



# Black Legacy Our Past, Present and Future.



## A Female Buffalo Soldier?!?

### PAST

**Cathay Williams**

Born: Circa 1842

Contribution: Military



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Cathay Williams was born a slave in Independence, Missouri. She was freed by some Union soldiers and thereafter worked for the Army as a paid servant. This enabled her to experience military life first hand. After the Civil War, Williams wanted to be financially independent so she joined the army, which was something that women weren't allowed to do. In November 1866, she enlisted as William Cathay in the 38th US Infantry, Company A and as a result, she became the first and only known female Buffalo Soldier. She was able to do so because a medical examination wasn't required. In 1867, Williams Company, arrived at Fort Cummings in New Mexico to protect the miners and traveling immigrants from Apache attack. In 1868, Williams grew tired of military life so she feigned illness. She was examined by the post surgeon who then discovered that she was a woman. She was discharged October 14, 1868.



## 1st Martyr of the US War For Independence

### PAST

**Crispus Attucks**

Born: Circa 1723

Contribution: American Revolution



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Crispus Attucks, a slave, ran away to freedom and spent the next 20 years of his life sailing on cargo and whaling ships. While living in Boston, Mass., he saw a young boy struck by a British soldier. He charged against that soldier and led a fight between some citizens and the British soldiers. He was one of the five people killed that day in what's now known as the Boston Massacre. He's frequently named as the first martyr for the cause of American Independence and is the only person killed in the event whose name is commonly remembered. This battle is thought to have been a major event leading to the American Revolution against British rule. Thus, it may be that the American Revolution began, in part, because of the bravery and leadership of an African-American, Crispus Attucks.



## A Black NASCAR Driver!

### PRESENT

**William Theodore Ribbs, Jr.**

Born: January 3, 1956

Contribution: Sports



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William "Willy" Theodore Ribbs, Jr. was born in San Jose, CA. He is a racecar driver who has competed in many forms of auto racing including: the CART circuit (in a car owned by comedian Bill Cosby), the European Formula Ford Series, SCCA Trans-Am Series and NASCAR. He has many victories to his credit. In 1986, Ribbs became the first Black person to test a Formula One car. In 1991, he became the first African-American to qualify for the Indianapolis 500. After retiring, he became a sport shooter in the National Sporting Clays Association.

**What Will You Contribute To The Legacy?**