

04/04

- 1 T** 1950: Blood research pioneer Charles R. Drew dies.
1989: Bill White elected president of the National Baseball League.
- 2 F** 1984: Georgetown coach John Thompson becomes first African American coach to win the NCAA basketball tournament.
- 3 S** 1826: Poet-oralor James Madison Bell, author of the Emancipation Day poem "The Day and the War," born.
1990: Sarah Vaughan, jazz singer known as "The Divine One," dies.
- 4 S** **Palm Sunday**
Daylight Saving Time Begins
1968: Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. assassinated in Memphis, Tennessee.
- 5 M** **Passover Begins (Sundown)**
1951: Washington, D.C., Municipal Court of Appeals outlaws segregation in restaurants.
- 6 T** 1909: Matthew A. Henson reaches North Pole, 45 minutes before Robert E. Peary.
- 7 W** 1959: Lorraine Hansberry becomes first black playwright to win New York Drama Critics Award (for *A Raisin in the Sun*).
- 8 T** 1974: Atlanta Braves slugger Hank Aaron hits 715th career home run, surpassing Babe Ruth as the game's all-time home-run leader.
- 9 F** **Good Friday**
1898: Paul Robeson, actor, singer, activist, born.
- 10 S** 1947: Brooklyn Dodger Jackie Robinson becomes first black to play major league baseball.
- 11 S** **Easter**
1899: Percy Julian, developer of physostigmine and synthetic cortisone, born.
1966: Emmett Ashford becomes first black umpire in the major leagues.
- 12 M** 1983: Harold Washington becomes first African American elected mayor of Chicago.
- 13 T** 1950: Historian Carter G. Woodson, author of *The Miseducation of the Negro*, dies.
1997: Tiger Woods wins Masters Golf Tournament.
- 14 W** 1775: First abolitionist society in U.S. founded in Philadelphia.
- 15 T** 1964: Sidney Poitier becomes first black to win Academy Award for Best Actor for *Lilies of the Field*.
- 16 F** 1862: Slavery abolished in the District of Columbia.
- 17 S** 1983: Alice Walker wins Pulitzer Prize for fiction for *The Color Purple*.
1990: Ralph David Abernathy, civil rights leader, dies.
- 18 S** 1887: Harlem Hospital founded.
1995: Margo Jefferson receives Pulitzer Prize for criticism.
- 19 M** 1972: Stationed in Germany, Major Gen. Frederic E. Davidson becomes first African American to lead an Army division.
- 20 T** 1894: Dr. Lloyd A. Hall, pioneering food chemist, born.
- 21 W** **Administrative Professionals Day**
1966: Pfc. Milton L. Olive III awarded posthumously the Medal of Honor for valor in Vietnam.
- 22 T** 1922: Jazz bassist and composer Charles Mingus born.
- 23 F** 1872: Charlotte E. Ray is first black woman admitted to the District of Columbia Bar.
- 24 S** 1944: United Negro College Fund incorporated.
- 25 S** 1918: Ella Fitzgerald, "First Lady of Song," born.
- 26 M** 1888: Sarah Boone patents ironing board.
- 27 T** 1968: Dr. Vincent Porter becomes first black certified in plastic surgery.
- 28 W** 1839: Cinque leads Amistad mutiny off the coast of Long Island, New York.
- 29 T** 1899: Edward Kennedy "Duke" Ellington, jazz musician and composer, born.
- 30 F** 1952: Dr. Louis T. Wright honored by American Cancer Society for his contributions to cancer research.



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Hazel Juanita Harper, D.D.S., M.P.H.



PRIVATE PRACTICE, COMMUNITY DENTISTRY & EDUCATION

Hazel Juanita Harper

D.D.S., M.P.H. Washington, DC

Dr. Hazel Harper always had a desire to work with her hands. As a student at Howard University with medical aspirations, she was convinced by her mentor and then associate dean Dr. Jeanne Sinkford to consider the university's dental school. "She advised me that I would have control over my life, and I would be able to balance my family and career," said Dr. Harper.

Today, after nearly three decades in the profession, she knows she made the right choice. "What excites me about dentistry is being able to shape a smile and change a personality; helping others develop self-confidence and self-esteem because they are proud of their teeth," said Dr. Harper.

Her career began as a junior faculty member at Howard University College of Dentistry. Seven years later, she made a life-changing decision to enter private practice. But it wasn't a typical practice — it was the opportunity to build a multispecialty office in Washington, D.C., with five dentists, nine treatment rooms and 20 staff members.

"I didn't intend to work in a clinical setting, but sometimes your purpose in life evolves," said Dr. Harper, who emphasizes to all of her patients how important oral health is to the rest of the body. "We help patients put the pieces of the puzzle together."

She still exercises her roots in education, and over the years more than 35 dental students have trained in her office. "I'm proud that they are now practicing all over the country," said Dr. Harper, who now is one of the co-owners of the Rittenhouse Dental Group. "I hope to be a role model for each of them and be as good as those who have taught me." She recalls the impact her mentors and father made when she was an outspoken overachiever in a dental class of mostly men. "Mediocrity was not an option."

Dr. Harper also has had the opportunity to serve as the executive editor of the *Journal of the National Dental Association*, where she's written numerous articles on serving the underserved. "I was intellectually stimulated by it," she said. "I now have so much respect for people who put together the written word."

As for the future, Dr. Harper, a proud mother and new grandmother, said, "I dream of having input into the transformation of a culture of crisis into a culture of prevention. We have to ensure that we provide community health education, that providers are culturally sensitive, and that everyone has access to care."



Dental Cabinet

This cabinet, one of 300 manufactured between 1930 and 1933 by the American Cabinet Company, was modeled after an actual house in Two Rivers, Wisconsin.

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

April