

Diverse Perspectives

Do you know this American?



Dr. Mona Hanna-Attisha is a public health advocate, author, pediatrician, and professor whose research revealed children were exposed to dangerous levels of lead in Flint, Michigan. She is a founder and director of the Pediatric Public Health Initiative, a partnership between Hurley Medical Center and Michigan State University, to mitigate the impact of the Flint Water Crisis. Dr. Mona received her medical degree from MSU and completed her residencies at Wayne State. She is currently an associate professor at Michigan State's College of Human Medicine.

Further Reading: *What the Eyes Don't See: A Story of Crisis, Resistance* by Dr. Mona Hanna-Attisha

(https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Dr._Mona_Hanna-Attisha_.jpg), Cropped, <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/legalcode>

Mae Carol Jemison was born in Decatur, Alabama, on October 17, 1956. She is an author, engineer, physician and an astronaut. After graduating from medical school at Cornell University in 1981 she began her career as a general practitioner, and then served as a doctor in the Peace Corps for two years where she distinguished herself by making a potentially controversial call that saved a critically ill patient. She joined NASA in 1992 and became the first African-American woman in space. She later resigned from NASA and founded a company researching the application of technology to daily life.

Further Reading and Resources: *Little Leaders: Bold Women in Black History* by Vashti Harrison.



Sister Rosetta Tharpe was an American singer, songwriter, recording artist and guitarist extraordinaire. Her popularity soared in the 1930s and 40s with her gospel recordings, emphasizing her unique rhythmic accompaniment with traditional folk arrangements. She is referred to as "the original soul sister" and "the Godmother of rock and roll." In 2007, she was inducted into the Blues Hall of Fame and in 2018 into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

Further Reading: *Shout, Sister, Shout!: The Untold Story of Rock-and-Roll Trailblazer Sister Rosetta Tharpe* by Gayle Wald.

Sgt. William Harvey Carney (February 29, 1840 – December 9, 1908) was a former slave, an African American soldier during the American Civil War, a letter carrier, and worked for the Department of State at the Massachusetts State House. He was the first African-American to be awarded the Medal of Honor for his gallantry in saving the regimental colors of his famous 54th Massachusetts Regiment, and thus tenaciously furthering the fight during the Battle of Fort Wagner in 1863.

Further Reading: *Now or Never! 54th Massachusetts Infantry's War to End Slavery* by Ray Anthony Shepard, *Thunder at the Gates: The Black Civil War Regiments That Redeemed America* by Douglas Egerton.

