



Black Legacy Our Past, Present and Future.



Co founded the NAACP!

PAST

W. E. B. Du Bois

Born: February 23, 1868

Contribution: Human Civil Rights

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William Edward Burghardt Du Bois was born in Great Barrington, Massachusetts. He is famous for being an American civil rights activist, leader, sociologist, educator, historian, writer, editor, poet, scholar, and a socialist. He received a scholarship to Fisk College (now University), graduated and then in 1896 went on to become the first non-white person to receive a Ph.D. from Harvard University. Du Bois was a member of Alpha Phi Alpha, the first intercollegiate Greek-letter fraternity established for African Americans. Afterwards, with a group of like-minded supporters, he helped found the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) in 1909. For 25 years, Du Bois worked as Editor-in-Chief of the NAACP publication, *The Crisis*. Being a contemporary of Booker T. Washington, the two carried on a dialogue about segregation and political disenfranchisement. He was subsequently labeled "The Father of Pan-Africanism." He commented freely and widely on current events and set the agenda for the fledgling NAACP. Its circulation soared from 1,000 in 1910 to more than 100,000 by 1920. In 1959, Du Bois was awarded the Lenin Peace Prize. In 1963, at the age of 95, he and his wife, Shirley Graham Du Bois, became citizens of Ghana, making them dual citizens of Ghana and the United States. In 1992, the United States honored W.E.B. Du Bois with his portrait on a postage stamp. On October 5, 1994, the main library at the University of Massachusetts Amherst was named after him.



She knows why the caged bird sings!

PRESENT

Dr. Maya Angelou

Born: April 4, 1928

Contribution: Poetry

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Dr. Maya Angelou is an American poet, memoirist, actress and an important figure in the American Civil Rights Movement. She has received numerous honors including: the Yale University Fellowship, the Rockefeller Foundation Scholar, and the Woman of the Year Award.

Angelou is known for the autobiographical writings *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* (1969) and *All God's Children Need Traveling Shoes* (1986). In most of her biographies, she intended to help people, especially children, who were struggling in life. Her volume of poetry, *Just Give Me a Cool Drink of Water 'Fore I Die* (1971) was nominated for the Pulitzer Prize, and in 1993, Angelou read her poem *On the Pulse of Morning* written for Bill Clinton's Presidential inauguration at his request. It was only the second time in U.S. history that a poet had been asked to read at an inauguration, the first being Robert Frost at the inauguration of John F. Kennedy. For her performance in *Look Away* (1975), she was nominated for a Tony Award, and she received an Emmy nomination for her role in Alex Haley's miniseries *Roots* (1977).

What Will You Contribute To The Legacy?