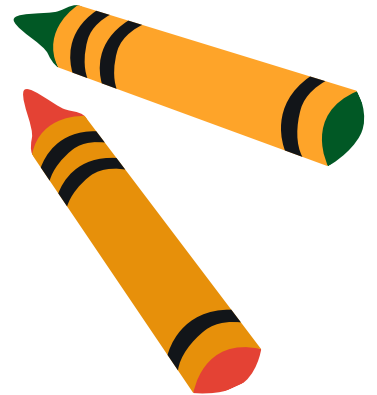




# Black History Is



# History

A Coloring Book Highlighting Arkansas Black History Icons  
VOLUME 1, FEBRUARY 2024



# **Black History Is Arkansas History: A Coloring Book Highlighting Arkansas Black History Icons**

**Volume 1  
February 2024**

Information and the images on which drawings are based are  
courtesy of the CALS Encyclopedia of Arkansas  
unless otherwise stated.

# Daisy Gatson Bates

(1913?-1999)

Daisy Gatson Bates was a mentor to the Little Rock Nine, the African American students who integrated Central High School in Little Rock in 1957. She and her husband L. C. Bates published the *Arkansas State Press*, a weekly statewide newspaper based in Little Rock dealing primarily with civil rights and other issues in the Black community. Daisy Bates was named the paper's city editor in 1945. In recognition of her leadership, the national Associated Press chose her as the Woman of the Year in 1957.



One way she continued her activism was by securing grants and donations for several community improvement projects, including a sewer system and a Head Start program.

In 2001, the Arkansas legislature declared that the third Monday in February would be recognized as "Daisy Gatson Bates Day."



# Annie Abrams

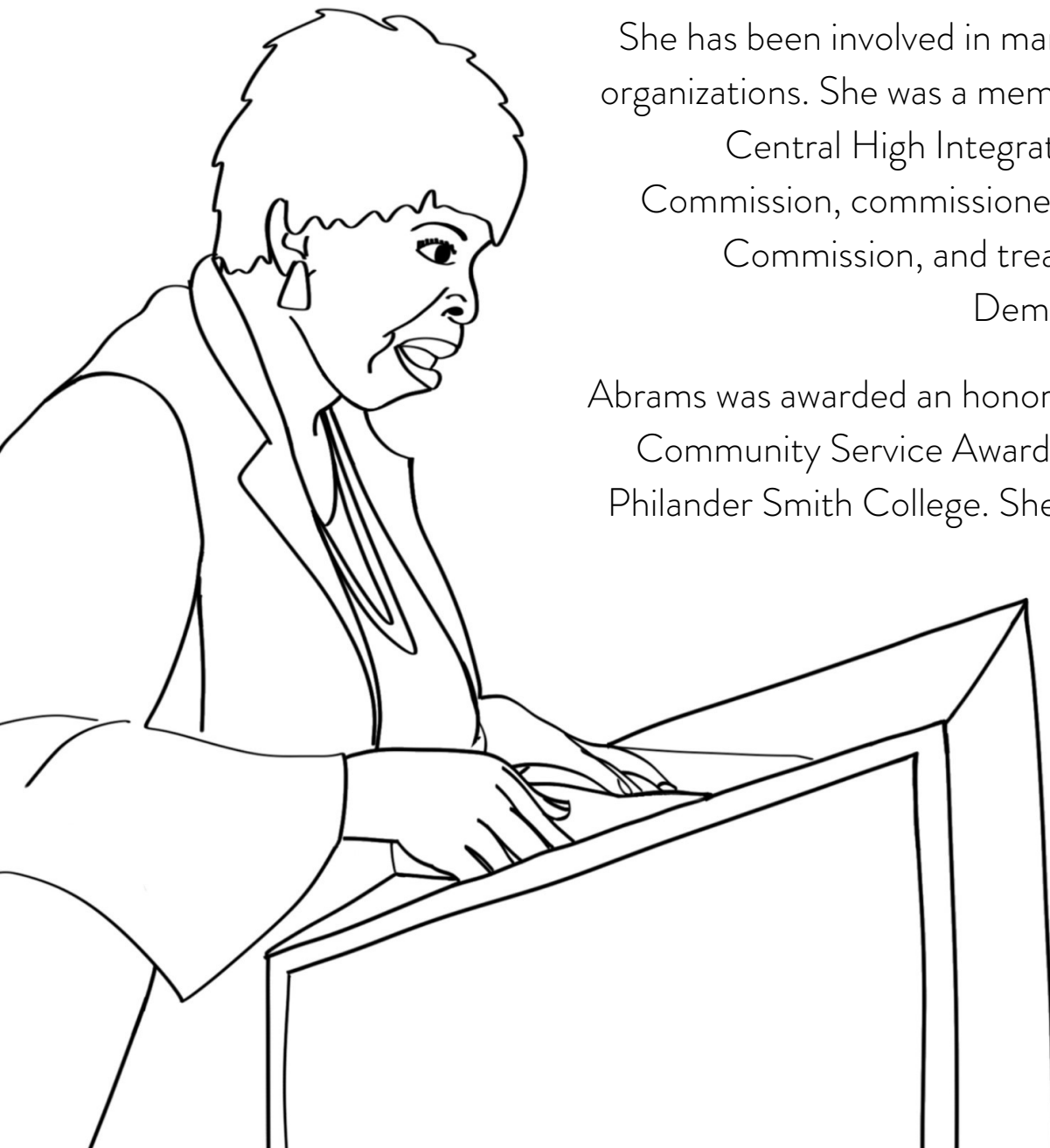
(1931-)

