

# Black Legacy Our Past, Present and Future.

Inland Empire



## The Brown Bomber?

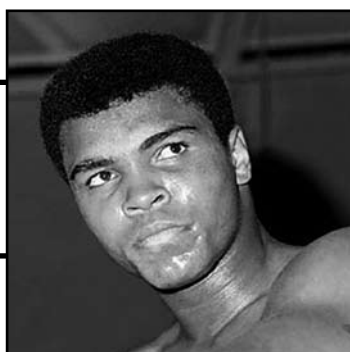
### PAST

**Joe Louis**  
Born: May 14, 1914  
Contribution: Sports



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Joseph Louis Barrow, nicknamed The Brown Bomber, was a native of LaFayette, Alabama who became the world heavyweight boxing champion. As a child, he used money given to him by his mother for violin lessons to pay for a locker at a local gym. When his mother found out, she wasn't pleased yet encouraged him to do his best. He started boxing and won the Heavyweight title in 1937 by knocking out James J. Braddock in the 8th round. He was a world champion for roughly 12 years. Louis at one point stopped his boxing career to enlist in the US Army to fight in WWII. After his tour ended, he went back to being the champ. Louis set records for any division in number of defenses and longevity as world champion non stop, and both records still stand. He retired with a record of 69 wins and 3 losses, with an amazing 55 of those wins coming by knockout. Louis was posthumously awarded the Congressional Gold Medal of Honor, which is the highest award given by the U.S. legislative branch, in 1982.



## “Float like a butterfly sting like a bee”

### PRESENT

**Muhammad Ali**  
Born: January 17, 1942  
Contribution: Sports



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Muhammad Ali (born Cassius Marcellus Clay, Jr.) was born in Louisville, Kentucky. Ali later changed his name after joining the Nation of Islam and subsequently converted to orthodox Sunni Islam in 1975. He won the World Heavyweight Boxing championship three times, and won the North American Boxing Federation championship as well as an Olympic gold medal. He refused to serve in the United States Army during the Vietnam War as a conscientious objector, because “War is against the teachings of the Holy Qur’an. I’m not trying to dodge the draft. We are not supposed to take part in no wars unless declared by Allah or The Messenger.” Near the end of 1967, Ali was stripped of his title by the professional boxing commission and wouldn't be allowed to fight professionally for more than three years. He was also convicted for refusing induction into the army. In 1970, Ali was allowed to fight again, and in late 1971 the Supreme Court reversed his conviction. On March 24, 1975, Ali fought Chuck Wepner in Cleveland, a fight that inspired Sylvester Stallone's Academy Award winning movie “Rocky”. He received many awards: he was crowned “Sportsman of the Century” by Sports Illustrated, the Presidential Medal of Freedom at a White House ceremony and the prestigious “Otto Hahn peace medal in Gold” of the United Nations Association for his work with the US civil rights movement. Ali travels the world over, working for hunger and poverty relief, supporting education efforts of all kinds and promoting adoption. It is estimated that he has helped to provide more than 22 million meals to feed the hungry.

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