



PROBATION NEWS

PROBATION CELEBRATES BLACK HISTORY MONTH

During February, the Los Angeles County Probation Department joined the nation in celebrating the contributions of African Americans to the United States of America. In 1926, Historian Carter G. Woodson and Minister Jesse E. Moorland created Black History Month observance. It originated as a weeklong celebration, and in the 1960s, it evolved into a month. In 1976, President Gerald Ford officially recognized the month of February as Black History Month.

Black History Month recognizes, acknowledges, and honors the legacy and achievements of African Americans and their central role in United States history. It is a designated time to reverence and honor Black people from all periods of U.S. history, from the enslaved people first brought over from Africa in the early 17th century to African Americans living in the United States today. Black History Month is also observed in Canada and the United Kingdom.

Read on to learn some of the many ways the Los Angeles County Probation Department celebrated Black History Month this year. We also invite you to view the department's social media platforms @LACProbation as the department recognized some iconic African American figures for their impact on the United States.

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Harbor family celebrating the contributions of African Americans:

(l to r) DPO II Dubose, DPO II Moorehead, DPO II Tyler, SDPO Moss, DPO II Simpson, Referral Clerk Irma, SIT Clerk Ana, DPO II Bass, Financial Clerk Tiana, DPO II Myles-Purnell, DPO II Lockett, and Receptionist Tanner.

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PROBATION CELEBRATES BLACK HISTORY MONTH (CONT)

HARBOR AREA OFFICE CAPS MONTH-LONG BLACK HISTORY MONTH TRIBUTE WITH LUNCHEON

"Lift every voice and sing / 'Till earth and heaven ring / Ring with the harmonies of Liberty!"

With everyone in the room singing these words from the Hymn (popularly known as the Black National Anthem) *"Lift Every Voice and Sing"*, the Black History Month luncheon at the Harbor Area Probation Office began. DPO Hall gave a welcome and let the attendees know about the plan for the day. And what a plan!

There was music, historical readings and stories, a raffle, and a fantastic meal provided by *A Step Above Catering*. The meal included chicken (both fried and roasted), hot links, ribs, mac and cheese, black eyed peas, greens, green beans, potato salad, and a table full of desserts including chocolate and cinnamon Bundt cake, Peach cobbler, and sweet potato pie.

Readings by Receptionist Tanner included historical facts about the lives of Martin Luther King, Harriet Tubman, and Barack Obama. After each speech there was a quiz and those who provided the correct answers received tickets for a raffle. Old school music played during lunch and the first to guess the title and artist were also gifted with raffle tickets. Raffle items included African masks, and homemade bags decorated in African art.

DPO II Patillo-Tyler provided the museum exhibits which featured photos and stories of African American history and had been on display throughout the month. Many of the staff dressed in African style garb. It was truly a celebration.

There were events planned every day throughout February. "We're working on building camaraderie," said SDPO Moss, "and it's really helped. It was much better than anyone expected. The feedback was exceptional. Everyone chipped in, there is 95% participation by staff. Even the security guards joined us."

The Harbor unity committee consists of: SDPO Moss, DPO II Lockett, DPO II Myles-Purnell, DPO II Moorehead, DPO II Dubose, and the Clerical Support staff- Alfrica, Tiana, Tanner, Ana, Irma, and Domonique.

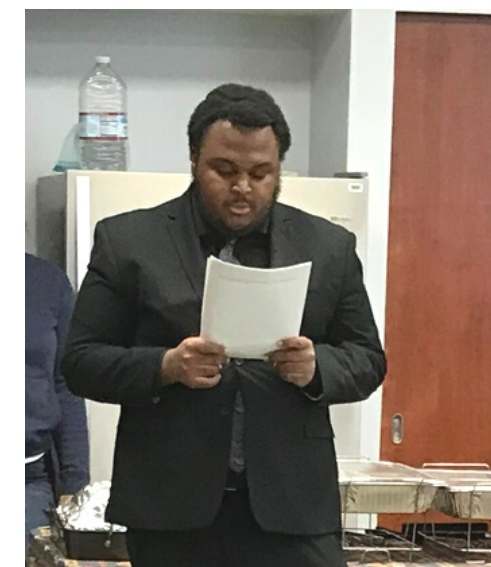
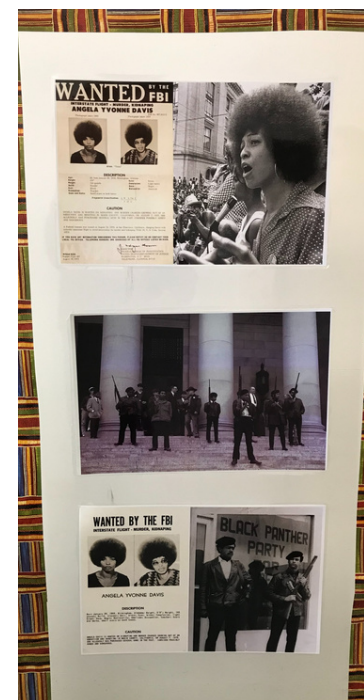
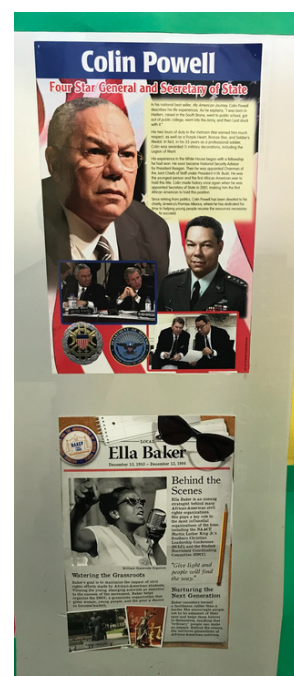
Congratulations to Director Munoz, SDPO Moss, and the whole Harbor Office team for building camaraderie and sharing the rich history of African Americans.



