

- 1 **S** 1879: Mary Eliza Mahoney graduates from New England Hospital for Women and Children, becoming the first black professional nurse in America.
- 2 **M** 1924: James Baldwin, author of *Go Tell It on the Mountain*, *The Fire Next Time* and *Another Country*, born.
- 3 **T** 1800: Gabriel Prosser leads slave revolt in Richmond, Virginia.
- 4 **W** 1810: Abolitionist Robert Purvis born.
- 5 **T** 1962: Nelson Mandela, South African freedom fighter, imprisoned. He was not released until 1990.
- 6 **F** 1848: Susie King Taylor, first black Army nurse, born.
- 7 **S** 1989: Congressman Mickey Leland dies in plane crash during a humanitarian mission to Ethiopia.
- 8 **S** 1865: Polar explorer Matthew Henson born.
- 9 **M** 1936: Jesse Owens wins fourth gold medal at Summer Olympics in Berlin.
- 10 **T** 1989: Gen. Colin Powell is nominated Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff, the first African American to hold this post.
- 11 **W** 1872: Solomon Carter Fuller, acknowledged as first black psychiatrist, born.  
1921: Alex Haley, author of *Roots*, born.
- 12 **T** 1977: Steven Biko, leader of Black Consciousness Movement in South Africa, arrested.
- 13 **F** 1981: Reagan administration undertakes its review of 30 federal regulations, including rules on civil rights to prevent job discrimination.
- 14 **S** 1989: First National Black Theater Festival held in Winston-Salem, North Carolina.
- 15 **S** 1888: Granville T. Woods patents electromechanical brake.
- 16 **M** 1922: Author Louis E. Lomax born.
- 17 **T** 1849: Lawyer-activist Archibald Henry Grimké, who challenged segregationist policies of President Woodrow Wilson, born.
- 18 **W** 1859: Harriet Wilson's *Our Nig* is first novel published by a black writer.
- 19 **T** 1954: Dr. Ralph J. Bunche named undersecretary of United Nations.



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*Lonnie H. Norris, D.M.D., M.P.H.*

## ACADEMIA & ORAL/MAXILLOFACIAL SURGERY

# Lonnie H. Norris

## D.M.D., M.P.H. Boston, MA

“Get involved completely.” These are words of wisdom that Dr. Lonnie Norris lives by. Through his 25-year academic and surgical career, he has given his all. In return, he’s been more fulfilled than he could ever have imagined.

A Houston, Texas, native, Dr. Norris rose to the top at Boston’s Tufts University School of Dental Medicine when he was named dean of the nation’s second-largest dental school in 1996. Today, he oversees 700 dental students, who have the opportunity to practice in a state-of-the-art dental simulation lab and provide oral care to more than 60,000 patients a year in the school’s modernized clinics.

His passion for dentistry came about later in life after working for eight years as a plastics engineer for Ford Motor Corporation and then the U.S. Army. “The critical influence in someone’s decision to enter the oral health profession can come at any time. I looked at where I could make the most impact and wanted more independence. I was good at working with my hands, and I wanted more interaction with people,” Dr. Norris said. “Many of my college classmates entered into health care profession

schools immediately after graduation, and that influenced my career decision. Now I am one of the few African American deans in the 56 dental schools across the country.”

Along with his academic leadership role, Dr. Norris still works one day a week at the school’s Dental Faculty Practice and at the New England Medical Center Hospital. “I’ve always enjoyed patient practice – making diagnoses and delivering care to restore health. When you work as a dean you have a much broader scope. You need communication skills and trust to get people to work as a team to accomplish goals. A big impact is made when decisions for change affect clinical operations and dental education in the entire school. Planning with your team does not always lead to immediate results. Thus, administration and patient care for me is a balance between long-term major advancements with widespread involvement and short-term results that affect individuals.”

Through his work in oral and maxillofacial surgery, Dr. Norris has performed minor surgeries such as removal of impacted teeth and placement of dental implants; and major surgeries in hospitals involving facial trauma, and facial birth and growth defects; and also has consulted on

heart-transplant patients. Physicians consult with Dr. Norris and his faculty to determine if there are decaying teeth in organ-transplant patients, which may cause acute infections resulting in complications to the transplant. “There is a direct relationship of oral health to systemic health,” he said.

As for the future, Dr. Norris knows he will always provide service. “The future involves using my position as dean to address the challenges of dental education, provide health career opportunities to a diverse student body, and influence the issue of disparities of oral health for underserved populations,” he said.



**Dental Instrument**

Penknife-style pocket dental instrument, that includes a pelican, a goat’s foot elevator, a screw elevator and a straight elevator, used for extracting teeth in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century.

- 20 **F** 1993: Dr. David Satcher named director of the Centers for Disease Control.
- 21 **S** 1831: Nat Turner leads slave revolt in Virginia.
- 22 **S** 1843: Henry Highland Garnett calls for a general strike by slaves.
- 23 **M** 1926: Carter Woodson, historian, author, inaugurates Negro History Week.
- 24 **T** 1950: Judge Edith Sampson named first black delegate to United Nations.
- 25 **W** 1908: National Association of Colored Graduate Nurses founded by Martha Minerva Franklin.  
1925: A. Phillip Randolph founds Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters.
- 26 **T** 1920: 19th Amendment to the Constitution ratified, giving women the right to vote.
- 27 **F** 1935: Mary McLeod Bethune founds National Council of Negro Women.
- 28 **S** 1963: Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. delivers “I Have A Dream” speech during March on Washington, D.C.
- 29 **S** 1920: Saxophonist Charlie “Bird” Parker born.
- 30 **M** 1983: Lt. Col. Guion S. Bluford Jr. becomes the first African American astronaut in space.
- 31 **T** 1836: Henry Blair patents cotton planter.

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