African American Subjects on United States Postage Stamps

The first U.S. stamp to honor an African American was the ten-cent Booker T. Washington stamp issued in 1940. Below is a list of stamps issued in honor of African Americans and their contributions. Stamps on which African Americans are part of a mixed scene — for example, the 15-cent "International Year of the Child" issued in 1979 and the 22-cent "Help End Hunger" stamp issued in 1985 — are not included.

_The Postal Service Guide to U.S. Stamps_ lists all United States postage stamps and provides other useful information, including illustrations. The Guide can be found in some bookstores and Post Offices, ordered by calling 1-800-STAMP-24, or purchased through the Postal Store at [www.usps.com/shop](http://www.usps.com/shop).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Denomination</th>
<th>Date Issued</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Booker T. Washington</td>
<td>10¢</td>
<td>April 7, 1940</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13th Amendment</td>
<td>3¢</td>
<td>October 20, 1940</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. George Washington Carver</td>
<td>3¢</td>
<td>January 5, 1948</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Centennial of Booker T. Washington</td>
<td>3¢</td>
<td>April 5, 1956</td>
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<tr>
<td>Emancipation Proclamation</td>
<td>5¢</td>
<td>August 16, 1963</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frederick Douglass</td>
<td>25¢</td>
<td>February 4, 1967</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W. C. Handy</td>
<td>6¢</td>
<td>May 17, 1969</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Henry Ossawa Tanner</td>
<td>8¢</td>
<td>September 10, 1973</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paul Laurence Dunbar</td>
<td>10¢</td>
<td>May 1, 1975</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salem Poor</td>
<td>10¢</td>
<td>March 25, 1975</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black Heritage: Harriet Tubman</td>
<td>13¢</td>
<td>February 1, 1978</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black Heritage: Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.</td>
<td>15¢</td>
<td>January 13, 1979</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black Heritage: Benjamin Banneker</td>
<td>15¢</td>
<td>February 15, 1980</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black Heritage: Whitney Moore Young, Jr.</td>
<td>15¢</td>
<td>January 30, 1981</td>
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<tr>
<td>Charles R. Drew, MD</td>
<td>35¢</td>
<td>June 3, 1981</td>
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<td>Ralph Bunche</td>
<td>20¢</td>
<td>January 12, 1982</td>
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<td>Black Heritage: Jackie Robinson</td>
<td>20¢</td>
<td>August 2, 1982</td>
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<td>Black Heritage: Scott Joplin</td>
<td>20¢</td>
<td>June 9, 1983</td>
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<tr>
<td>Black Heritage: Dr. Carter G. Woodson</td>
<td>20¢</td>
<td>February 1, 1984</td>
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<td>Black Heritage: Mary McLeod Bethune</td>
<td>22¢</td>
<td>March 5, 1985</td>
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<td>Black Heritage: Sojourner Truth</td>
<td>22¢</td>
<td>February 4, 1986</td>
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<tr>
<td>Duke Ellington</td>
