

commemorations:

Lamentation ■ Celebration ■ Education

PRODUCED BY THE RACIAL EQUITY TEAM OF THE METRO D.C. SYNOD



The Commemorations List that follows is offered as a resource in our ongoing work as a Church and as a nation. The Racial Equity team of the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod has developed this list as an invitation into the beautiful, painful, awesome, and rich history we share. We invite you to meet people who have been with us all along but who you may not know. This list is not meant to be exhaustive, but representative and to spark your curiosity. As you explore, you may lament the many injustices done and the pain and cruelty inflicted; but you will also assuredly celebrate the amazing people you will meet here. Welcome!

The Racial Equity team is led by Pastor Karen Brau and Pastor Franklin Morales. If you have any questions or edits to this document, please reach out to them at racialequity@metrodcelca.org.



Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

www.metrodcelca.org/racialequity



JAN 5 Birth of Alvin Ailey (Dancer, Choreographer)
1931

JAN 17 Birth of Hector Garcia (Surgeon, Activist)
1914



JAN 19 Birth of John H. Johnson (Publisher)
1918

JAN 19 White riots against Filipinos in Watsonville, CA
1930

JAN 20 Start of Oahu Sugar Strike
1920

JAN 15
1929

Birth of Martin Luther King, Jr.

JAN 21
1910

Angel Island Immigration Station opens

JAN 24 Birth of Eliseo Medina (Labor, Immigration Activist)
1946

JAN 24 Death of Thurgood Marshall (Supreme Court Justice)
1993

JAN 25 Birth of George Freeman Bragg (Priest, Activist)
1863

JAN 27 Death of Cornelius Hill (Priest, Chief of the Oneida)
1907

JAN 28 Birth of José Martí (Poet)
1853

JAN 30 Birth of Jane Johnston Schoolcraft (Author)
1800



FEB 1848 Annexation of northern Mexico into the U.S.

FEB 1 Birth of Langston Hughes (Poet, Novelist)
1901

FEB 1 442nd Regimental Combat Team (RCT) activated
1943

FEB 5 Passage of Immigration Act of 1917 (Asiatic Barred Zone Act)
1917

FEB 13 Death of Absalom Jones (Abolitionist)
1818

FEB 17 Birth of Julia de Burgos (Poet)
1914

FEB 18 Birth of Toni Morrison (Novelist)
1931

FEB 18 Birth of Audre Lorde (Author)
1934

FEB 19
1942

Executive Order 9066 issued (Japanese internment)



FEB 25
1870

Hiram Rhodes Revels became the first African American to be seated in the U.S. Senate



FEB 19 Death of Chief Leschi (Chief)
1858

FEB 20 Birth of Frederick Douglass (Abolitionist)
1895

FEB 21 Birth of John Lewis (Statesman, Activist)
1940

FEB 22 Birth of Zitkala-Ša (Writer, Activist)
1876

FEB 26 Murder of Jimmie Lee Jackson
1965

FEB 27 Birth of Marian Anderson (Singer)
1897

FEB 27 Death of Anna Julia Haywood Cooper (Author)
1964

FEB 27 Occupation of Wounded Knee begins
1973

FEB 29 Birth of Augusta Savage (Sculptor)
1892



MAR
2 Puerto Ricans granted U.S. Citizenship
1917

MAR
3 Birth of Ruben Salazar (Reporter, Activist)
1928

MAR
5 East L.A. Student Walkouts
1968

MAR
6 Dred Scott Decision
1857

MAR
7 Death of Harriet Jacobs (Writer)
1897

MAR
12 Las Gorras Blancas platform published
1890

MAR
16 Atlanta Spa Shootings
2021

MAR
17 Birth of Bayard Rustin (Activist)
1912

MAR 10
1913
Death of Harriet Tubman

MAR 31
1927
Birth of Cesar Chavez

MAR
20 Birth of Spike Lee (Film Director)
1957

MAR
24 Birth of Dorothy Height (Activist)
1912

MAR
24  Death of Óscar Romero
1980

MAR
25 Japanese American draft resisters arrested at Heart Mountain Relocation Center
1944

MAR
26 Death of Richard Allen (Minister, Educator)
1831


MAR
28 Death of James Solomon Russell (Priest, Educator)
1935

MAR
31 Death of Olaudah Equiano (Writer, Abolitionist)
1797

APR
1513 Juan Ponce de Leon "claims" Florida for the Spanish crown

APR
1956 First large-scale human trial of the birth control pill carried out in Puerto Rico

APR
3 First action of Arizona Minutemen
2005

APR
4  Death of Benedict the African
1589

APR
4 74-year-old eugenics law impacting poor, mostly African American women, overturned
2003

