

Celebrating Black History Month

The Dante Valve team celebrated Black History Month by creating a list of people we consider role models from Black History. Each person on our team was asked to identify one person, living or deceased, who they respect, admire or who has had an impact on their lives. The person could be a public figure or someone from their personal life-experience. There was only one caveat: we collectively agreed that Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Rosa Parks were admirable and appropriately receive significant attention during Black History Month. We would name others. The result is this impressive list of people from all aspects of life – politicians, sports figures, musicians, celebrities, scientists, entrepreneurs, activists, educators and family members.



Kobe Bryant

Basketball Player

He inspired others to be great by coaching kid's basketball and being a great Dad to his four daughters.



Viola Davis

Actress

She is the first African American actress to achieve the "Triple Crown of Acting". Has an Academy Award, Primetime Emmy Award and a Tony Award.



Anita Hill

Lawyer

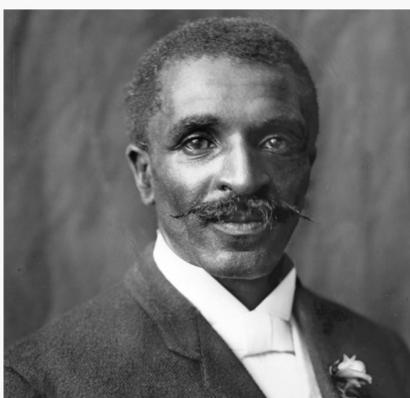
Stepped forward to testify about Clarence Thomas and his nomination to the Supreme Court. Her speaking out in 1991 led to many of the sexual harassment laws we have today.



Mary W. Jackson

Aerospace Engineer

She was an American mathematician and aerospace engineer at the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics, which in 1958 was succeeded by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.



George Washington Carver

Agricultural Scientist and Inventor

Discovered many uses for peanuts (soap, face powder, metal polish, shampoo).



Mrs. Patricia Bobo

Teacher

My English teacher when I first came to the US, really inspired me, she made a huge difference in my life at that time. A person with a big heart and a special touch to make us feel confident when we were learning a new language.



Madame CJ Walker

Entrepreneur

She was noted as the first Black female millionaire back in the early 1900's as a result of her haircare and beauty products.



Condoleezza Rice

Former Secretary of State

Rice was the first female African-American secretary of state and the first woman to serve as National Security Advisor. She grew up in the segregated south and became a barrier- breaker for not only African American women, but for all women.



General Benjamin O. Davis, Jr.

Four-Star General, Commander of the 99th Fighter Squadron and the 332nd Fighter Group

During World War II, despite facing adversity and outright hostility from his fellow soldiers and commanding officers alike, he still risked the lives of not only himself but also his men to defend this country.



Gail Carter

Teacher

She was my homeroom teacher for 3 years in middle school. She was tough, persistent and would not let me get away with doing the bare minimum in school. She inspired me to improve my grades and pursue my education and go beyond any expectations I set for myself.



Candace Owens

Author

American Conservative, political commentator and activist. Her views and her willingness to set herself apart from the status quo are inspiring to me.



Tony Gwynn

Baseball Player

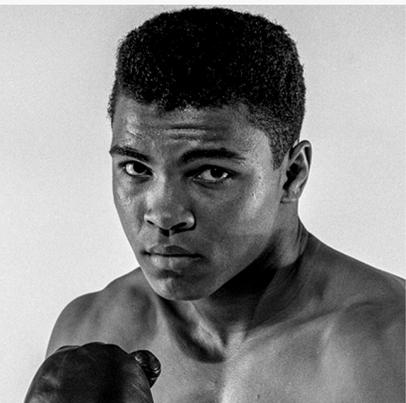
Played for the San Diego Padres for 20 seasons. Tony has many baseball accomplishments and holds many records. He is in Baseball's Hall of Fame.



Willie O'Ree

Hockey Player

He was the first black hockey player to play in the NHL in 1958. He faced adversity being the first black hockey player in the NHL. He dealt with racist taunts from crowds in Canada and in the US and in some instances opposing players.



Mohammed Ali

Boxer

Against all odds he did not fall in line to what the public nor his peers wanted him to be. He only followed his beliefs and always had self-worth.



Hank Aaron

Baseball Player

Grew up in the segregated south to become one of the greatest baseball players of all time. He faced terrible racism throughout his career but always handled himself with poise, humility and more importantly, as true gentleman.



Richard Wright

Author

One of the most influential black authors to inspire me in pursuit of literature. His most notable work "Black Boy" is a staple in my top 20 favorite works of literature of all time. Recalling about his life dealing with family, racial injustice and political beliefs.



Jackie Robinson

Baseball Player

The first African American to play in major league baseball, playing for the Dodgers.



Edgar R. Huff

Marine

He was the first African American to enlist in the Marine Corps in 1942. Also, first to be promoted to sergeant major. Served in WWII, Korean War and Vietnam War.



Kamala Harris

Vice President

She is making history as the first black female elected as Vice President.



Nelson Mandela

Former President of South Africa

Inspired me because he showed you can be in the worst situation and come out ahead.



