

## \*Today in Black History - February 10 \*

1868 - Republican conservatives draft new constitution which concentrates political power in the hands of the governor and limits the impact of the Black vote. This is made possible by Conservatives, aided by military forces, who seize the convention hall and establish control over the reconstruction process in Florida.

1927 - Mary Leontyne Violet Price, who will be acclaimed as one of the world's greatest operatic talents, is born in Laurel, Mississippi. She will amass many operatic firsts, being the first African American to sing opera on network television and the first African American to receive the Presidential Medal of Freedom. Among her honors will be the NAACP's Spingarn Medal, three Emmys, and Kennedy Center Honors.

1937 - Roberta Flack is born in Black Mountain (Asheville), North Carolina. She will begin her professional singing career in Washington, DC. She will go on to win Grammys for "The First Time Ever I Saw Your Face," "Where Is the Love," and "Killing Me Softly with His Song."

1942 - Mary Lovelace O'Neal is born in Jackson, Mississippi. Educated at Howard and Columbia universities, she will become a professor of fine arts and head of the Art Department at University of California at Berkeley. Academia will allow her the freedom to become a painter who will exhibit her work in museums in the United States, Morocco, and Chile.

1943 - Eta Phi Beta, the national business and professional sorority, is incorporated in Detroit, Michigan. It will have chapters throughout the United States and number among its members civil rights activist Daisy Bates and artist Margaret T. Burroughs.

1945 - The United States, Russia, Great Britain, and France approve a peace treaty with Italy, under which Italy renounces all rights and claims to Ethiopia and Eritrea.

1945 - The Chicago Defender reports that over a quarter of a million African Americans migrated to California during the years 1942 and 1943. As the percentage of African Americans in California increases from 1 1/2% to more than 10% of the total population, so does the practice of racial segregation. 1971 - Bill White becomes the first African American major league baseball announcer when he begins announcing for the New York Yankees.

1989 - Ronald H. Brown, who had served as Jesse Jackson's campaign manager, becomes chairman of the Democratic National Committee, the first African American to hold the position in either party.

1990 - South African President, Frederik Willem de Klerk announces that Nelson Mandela will be set free on [February 11th](#) after 27 years in prison.

1992 - Alex Haley, author of "Roots," and "Autobiography of Malcolm X," joins the ancestors while on a lecture tour in Seattle, Washington at the age of 70.

1992 - Mike Tyson is convicted in Indianapolis, Indiana of raping a contestant in the Miss Black America competition and sentenced to six years in an Indiana prison.

1998 - Dr. David Satcher is confirmed by the U.S. Senate to become Surgeon General.