

***AFRICAN AMERICAN  
APPRECIATION PROJECT***



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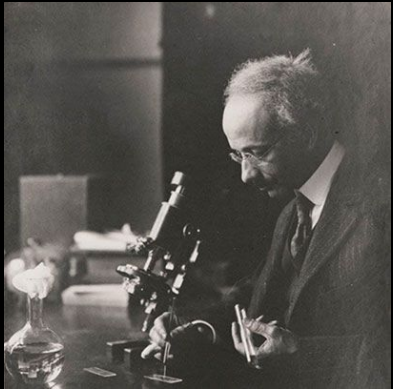
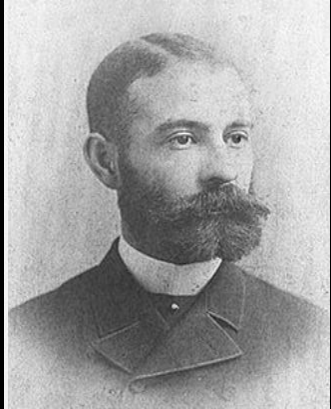
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# INTRODUCTION

This is a Power Point project on African American civil rights and medical leaders. It is important to have medical leaders, and civil rights leaders for our safety. Here, I will be presenting facts and information about these twelve leaders.

# Here is the list of African American leaders in which I will be presenting:



**DR. DANIEL HALE WILLIAMS**

## Personal Life and Education



- Parents: Sarah Price Williams and Daniel Hale Williams II.
- Date of Birth: January 18, 1856
- Place Born: Hollidaysburg, Pennsylvania
- Siblings: Not Known
- Marital Status: Married
- Spouse: Alice Williams
- Children: Three – not known
- Education: High School: Haire's Classical Academy, College: Feinburg School of Medicine

# SOCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

- Daniel Hale Williams pursued a pioneering career in medicine.
- An African American doctor, in 1891, Williams opened Provident Hospital.
- The first medical facility to have an interracial staff is Provident Hospital.
- He was also one of the first physicians to successfully complete pericardial surgery on a patient.
- Williams later became chief surgeon of the Freedmen's Hospital.
- He founded a hospital which was the first to be operated by African Americans.
- Dr. Williams introduced new methods of sterilization, which allowed for more complicated surgeries.
- Another innovation that Dr. Williams brought to Freedman was to allow the public to view surgical operations one day per week. He was aware of how scary the thought of surgery was, and he was also aware that since Black surgeons were rare, the public did not have full confidence in them. By allowing the public to view operations, it demystified the process and showed people there was nothing to be afraid of.
- For a quarter of a century Dr. Williams made pilgrimages as lecturer and operator to the annual meetings of the Negro medical societies of the South and to the Meharry Medical College at Nashville.
- Directly or indirectly, he had a hand in the making of most of the outstanding Negro surgeons of the current generation.
- Dr. Williams performed a pericardiocentesis, draining 80 ounces of fluid. James Cornish was discharged from the hospital on 8/30/1893, and he lived until 1943.
- Dr. Williams published an account of this procedure in 1897, and for a time, it was thought that this was the first successful open-heart surgery because no other procedure had been recorded in the medical literature.

**DR. ALEXA IRENE CANADY**



## Personal Life and Education



- Parents: Elizabeth Hortense (Golden) Canady and Clinton Canady
- Date of Birth: November 7, 1950
- Place Born: Lansing, Michigan
- Siblings: One, Not Known
- Marital Status: Married
- Spouse: George Davis
- Children: None
- Education: High School: Lansing High School, College: University of Michigan

# SOCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

- Dr. Alexa Irene Canady-Davis was the first African American woman in the United States to become a neurosurgeon.
- In 1985, she began teaching at Wayne State University School of Medicine as a Clinical Instructor of Neurosurgery.
- Canady specialized in pediatric neurosurgery and was the chief of neurosurgery at the Children's Hospital in Michigan from 1987 until her partial retirement in 2001.
- In addition to surgery, she also conducted research and was a professor of neurosurgery at Wayne State University.
- Canady was inducted into the Michigan Women's Hall of Fame, and in 1993 she also received the American Medical Women's Association President's Award.
- In addition, she was the first African American to be elected to the Lansing Board of Education.
- Alexa Canady was nominated as a National Achievement Scholar in 1967.
- Canady attended the University of Michigan where she received her B.S. degree in zoology in 1971 and became a member of Delta Sigma Theta.
- She learned of a minority health careers program at her university and decided to pursue it. This program helped her realize that her passion was in the medical field. She would then go on to receive her M.D. with cum laude honors from the University of Michigan Medical School in 1975 where she joined the Alpha Omega Alpha medical honor society.
- Canady also continued research with Wayne State University. She served as a professor of neurosurgery there as well.
- Canady received the American Medical Women's Association President's Award in 1993 and in 1994 was awarded the Distinguished Service Award from Wayne State University Medical School.
- She received a Candace Award from the National Coalition of 100 Black Women in 1986.

**DR. JAMES MCCUNE SMITH**

## Personal Life and Education



DR. JAMES MCCUNE SMITH,  
First regularly-educated Colored Physician in the United  
States. (See page 425.)

- Parents: Samuel Smith, Lavinia Smith
- Date of Birth: April 18, 1813
- Place Born: New York
- Siblings: None
- Marital Status: Married
- Spouse: Malvina Barnet
- Children: Eleven
- Education: University of Glasgow

# SOCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

- McCune Smith was the first African American to earn a medical degree and practice medicine in the United States. He graduated from the University of Glasgow in 1837.
- As a physician, McCune Smith established a successful medical practice in New York City. He provided healthcare to a diverse patient population, including African Americans and immigrants.
- McCune Smith was an advocate for public health, promoting sanitation and healthcare practices to improve the well-being of the community.
- He was an active abolitionist, using his voice and writing to speak out against slavery. He believed in the abolitionist cause and worked towards the emancipation of enslaved individuals.
- McCune Smith was a strong advocate for education, especially for African Americans. He emphasized the importance of education in achieving social and economic equality.
- McCune Smith was a prolific writer and lecturer, addressing issues of race, equality, and human rights. His writings appeared in various publications, and he used his platform to educate and inspire change.
- Beyond his advocacy work, McCune Smith contributed to literature with essays, articles, and literary works that explored the experiences of African Americans and challenged racial stereotypes.
- McCune Smith was active in various societies and organizations dedicated to the abolitionist cause and the improvement of conditions for African Americans.
- He was a founding member of the New York Statistics Society, contributing to the understanding and application of statistical methods in social and economic issues.
- McCune Smith played a role in the establishment of the National Medical Association, an organization created to provide support and advocacy for African American physicians and address healthcare disparities.
- During the Civil War, McCune Smith served as a counselor to President Abraham Lincoln on issues related to the recruitment and treatment of African American troops in the Union Army.
- Dr. James McCune Smith's legacy extends beyond his lifetime, serving as a trailblazer for future African American physicians and activists. His contributions paved the way for increased opportunities and representation in various fields.

**DR. JANE COOKE WRIGHT**

## Personal Life and

## Education

Parents: Corinne Cooke and Louis T. Wright

- Date of Birth: November 20, 1919
- Place Born: Manhattan, New York
- Siblings: One, Not Known
- Marital Status: Married
- Spouse: David D. Jones
- Children: Two, Jane Wright Jones and Alison Jones.
- Education: Highschool: Ethical Culture Fieldston School, College: Smith College, New York Medical College



# SOCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

- **Chemotherapy Research:** Wright conducted groundbreaking research in chemotherapy, particularly in the development of novel chemotherapeutic agents for the treatment of cancer.
- **Development of Cancer Drugs:** She played a key role in the development of drugs such as methotrexate, a chemotherapy drug widely used in the treatment of various cancers.
- **Use of Combination Chemotherapy:** Wright advocated for and researched the use of combination chemotherapy, demonstrating that combining different drugs could be more effective in treating certain types of cancer than single-agent therapies.
- **Tumor Tissue Culture Technique:** Wright developed a tissue culture technique that allowed researchers to test the effects of potential cancer drugs on living tissue outside the body. This technique became a valuable tool in cancer research.
- **Breast Cancer Research:** Her research included significant contributions to understanding and treating breast cancer, and she was an advocate for breast cancer awareness.
- **Leadership in Cancer Organizations:** Wright served in leadership roles in various cancer organizations, including the American Cancer Society, where she worked to advance cancer research and improve patient care.
- **First Female African American President of the New York Cancer Society:** In 1971, Dr. Wright became the first female African American president of the New York Cancer Society.
- **Establishment of the Harlem Hospital Cancer Research Center:** Wright established the Cancer Research Center at Harlem Hospital, contributing to cancer research in an urban setting and providing medical care to underserved populations.
- **Clinical Trials:** She conducted numerous clinical trials to evaluate the effectiveness of new cancer treatments, contributing valuable data to the field of oncology.
- **Advocacy for Equal Access to Healthcare:** Wright was a strong advocate for equal access to healthcare, particularly in the context of cancer treatment, and she worked to address health disparities in minority communities.
- **Awards and Honors:** Dr. Wright received numerous awards and honors for her contributions to medicine and cancer research, including the President's Medal of Freedom, the highest civilian honor in the United States.
- **Educational Contributions:** Wright was actively involved in medical education and mentorship, inspiring and encouraging future generations of medical professionals, particularly women and minorities, to pursue careers in oncology and medicine.



**DR. PATRICIA BATH**

## Personal Life and Education



- Parents: Rupert and Gladys Bath
- Date of Birth: November 4, 1942
- Place Born: Harlem, New York
- Siblings: One, Rupert Bath
- Marital Status: Not Married
- Spouse: Was Dr. Beny J. Primm
- Children: Eraka Patty Jene Bath.
- Education: High School: Julia Ward Howe Junior High School and Charles Evans Hughes High School. College: Yeshiva University in New York, Hunter College in New York City

# SOCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

- Dr. Bath invented the Laserphaco Probe, a device that revolutionized cataract surgery. This device used laser technology to remove cataracts with greater precision and less discomfort for patients.
- Dr. Bath made history as the first African American woman to receive a medical patent for her invention of the Laserphaco Probe in 1988.
- Her invention significantly improved the accuracy and effectiveness of cataract surgery, making the procedure safer and more accessible to patients.
- Dr. Bath founded the American Institute for the Prevention of Blindness to promote eye health and prevent vision loss, particularly in underserved communities.
- She was a strong advocate for community ophthalmology, working to bring eye care services to disadvantaged communities both in the United States and internationally.
- Dr. Bath made history as the first woman to chair an ophthalmology residency program in the United States when she became the chair at Charles R. Drew University in 1983.
- Dr. Bath made significant contributions to academic medicine, serving in various teaching and leadership roles, and advancing research in the field of ophthalmology.
- She was a pioneer in telemedicine, exploring ways to use technology to provide medical care and education remotely, especially in the field of ophthalmology.
- Dr. Bath was an advocate for addressing health disparities, particularly in eye care, and worked to ensure that all individuals, regardless of their background, had access to quality eye health services.
- Throughout her career, Dr. Bath received numerous honors and awards for her contributions to medicine and ophthalmology, including induction into the National Women's Hall of Fame.
- Dr. Bath was dedicated to medical education, inspiring and mentoring future generations of medical professionals, particularly women and minorities, to pursue careers in ophthalmology and medicine.
- Dr. Bath was involved in global health initiatives, working to improve eye care and prevent blindness on an international scale, particularly in developing countries.