<td>22¢</td>
<td>April 29, 1986</td>
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<tr>
<td>Arctic Explorers: Matthew Henson</td>
<td>22¢</td>
<td>May 28, 1986</td>
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<tr>
<td>Black Heritage: Jean Baptiste Pointe DuSable</td>
<td>22¢</td>
<td>February 20, 1987</td>
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<tr>
<td>Black Heritage: James Weldon Johnson</td>
<td>22¢</td>
<td>February 2, 1988</td>
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</table>
Olympians: Jesse Owens 25¢ July 6, 1990
Black Heritage: Jan E. Matzeliger 29¢ September 15, 1991
Black Heritage: Percy Lavon Julian 29¢ January 29, 1993
Legends of American Music, Rock & Roll/Rhythm & Blues:
  Clyde McPhatter 29¢ June 16, 1993
  Otis Redding 29¢ June 16, 1993
  Dinah Washington 29¢ June 16, 1993
Joe Louis 29¢ June 22, 1993
Legends of American Music, Broadway Musicals:
  Porgy & Bess 29¢ July 14, 1993
Black Heritage: Dr. Allison Davis 29¢ February 1, 1994
Buffalo Soldiers 29¢ April 22, 1994
Legends of American Music, Popular Singers:
  Nat 'King' Cole 29¢ September 1, 1994
  Ethel Waters 29¢ September 1, 1994
Legends of American Music, Jazz and Blues Singers:
  Mildred Bailey 29¢ September 17, 1994
  Billie Holiday 29¢ September 17, 1994
  Robert Johnson 29¢ September 17, 1994
  'Ma' Rainey 29¢ September 17, 1994
  Jimmy Rushing 29¢ September 17, 1994
  Bessie Smith 29¢ September 17, 1994
  Muddy Waters 29¢ September 17, 1994
  Howlin' Wolf 29¢ September 17, 1994
Legends of the West:
  Jim Beckwourth 29¢ October 18, 1994
  Bill Pickett 29¢ October 18, 1994
Black Heritage: Bessie Coleman 32¢ April 27, 1995
Civil War: Frederick Douglass 32¢ June 29, 1995
Civil War: Harriet Tubman 32¢ June 29, 1995
Legends of American Music, Jazz Musicians:
  Louis Armstrong 32¢ September 1, 1995
  Eubie Blake 32¢ September 16, 1995
  John Coltrane 32¢ September 16, 1995
  Erroll Garner 32¢ September 16, 1995
  Coleman Hawkins 32¢ September 16, 1995
  James P. Johnson 32¢ September 16, 1995
  Charlie Parker 32¢ September 16, 1995
  Charles Mingus 32¢ September 16, 1995
  Thelonious Monk 32¢ September 16, 1995
  'Jelly Roll' Morton 32¢ September 16, 1995
Black Heritage: Ernest E. Just
Folk Heroes: John Henry
Legends of American Music, Big Band Leaders: Count Basie
Black Heritage: Benjamin O. Davis, Sr.
Holiday Celebrations: Kwanzaa
Black Heritage: Madam C. J. Walker
Celebrate the Century-1900s: W. E. B. DuBois, Social Activist
Celebrate the Century-1910s: George Washington Carver
Celebrate the Century-1920s: Jazz Flourishes
Legends of American Music, Folk Musicians:
  Leadbelly
  Sonny Terry
  Josh White
Legends of American Music, Gospel Singers:
  Mahalia Jackson
  Roberta Martin
  Sister Rosetta
  Clara Ward
Celebrate the Century-1930s: Jesse Owens
Black Heritage: Malcolm X
Celebrate the Century-1940s: Jackie Robinson
Celebrate the Century-1950s: Desegregating Public Schools
Celebrate the Century-1960s: "I Have A Dream"
Celebrate the Century-1980s:
  "The Cosby Show"
  Hip-hop Culture
Black Heritage: Patricia Roberts Harris
Legends of Baseball:
  Josh Gibson
  Satchel Paige
  Jackie Robinson
Black Heritage: Roy Wilkins
Holiday Celebrations: Kwanzaa
Black Heritage: Langston Hughes
Masters of American Photography: James VanDerZee
Women in Journalism: Ethel L. Payne
Holiday Celebrations: Kwanzaa
Black Heritage: Thurgood Marshall
Literary Arts: Zora Neale Hurston
Black Heritage: Paul Robeson
American Choreographers: Alvin Ailey
Distinguished Americans: Wilma Rudolph  
July 14, 2004

