

* Today in Black History - February 24 *

1811 - The first African American to become a college president (Wilberforce University in Ohio - 1863), Daniel A. Payne, is born in Charleston, South Carolina. He will become an educator, clergyman, bishop, and historian of the AME Church.

1842 - James Forten, Sr. joins the ancestors in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. A businessman who amassed a fortune as a sail maker, Forten was one of the most influential abolitionists of the first half of the 19th century. He also was in the midst of many significant events and was one of Philadelphia's most prominent African Americans. He was chairman of the first Negro Convention in 1835, helped to organize the 1st African Lodge of Free Masons in Philadelphia (1787), and one of the founders of the Free African Society (1787 - which grew into St. Thomas African Episcopal Church).

1940 - Jimmy Ellis is born in Louisville, Kentucky. He will become a national Golden Gloves champion and will go on to become the WBA heavyweight boxing champion from 1968 to 1970. At 197 pounds, he will be the lightest man to win the heavyweight title in the past 35 years.

1956 - Eddie Murray is born in Los Angeles, California. He will become a professional baseball player, winning the American League Rookie of the Year award in 1977. Over his career, he will hit over 500 career home runs. That will make him the fifteenth player in baseball history to reach that milestone, and will join Willie Mays and Henry Aaron as the only players with 500 home runs and 3000 hits. Murray currently ranks eleventh all time in hits (3,203), eighth in RBI (1,888), and ninth in games played (2,950).

1966 - Military leaders oust Kwame Nkrumah of Ghana - while on a peace mission, in Peking, to stop the Vietnam War.

1980 - Willie Davenport and Jeff Gadley, the first African Americans to represent the United States in the Winter Olympics, place 12th in the four-man bobsled competition. Davenport had been a medal winner in the 1968 and 1976 Summer Games.

1982 - Quincy Jones wins five Grammys for "The Dude," including 'Producer of the Year.'

1987 - Kareem Abdul-Jabbar of the Los Angeles Lakers scores his first three-point shot. The leading scorer in NBA history had already scored 36,000 points. Kareem had never scored more than two points at a time.

1992 - Edward Perkins is nominated United Nations ambassador by President George Bush. Perkins had formerly served as director-general of the United States Foreign Service and ambassador to the Republic of South Africa.