Annie Abrams is a retired educator and a political, social, civic, and community activist in Little Rock. She was instrumental in campaigns to rename various Little Rock streets in honor of Daisy Bates and Charles Bussey. Most notably, she was a leader in the campaign resulting in the renaming of High Street in honor of Martin Luther King Jr. and in the institution of Little Rock's first Martin Luther King Jr. Day parade. Through her work with the Arkansas Teachers Association, she became involved with the desegregation of Central High School, being a close associate of Daisy Bates during the Central High crisis.

She has been involved in many community service organizations. She was a member of the Little Rock Central High Integration 50th Anniversary Commission, commissioner for the Fair Housing Commission, and treasurer of the Arkansas Democratic Black Caucus.

Abrams was awarded an honorary doctorate and the Community Service Award from her alma mater, Philander Smith College. She was a 2010 inductee into the Arkansas Black Hall of Fame.

In 2021, the City of Little Rock declared her ninetieth birthday "Annie Day."



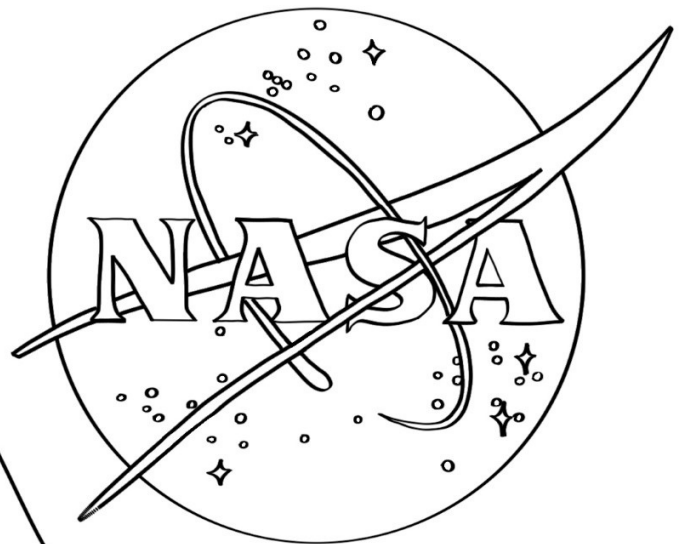
# Dorothy M. Hoover

(1918-2000)

Born and raised in Arkansas, Dorothy M. Hoover was a pioneer in the field of aeronautical mathematics and physics. The granddaughter of enslaved people, she overcame the significant obstacles facing African American women to earn advanced degrees in mathematics and physics. One of her greatest achievements in aeronautical research was her contribution to the development of the “thin sweptback tapered wing,” which revolutionized flight and became the aviation industry standard.

