsts are in the rear-view mirror and more than thankful for the experience! It has been my honor and pleasure serving this fantastic local and membership. I look forward to a 2nd term as your Vice President. As always, if there is anything I can help with, please don't hesitate to call on me.

In Solidarity!

Lena Wyeth

LOCAL 4911 Charlene Watson, Fin. Secretary



Hello UAW Brothers and Sisters!

I hope everyone enjoyed the lovely winter weather, especially you snow lovers.

I also hope it is GONE by the time you read this article (yep, not a fan of the cold)!

I would like to utilize this forum to address ALL union members and remind you just how important it is for membership to be involved and support the UAW, for the health and strength of Unions everywhere!

One easy way to contribute and show your Union support is to buy American! Need help finding American made? Go to: www.uaw.org > union made > products and download the shopping guide!

How about reinforcing union organization at your worksite? Communication is the key! If you cross the paths of your Union elected officers, Chairs, or stewards stop, say Hi, introduce yourself and ask them if there's any new union information you should be aware of. Take a minute to respectfully voice your questions and concerns. Inquire when the next union meeting is and make it your choice/goal to sign the membership attendance log at your next Union meeting (which certainly demonstrates your support) and learn about YOUR union!

I would guess that almost all who

### Lansing Labor News (ISSN 0023-8384)

Editorial and Business Offices
Lansing Labor News - 210 Clare St. - Lansing, Michigan 48917
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Doug Fox and Nancy Sears, Staff

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VOICE OF 25,000 MEMBERS

FEBRUARY 2023

are reading this have a colleague or know of a colleague who is not a Union member, which happens for many different reasons.

Use your organizational skills to promote your Union. Now is the time to share your union knowledge with them, the importance of joining and supporting their union. Remind them that they benefit from a union, weather they are card carrying or not. After all, they are covered under the same union contract and stand to gain, or lose, based on the outcome of all negotiations. The strength of a Union is in its members!

Enjoy your families in 2023 and always stay safe!

Charlene Watson

LOCAL 602 Doug Fox, Rec. Secretary



By the time you receive this, you should still have time to get your UAW IEB runoff ballot in the mail. Please make sure you mail it in, your vote is your voice.

Oldsmobile Outdoor Club Winterfest is February 17 - 19 at the Ramada Hotel in Grayling. Lots of fun activities for the entire family.

The Special Bargaining Convention is coming up March 27. The new UAW IEB should be in place and ready to lead us forward as one to fight for our fair share. Whichever candidates you supported, we need to come together for the benefit of ALL of us. Showing a united front will show whomever we are bargaining with that we are indeed a force to be reckoned with! We all know the hard work we put in and the toll it takes on us physically and mentally. Working as one, we can put a plan together at the special bargaining convention to ensure the livelihood of all members in all sectors that will allow us to live in comfort and with dignity.

I have some sad news. Local 1618 Retiree columnist Ted Gauss passed away February 2. Please keep Connie and his family in your thoughts. In Solidarity, Doug Fox



### **Welcome GM Employees & Retirees!**

### **GET MORE FOR LESS!!** We accept all GM Davis Vision Benefits

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Complete Pair of Glasses with Covered Frames From a Large Selection Including Designer Styles Includes Single Vision and Multi-focal Lenses Additional pairs of glasses are 30% off

Evening and Saturday Hours - On Site Lab Free Same Day Service - Eye Exams Available

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### Visit our newest location in Jackson

1250 Boardman Rd Jackson, MI 49202-1994 (T) (517) 879-4068 (F) (517) 879-5792 Located in Jackson Crossing next to Hobby Lobby

### Lansing

5020 W Saginaw Hwy Lansing, MI 48917-2625 (T) 517-323-3490 (F) 517-455-7223 Located next to Los Tres Amigos









**LOCAL 1753** Laura Clark Retiree



Dear sisters and brothers:

I want to tell you how nice it was to see all of you at last months' lunch and meeting. We held this meeting at the World Buffet and Grill where you can pick out just what you like. Whether you come to all the meetings, or your favorite meetings, or the ones your friends drag you to, we are aways glad to see you, and or your spouse.

