

Maya Angelou was an American poet, singer, memoirist, and civil rights activist. She published seven autobiographies, three books of essays, several books of poetry, and is credited with a list of plays, movies, and television shows spanning over 50 years. Her poetry collection, « And still I rose » remains one of Maya's Angelou most important work. She was a fearless civil right activist.

Jackie Robinson was the first African American professional baseball player to play in Major League Baseball in the modern era. Robinson broke the baseball color line when he started at first base for the Brooklyn Dodgers on April 15, 1947. Jackie Robinson was named to six All-star teams and led Brooklyn to the World Series title in 1955. Robinson created a path for African American achievements. His courage and achievement marked an important time in black history.

Malcolm X, was an African-American Muslim minister and human rights activist. He was a popular figure during the civil rights movement. He was born Malcom Little but changed his name to Malcom X because white slave masters imposed the name Little on his father's family. Malcom X founded the Nation of Islam newspaper Muhammad Speaks which became a widely read black newspaper in the 1960's. After he left the Nation of Islam in 1964, Malcom X started to preach peaceful resistance ad integration.

Aretha Louise Franklin was an American singer, songwriter, pianist, and civil rights activist. She started her career as a teenager singing gospel music in Detroit, Michigan, where her father C. L. Franklin was a minister. She was nicknamed the Queen of Soul. Aretha Franklin was a big supporter of the civil rights movement. Aretha Franklin won eighteen Grammys and sold more than seventy-five million albums. In 1987, Aretha Franklin was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

Alvin Ailey was a choreographer, dancer, civil right activist, modern-dance pioneer who founded Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater to carry out his vision of a company dedicated to enriching the American modern dance heritage and preserving the uniqueness of the African-American cultural experience. Ailey was a pioneer of programs promoting arts in education, particularly those benefiting underserved communities. He was awarded numerous distinctions, including the Kennedy Center Honor in 1988 in recognition of his extraordinary contribution to American culture.

Booker Taliaferro Washington was an American educator, author, orator, and adviser to multiple presidents of the United States. He started Tuskegee Institute in 1881 with thirty students, two thousand dollars and a one room shack. Between 1890 and 1915, Washington

was the dominant leader in the African American community and of the contemporary black elite. Washington used his influence to help African Americans find jobs across the country and secretly fund challenges to Jim Crow laws.