When she did graduate work at the University of Arkansas (UA), she became the first woman, of any race, to earn a master’s in physics from UA and is believed to be the second Black woman in the country to earn two technical master’s degrees. She went on to work at NASA as one of the few female mathematicians.

Her life story was essentially unknown until she was mentioned in the book that was turned into the 2016 major film *Hidden Figures*.



# Mamie Parker

(1957-)

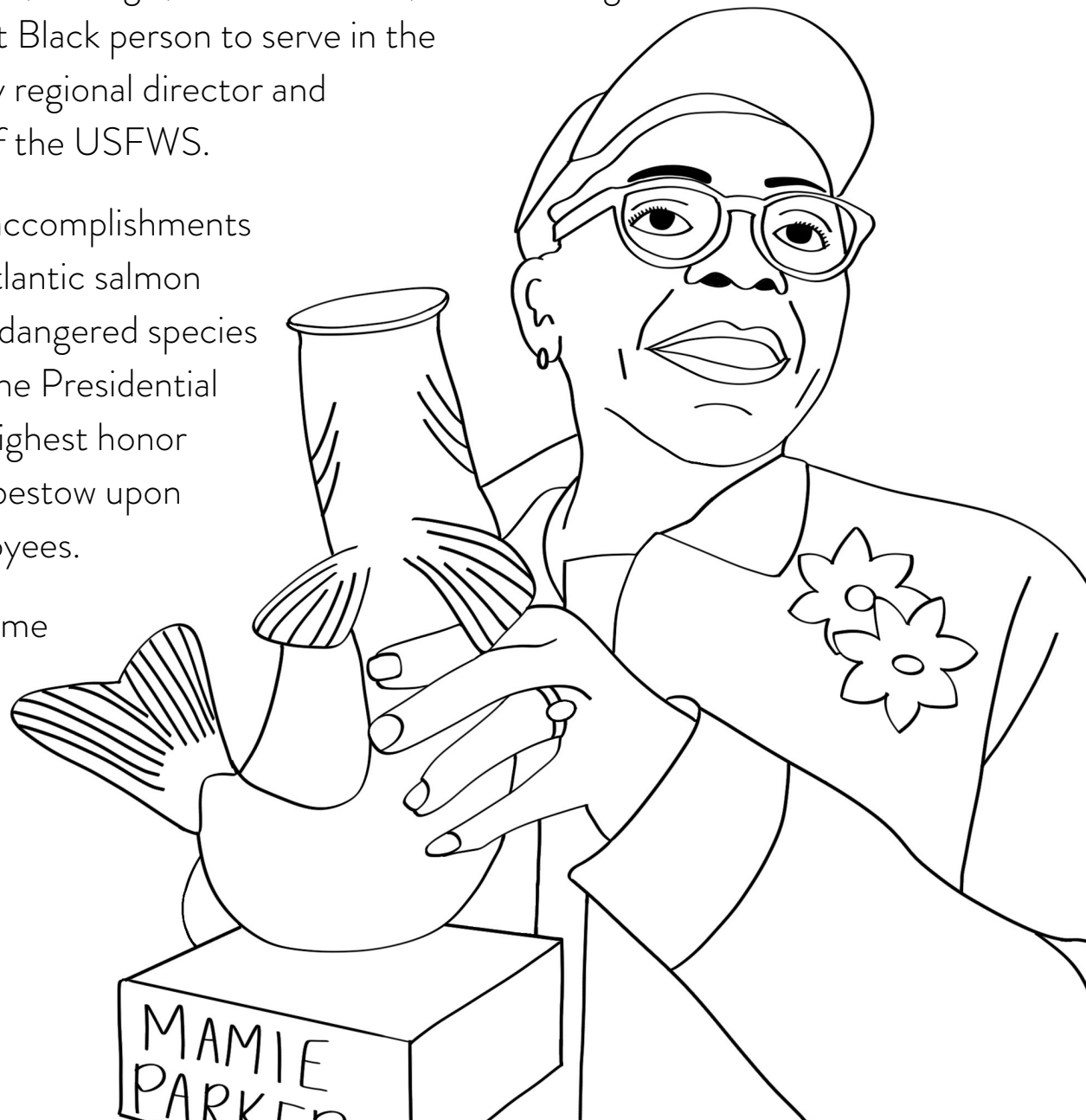
Mamie Parker is a trailblazing conservationist. The first African American to hold numerous positions in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), she ultimately served as northeastern regional director of the service.

