

CARPENTERS CELEBRATE BLACK HISTORY MONTH



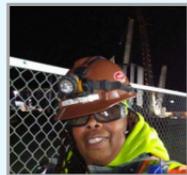
Rodney Crowder, a Philadelphia-resident and carpenter for the Northeast Regional Council of Carpenters' (NRCC) Local 164, has been a member since 1989 and is a shining example of an NRCC carpenter that goes above and beyond to give back to those in need. Rodney has excelled throughout his carpenter career, volunteering constantly to give back to his community and serving as a role model to at-risk youth in Philadelphia.



Curtis M. Banks, a 36-year-old Maryland resident and carpenter for the NRCC's Local 173 in Delaware, joined the union five years ago because he wanted a career that offered him the chance to give back and an opportunity for professional growth. Since joining, Curtis has quickly excelled in his career and continually places great emphasis on teaching and mentoring other carpenters on his job sites.



Niki Sims, a carpenter out of NRCC Local 253, started her career in carpentry in 2000. As a young girl, Niki always found comfort in "fixing" things. "I like building structures, being able to go back and look and say, hey, I did that." Niki is a prime example of an active union carpenter who has a passion for constructing buildings.



Cynthia Mills, a Washington D.C. resident, member of NRCC Local 177 and 35-year member of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters & Joiners of America (UBCJA), is helping to break the misconception that careers in carpentry can only filled by men. "I'm an all-around Union Carpenter," said Cynthia. "The union teaches you so much. I received my skillset through years of experience and mentorship."

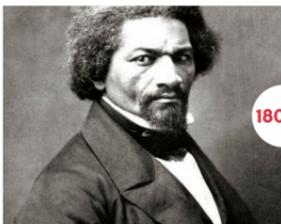


Benton Davis, member of NRCC Local 279, began his Union Carpenter journey outside of the United States. An Antigua and Barbuda native, Davis built a number of structures on the island. After moving to the U.S. in 1982, he became a member of the UBCJA in 1985 and has worked as a Union Carpenter for the past 33 years. "I often tell Apprentice-level carpenters to learn as much as you can and really understand the trade."

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Historic Figures

During this year's Black History Month, the NRCC remembers some of the greatest African American figures who lead the charge for improving civil and workers' rights.



Frederick Douglass

Frederick Douglass was an Abolitionist leader of the anti-slavery movement who quickly rose to be one of the most renowned intellectuals of his time; advising Presidents and lecturing to thousands on various causes such as Irish home rule and women's rights.

1800's

Tuskegee Airmen

The Tuskegee Airmen were the first black military aviators in the U.S. Army Air Corps (AAC), a precursor of the U.S. Air Force. They flew more than 15,000 individual missions in Europe and North Africa during World War II and paved the way for the eventual integration of the U.S. armed forces.



1940's



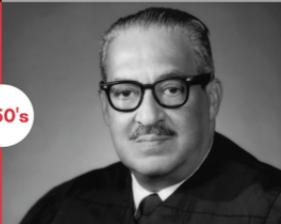
Benjamin Davis Jr.

Benjamin Davis Jr., the first African-American Air Force General, started his influential career by attending the University of Chicago. He set several records while up against enemy planes during battle, all while paving the way for future African-American pilots.

1950's

Thurgood Marshall

Thurgood Marshall is a key historical figure who helped end legal segregation and became the first African-American justice of the Supreme Court. Marshall successfully argued in the *Brown v. Board of Education* in 1954. The Supreme Court ruled in favor of Brown and helped to bring an end to racial segregation.



1950's



NASA Scientists

Mary Jackson, Katherine Johnson and Dorothy Vaughan were some of the brains behind the launch of astronaut John Glenn into orbit. The stunning achievement restored the nation's confidence, turned around the Space Race and was a grand achievement for African American women of the 21st century.

1960's

For more information on the history of Black History Month, visit northeastcarpenters.org/bhm18

Our Staff



JOMO AKONO

Jomo Akono, a Council Representative for the Northeast Regional Council of Carpenters' Local 276 in Buffalo N.Y., started his career in carpentry as an Apprentice in 2005, the same year he went to Ethiopia to attend the Africa Unite festival in honor of Bob Marley. Born and raised in upstate New York, Jomo has always felt the urge to help others, consistently drawing on parallels between his love for music and carpentry in an effort to better the community he and his family live and work in. A second-generation carpenter, Jomo is heavily involved in helping those around him and improving the lives of his neighbors and fellow carpenters. He uses his role as a Council Representative to help educate current and future generations of tradespeople, while also working as a radio DJ for WUFO to spread concepts of culture, art, music and other social issues globally and throughout the Buffalo area.

Mungu Sanchez, Deputy Political Director for the Northeast Regional Council Council of Carpenters, started his career in politics in his early 20's working as a staffer for the Pennsylvania House of Representatives. During his time there, he quickly realized his political potential and passion for rallying behind important social issues to improve the quality of life for people within his community. He also quickly discovered the saliency of organizing people to effectively open the doors to better opportunities and how politics should always be used as a catalyst for positive change. Mungu soon became a part of the solution, working closely with communities affected by various socioeconomic issues and as a key player in local government. He has decades of experience with activism and political organization and has had a strong impact in his hometown of Philadelphia, PA.



MUNGU SANCHEZ



TROY SINGLETON

State Senator Troy Singleton, NRCC Director of Operations and member of Local 255, works actively throughout the state of New Jersey to elevate the livelihood of working families, minorities and women. A newly-elected New Jersey State Senator representing the 7th Legislative District, Troy has served as the NRCC's Director of Operations since 2015. Prior to that, he was the Assistant to Executive Secretary-Treasurer from 2013-2015, President of the New Jersey Carpenter Contractor Trust from 2011-2014 and Director of Policy and Planning for the New Jersey Regional Council from 2007-2011. Singleton was the prime sponsor of the Economic Opportunity Act (A3680), which was signed into law in 2013 and led to major developments such as the construction of the Paulsboro Port and the Subaru Facility in Camden County. Singleton is a pillar throughout New Jersey for his work on various community-based projects like Habitat for Humanity and Serve with Singleton, a volunteer opportunity which joins forces with community members to give back to those in need.

Warren Brown, NRCC Local 491 Council Representative, works actively in the Baltimore area as a voice for his labor union. A United Brotherhood of Carpenters & Joiners of America member since 1998, Brown consistently encourages members to get involved with their Union through attending local meetings and volunteering within the community. Brown is also a Council Delegate and a member of Local 491's Executive Board. Also within the NRCC, Brown sits on the Shades of the Trades Committee, which was created to actively diversify the Carpenters Union. "You have to lead by example," said Brown. "If you're in a position to help by leading others, it's a rewarding part of your career." During his career and as a 20-year Union Carpenter, Brown reflects on Black History throughout the year, as a reminder of where he is today. "Black History Month is a chance to review our heritage and dispel myths about who we are. With perseverance, you can do anything you put your mind to."



WARREN BROWN