

Black History in Alaska



• Black History Month is an annual celebration of the achievements, progress, and culture of African Americans in our nation's history. Below is a list of the accomplishments by Black Alaskans throughout history.

Thomas Bevers

1921: First paid firefighter in Anchorage



Leonard Larkins

1942: Larkins, along w/ nearly 4,000 other segregated Black soldiers, helped build a highway across Alaska & Canada during WWII



Captain Mike Healy

First African American officer in the U.S. Coast Guard



Bessie Couture

1896, Skagway: First business owned by African American in Alaska



Blanche McSmith

1959: First African American in the Alaska State Legislature



Bettye Davis

2001: First Black Senator in the Alaska State Legislature



Mahala Ashley Dickerson

1959: Alaska's first African American attorney



Etheldra Davis

First Black teacher and principal in Alaska