APR 4
1928
Birth of Maya Angelou

APR 13
1850
Foreign Miners Tax Act signed into law

APR
5 Birth of Booker T. Washington (Educator, Author)
1856

APR
9 Birth of Florence Price (Classical Composer)
1887

APR
10 Birth of Delores Huerta (Labor Leader, Activist)
1930

APR
15 Birth of A. Phillip Randolph (Labor Leader, Activist)
1889

APR
27 Birth of August Wilson (Playwright)
1945



1875 Of the 1st 27 Kentucky Derby winners, 14 were African American jockeys
1901

MAY 1 The first mission in San Antonio founded (the Alamo), to convert Native Americans to Christianity
1718

MAY 3 Alien Land Law enacted
1913

MAY 9 Birth of Willie Velasquez (Activist)
1944

MAY 10 Birth of Dr. Ellen Ochoa (Engineer, Astronaut)
1958

MAY 11 Arizona House Bill 2281 signed outlawing Mexican American Studies Dept. in Tucson, AZ
2010

MAY 6
1882

Chinese Exclusion Act signed

MAY 14
1947

9th Circuit Court of Appeals prohibits segregation in CA schools (Mendez v. Westminster School District)

MAY 25
2020

Murder of George Floyd



MAY 30
1921

Tulsa Massacre

MAY 17 Brown v. Board of Education decided
1954

MAY 18 Plessy v. Ferguson upheld Jim Crow laws
1896

MAY 18 Death of Mary McLeod Bethune (Educator, Activist)
1955

MAY 26 Immigration Act of 1924 enacted
1924

MAY 27 1st Land grant ever given in Brooklyn was to a black man named Antonie Jansen Van Salee
1643

MAY 28 Congress creates the Border Patrol
1924

MAY 28 Death of Lyda Conley (Lawyer, Activist)
1946



JUN 1661 Death of Chief Massasoit

JUN 3 Zoot Suit "Riots"
1943

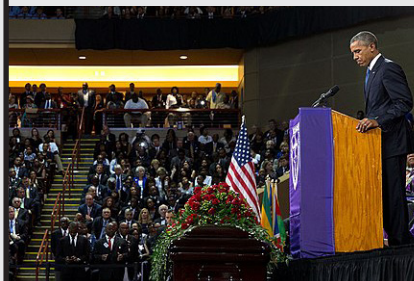
JUN 7 Death of Seattle, Chief of the Duwamish Confederacy
1866

JUN 9 Eisenhower institutes "Operation Wetback," largest mass deportation in American history
1954

JUN 12 Pulse nightclub murders
2016

JUN 17
2015

Emmanuel 9 murdered



JUN 19
1866

Juneteenth

JUN 17 Birth of James Weldon Johnson (Writer, Activist)
1871

JUN 18 Birth of Dr. Daniel Hale Williams (Surgeon)
1856


JUN 21  Death of Onesimos Nesib
1931

JUN 23 Murder of Vincent Chin
1982

JUN 25 Birth of Justice Sonia Sotomayor (Supreme Court Justice)
1954

JUN 27 Birth of Ruby Middleton Forsythe (Educator)
1905



JUL 1934	Founding of the Southern Tenant Farmers Union (STFU)	JUL 2 1964	Civil Rights Act of 1964 becomes law	JUL 12 1917	Bisbee Deportations
JUL 2 1925	Birth of Medgar Evers (Civil Rights Activist)			JUL 13 1975	Death of Laurence Clifton Jones (Educator)
JUL 2 1951	Birth of Sylvia Rivera (Activist)	JUL 13 2013	First Black Lives Matter hashtag first appears on Twitter	JUL 16 1862	Birth of Ida B. Wells (Journalist, Activist)
JUL 7 1898	Hawaii annexed			JUL 28 1866	Army Organization Act enacted



