

Black History Celebration

February 2, 2018

Good Morning Hyde Park,

We have much to cover this month concerning African Americans' contribution to our great nation. As mentioned before, these facts are intended to enlighten, not to boast. What you will hear are facts that for the most part have not been well covered by our history books.

This week is about politics. We just had The State of The Union Address on Tuesday, which means many of us are focused on the State of our nation. As this relates to Black History, it about firsts:

Have you ever heard of Blanche K. Bruce? Most people haven't. Mr. Bruce was born in Farmville, Virginia on March 1, 1841 into slavery. By his 23rd birthday, in 1864, he escaped from his master, who as history has revealed, was actually his biological father. Because he was taught to read and write, he set up a school where he taught other African kids to read and write. Of all places he could have gone, he went to Mississippi where he, in 1870, just a few years after the civil war, was elected to The U. S. Senate making him the first African American to do so.

He served in the Senate a full term from 1875 to 1881. It is also noted that after he left the senate, he became U.S. Treasury register serving twice. His last term as Treasury register was in 1897. He did not complete this term. He died on March 17, 1898.