



Rosa Parks is arrested for refusing to give up her seat on a bus in Montgomery, AL. Martin Luther King Jr. leads a boycott of Montgomery buses that lasts over a year.
1955

Nine black students integrate with white students at Central High School in Little Rock, AR. President Dwight Eisenhower sends the paratroopers in to ward off any violence.
1957

More than 250,000 civil rights demonstrators march on Washington, DC, where Martin Luther King Jr. delivers his "I Have A Dream" speech.
1963

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. wins the Nobel Peace Prize.
1964

Martin Luther King Jr. is assassinated in Memphis, TN, where had gone to give a speech to striking garbage workers.
1968

Unita Blackwell, founding member of the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party, becomes the first black woman mayor in the history of Mississippi in the city of Mayersville. She had once been denied the right to vote there.
1978

Vanessa Williams is crowned the first black Miss America.
1983

Colin Powell becomes the first black US Secretary of State.
2000

Barack Obama becomes first African American president of the United States.
2009