She earned her college degree in biology in 1980 from the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff. Later, she earned a master's in fish and wildlife management and a PhD in limnology from the University of Wisconsin. She had a twenty-nine-year career with the USFWS, working in a variety of posts around the country, including Wisconsin, Missouri, Minnesota, Georgia, Massachusetts, and Washington DC.

Parker was the first Black person to serve in the positions of deputy regional director and regional director of the USFWS.

One of her many accomplishments includes getting Atlantic salmon included on the endangered species list. She received the Presidential Rank Award, the highest honor the president can bestow upon government employees.

In 2005, she became the first African American inducted into the Arkansas Outdoor Hall of Fame.



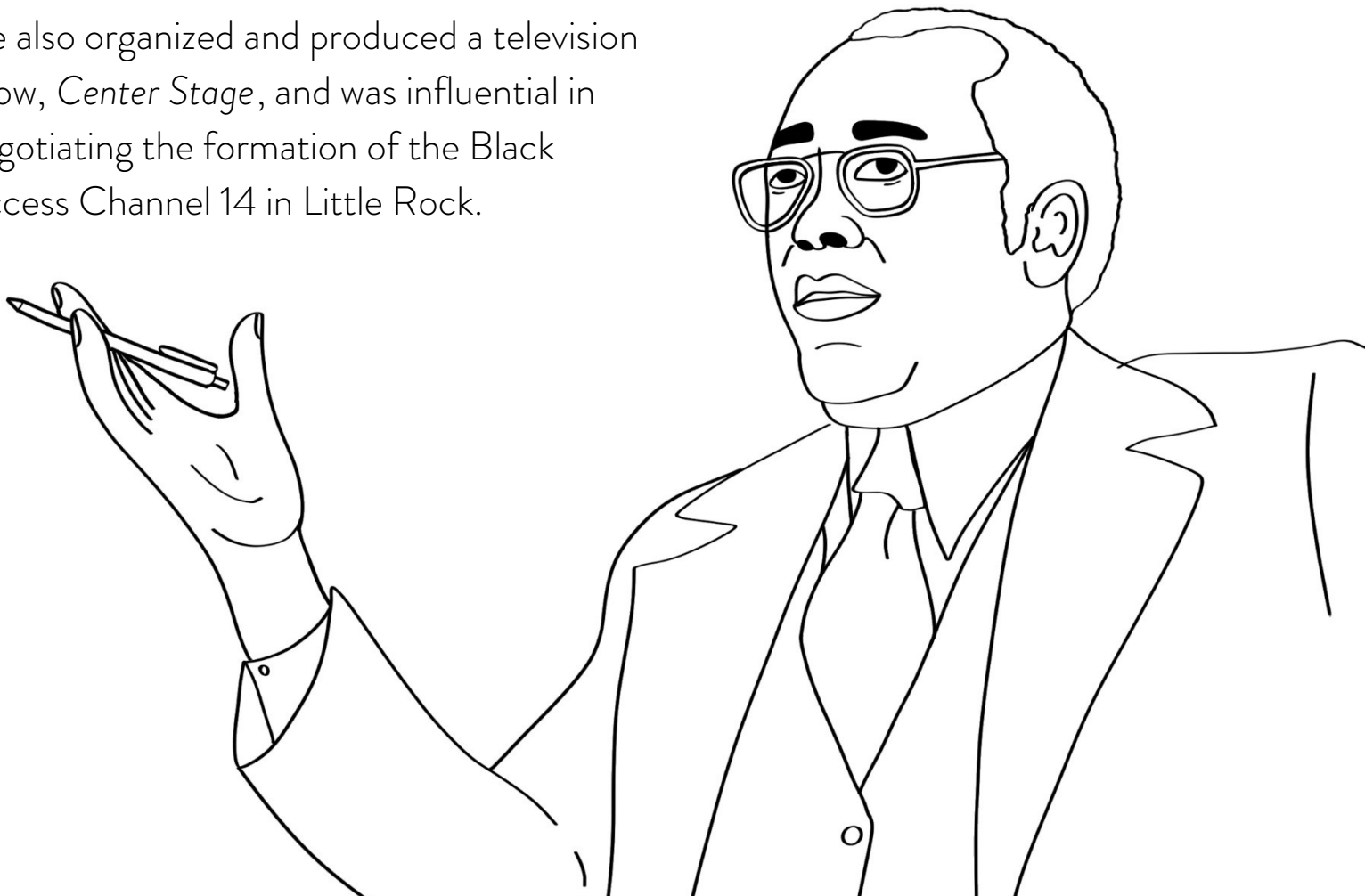
# Charles Bussey Jr.