In the last election I wrote to all of you the importance of voting and having your voice heard and your ideas out there! I've always felt that way, since my first lesson on American history. You must remember, like I do, "no taxation with out representation". This common sense idea fueled the American Dream and made it a reality. Women also liked the idea; they could think just as well as the

men. Unfortunately, it took about seventy years to make it so. Many states and territories recognized womens' suffrage rights before 1920, and I'm happy to say Michigan was one of those! People with formerly enslaved ancestors wanted to get on board as well, for they had the same ideas. You will hear all about it, this month of Black history and their struggle to secure the vote. I myself have felt like you out there. I also felt like I had your support when running for different offices. One of jobs I ran for and won was con con rep. This was not the 1st, not the 2nd or 3rd time I ran for this office. I only ran for con con after I had a good understanding of how things worked or didn't. So it is too early for me to know if this sending your own vote for yourself as compared to a concon delegate voting for you is good or bad for us, but it is the decision made for us. A variety of people ran for Con Con for different reasons. I was serious, went to all meetings, and studied votes before casting

mine. I'm not there now, so you need to be our voice in this election! Look at the candidates. You can go to the UAW web site to see the debate and then vote. You can still make the deadline. The delegates before you thought you could handle it. Show them they were right! You do want to decide your own fate: VOTE.

Our next meeting and lunch will be at the World Buffet and Grill, March 9, 2023 at noon. I hope to see you there.

Obituaries:

Duane Alan Bohnett

### **LOCAL 602** Obituaries

Pete Pung – Father of Brian Pung - Active, Paint - Group 1

Robert B. Shannon - Retired

Merle A. Troub – Retired

Gary B. Snyder – Retired

Perry A. Smith – Retired

Russel White – Retired, passed away about 1 year ago.

Douglas L. Miller – Retired

Ronald E. Crosby Sr. – Retired

Duane L. Kindel – Retired

Bing B. Bailey – Retired

John W. Edmond Sr. – Father of John Edmond, Active

Douglas Miller – Father of Donald Miller, Active

Cam Oberg – Brother of Cade Oberg, Active

Rose Herman – Mother of Magnum Poole, Active

Dorothy Mae – Mother of Acy Thomas, Active

Walter Wager Sr. – Father of Susan Wagar, Active

Rodger Kelley – Step Father of Patti Mayes, Active

Anita Hughes – Mother of Brian Hughes, Active

Robert G. Krabill – Retired

Keith G. Burns – Retired

Richard A. Dunning – Retired

James M. Love – Retired

Donald C. Olds – Retired

James D. Martin – Retired

George Castaneda Jr. – Brother of Daniel Castaneda, Retired

### **LOCAL 652**

Obituaries

Lorraine Chesney-Spouse of Robert Chesney

Dennis Esckilsen-Father of Matt Esckilsen

Delphine Hargett -Mother of Tina Wallace

Ron Haruska-Retiree, Father of John Haiuska, Brother of Judy Canick Patrick Hilley - Member

Thelma Howes -Retiree

Linwood Howlett -Retiree

Donna Lenart -Spouse of William Lenaii

Ted Manko -Retiree, Spouse of Joan Manko, Father of Lisa Manko Douglas J. Miller -Spouse of Judith E. Miller

Donald Olds -Father of Jeff Olds

Roberto "Rob" Rivera -Member, Brother of Alberto "Al" Guerrero Audrey Sharland - Mother of Denise Williams

Leonard "Sim" Simison -Retiree, Father of Teny Simison

Ronald "Ron" E. Smith -Retiree

Rodney "Rod" Stanton -Retiree, Brother of Karen Lantz

Carolyn J. Wolschon -Spouse of Marco Wolschon

### ATTENTION ALL RETIREES

Please make sure your local union hall has an up to date mailing address

### **OLDSMOBILE FLORIDA PICNIC**

UAW LOCALS 602, 652, 1618, 1753 and LAFCU **HOURLY AND SALARY** 

### Tuesday February 21, 2023

In Bradenton, Florida American Legion Kirby Steward Post 2000 75th Street West (between Cortez & Manatee Ave) Register at 11am Eat at Noon Meal and plastic tableware will be provided. For information, call Jere

Auvenshine (517) 285-0320





### Carter G. Woodson

The founder of Black History Month was African-American scholar Carter G. Woodson. His parents were former slaves and instilled in him the value of education. The oldest of nine children, Woodson worked to help support his family, educating himself until, at age 20, he was able to enter high school, finishing in just two years. He went on to earn a degree in literature from Berea College, again finishing in two years. He was the second African American to earn a doctorate from Harvard University, Woodson's being in history.