AUG 1856	U.S. Army establishes site of first Indian Boarding school	AUG 1619	First ship carrying enslaved peoples lands in Virginia	AUG 17 1887	Birth of Marcus Garvey (Activist, Journalist)
AUG 2 1924	Birth of James Baldwin (Novelist, Activist)			AUG 18 1969	Death of Artemisia Bowden (Educator, Activist)
AUG 3 1956	Indian Relocation Act of 1956 enacted	AUG 2016	ELCA repudiates the Doctrine of Discovery	AUG 21 1831	Nat Turner Rebellion
AUG 4 1942	Bracero Program signed into law	AUG 3 2019	Walmart mass shooting in El Paso, deadliest attack on Latinos in modern American history	AUG 24 1945	Birth of Marsha P. Johnson (Activist)
AUG 5 1938	Birth of James Cone (Theologian)			AUG 25 1925	Founding of The Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters
AUG 6 1965	Voting Rights Act signed	AUG 15 2016	Standing Rock Sioux begin protest over the Dakota Access Pipeline	AUG 25 1927	Birth of Althea Gibson (Athlete)
AUG 9 2014	Murder of Michael Brown			AUG 28 1955	Murder of Emmet Till
AUG 14 1935	Social Security Act signed. It barred agricultural and domestic workers from social security benefits and unemployment insurance.	AUG 27 1963	Death of W.E.B. Du Bois	AUG 30 1963	Birth of William J. Barber II (Minister, Activist)
				AUG 31 1931	Death of David Pendleton Oakerhater (Activist)



SEP 2 1885	Chinese massacre at Rock Springs, Wyoming
SEP 15 1963	16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham bombed
SEP 18 1850	Fugitive Slave Act signed
SEP 20 1899	Birth of Dalip Sing Saund (Politician)

SEP 4
1957
First day of school for the Little Rock Nine

SEP 30
1822
José Mariano Hernández becomes the first Hispanic member of Congress

SEP 20 1996	 Death of Nelson Wesley Trout
SEP 23 1863	Birth of Mary Church Terrell (Activist)
SEP 26 1942	Birth of Gloria E. Anzaldua (Scholar)
SEP 28 1852	 Death of Jehu Jones



OCT 1651	Mass. General Court creates first Praying town of Natick
OCT 2020	First national Miss Juneteenth Pageant held
OCT 4 1951	Death of Henrietta Lacks
OCT 6 1917	Birth of Fannie Lou Hamer (Activist)
OCT 7 1934	Birth of Amiri Baraka (Author)



OCT 6
1972
Start of Trail of Broken Treaties Caravan



OCT 23
1923
State Fair of Texas officially designated Ku Klux Klan Day

OCT 16 1859	John Brown's raid on Harpers Ferry
OCT 17 1956	Birth of Mae C. Jemison (Engineer, Astronaut)
OCT 24 1871	Chinese massacre in Los Angeles
OCT 25 1944	Birth of José Angel Gutiérrez (Activist)
OCT 26 1911	Birth of Mahalia Jackson (Singer)
OCT 27 2018	Tree of Life Synagogue shooting



<p>NOV 1927 Supreme Court approved the exclusion of any minority children from schools reserved for whites</p>	<p>NOV 3 1910</p> <p>Antonio Rodriguez murdered. Start of La Matanza (the Massacre) of Mexican-Americans in Texas, 1910-1920</p>	<p>NOV 16 Birth of W.C. Handy (Composer, Musician) 1873</p>
<p>NOV 2  Death of Daniel Payne 1893</p>		<p>NOV 20 Birth of Rev. Pauli Murray (Activist, Author) 1910</p>
<p>NOV 7 Prop 203 (AZ) passed, requiring all classes be taught in English 2000</p>		<p>NOV 26  Death of Sojourner Truth 1883</p>
<p>NOV 8 Prop 187 (CA) passed, requiring law enforcement, teachers and health care professionals to verify and report immigration status 1994</p>		<p>NOV 29 Sand Creek Massacre 1864</p>
<p>NOV 11 Death of Liliukalani of Hawaii (Queen) 1917</p>		<p>NOV 16 1990</p> <p>Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act signed into law</p>
		<p>NOV 30 Birth of Shirley Chisholm (Politician, Educator) 1924</p>

<p>DEC 10 Guam, Puerto Rico and the Philippines ceded to the United States. Hawaii annexed. 1898</p>	<p>DEC 5 1955</p> <p>Start of the Montgomery Bus boycott</p>	<p>DEC 20 Birth of Sandra Cisneros (Novelist) 1954</p>	
<p>DEC 13 Birth of Ella Baker (Activist) 1903</p>		<p>DEC 26 Largest mass execution in U.S. history (ordered by Abraham Lincoln) 1862</p>	
<p>DEC 14 Death of Elizabeth Evelyn Wright (Educator) 1906</p>		<p>DEC 26 Family Planning Services and Population Research Act signed. Over 6 years, nearly 50% of Native women were sterilized. 1970</p>	
<p>DEC 19 Birth of Carter G. Woodson (Historian, Author) 1875</p>		<p>DEC 29 1890</p> <p>Wounded Knee Massacre</p>	<p>DEC 29 Texas annexed by the United States 1845</p>
			<p>DEC 30 Death of Frances Joseph-Gaudet (Educator, Activist) 1934</p>