

# Six Triple Eight

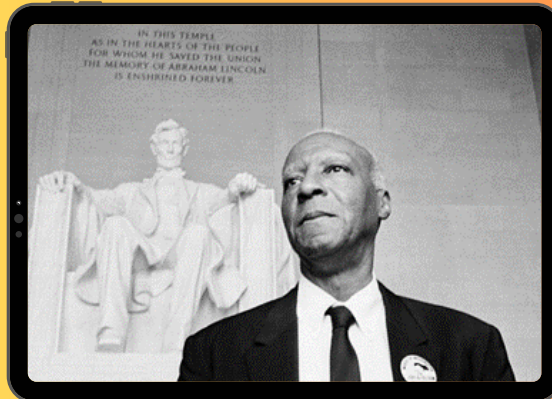


## U.S. Army 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion

Also known as the largest group of Black service women to serve overseas during WWII. They shattered the barriers that we were experiencing and played a pivotal role in ensuring that mail reached our American Troops. The Six Triple Eight worked in the dead of winter, alternating grueling eight-hour shifts to guarantee nonstop progress on the backlog of mail.

Their first achievement was developing a tracking system for service members, which resolved the issue of soldiers sharing the same name - that was 7 million information cards to maintain. Their innovative tracking system allowed them to process an average of 65,000 pieces of mail per shift. The women of the 6888th always prioritized the soldiers' well-being; "no mail, low morale" became their war cry. Providing and sustaining a connection between soldiers and their families was as vital to victory.

## A. Philip Randolph



During World War II, Randolph helped lead the fight to end discrimination in the defense industry and military, paving the way for Executive Order 8802, the Fair Employment Practices Commission, and the desegregation of the armed services.

## Maida Springer



Maida Springer Kemp worked as a labor organizer in the garment industry and became the first Black woman to represent the U.S. labor movement overseas in 1945 when she visited post-war Britain on a labor exchange trip.

She went on to spend many years liaising between American and African labor leaders as a member of the AFL-CIO, affectionately known as "Mama Maida" for her work.



Mary McLeod Bethune

Celebrate  
**BLACK  
HISTORY  
MONTH**

# Traditional Dishes

## Black Eyed Peas

Black Eyed Peas were one of the nourishing foods that was available to African Americans during challenging times. They are a symbol of good fortune. Traditionally made and eaten on New Years to bring forth a prosperous and lucky new year.



## Collard Greens

Collard greens are one of the few vegetables that African Americans were allowed to grow for their families during slavery. They are often boiled or simmered with ham hock or salt pork for a long time until they are very soft. They are generally served with corn bread used to dip into the leftover juices from the greens.



## Cornbread

Like the other dishes cornmeal was an undesirable grain and given to enslaved individuals. Cornbread was traditionally baked in a skillet producing a crispy dense bread used for dipping into stews. To enhance flavors things like molasses or bacon were added.



# WHY THESE COLORS?

## BLACK

**Represents the resilient people whose existence as a nation is honored and affirmed by the existence of a flag**

## RED

**Symbolizes the blood of innocent Black lives that have been shed throughout history**

## YELLOW

**Stands for optimism, justice and equality for everyone**

## GREEN

**Symbolizes Africa's rich greenery and other natural resources**

# HISTORY OF BHM

The story and origin of Black History Month tracks all the back to 1915 when Carter G. Woodson traveled from Washington, D.C. to the state of Illinois participate in a national celebration of the 50th anniversary of the emancipation of enslaved African Americans.

Carter was inspired by this 3 week long celebration that before leaving town he and a few others formed the "Association for the Study of Negro Life and History" (ASALH).

The Association would both create and popularize knowledge about the black past and Carter would send out a press release announcing Negro History Week in February, 1926.

It is said that Carter chose the month of February for a few different reasons. One being that two prominent individuals, Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglas both had birthdays in the month and played significant roles in black history.

Carter knew we celebrated both of those individuals and he build Negro History Week around the traditional days of commemorating the black past. He believed that history was made by people not just by great men.

As time progressed, schools wanted materials and lessons to teach their students. More blacks moved to bigger cities where they started clubs and became consumers of art and literature.

Before his death, Carter dreamed of black history year and by 1976 President Gerald Ford officially recognized Black History Month as a full month long celebration.