

## \*Today in Black History - February 13 \*

1818 - The first African American Episcopal priest ordained in the United States, Absalom Jones, joins the ancestors in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He was an instrumental force in the development of the early African American church and benevolent society movements.

1882 - Henry Highland Garnet, abolitionist, preacher, diplomat and protest leader, joins the ancestors in Monrovia, Liberia at the age of 66.

1892 - The first African American performers, the World's Fair Colored Opera Company, appear at New York City's Carnegie Hall less than one year after the hall's opening. In the company is concert singer Matilda Sissieretta Jones, who will have her solo debut at Carnegie Hall two years later.

1907 - Wendell P. Dabney establishes "The Union." The Cincinnati, Ohio paper's motto is "For no people can become great without being united, for in union, there is strength."

1919 - Eddie Robinson is born in Jackson, Louisiana. He will accept the head coaching position in 1941, at the Louisiana Negro Normal and Industrial Institute in Grambling, Louisiana (later named Grambling State University). Over the next 54 years, he will become the winningest college football coach. On October 7, 1995, he will win his 400th game, establishing a record and securing his status as a legend. Sports Illustrated will place Robinson on the cover of its October 14, 1995 issue, making him the first and only coach of an historically Black university to appear on the cover of any major sports publication in the United States. To his credit, he will produce 113 NFL players, including four Pro Football Hall of Famers. He will join the ancestors on April 3, 2007.

1920 - The National Association of Professional Baseball Clubs is founded by Andrew "Rube" Foster. They will be called the Negro National League. It will become the first successful African American professional baseball league. Two other leagues had previously been started, but failed to last more than one season.

1923 - The first African American professional basketball team "The Renaissance" is organized by Robert J. Douglas. It is named after its home court, the Renaissance Casino. They will play from 1923 to 1939 and have a record of 1,588 wins against 239 losses. They will become the first African American team in the Basketball Hall of Fame.

1957 - The Southern Leadership Conference is founded at a meeting of ministers in New Orleans, Louisiana. Martin Luther King, Jr. is elected its first president. Later in the year its name will be changed to the Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

1976 - General Murtala Mohammed, head of Nigeria, who came to power in 1975 after General Gowon is ousted, joins the ancestors after being killed in an unsuccessful counter-coup. His chief of staff, General Olusegun Obasanjo, will assume Mohammed's post and his promise to hand over political power to civilian rule.

1996 - Minister Louis Farrakhan, of the Nation of Islam, visits Iran to celebrate its 1979 revolution ousting the Shah.