

## \*Today in Black History - February 17 \*

1870 - Congress passes a resolution re-admitting Mississippi to the Union on the condition that it will never change its constitution to disenfranchise African Americans.

1918 - Charles Hayes is born in Cairo, Illinois. He will be elected to the House of Representatives succeeding Harold Washington in 1983.

1933 - Bobby Lewis is born. He will become a Rhythm and Blues singer, who will be at his peak in the 1960's, and will be best-known for his recordings of "Tossin & Turnin," and "One Track Mind."

1936 - Jim Brown is born in Saint Simons, Georgia. He will be considered one of the greatest offensive backs in the history of football, establishing records with the Cleveland Browns, for most yards gained and most touchdowns. Brown will also develop a film career, establish the Negro Industrial and Economic Union, and work with African American youth.

1938 - Mary Frances Berry is born in Nashville, Tennessee. She will be an influential force in education and civil rights, become the first woman of any race to serve as chancellor of a major research university (University of Colorado in 1976), and a member of the United States Commission on Civil Rights.

1941 - Joe Louis retains his world heavyweight boxing crown by knocking out Gus Dorazio.

1942 - Huey P. Newton, a co-founder and minister of defense for the Black Panther Party, is born in Monroe, Louisiana.

1962 - Wilt Chamberlain, of the NBA Philadelphia Warriors, scores 67points against St. Louis.

1963 - Michael Jeffrey Jordan, who will be a star basketball player for the University of North Carolina, the 1984 Olympic gold medal team and the Chicago Bulls, is born in Brooklyn, New York. Jordan's phenomenal style and scoring ability will earn him universal acclaim and selection on more than eight all-star NBA teams and NBA Most Valuable Player more than four times.

1982 - Thelonious Monk, jazz pianist and composer, joins the ancestors at the age of 64.

1989 - The African countries of Mauritania, Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia & Libya form an economic common market.

1997 - The Virginia House of Delegates votes unanimously to retire the state song, "Carry me back to Old Virginny," a tune which glorifies the institution of slavery.