One of his goals was to educate people on Blacks contribution to American history. Originally called Negro History Week, the celebration was inaugurated in Chicago in 1926. Carter G. Woodson chose February because it includes the birthdays of abolitionist Frederick Douglass and President Abraham Lincoln.

Since 1976, every U.S. president has officially designated the month of February as Black History Month. Black History Month is a time to honor the contributions and legacy of African Americans across U.S. history and society—from activists and civil rights pioneers such as Harriet Tubman, Sojourner Truth, Marcus Garvey, Martin Luther King Jr., Malcolm X and Rosa Parks to leaders in industry, politics, science, culture and more.

The national 2023 Black History Month theme, "Black Resistance," explores how African Americans have addressed historic and ongoing disadvantage and oppression, as evidenced by recent events.

- In recognition of Black History Month, let's commit to doing our part to help our nation come together as the great nation we aspire to be.
- Black Americans have nurtured and protected their physical and intellectual autonomy through innovation, lobbying, litigation, and legislation—and, yes, by helping each other as a community.
- Become involved and do all that you can to foster an environment where we all are recognized for our abilities and valued for our contributions.



Nominations, Acceptances, and Election Notice for the following election:

### **Special Election for Unexpired Terms UAW Local 1753**

Nomination and acceptance for the positions listed on this notice may be made at UAW Local 1753 Union Hall, 3204 W. St. Joseph Street, Lansing, MI, 49817 on Thurs., Feb. 23, 2023 from 11am-4pm and Tues., Feb. 28, 2023 from 11am-4pm.

The Election will be held Tuesday, Mar. 7, 2023 from 10am-4pm at the Union Hall and 10am-5pm at the Plant. A runoff Election will be held Wednesday, February 15, 2023 from 10am-4pm at the Local 1753 Union Hall and 10am-5pm at the Plant, if necessary.

All acceptances must be made in person. Picture ID is required for nominations and acceptance. All candidates are required to sign a fair election code. No acceptance may be made by telephone or mail.

All candidates must meet eligibility requirements found in the UAW Constitution and the UAW Local 1753 By-laws.

### Offices:

**Recording Secretary** 

1st Shift Alternate Committee Person

Reminders: Picture ID will be required to vote.

Election results will be posted in the Plant and at the Local 1753 Union Hall



## Some Famous African Americans in Our History

Jesse Owens - Owens was a trackand-field athlete who set a world record in the long jump at the 1936 Olympic Games in Berlin—and went unrivaled for 25 years. He won four gold medals at the Olympics that year in the 100- and 200meter dashes, along with the 100meter relay and other events off the track. In 1976, Owens received the Presidential Medal of Freedom and was posthumously awarded the Congressional Gold Medal in 1990.

Bessie Coleman - Despite being the first licensed Black pilot in the world, Coleman wasn't recognized as a pioneer in aviation until after her death. Though history has favored Amelia Earhart or the Wright brothers, Coleman—who went to flight school in France in 1920—paved the way for a new generation of diverse fliers like the Tuskegee Airmen, Blackbirds, and Flying Hobos.

Robert Sengstacke Abbott - Without Abbott's creative vision, many of the Black publications of today—such as Ebony, Essence, Black Enterprise, and Upscale—wouldn't exist. In 1905, Abbott founded the Chicago Defender weekly newspaper. The paper originally started out as a four-page pamphlet, increasing its circulation with every edition. Abbott and his newspaper played an integral part in encouraging African Americans to migrate from the South for better economic opportunities.

Ethel Waters - Waters first entered the entertainment business in the 1920s as a blues singer and then became a Broadway star. Later in life, she made history for her work in television—she was the first African American to star in her own TV show, The Ethel Waters Show, and she was nominated for an Emmy in 1962.

Gwendolyn Brooks - Today, Brooks is considered to be one of the most revered poets of the 20th century. She was the first Black author to win the Pulitzer Prize (in 1950, for Annie Allen), and she served as poetry consultant to the Library of Congress, becoming the first Black woman to hold that position. She was also the poet laureate of the State of Illinois, and many of her works reflected the political and social landscape of the 1960s, including the civil rights movement and the economic climate.

Alice Coachman - Growing up in Albany, Georgia, the soon-to-be track star got an early start running on dirt roads and jumping over makeshift hurdles. She became the first African American woman from any country to win an Olympic Gold Medal at the 1948 Summer Olympics in London. She set the record for the high jump. Throughout her athletic career, she won 25 national titles—10 of which were in the high jump. She was inducted into the National Track-and-Field Hall of Fame in 1975 and the U.S. Olympic Hall of Fame in 2004.