**DR. REBECCA LEE CRUMPLER**

## Personal Life and Education



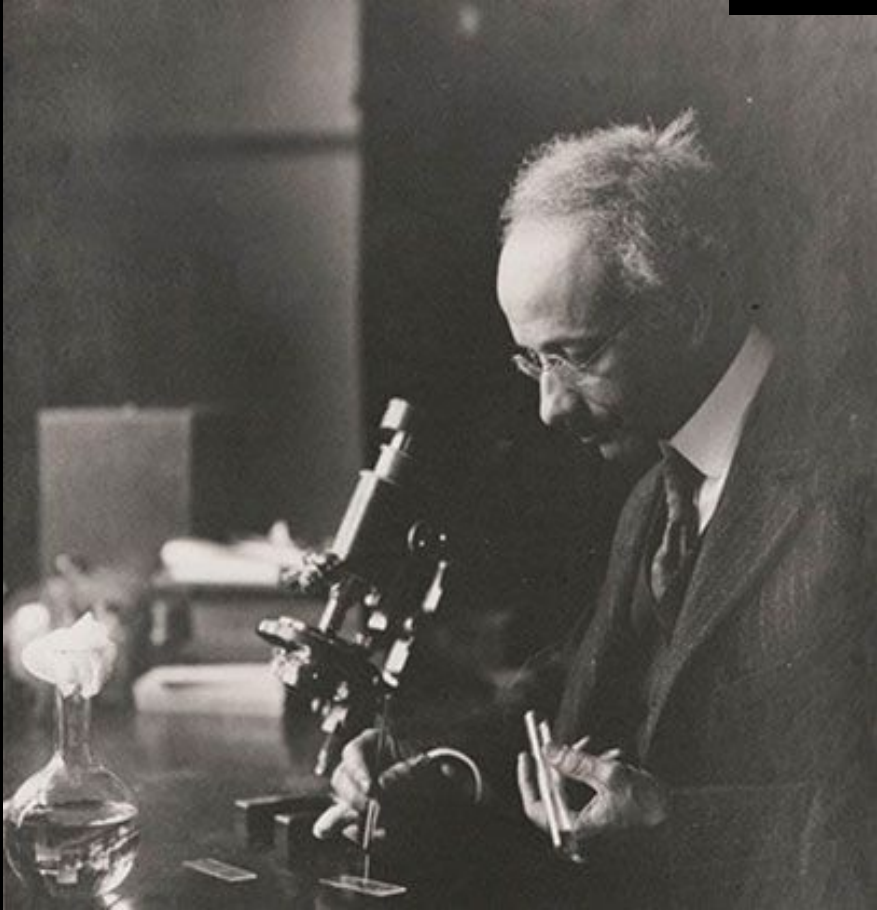
- Parents: Matilda Webber and Absolum Davis
- Date of Birth: February 8, 1831
- Place Born: Pennsylvania
- Siblings: None
- Marital Status: Was Married
- Spouse(s): Wyatt Lee, Arthur Crumpler
- Children: One, Lizzie Sinclair Crumpler
- Education: College: Boston University  
Chobanian & Avedisian School of Medicine,  
West Newton English and Classical School,  
New England Female Medical College

# SOCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

- In 1864, Dr. Crumpler became the first African American woman to earn a medical degree, graduating from the New England Female Medical College in Boston.
- Dr. Crumpler focused on public health and preventative medicine, working to improve sanitation and promote healthy living, particularly in underserved communities.
- In 1883, she authored "A Book of Medical Discourses," which was one of the first medical publications by an African American. The book provided medical advice for women and children and documented her experiences as a physician.
- Dr. Crumpler worked in Richmond, Virginia, during the Civil War, providing medical care to freed slaves and other marginalized populations. She faced significant challenges during this time due to the scarcity of resources and widespread diseases.
- Dr. Crumpler was an advocate for education, emphasizing its importance for health and well-being. She encouraged African Americans, particularly women, to pursue education and careers in medicine.
- Dr. Crumpler focused on the healthcare needs of women and children, providing prenatal and postnatal care and emphasizing the importance of maternal and child health.
- She was involved in community health initiatives, working to address health disparities and improve access to healthcare in underserved communities.
- Dr. Crumpler broke barriers for African American women in medicine, paving the way for future generations of women of color to pursue careers in healthcare.
- After the Civil War, Dr. Crumpler worked for the Freedmen's Bureau, providing medical care to newly freed slaves and their communities.
- Dr. Crumpler was an advocate for racial and gender equality, actively challenging societal norms and prejudices that hindered the progress of African American women in medicine.
- Before pursuing her medical degree, Dr. Crumpler worked as a nurse for several years, gaining valuable experience in patient care and developing a deep commitment to the well-being of her patients.
- Dr. Rebecca Lee Crumpler's legacy is that of a trailblazer in the medical profession. Her achievements and dedication to healthcare laid the foundation for future generations of African American physicians, particularly women, to overcome barriers in the field of medicine.

