

A Timeline of Celebrated African Americans at Woodland Cemetery & Arboretum Part IV

Each year in February we celebrate Black History Month by introducing you to men and women of color who made their mark in Dayton's history. This year, we present a selected timeline of Dayton's Black History honoring those who are resting peacefully at Woodland.

What is Black History Month?

Black History Month was first proposed by black educators and the Black United Students at Kent State University in February 1969. The first celebration of Black History Month took place at Kent State a year later, from January 2 to February 28, 1970.

Six years later, Black History Month was being celebrated all across the country in educational institutions, centers of Black culture and community centers, both great and small, when President Gerald Ford recognized Black History Month in 1976, during the celebration of the United States Bicentennial. He urged Americans to "seize the opportunity to honor the too-often neglected accomplishments of Black Americans in every area of endeavor throughout our history".

Source: Wikipedia



1960 and 1972 - John Edward Moore, Sr. was working briefly as a civilian at Wright Patterson Air Force Base (WPAFB) when he was drafted into the United States Army in 1943. He returned from World War II, was hired as a clerk at Wright-Patt and went on to graduate from the University of Dayton as well as Ohio State University. Moore became the first Equal Employment Opportunity officer at WPAFB in 1960. In 1972, he became WPAFB's first African American chief of Civilian Personnel, one of the largest government employers in the nation.

Over the years, Moore served the Dayton community as a civic leader and served on more than fifty boards and committees including his appointment to the Dayton Foundation board by Mayor James H. McGee.

John Edward Moore, Sr. was born on January 11, 1923 in Birmingham, Alabama and died on January 7, 2021 in Dayton. He is located in the Woodland Mausoleum.

1970—James H. McGee becomes Dayton's first black mayor. He would hold the post longer than any other Dayton Mayor. He was a practicing lawyer and became a Dayton City Commissioner in 1967. McGee's clear, uncomplicated view of issues could make him stubborn and confrontational as mayor. But at the same time he was known for his honesty, his directness and his passionate love for the city of Dayton. James H. McGee was born November 8, 1918 in Berryburg, West. Virginia and died March 4, 2006 at the age of 87. He is located in Section 62 Lot 3802



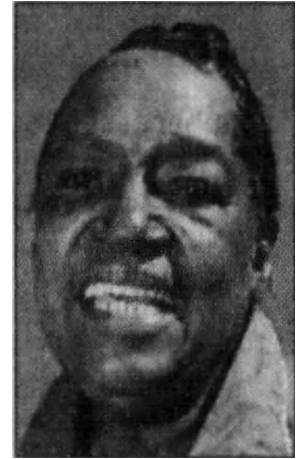
1971—Hughbert D. Poore, Sr. is appointed executive director of Dayton Metropolitan Housing Authority. He was the first black man to hold the position and retired from the post in 1977. From 1945 to 1971, Poore was project manager of DeSoto Bass Courts, the only public housing blacks were allowed to inhabit until the early 1960s. Poore played a major role in integrating public housing. Hughbert D. Poore was born March 15, 1906 in Harveysburg, Ohio and died on May 29, 2006 at the age of 100. He is located in the Woodland Mausoleum in Section 110.

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1989—Dayton community activist Charity Adams Earley publishes the book *One Woman's Army: A Black Officer Remembers the WAC*. Ms. Early was a member of the first class of the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps. She was the first black commissioned officer in the WACs, and commander of the only group of black women serving overseas during World War II. Her unit consisted of 600 black women. She set up and administered the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion, whose task was to make sure any American stationed in Europe received his mail. Today, there is a school named in her honor located on Shoup Mill Road and a conference room at Sinclair College in Building 12 also bears her name. Charity Adams Earley was born December 5, 1918 and died January 13, 2002. She is located in Section 308 Lot 326.

1989—JoAnn Fritz of Jefferson Township becomes the first black woman elected as a township trustee in Ohio. She served for nearly 12 years before succumbing to complications from heart bypass surgery. She had been named the 1992 Citizen of the Year by the Montgomery County Commissioners. Ms. Fritz aka "Flo-Jo" was involved in numerous community organizations including UJI-MA Food Co-Op at Wesley UMC Center; Dayton Urban League Guild; Jefferson Regional Water Authority; Montgomery County Fair Housing Board, Human Services Levy Council and the Drug and Alcohol Coalition. JoAnn P. Fritz was born February 27, 1932 and died July 10, 2001 at the age of 69. She is located in Section 310 Lot 76.



1991—Idotha "Bootsie" Neal becomes the first black woman on the Dayton City Commission where she served for 12 years. She was Director at both Central State University, West Dayton Campus and Wright Dunbar, Inc. Ms. Neal was born September 9, 1952 in Newbern, Alabama and died January 24, 2021. She is located in Section 309 Lot 131.

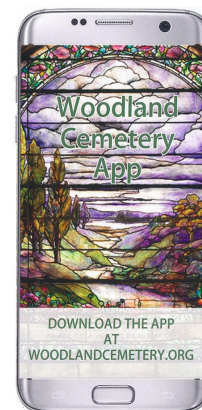
We hope you have enjoyed this series of Celebrated African Americans. You can learn more about these and other African Americans in our Black History tour located on our website or on our mobile app. Click on the links in the next section to view them all.

Sources for the timeline: Dayton Daily News, The Dayton Journal Herald, Preservation Dayton, and Dayton's African American Heritage, by Margaret E. Peters, a project of the National Afro-American Museum and Cultural Center.

You can take your own walking tour at the cemetery or a virtual tour from the comfort of your couch by visiting our website at: woodlandcemetery.org/tours.

From your phone you will be prompted to download our app. Take one of 12 walking tours we have available for your enjoyment at the cemetery. If you are on your desktop, laptop or tablet, you can take the tour right from the tour page. We will be adding more tours so come back often to learn about the men and women who made it Great in Dayton.

[Download the mobile app for your phone by clicking here.](#)



Memories of a loved one should last for generations.

Using our app, you can:

- Navigate to your relative or friend's grave using our GPS-based system
- Share stories about your family
- Upload photos and video
- Share memories with your family on Facebook

Your loved one's memorial page is automatically created when you make cemetery arrangements with our office. You may also share and upload information by using our burial database via our website (woodlandcemetery.org). (please contact our office if you need assistance)



WOODLAND
HISTORIC CEMETERY & ARBORETUM



THANK YOU for supporting us through our 180th Anniversary!

We hope you will continue to support the Woodland Arboretum Foundation as we move through 2022. Support of the Chapel restoration and preservation project is our most critical need as you will soon see the outside of the Chapel and Administration Building receiving new sandstone pieces and eroding and disintegrating elements replaced. Once the stonework is complete, the beloved Tiffany windows will return and be put back in place. The Tiffany mosaic floor will be restored and the beautiful interior woodwork will also receive a facelift. We are hopeful to open the doors to the public once again in late 2022.

Please consider making a first time donation or an annual donation to the Chapel Fund. Donate on our secure website by clicking below or click on the check to receive a donation form to mail in.

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Woodland Cemetery & Arboretum | 118 Woodland Ave., Dayton, OH 45409