NOTABLE BLACK NURSES IN HISTORY

MARY SEACOLE 1805-1881
A British-Jamaican nurse and businesswoman who set up the “British Hotel” to care for soldiers during the Crimean War.

HARRIET TUBMAN 1822-1913
A famed conductor of the Underground Railroad, the former slave also acted as a nurse during the Civil War, tending to Black soldiers and liberated slaves.

MARY ELIZA MAHONEY 1845-1926
First Black woman to earn a professional nursing license in the U.S.

ESTELLE MASSEY OSBOURNE 1901-1981
The first Black nurse in the U.S. to earn a master’s degree and first Black faculty member of NYU’s College of Nursing, fought for racial equality in nursing.

HAZEL JOHNSON-BROWN 1927-2011
Broke racial barriers in the armed forces, serving as the first Black chief of the U.S. Army Nurse Corps and the first Black, female brigadier general.

BERNARDINE LACEY 1932-PRESENT
Distinguished educator, political advocate, researcher, clinician and leader, named a “Living Legend” by the American Academy of Nursing.

ADAH BELLE SAMUELS THOMS 1870-1943
National Association of Colored Graduate Nurses cofounder, fought for Blacks to serve as American Red Cross nurses during WWI.

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EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON 1935-PRESENT
First registered nurse elected to Congress, and first Black female to serve as Ranking Member of Science, Space and Technology Committee.

BEVERLY MALONE 1948-PRESENT
President and CEO of the National League for Nursing, former general secretary of the Royal College of Nursing and former deputy assistant secretary for health.

ERNEST J GRANT 1958-PRESENT
First male president of the ANA and internationally known burn expert; named Nurse of the Year for his work treating burn patients after the 9/11 terrorist attack.

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