**DR. SOLOMON CARTER FULLER**

## Personal Life and Education



- Parents: Solomon C. Fuller, Anna Ursala James
- Date of Birth: August 11, 1872
- Place Born: Monrovia, Liberia
- Siblings: Not Known
- Marital Status: Married
- Spouse: Meta Vaux Warrick Fuller.
- Children: Three, not known
- Education: Boston University School of Medicine Livingstone College, College of West Africa, Boston University Chobanian & Avedisian School of Medicine



# SOCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

- Dr. Fuller was one of the earliest African American psychiatrists in the United States, breaking racial barriers in the medical field.
- He made significant contributions to Alzheimer's disease research, working alongside Dr. Alois Alzheimer in the early 20th century. Dr. Fuller contributed to the understanding of the neuropathological changes associated with Alzheimer's disease.
- Dr. Fuller conducted research on various psychiatric disorders, including schizophrenia and bipolar disorder. His work contributed to advancements in the understanding and treatment of mental illnesses.
- Dr. Fuller advocated for racial equality in the field of psychiatry, challenging the racial prejudices prevalent in the medical community during his time.
- He served as a professor at Boston University School of Medicine and continued to educate and mentor future generations of psychiatrists and neuroscientists.
- Dr. Fuller worked towards the integration of psychiatric services, promoting equal access to mental health care for people of all races.
- His contributions to neuroanatomy and neuropathology added valuable insights to the understanding of the structure and function of the brain.
- During World War I, Dr. Fuller served in the U.S. Army Medical Corps, where he applied his expertise in psychiatry to address the mental health needs of soldiers.
- In 1903, Dr. Fuller co-founded the first laboratory for the clinical pathology of Black hospital patients, contributing to advancements in the diagnosis and treatment of various medical conditions.
- Dr. Fuller emphasized the importance of cultural competence in psychiatry, recognizing the impact of cultural factors on mental health and treatment outcomes.
- Throughout his career, Dr. Fuller worked to promote diversity in the medical profession, encouraging and supporting the inclusion of individuals from underrepresented backgrounds in healthcare.
- Dr. Solomon Carter Fuller's legacy is that of a trailblazer in psychiatry and neuroscience, as he not only made significant scientific contributions but also paved the way for future generations of African American physicians and researchers in mental health.

**DR. JOHN WESLEY EDWARD BOWEN**

## Personal Life and Education



- Parents: Edward Bowen and Rose Simon Bowen
- Date of Birth: December 3, 1855
- Place Born: New Orleans, Louisiana
- Siblings: None
- Marital Status: Married
- Spouse: Irene Smallwood, Ariel Serena Hedges
- Children: Four
- Education: Union Normal School in New Orleans, and New Orleans University

# SOCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

- J. W. E. Bowen studied at the Union Normal School in New Orleans, and New Orleans University
- In 1882, Bowen began theological studies at Boston University.
- While a theological student, he was the pastor of Revere Street Methodist Episcopal Church in Boston, Massachusetts.
- After graduation, Bowen became pastor of St. John's Methodist Episcopal Church in Newark, New Jersey.
- He received a Master of Arts degree from New Orleans University in 1886.
- In that same year, Bowen entered the Ph.D. program at Boston University in historical theology.
- He also did special advanced work in Greek, Latin, Hebrew, Chaldee, Arabic, and German, and in metaphysics and psychology.
- Later, Gammon Theological Seminary made him its first recipient of the honorary degree of Doctor of Divinity.
- He pastored the Centennial Methodist Episcopal Church in Baltimore and also served as a professor of church history and systematic theology at Morgan College.
- In 1893, Bowen became professor of historical theology at Gammon Theological Seminary in Atlanta, Georgia, a seminary founded in 1883 by the Methodist Episcopal Church for the preparation of African-American clergymen.
- He was the first African-American to teach there full-time
- In January 1904, Bowen and Jesse Max Barber launched The Voice of the Negro, a Literary journal addressed to a national audience of African Americans.