Volunteer Melody, DPO Myles-Purnell, and Calendar Clerk Domonique



Director Munoz and SDPO Moss



Receptionist Tanner portraying Barack Obama's "Yes We Can" speech, and giving history on "Lift Every Voice and Sing"



Exhibits were placed throughout the Harbor offices creating a museum featuring moments and personalities from all eras of African American History.

PROBATION CELEBRATES BLACK HISTORY MONTH (CONT)

YOUTH RECEIVE SCHOLARSHIPS IN ESSAY CONTEST

The African American Heritage Committee (AAHC) was established in 1990 to pay homage to Black History Month. The goal of the committee is to educate members of the Education community about the contributions Africans and African Americans have made globally to American history.

Every year the African American Heritage Committee Student Scholarship Award Program holds a youth essay contest. This year, youth were asked to submit a 300- 350 word typed essay answering the question "How has civil rights helped you triumph in today's world?" The winning writers each received a scholarship from the African American Heritage Committee. Among the winners were five youth from Dorothy Kirby and one from Camp Joseph Paige. Each was awarded a \$500 scholarship for their winning essay. Below are excerpts from five of those essays.



How has civil rights helped you triumph in today's world?
Civil Rights in America has always had ongoing challenges. Even in today's current events, with the recent death of Tyre Nichols from police brutality, it is very clear that civil rights issues still remain a top priority. However, the overall results of the American Civil Rights Movement in the 1960's has had a positive impact on my life, and people of color.

Because the Civil Rights Act of 1964 prohibits discrimination on the bases of race, color, religion, sex, or national origin, my personal rights are guaranteed and protected by the United States Constitution. In essence, as an African American, I have equal access to restaurants, transportation, schools, and various public facilities that were previously restricted or banned based on racial segregation.

Congratulations to the scholarship winners!
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HOW HAS THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT HELPED YOU IN YOUR LIFE?

There are several leaders who have opened doors for me. As a young African American male the civil rights movement has helped me tremendously in a major way. Because of the civil rights leaders, such as Malcom x, Martin Luther King Jr., Rosa Parks, Angela Davis and people of color getting equal rights, they allow us to have access to an education and to the American dream. Because of that I'm very grateful. I did a quick little research on some of the African American leaders and learned a little bit more.

Martin Luther king JR was the first president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. He organized a number of marches and protests and was a key figure in the American civil rights movement. For instance, he was instrumental in the Montgomery bus boycott. He also helped bring the passage of the civil rights act 1964.

How has civil rights helped me?

Can you imagine a life without equality? Civil rights are what give us social and political freedom. For me personally, this has been an advantage in my life for various reasons. For example, the right to education, the freedom to vote, and the freedom of speech are all things I have due to civil rights.

In 1954, There was a law that was granted which strictly applied only to public schools. This law did not allow everyone to receive the same education due to race. For example, Brown VS Board of Education helped inspire the American Civil Rights movement of the late 1950s and 60s. The right to a fair education has helped by going to a non-segregated school. While attending a non segregated school I have been able to interact with other cultures and learn more about their history. The right to an education is what will allow me to move forward in my future and build a career so that I can become successful in life.

Excerpts from the DKC and Camp Joseph Paige essay winners

How has the civil rights movement helped you in life?
I think as a young African-American the civil rights movement has made a lot of things available. Most of the things I take for granted like riding on the bus. In 1956 a well-known act of civil rights took place on a bus in Montgomery, Alabama.

This act of civil rights was done by a woman by the name of Rosa Parks. Rosa refused to move to the back of a bus for a white passenger. After she did that African-Americans boycotted the Montgomery, Alabama bus system for a whole year.

Civil rights essay
How has civil rights helped me triumph in today's world? I think being a person of color, being Hispanic born in the U.S I have my legal rights. At this time in history, I am able to speak and stand up for myself, without the public trying to stop me. As a woman in today's world, I am allowed to vote, and get married if I wanted to.

Back in time women were not allowed to vote for their needs nor rights, they couldn't even get married with their loved ones. It was up to their parents to decide whether or not if they should get married. Being a young adult now in the U.S, I am allowed to go to school and study to be someone important in the future. In my opinion I believe whites/Hispanics/and blacks, still face racism to this day. Civil rights have come a long way but things could still be done. For example, in legal circumstances whites are more than likely to get away with crimes than blacks or Hispanics. This is just one of the many examples how society still don't view everyone equally. Still even after decades of our rights being fought for.