(1918-1996)

Charles Bussey Jr. was the first African American elected to serve on the Little Rock City Board of Directors since Reconstruction, the first Black deputy sheriff in Pulaski County, and the first Black mayor of Little Rock. Charles Bussey Avenue in Little Rock was named for him in 2005, and he was inducted into the Arkansas Black Hall of Fame in 2006.

During his time as the mayor of Little Rock, his local focus was involvement of youth and disadvantaged young people in civic and community activities, focusing on leadership and active citizenship. His national focus was on presenting Arkansas—and especially Little Rock—in a positive light, reflecting the community healing that was required following the tumult surrounding the desegregation of Little Rock Central High School. He was elected to the board of directors of the Arkansas Municipal League and of the U.S. League of Cities.

He also organized and produced a television show, *Center Stage*, and was influential in negotiating the formation of the Black Access Channel 14 in Little Rock.



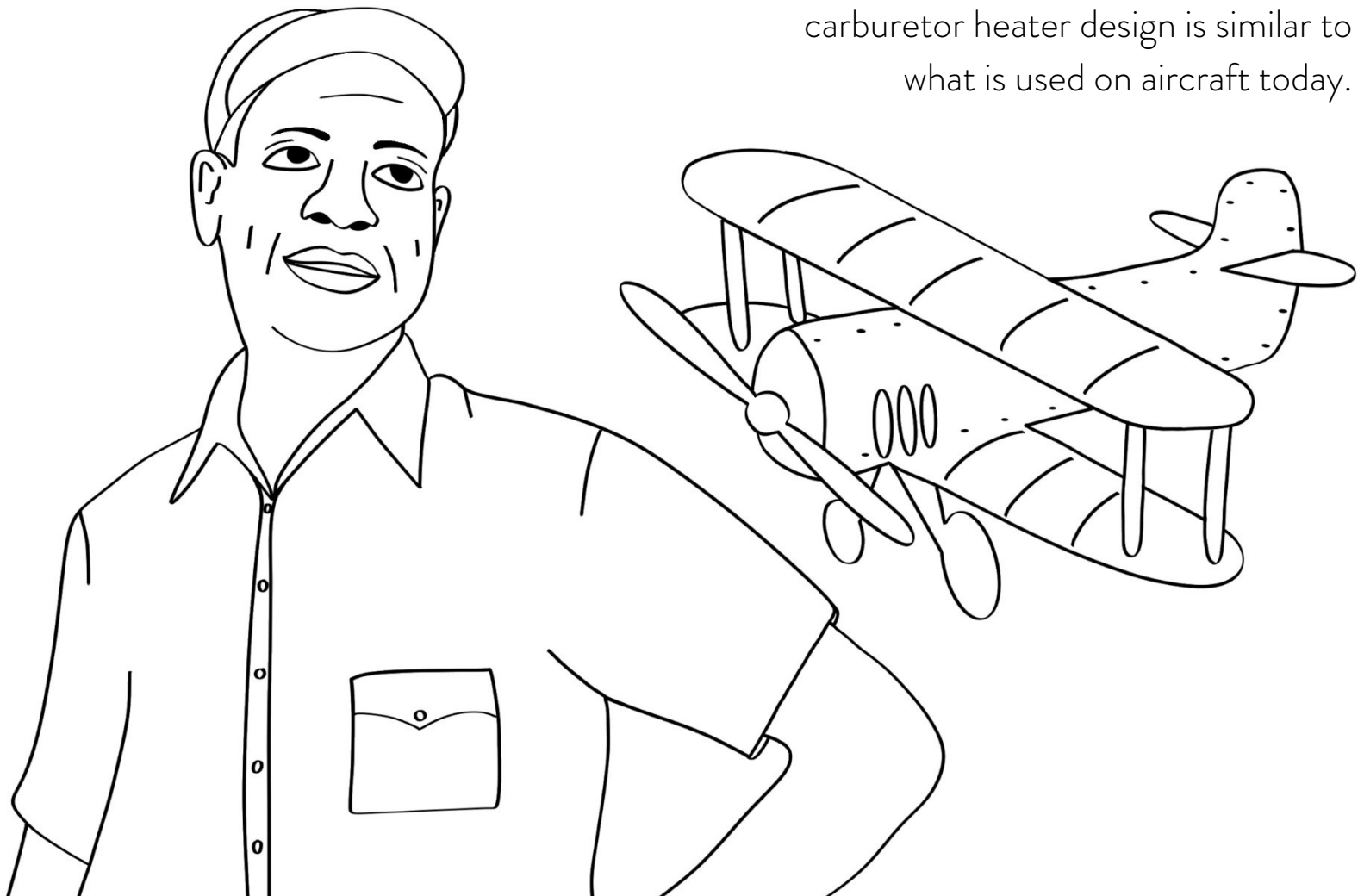
# Cornelius Coffey

(1903-1994)

Cornelius Coffey was the first African American to establish an aeronautical school in the United States. His school was also the only aviation program not affiliated with a university or college to become part of the Civilian Pilot Training Program. His pioneering efforts led to the integration of Black pilots into the overall American aviation industries, both civilian and military.

In 1932, Coffey became the first Black certified aircraft mechanic. He was also the first African American to hold both a pilot's and mechanic's license simultaneously. In 1938, he established his aeronautics school in Chicago. He eventually left the school to assist in the Tuskegee Institute military training experiment.

Coffey was the first African American to have an aerial navigation intersection named after him, and his carburetor heater design is similar to what is used on aircraft today.





