

February 18

Maynard Jackson
Excerpts from New Georgia Encyclopedia

Elected mayor of Atlanta in 1973, Maynard Jackson was the first African American to serve as mayor of a major southern city. Maynard Holbrook Jackson Jr. was born on March 23, 1938, in Dallas, Texas, where his father, Maynard H. Jackson Sr., was a minister. The family moved to Atlanta in 1945, when Maynard Sr. took the pastorphism at Friendship Baptist Church.

Jackson entered Morehouse College through a special early-entry program and graduated in 1956, when he was only eighteen. He attended Boston University law school but was unsuccessful, probably due to his youth. After working in the North at several jobs, including as an encyclopedia salesman, Jackson received his law degree from North Carolina Central University in 1964. In December of the following year he married Burnella "Bunnie" Hayes Burke. They had three children, Elizabeth, Brooke, and Maynard III.

As mayor, one of Jackson's main priorities was to ensure that minority businesses received more municipal contracts, and he succeeded in raising the proportion from less than 1 percent to more than 35 percent. His crowning achievement was building the massive new terminal at Hartsfield Atlanta International Airport with significant minority participation, and in his own words, "ahead of schedule and under budget."

Jackson also transformed the police department in an effort to reduce charges of police mistreatment of African Americans and to help blacks rise in the ranks.

Jackson died in Washington, D.C., of a heart attack on June 23, 2003. He lay in state at city hall and at Morehouse College, and the memorial service at the Atlanta Civic Center drew more than 5,000 mourners.

In 2008 Southside Comprehensive High School in Atlanta was renamed Maynard Holbrook Jackson High School in his honor, and in 2012 the Maynard H. Jackson International Terminal opened at Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport.

February 19-23

Black History Wrap-Up: Civil Rights Organizations

Name of Organization	Founder (s)/Leader (s)	Mission, goals, or notable achievements:
Sibley Commission LOCATION:		
Student Non-violent Coordinating Committee LOCATION:		
Albany Movement LOCATION:		

February 10:

A distinguished African American minister, educator, scholar, and social activist, Benjamin Mays is perhaps best known as the longtime president of Morehouse College in Atlanta. He was also a significant mentor to civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. and was among the most articulate and outspoken critics of segregation before the rise of the modern civil rights movement in the United States. Mays also filled a leadership role in several significant national and international organizations, among them the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP).

A consistent theme in Mays's boyhood and early adulthood was his quest for education against overwhelming odds. He refused to be circumscribed by the widespread poverty and racism of his place of birth. After some struggle he gained acceptance to Bates College in Maine. After completing his B.A. there in 1920, Mays entered the University of Chicago as a graduate student, earning an M.A. in 1925 and a Ph.D. in the School of Religion in 1935.

In 1940 Mays became the president of Morehouse College. There he enjoyed his greatest influence on events in the history of the United States, rising to national prominence. His most famous student at Morehouse was Martin Luther King Jr. During King's years as an undergraduate at Morehouse in the mid-1940s, the two developed a close relationship that continued until King's death in 1968. Mays's unwavering emphasis on two ideas in particular—the dignity of all human beings and the incompatibility of American democratic ideals with American social practices—became vital strains in the language of King and the civil rights movement.

As an administrator at Morehouse, Mays expanded and streamlined the structure of the institution and enhanced its academic reputation. He was a highly successful fund-raiser, securing the needed financial support for Morehouse to pursue its educational goals. Beyond such practical concerns, Mays left a legacy of prominent Morehouse graduates and lent the college his own inimitable style, characterized by rigor and enthusiasm for the Morehouse mission.

Andrew Young February 11
Excerpts from *New Georgia Encyclopedia*

Civil Rights Leadership

Young worked with the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), the church-centered, Atlanta-based civil rights organization led by Martin Luther King Jr.

Young assisted in the organization of "citizenship schools" for the SCLC, workshops that taught nonviolent organizing strategies to local people whom members of the organization had identified as potential leaders. He eventually rose to the executive directorship of the SCLC.

He was instrumental in organizing voter registration and desegregation campaigns in Albany; Birmingham and Selma, Alabama; and Washington, D.C., among other places. He was with King when the civil rights leader was assassinated in Memphis, Tennessee, on April 4, 1968.

Politics

He won Georgia's Fifth District seat in the U.S. House of Representatives in 1972 and became the first African American since Reconstruction to be elected to Congress from Georgia. Young's election was momentous: he and Barbara Jordan, a Democrat who was also elected to the House (from Texas) in 1972, became two of the first black southerners in Congress in the twentieth century.

While in Congress, Young championed the causes of poor and working-class Americans and opposed efforts to increase military budgets. In 1977 President Carter named Young ambassador to the United Nations. Young helped Carter transform the basis of American foreign policy, making human rights a central focus and arguing that economic development in the Third World, particularly in Africa, would help the United States.

Young returned to Atlanta and in 1981 was elected the city's mayor. For the first time an African American mayor (Maynard Jackson) handed over the keys of a major city to another African American. Young won reelection in 1985. In 1993 Morehouse College in Atlanta established the Center for International Studies, which was renamed the Andrew Young Center for International Studies in March 1998.