Barack Obama

Former President of the United States

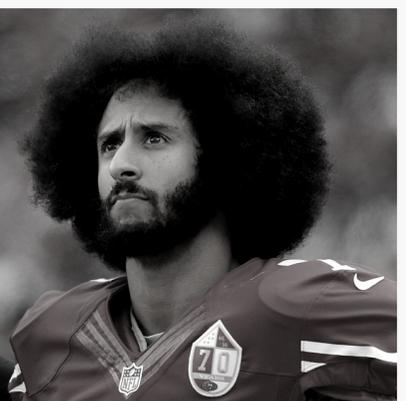
First African American President. Helped low income people get health insurance. Greatly improved the economy of the US during presidency.



Denzel Washington

Actor

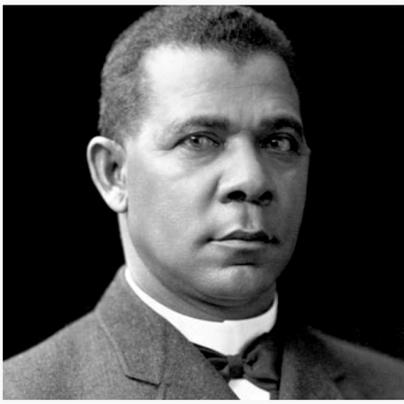
Good person and is a philanthropist. Supports Boys and Girls Clubs of American, Fisher House Foundation and Nelson Mandel Children's Fund.



Collin Kaepernick

Football Quarterback

Activist for racial equality in America.



Booker T. Washington

Educator

Advised several presidents.



Arthur Ashe

Tennis Player

The first Black American to play professional tennis. He did it with class and dignity on and off the court. He paved the way for such outstanding players as the Williams sisters, etc.



Harriet Tubman

American abolitionist and political activist

Led hundreds of slaves out of the South to freedom. She was once a slave but that didn't stop her from going back to the South to rescue more.



Carl Brashear

US Navy and Master Diver

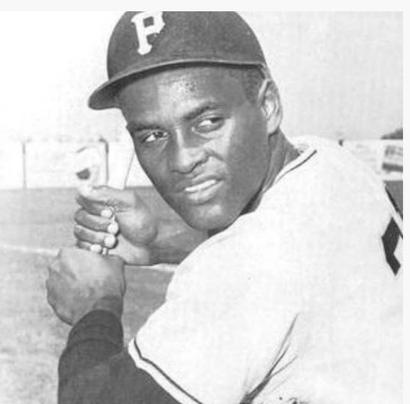
He had to overcome many obstacles in his personal life and Navy life, with his never give up attitude and loyalty to become Master Chief Boatswain's Mate and Master Diver. He reminds me of hard work and determination.



Curtis Martin

Football Player

He is a Hall of Fame NFL running back who played most of his career with the New York Jets. He always played the game the right way, never complained, never held out for more money, played through injuries that needed surgery.



Roberto Clemente

Baseball Player

Hall of Fame Right Fielder and humanitarian who did not believe in color.



Huey P. Newton

Revolutionist

He was an African American revolutionary who co-founded the black panther party. He and his partner created a program to guide the African American community to liberation.



Colin Powell

Former Secretary of State

He is a firm and respectable person who knew how to fight his own war and hold the position of Secretary of State, first black American to hold this position in American history.



Curtis James Jackson III

Rapper, Songwriter, Television Producer, Entrepreneur

Known for his impact in the hip hop industry, he has been described as a "master of the nuanced art of lyrical brevity".



Nipsey Hussle

Rapper

Inspired many through his music. He was always giving back to his community, giving back to public schools & trying to make sure he inspired kids on wanting to be great & wanting to do something great with their lives because he was once a kid from the hood.



Mariano Rivera

Baseball Player

A New York Yankees pitching legend and the only player ever unanimously voted into the Baseball Hall of Fame. He is an inspiration because he comes from humble beginnings. Worked hard to overcome obstacles and achieve his goals.



Jesse Williams Sr.

Father

From a small town in Texas, he enlisted into the Navy at a young age and made a career out of it. He was forced into retirement after my mother passed away at a very young age. He taught me everything in which I live by today. He was a true leader in every sense of the word.



Ruby Nell Bridges Hall

American Civil Rights Activist

She was the first African-American child to desegregate the all-white William Frantz Elementary School in Louisiana during the New Orleans school desegregation crisis on November 14, 1960.



Steve Harvey

TV Personality

He is a television presenter, Comedian, Actor, Broadcaster, Author, and game show host. He is one of the first African comedians that was recognized for his talent. He also inspired other African comedians to reach their goals.



Mookie Betts

Baseball Player

First baseball player to win a World Series title in both the National & American League, along with 5 consecutive Gold Glove awards



Jesse Jackson

Baseball Player

An activist one of the most influential African-American of the late 20th century. Jackson's influence extended to international matters in the 1980s and 1990s.



Neil de Grasse Tyson

Scientist

His accomplishments are vast and beyond comparison. He is an astrophysicist, planetary scientist and all-around entertaining guy. He has a very informative YouTube channel that is worth taking a look at.



LeBron James

Basketball Player

He's helped build schools with state of the art computers, projectors, and gyms. Motivates me to help the less fortunate kids in Mexico whose parents don't have the money to buy new shoes for them every couple years.