Literary Arts: James Baldwin  
July 23, 2004

Holiday Celebrations: Kwanzaa  
October 16, 2004

Black Heritage: Marian Anderson  
January 27, 2005

Arthur Ashe  
August 27, 2005

To Form a More Perfect Union:  
Selma March  
August 30, 2005

Montgomery Bus Boycott  
August 30, 2005

Greensboro Lunch Counter Sit In  
August 30, 2005

Freedom Riders  
August 30, 2005

Little Rock Nine  
August 30, 2005

Civil Rights Act of 1964  
August 30, 2005

Brown v. Board of Education  
August 30, 2005

Executive Order 9981  
August 30, 2005

March on Washington  
August 30, 2005

Voting Rights Act of 1965  
August 30, 2005

Black Heritage: Hattie McDaniel  
January 25, 2006

Sugar Ray Robinson  
April 7, 2006

Distinguished American Diplomats: Clifton R. Wharton Sr.  
May 30, 2006

Baseball Sluggers: Roy Campanella  
July 15, 2006

American Treasures: Gee's Bend Quilts  
August 24, 2006

Black Heritage: Ella Fitzgerald  
January 10, 2007

Black Heritage: Charles W. Chesnutt  
January 31, 2008

Vintage Black Cinema:  
The Sport of the Gods  
July 16, 2008

Black and Tan  
July 16, 2008

Princess Tam-Tam  
July 16, 2008

Caldonia  
July 16, 2008

Hallelujah  
July 16, 2008

Civil Rights Pioneers:  
Mary Church Terrell and Mary White Ovington  
February 21, 2009

J.R. Clifford and Joel Elias Spingarn  
February 21, 2009

Oswald Garrison Villard and Daisy Gatson Bates  
February 21, 2009

Charles Hamilton Houston and Walter White  
February 21, 2009

Medgar Evers and Fannie Lou Hamer  
February 21, 2009

Ella Baker and Ruby Hurley  
February 21, 2009

Richard Wright  
April 9, 2009

Black Heritage: Anna Julia Cooper  
June 11, 2009

Holiday Celebrations: Kwanzaa  
October 9, 2009

Distinguished Sailors: Doris Miller  
February 4, 2010

Black Heritage: Oscar Micheaux  
June 22, 2010

Negro Leagues Baseball: Rube Foster  
July 15, 2010
Since 2011, all commemorative stamps for the First-Class Mail one-ounce rate have been Forever stamps, equal in value to the current First-Class Mail one-ounce price. The value given in parentheses was the price of the stamp when first issued.

Latin Music Legends: Celia Cruz  
(44¢)  
March 16, 2011

Jazz  
(44¢)  
March 26, 2011

Black Heritage: Barbara Jordan  
(44¢)  
September 16, 2011

Romare Bearden (four designs)  
(44¢)  
September 28, 2011

Holiday Celebrations: Kwanzaa  
(44¢)  
October 14, 2011

Black Heritage: John H. Johnson  
(45¢)  
January 31, 2012

American Treasures: William H. Johnson  
(45¢)  
April 11, 2012

Twentieth-Century Poets:  
Gwendolyn Brooks  
(45¢)  
April 21, 2012

Robert Hayden  
(45¢)  
April 21, 2012

Miles Davis  
(45¢)  
June 12, 2012

Major League Baseball All-Stars:  
Larry Doby  
(45¢)  
July 20, 2012

Willie Stargell  
(45¢)  
July 20, 2012

Innovative Choreographers: Katherine Dunham  
(45¢)  
July 28, 2012

Civil Rights: Emancipation Proclamation  
(45¢)  
January 1, 2013

Civil Rights: Rosa Parks  
(46¢)  
February 4, 2013

Modern Art in America: Aaron Douglas  
(46¢)  
March 7, 2013

Black Heritage: Althea Gibson  
(46¢)  
August 23, 2013

Civil Rights: The 1963 March on Washington  
(46¢)  
August 23, 2013

Music Icons: Ray Charles  
(46¢)  
September 23, 2013

Holiday Celebrations: Kwanzaa  
(46¢)  
November 26, 2013

Black Heritage: Shirley Chisholm  
(49¢)  
January 31, 2014

Literary Arts: Ralph Ellison  
91¢  
February 18, 2014

Music Icons: Jimi Hendrix  
(49¢)  
March 13, 2014

Distinguished Americans: C. Alfred "Chief" Anderson  
70¢  
March 13, 2014

Celebrity Chefs: Edna Lewis  
(49¢)  
September 26, 2014

Wilt Chamberlain  
(49¢)  
December 5, 2014

Black Heritage: Robert Robinson Taylor  
(49¢)  
February 12, 2015

Maya Angelou  
(49¢)  
April 7, 2015

Black Heritage: Richard Allen  
(49¢)  
February 2, 2016

HISTORIAN  
UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE  
FEBRUARY 2016