



# Black Legacy Our Past, Present and Future.



## So Good...She Got Her Own Postage Stamp!

### PAST

**Marian Anderson**

Born: February 17, 1898

Contribution: Entertainment



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Marian Anderson was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Marian Anderson overcame racial and economical boundaries to become a highly acclaimed contralto singer. She debuted at the New York Philharmonic on August 26, 1925 and scored an immediate success.

In 1928, she sang for the first time at Carnegie Hall. Her reputation was further advanced by her tour through Europe in the early 1930s where she didn't encounter certain racial prejudices she'd experienced in America. She is best remembered for her performance on Easter Sunday, 1939 on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington D.C. when she performed to 75,000 person integrated audience. On January 7, 1955, Anderson went on to break the color barrier by becoming the first African-American to perform with the New York Metropolitan Opera. In 1958 she was officially designated delegate to the United Nations and in 1972 she was awarded the UN Peace Prize. Her achievements were recognized and honored with many prizes including: the Kennedy Center Honors, the Presidential Medal of Freedom, President Carter awarded her the congressional gold medal, a Grammy Award for Lifetime Achievement and even a commemorative U.S. postage stamp. Anderson is also pictured on the \$5,000 Series US Savings Bond.



## A Shining Star!

### PRESENT

**Patti LaBelle**

Born: May 24, 1944

Contribution: Entertainment



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Soul diva Patti LaBelle, born Patricia Holt in Philadelphia, PA grew up singing in a local Baptist choir. Patti is an R&B/soul legend who fronted two moderately successful groups before achieving success as a solo artist in the late 1970s and in the process has influenced a new generation of female singers. She has been largely compared to Aretha Franklin during the 1970s, but her distinguishing vocal belting remains unique and recognizable. By 1973, LaBelle and her group had gone glam, taking the stage in wildly theatrical, futuristic costumes; a year later they became the first African-American act ever to appear at New York's Metropolitan Opera House, a landmark performance. She's also a spokeswoman for the American Diabetes Association, and has published two cookbooks specifically aimed at diabetics, containing low-sugar and low-fat recipes. In 1993, LaBelle became the first recording artist to get a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. Her biography *Don't Block the Blessings*, remained at the top of the New York Times best seller list for several weeks. She's also widely regarded by many in the music industry, including VH1, Sir George Martin, and Rolling Stone magazine, as being one of the greatest vocalists of all time.

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