

- 1 T** 1889: Frederick Douglass named U.S. Minister to Haiti.
- 2 F** 1872: Elijah McCoy patents first self-lubricating locomotive engine. The quality of his inventions helped coin the phrase "the real McCoy." 1964: President Lyndon Johnson signs Civil Rights Act into law.
- 3 S** 1688: The Quakers in Germantown, Pennsylvania, make first formal protest against slavery.
- 4 S** **Independence Day** 1900: Traditional birthdate of Louis "Satchmo" Armstrong, jazz pioneer.
- 5 M** 1892: Andrew J. Beard patents rotary engine. 1991: Nelson Mandela elected president of the African National Congress.
- 6 T** 1957: Althea Gibson wins women's singles title at Wimbledon, first black to win tennis's most prestigious award.
- 7 W** 1948: Cleveland Indians sign pitcher Leroy "Satchel" Paige.
- 8 T** 1943: Faye Wattleton, first black director of Planned Parenthood, born. 2000: Venus Williams wins women's singles championship at Wimbledon.
- 9 F** 1893: Dr. Daniel Hale Williams performs first successful open-heart operation.
- 10 S** 1875: Educator Mary McLeod Bethune, founder of Bethune-Cookman College, born.
- 11 S** 1905: W.E.B. DuBois and William Monroe Trotter organize the Niagara Movement, a forerunner of the NAACP.
- 12 M** 1937: Actor, comedian Bill Cosby born. 1949: Frederick M. Jones patents cooling system for food transportation vehicles.
- 13 T** 1965: Thurgood Marshall becomes first black appointed U.S. solicitor general.
- 14 W** 1955: George Washington Carver Monument, first national park honoring a black, is dedicated in Joplin, Missouri.
- 15 T** 1867: Maggie Lena Walker, first woman and first black to become president of a bank, born.
- 16 F** 1862: Anti-lynching activist Ida B. Wells Barnett born.
- 17 S** 1953: Jesse D. Locker appointed U.S. ambassador to Liberia.
- 18 S** 1939: Saxophonist Coleman Hawkins records "Body and Soul." 1998: African American Civil War Soldiers Memorial dedicated, Washington, D.C.
- 19 M** 1925: Paris debut of Josephine Baker, entertainer, activist and humanitarian.
- 20 T** 1950: Black troops (24th Regiment) win first U.S. victory in Korea.
- 21 W** 1896: Mary Church Terrell elected first president of National Association of Colored Women.
- 22 T** 1939: Jane M. Bolin of New York City appointed first black female judge.
- 23 F** 1778: More than 700 blacks participate in Battle of Monmouth (New Jersey).
- 24 S** 1807: Shakespearean actor Ira Aldridge born in New York City.
- 25 S** 1916: Garrett Morgan, inventor of the gas mask, rescues six people from gas-filled tunnel in Cleveland, Ohio.
- 26 M** 1948: President Harry S. Truman issues Executive Order 9981, ending segregation in armed forces.
- 27 T** 1880: Alexander P. Ashbourne patents process for refining coconut oil.
- 28 W** 1868: 14th Amendment, granting blacks full citizenship rights, becomes part of the Constitution.
- 29 T** 1895: First National Conference of Colored Women Convention held in Boston.
- 30 F** 1822: James Varick becomes first bishop of African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church.
- 31 S** 1874: Rev. Patrick Francis Healy inaugurated president of Georgetown University, Washington, D.C.



"You have a dual profession in military dentistry. One profession is being a dentist; the other profession is being an Army officer."

Colonel Sidney Alan Brooks, Sr., D.D.S.



U.S. ARMY DENTAL CORPS

Colonel Sidney Alan Brooks, Sr.

D.D.S. Fort Sam Houston, TX

After six years of sleeping on the ground with the troops, Colonel Sidney Alan Brooks decided to follow in the footsteps of military friend Dr. Fred Sykes and serve the military by improving the oral health of its soldiers — a decision that would make his grandfather, who also was a dentist, proud.

Despite thinking he'd stay in the Army practicing dentistry among the troops for about 10 years, the Army's highest-ranking African American dental officer still serves after 27 years. "Every time I think it's time to go, there is something going on that keeps me here. Some dentists practice their whole lives in one small town; with the military it's much different. I have the opportunity to travel all over the world," said Colonel Brooks.

Today, Colonel Brooks commands 4,000 men and women who are members of the U.S. Army Dental Corps. He's never stationed in one location for very long because his medical soldiers are running dental clinics — some stand-alone, others created in schools, churches or courtyards — in 23 countries.

"You have a dual profession in military dentistry. One profession is being a dentist; the other profession is being an Army officer. You have the role of leading soldiers and running an organization that can be successful in both war and peace," he said.

Colonel Brooks added, "You're not able to build relationships with patients because soldiers move on. You can develop a treatment plan for one patient and you may never see them again because someone else is treating them. But everyone else sees your work, so you have to be sure you're doing a good job."

While he'd love to buy a boat and sail away into military retirement, Colonel Brooks sees a future in his own private dental practice in Fayetteville, North Carolina. He also hopes to spend more time with his wife of 29 years, Colonel Marilyn Hughes, who is stationed with the Army Nurses Corp in Fort Bragg, North Carolina. The couple get to see each other only once every five or six weeks.

"To be successful you have to make sacrifices. We both have our professions right now. There was a time when I was 'Mr. Mom' so my wife could do what she needed to do. We both grew up poor. I remember when I was a kid not having electricity because my mom couldn't afford to pay the bills. Now we are developing our nest egg so we can leave something to our children," said the father of two adult sons, Alan and Wesley.



Life Mask

This life mask represents the custom of filing. As practiced in Africa, this may have been an attempt to intimidate enemies by creating a ferocious appearance.

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31