Black Legacy Bios

Black Legacy materials can be included as part of weekly announcements, read to classes individually, or in any way you like. We hope the materials help showcase some of the achievements and rich history African Americans have gifted to our community.

This first set of biographical sketches (in regular type) was intended to be read to oneself and is IDENTICAL to that listed on display sheets and coloring pages.
The second set of biographical sketches (in italics) was intended to be read aloud and differs in style from those listed on display sheets and coloring pages.

Marie Christmon
Marie Christmon grew up attending Morrisson-Reeves library before working there as a student librarian. While living in California she worked as a flight attendant and studied fashion and later attended law school. Her children's book, Marissa's Big Day, inspires creativity and ignites the imagination!

Mary Davis
Mary Davis worked as a teacher at Vaile Elementary School. While Davis loved teaching, she had a passion for science. She joined a NASA program where she learned from scientists, educators and engineers about teaching aerospace–and she got her own NASA space suit!

Gloster Garrett
Gloster Garret's work as a chauffeur started his life-long interest in automobiles, culminating in his invention of the "resilient spring" automobile wheel in 1912. This wheel used springs to handle bumpy roads. It was groundbreaking technology, and a similar design is used today on the Mars rover!

Mary E. Hill
When her blind and ailing sister needed help, she became a pioneer in local nursing care by creating a facility for older Black Women in her home. The facility operated for decades and later became part of the Wernle Treatment Center. Today, graduating high schoolers with interest in health or medicine can apply for the Mary E. Hill scholarship.

Baby Huey
The rock and soul singer we have come to know as Baby Huey was born James Thomas Ramey. He lived in Richmond until moving to Chicago at 19 years old to pursue music. As lead singer for Baby Huey & The Babysitters, his music was influential in the development of hip hop music.

Marlene Lindsey
Marlene Lindsey was inspired to learn and share information about local African American history. She founded the Black Legacy Project, a nonprofit dedicated to highlighting local Black history, achievement and excellence. Marlene is committed to

change for the next generation, and says “It’s all about the kids. I wanted to instill a sense of pride in our young people.”

Etta Lundy
Etta Lundy spent her life engaged in her community. As a citizen, volunteer and as a City Councilor she championed fair and affordable housing, built community through Neighborhood Association groups, promoted economic development and supported historic preservation.

Lamar Lundy
Lamar J. Lundy, Jr. was the first Black student to receive a football scholarship to Purdue University where was named MVP for football and basketball during his senior year. He played defensive end for the Rams for 13 seasons and was a member of the “Fearsome Foursome,” often considered one of the best defensive lines in NFL history.

Calvin Outland
Calvin Outland was born enslaved in 1811 and escaped to Indiana with the help of Quakers. He moved to Richmond around age 20, and owned the first Black barber shop. An active abolitionist, Outland worked with the Underground Railroad and housed 10-30 freedom seekers at a time.

C.R. Richardson
C.R. Richardson graduated from Tuskegee Institute and Howard University before settling in Richmond in 1912 to practice law. He served in WWI, helped found the American Legion in Indiana and Townsend Center. RCS honored him by naming an elementary school after him, now operating as the Excel Center and YMCA.

Bobby Smith
Bobby Smith was a lifelong civil rights activist. Angry that African Americans were treated poorly, he sat at segregated lunch counters, fought for equal hiring and founded the local NAACP chapter. He is memorialized by Richmond Housing Authority’s Bobby Smith Apartments.

Jewell Spears
As a nurse, Jewell Spears healed the injured in Richmond’s 1968 explosion before helping bring emergency 911 to Indiana. Spears was the first African American at Reid Health to serve as Vice President and was awarded Indiana’s highest award, the Sagamore of the Wabash.

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Marie Christmon
Marie Christmon began her love for books and adventure as a child at Morrisson-Reeves Library, even working as a student librarian! She took her adventures to college, then as a flight attendant and in the fashion industry, before attending law school. Her love for books came full circle when she wrote "Marissa's Big Day," a children's book that inspires creativity and imagination!

Mary Davis
Mary Davis's passion for science took her all the way from teaching at Vaile Elementary School to a NASA program for teachers – learning from scientists, engineers, and other teachers about instructing aerospace to her students. She even got her very own NASA space suit!

Gloster Garrett
Gloster Garrett began his life-long love of automobiles as a chauffeur, which inspired him to invent the "resilient spring" automobile wheel in 1912. This groundbreaking innovation used springs to accommodate bumpy roads – and was the precursor for a similar design used on the Mars Rover!

Mary E. Hill
Mary E. Hill realized a need for nursing care for older Black women when her own blind and ailing sister was in need – thus the creation of a home to provide that care, that operated for decades, and later became part of the Wernle Treatment Center. The Mary E. Hill Scholarship for aspiring high school students with an interest in healthcare still helps support that dream today.

Baby Huey
James Thomas Ramey moved from Richmond to Chicago when he was 19, to pursue his love of rock and soul music – becoming the innovator we know better as Baby Huey. He and his group, The Babysitters, were compelling influences in the development of hip hop music.

Marlene Lindsey
Marlene Lindsey had a vision to inform and educate about the contributions of the African Americans in her community – so she founded the Black Legacy Project, designed to highlight the history and achievements within that community. Focusing on

instilling knowledge and a sense of pride, especially in the kids who may be learning about this history for the first time, is Marlene's commitment for the next generation.

Etta Lundy
Etta Lundy dedicated herself to creating a strong foundation for her community. She was a volunteer and a City Council member. She championed fair and affordable housing, built community through Neighborhood Associations, promoted economic development, and supported historic preservation.

Lamar Lundy
Lamar J. Lundy, Jr. was a gifted athlete who made history! He was the first Black student to receive a football scholarship to Purdue University–his senior year he was named MVP for football and basketball. He played defensive end for the Rams for 13 seasons and was a member of the "Fearsome Foursome," often considered one of the best defensive lines in NFL history.

Calvin Outland
Calvin Outland was born a slave in 1811, but escaped with the help of Quakers to Indiana. He arrived in Richmond at age 20, and established his own barbershop – the first Black owned barbershop. As an abolitionist, Outland participated in the Underground Railroad, housing 10-30 freedom seekers at a time.

C.R. Richardson
C.R. Richardson graduated from Tuskegee Institute and Howard University before settling in Richmond in 1912 to practice law. He served in WWI, helped found the American Legion in Indiana, and Townsend (Community) Center in Richmond. Richmond Community Schools honored him by naming an elementary school after him - which now houses the Excel Center and the YMCA.

Bobby Smith
Bobby Smith was a lifelong civil rights advocate. Understanding that African Americans were being treated inequitably, he sat at segregated lunch counters, fought for equal hiring, and founded the local NAACP chapter. Richmond Housing Authority recognized his contributions with the naming of the Bobby Smith Apartments.

Jewell Spears
Jewell Spears made her mark as a nurse, then as the first African American Vice President at Reid Hospital – playing a major role in attending to the injured of the infamous 1968 downtown explosion, to helping to bring Emergency 911 to Indiana. Her contributions were recognized with Indiana's highest award, the Sagamore of the Wabash.