Jane Bolin - A pioneer in law, Bolin was the first Black woman to attend Yale Law School in 1931. In 1939, she became the first Black female judge in the United States. One of her significant contributions throughout her career was working with private employers to hire people based on their skills, as opposed to discriminating against them because of their race. She served on the boards of the NAACP, Child Welfare League of America, and the Neighborhood Children's Center.

Ruby Bridges - Bridges probably had no idea that the bold act she committed in 1960 would set off a chain reaction leading to the integration of schools in the South. She was just 6 years old when she became the first African American student to attend William Frantz Elementary in Louisiana at the height of desegregation. Now the Ruby Bridges Foundation exists to "inspire the next generation of leaders to end racism together one step at a time."

Mae Jemison - Jemison isn't just the first African American woman who orbited into space aboard the shuttle Endeavour. She's also a physician, teacher, and Peace Corps volunteer; after her work with NASA, she founded the Jemison Group, which develops scientific and technological advancements. Jemison continues to work toward helping young women of color get more involved in technology, engineering, and math careers.

Benjamin O. Davis, Sr. - Davis, was the first Black general in the U.S. Army. He served for 50 years, beginning as a temporary first lieutenant during the Spanish American War. Throughout his service, Davis was a professor of military science at Tuskegee and Wilberforce University, commander of the 369th Infantry of the New York National Guard, and Special Assistant to the Commanding General, among other positions. He received the Bronze Star Medal and the Distinguished Service Medal and is buried at Arlington National Cemetery.

Dr. Rebecca Lee Crumpler -Crumpler was the first Black woman to earn a medical degree in the United States. After attending the prestigious Massachusetts private school, she worked as a nurse for eight years and applied to medical school in 1860 at the New England Female Medical College (which later merged with Boston University). She was accepted and graduated four years later. Though little is known of her career, PBS reported that she worked as a physician for the Freedman's Bureau for the State of Virginia. She later practiced in Boston's predominantly Black neighborhood at the time, Beacon Hill, and published A Book of Medical Discourses in Two Parts.

**Dorothy Johnson Vaughan -**Vaughan was part of a team that did mathematical calculations to help launch satellites—and later humans—into space. The group used math to help engineers figure out how wind and gravity affects aircrafts. When she was first hired to work on the space program, Vaughan's department was segregated by race. She and the other African-American women in her unit used separate dining areas and bathrooms. Six years after she was hired, Vaughan became the manager of her division and its first Black supervisor. A decade

later, the agency desegregated and she joined the Analysis and Computation division, where she learned computer programming and worked on the program that launched John Glenn and other astronauts into space for the first time.

Mark E. Dean - Dean is one of the top engineering minds at the International Business Machines (IBM) Corporation. He made his first mark in the industry in the early 1980s, when he and a colleague developed a system that allowed computers to communicate with printers and other devices. Every time you print something, you can thank Dean. In all, Dean holds 20 patents, and was honored as one of the "50 Most Important African Americans in Technology" by the California African-American Museum in 2000. Dean wants to help increase awareness of the contributions of Black engineers to both the engineering industry and the African-American community.

Percy L. Julian - Julian is known as the "soybean chemist," for his extraordinary success in developing innovative drugs and industrial chemicals from natural soya products. The firefighting solution he devised, known as "bean soup," helped save the lives of thousands of sailors and naval airmen during World War II. His discoveries earned him more than 130 chemical patents and many professional awards.

Sarah Breedlove Walker - Walker was an inventor and businesswoman, and became one of the largest employers of African-American women of her time. Often know as Madame C.J. Walker, she manufactured beauty products for other African-American women using formulas she developed after working for a pharmacist who taught her chemistry. Her popular hairsoftening cream and shampoo helped heal dry skin and other itchy annoyances that were common in the early 1900s because indoor plumbing wasn't widely available. Walker's company hired and trained thousands of Black women to sell her hair-care products in shops, by mail, and door-to-door. This helped many become more independent during a time when job opportunities for women were limited.



























Pictures, courtesy of Oldsmobile Outdoor Club and Jill Bowen, from Oldsmobile Outdoor Club Winterfest 2022. Winterfest 2023 is February 17-19 in Grayling at the Ramada Hotel. This year marks the 80th anniversary of the Oldsmobile Outdoor Club. Come join in for some great family fun

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