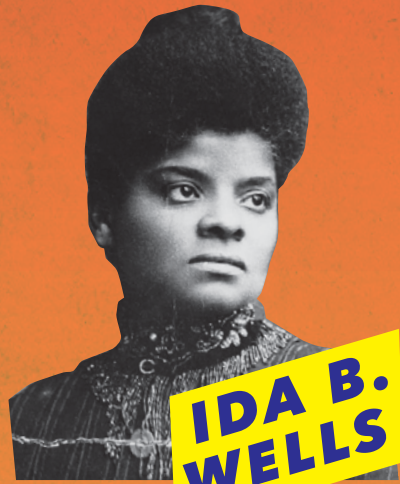


**HOW IMPORTANT IT IS FOR US TO RECOGNIZE AND CELEBRATE OUR HEROES AND SHE-ROES!**  
 - MAYA ANGELOU



**DOROTHY COTTON**

The only woman in Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s inner circle. Cotton was the highest-ranking woman in the Southern Christian Leadership Conference and leader of the Citizen Education Program.



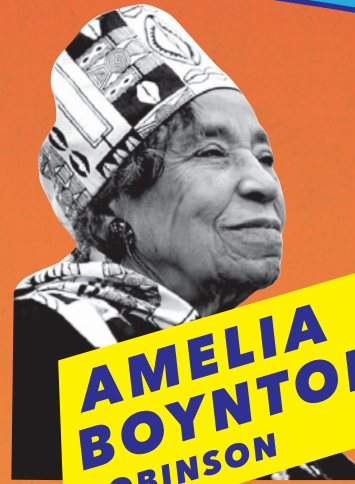
**IDA B. WELLS**

A journalist, abolitionist, and feminist who led an anti-lynching crusade in the 1890s and continued to work for justice throughout her life.



**LYNDA LOWERY**

The youngest person to march with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama. Lowery was jailed nine times before the age of fifteen for her civil rights activism.



**AMELIA BOYNTON ROBINSON**

A civil rights pioneer who championed voting rights for African-Americans. She was brutally beaten for helping to lead a 1965 civil rights march, which became known as "Bloody Sunday."



**UNITA BLACKWELL**

The first African-American woman to be elected mayor in the state of Mississippi. Blackwell was a project director for the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee and helped organize voter drives across Mississippi.



**CLAUDETTE COLVIN**

A pioneer in the Civil Rights Movement in Alabama during the 1950s. She refused to give up her seat on a bus months before Rosa Parks' more famous protest.



**DIANE NASH**

An activist who worked to integrate lunch counters through sit-ins. A member of the Freedom Riders, the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference.



**HERBERT LEE**

Fought for black voting rights in Mississippi. Lee was murdered by Mississippi state representative E. H. Hurst while delivering cotton near Liberty.



**SAMUEL L. YOUNG JR.**

A civil rights and voting rights activist who was murdered for trying to desegregate a "whites only" restroom.



**VIOLA LIUZZO**

Traveled to Alabama in March 1965 to help register African-American voters in Selma. Not long after her arrival, she was murdered by members of the Ku Klux Klan.



**MARIE FOSTER**

Registered many African-American voters in Selma, and was one of the primary local organizers of the Selma to Montgomery march in 1965.



**JIMMIE LEE JACKSON**

Joined the Civil Rights Movement as a young man. At a peaceful march he was shot and killed by an Alabama state trooper in 1965. His murder inspired a civil rights demonstration that led to the Voting Rights Act.

Voting Vanguard's brings to light the names of the hundreds who worked at great personal peril to obtain and maintain the right to vote and have their vote count. We celebrate voting as the centerpiece of creating and maintaining a healthy democracy.



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