**DR. HELEN OCTAVIA DICKENS**

## Personal Life and Education



- Parents: Charles Warren Dickens, Daisy Jane Dickens
- Date of Birth: February 21, 1909
- Place Born: Dayton, Ohio.
- Siblings: None
- Marital Status: Married
- Spouse: Dr. Purvis Henderson
- Children: Two, Dr. Jayne Henderson Brown and Norman Henderson.
- Education: Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania

# SOCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

- Dr. Dickens was a strong advocate for medical education, particularly for underrepresented minorities. She worked to increase opportunities for African American students in the medical field.
- Dr. Dickens made notable contributions to women's health, focusing on issues such as reproductive health, family planning, and prenatal care.
- She played a key role in establishing the National Medical Fellowships (NMF), an organization dedicated to providing scholarships and support for minority medical students.
- Dr. Dickens specialized in obstetrics and gynecology, contributing to advancements in women's healthcare and maternal-fetal medicine.
- Dr. Dickens was actively involved in community health initiatives, working to address health disparities and improve healthcare access in underserved communities.
- Dr. Dickens served as the Dean of Women at Howard University College of Medicine, where she played a pivotal role in mentoring and supporting medical students.
- She was involved in various civic and community organizations, contributing to the improvement of social and healthcare conditions, particularly for marginalized communities.
- Dr. Dickens participated in international health initiatives, focusing on global health issues and collaborating with organizations to improve healthcare on a broader scale.
- She advocated for health policy changes aimed at reducing health disparities and improving healthcare access for minority populations.
- Dr. Dickens was a dedicated mentor to countless students and healthcare professionals, inspiring and guiding them in their careers.
- Dr. Dickens wrote extensively on health-related topics and was a sought-after speaker at conferences, sharing her expertise on issues related to women's health, medical education, and community health.
- Dr. Helen Octavia Dickens left a lasting legacy as a trailblazer in medicine and medical education, breaking barriers for women and minorities and inspiring future generations of healthcare professionals.

**DR. JOYCELYN ELDERS**



## Personal Life and Education



- Parents: Curtis and Haller Jones
- Date of Birth: August 14, 1933
- Place Born: Schaal, Arkansas
- Siblings: Seven
- Marital Status: Married
- Spouse: Oliver B. Elders
- Children: Two, Eric and Kevin
- Education: Philander Smith College

# SOCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

- **Advocacy for Comprehensive Sex Education:** Dr. Elders has been a vocal advocate for comprehensive sex education in schools, emphasizing the importance of providing accurate information to young people to make informed decisions about their sexual health.
- **Reproductive Health Advocacy:** She has been a strong advocate for reproductive health rights, including access to contraception and safe abortion services.
- **HIV/AIDS Education and Prevention:** Dr. Elders has worked to increase awareness and education about HIV/AIDS, advocating for prevention measures and de-stigmatization of the disease.
- **Teen Pregnancy Prevention:** As Surgeon General, Dr. Elders focused on programs aimed at preventing teen pregnancy and addressing related social issues.
- **Focus on Minority Health Issues:** Dr. Elders has addressed health disparities and advocated for improved healthcare access for minority communities, emphasizing the need for culturally sensitive healthcare services.
- **Gun Violence Prevention:** She has spoken out on the issue of gun violence and advocated for stricter gun control measures as a public health concern.
- **Support for Needle Exchange Programs:** Dr. Elders has supported needle exchange programs as a harm reduction strategy to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS among intravenous drug users.
- **Proponent of Universal Healthcare:** She has expressed support for the idea of universal healthcare, arguing that access to quality healthcare is a fundamental human right.
- **Promotion of Women's Health:** Dr. Elders has emphasized the importance of women's health issues, advocating for regular screenings, preventive care, and access to comprehensive healthcare services.
- **Education Reform:** She has been an advocate for education reform, recognizing the connection between education and health outcomes.
- **Championing Public Health Initiatives:** Dr. Elders has consistently championed various public health initiatives, emphasizing prevention, education, and community-based healthcare strategies.
- **Trailblazing Leadership:** As the first African American woman appointed as Surgeon General of the United States, Dr. Elders has broken barriers and served as an inspiring figure, paving the way for other minority individuals in healthcare and public service.

