

A Few Black History Facts Related to the PCA CTAE Programs

Entrepreneurship/Finance

In 1921, Tulsa, Oklahoma's Greenwood District, known as Black Wall Street, was one of the most prosperous African-American communities in the United States. This modern, majestic, sophisticated, and unapologetically black community boasted of banks, hotels, cafés, clothiers, movie theaters, and contemporary homes. Not to mention a remarkable school system that superiorly educated black children. Unfortunately on May 31 of that year, the Tulsa Tribune reported that a black man, Dick Rowland, attempted to rape a white woman, Sarah Page. Whites in the area refused to wait for the investigative process to play out, sparking two days of unprecedented racial violence. Thirty-five city blocks went up in flames, 300 people died, and 800 were injured.

Madam C.J. Walker created a line of haircare products for African American women, leading her to later become the first female self-made millionaire. There is now a Netflix series based upon her journey, titled *Self Made*.

Lonnie George Johnson is an American entrepreneur, inventor, and aerospace engineer, whose work includes a U.S. Air Force-term of service and a twelve-year stint at NASA, where he worked at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory. He invented the #1 top selling water toy of all times – The Super Soaker.

Inventors/Technology

Computer scientist Lisa Gelobter assisted with the 1995 creation of Shockwave, essential technology that led to the development of web animation. (So we have her to thank for GIFs.)

Marie Van Brittan Brown was an American nurse and innovator. In 1966, she invented the first video home security system along with her husband Albert Brown, an electronics technician.

Frederick McKinley Jones was an American inventor, entrepreneur, engineer, winner of the National Medal of Technology, and an inductee of the National Inventors Hall of Fame. Jones innovated mobile refrigeration technology. He received 61 patents, 40 for refrigeration technology.

Law and Justice

The Black Panthers began a food initiative in Oakland in 1969 and began preparing meals for hundreds of schoolchildren free of charge. Shortly after, the program was adopted by chapters nationwide, feeding thousands of children in 45 different programs at its peak. In

1975, after the Panthers' program was forcefully ended, the USDA implemented the School Breakfast Program which still helps feed almost 15 million children today.

Thurgood Marshall was an American civil rights lawyer and jurist who served as an associate justice of the Supreme Court of the United States from 1967 until 1991. He was the Supreme Court's first African-American justice.

Education

Carlotta Walls LaNier was the youngest member of the Little Rock Nine, and braved harassment and the bombing of her home to be one of the first black students to attend Central High School in 1960. She wrote a book about the experience: *A Mighty Long Way: My Journey to Justice at Little Rock Central High School*. She was also president of the Little Rock Nine Foundation which aimed to continue to create equal educational opportunities for all students.

Eula Ponds Perry was a dedicated educator and community leader in the city of Jonesboro, GA. She attended elementary school in Jonesboro and graduated from Booker T Washington High School in Atlanta. She served on the Jonesboro City Council and was an educator at Jonesboro High School, Fountain High School and taught Adult Education at J W Arnold School and the Friendship Center in East Point. Our school is named after her and was established as a true center for learning for everyone.