MEDGAR EVERS

## Personal Life and Education



- Parents: Jesse (Wright) and James Evers
- Date of Birth: July 2, 1925
- Place Born: Decatur, Mississippi
- Siblings: Charles Evers
- Marital Status: Married
- Spouse: Myrlie Evers-Williams
- Children: Three, Darrell K Evers, James V Evers, Reena D Evers
- Education: High school, College

# SOCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

- Medgar Evers was an American civil rights activist and the NAACP's first field secretary in Mississippi.
- He also worked for voting rights, economic opportunity, access to public facilities, and other changes in the segregated society.
- Evers was named as the NAACP's first field secretary for Mississippi.
- In this position, he helped organize boycotts and set up new local chapters of the NAACP.
- Evers was also involved with James Meredith's efforts to enroll in the University of Mississippi in the early 1960s.
- On November 24, 1954, Evers was named as the NAACP's first field secretary for Mississippi.
- In this position, he helped organize boycotts and set up new local chapters of the NAACP.
- Evers was also involved with James Meredith's efforts to enroll in the University of Mississippi in the early 1960s.
- Evers also encouraged Dr. Gilbert Mason Sr. in his organizing of the Biloxi wade-ins from 1959 to 1963, protests against segregation of the city's public beaches on the Mississippi Gulf Coast.
- Evers was the first black man to be admitted to an all-white hospital in Mississippi.
- After Evers was assassinated, an estimated 5,000 people marched from the Masonic Temple on Lynch Street to the Collins Funeral Home on North Farish Street in Jackson.
- Allen Johnson, Reverend Martin Luther King Jr., and other civil rights leaders led the procession.

JOHN LEWIS

## Personal Life and Education



- Parents: Willie Mae (née Carter) and Eddie Lewis.
- Date of Birth: February 21, 1940
- Place Born: Troy, Alabama
- Siblings: Ten
- Marital Status: Married
- Spouse: Lillian Miles
- Children: One
- Education: Highschool, College

# SOCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

- **Civil Rights Activism:** John Lewis was a key figure in the American Civil Rights Movement, participating in numerous protests and marches, including the March on Washington in 1963.
- **Leadership in SNCC:** Lewis was a leader in the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), actively involved in organizing sit-ins, voter registration drives, and other nonviolent protests.
- **Freedom Rides:** He participated in the Freedom Rides of 1961, challenging segregation in interstate transportation and enduring violence and arrests.
- **March on Selma:** Lewis played a crucial role in the Selma to Montgomery marches in 1965, advocating for voting rights and enduring violence on the Edmund Pettus Bridge, an event now known as "Bloody Sunday."
- **Voting Rights Act:** His activism contributed to the passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, a landmark piece of legislation that aimed to eliminate racial discrimination in voting.
- **Congressional Career:** Elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1986, Lewis served Georgia's 5th congressional district for over three decades, advocating for civil rights, social justice, and equality.
- **Conscience of Congress:** Lewis was often referred to as the "Conscience of Congress" due to his unwavering commitment to principles of justice, equality, and nonviolence.
- **Advocacy for LGBTQ+ Rights:** Lewis was an advocate for LGBTQ+ rights, recognizing the intersectionality of civil rights struggles and supporting equal rights for all.
- **Human Rights and Global Justice:** Lewis spoke out on issues of human rights and global justice, lending his voice to causes beyond the borders of the United States.
- **Educational Initiatives:** He supported educational initiatives, recognizing the importance of education in promoting equality and understanding.
- **Public Service and Mentorship:** Lewis served as a mentor and inspiration to many young activists, encouraging them to get involved in social and political causes.
- **Graphic Novels and Memoirs:** Lewis co-authored a graphic novel trilogy titled "March," which chronicles his experiences in the civil rights movement, providing a valuable educational resource.