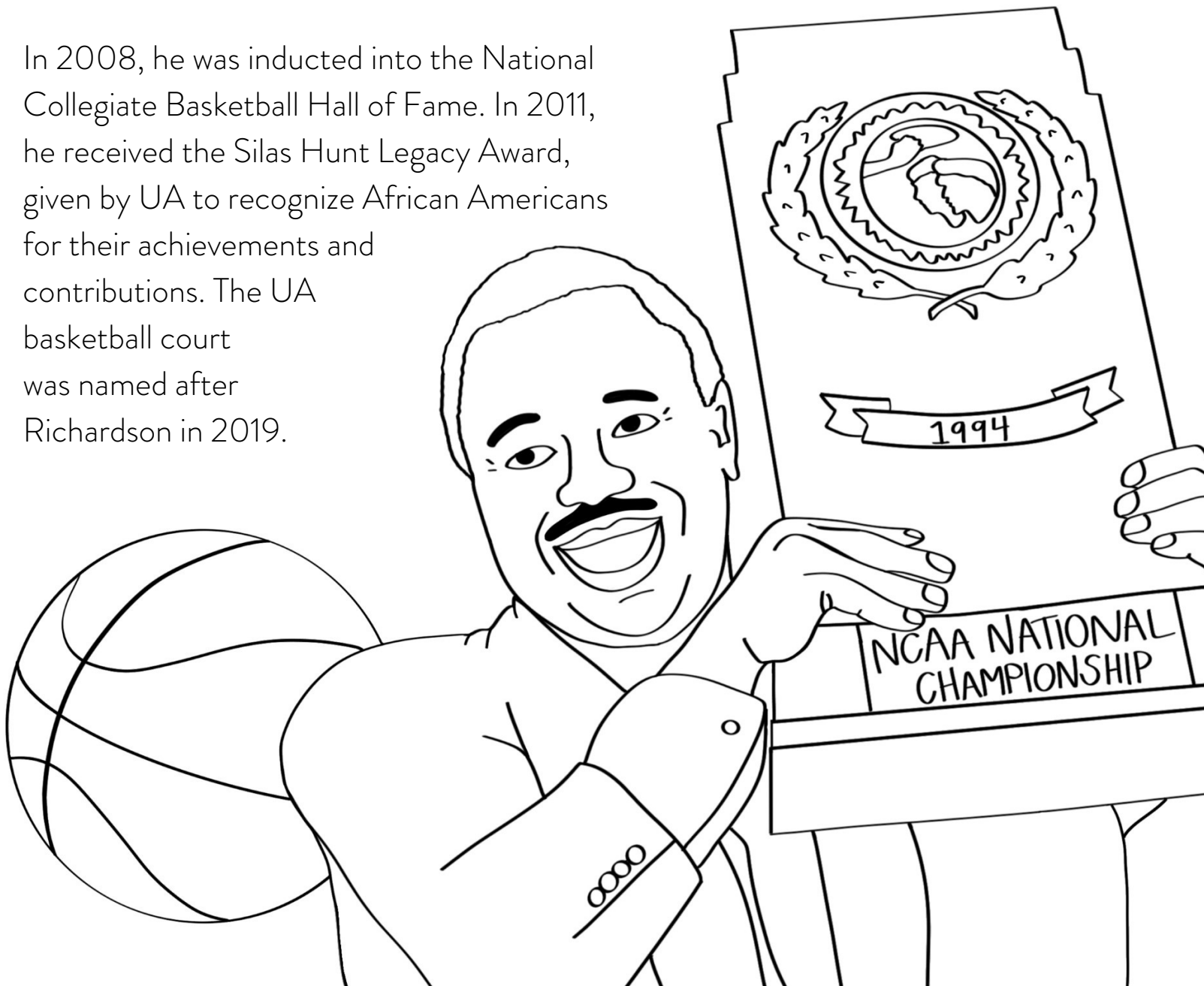
# Nolan Richardson

(1941-)

Nolan Richardson is one of the most famous coaches to have served the University of Arkansas (UA) Razorbacks basketball program. Under his leadership, the Razorbacks basketball team won nearly 400 games using his unique style of play.

When Richardson arrived at UA in Fayetteville in 1985, he changed the Razorbacks' playing style from slow and methodical to a considerably faster game. He took the Razorbacks to three Final Four appearances and led them to a win at the National Championship in 1994 against the Duke Blue Devils.

In 2008, he was inducted into the National Collegiate Basketball Hall of Fame. In 2011, he received the Silas Hunt Legacy Award, given by UA to recognize African Americans for their achievements and contributions. The UA basketball court was named after Richardson in 2019.



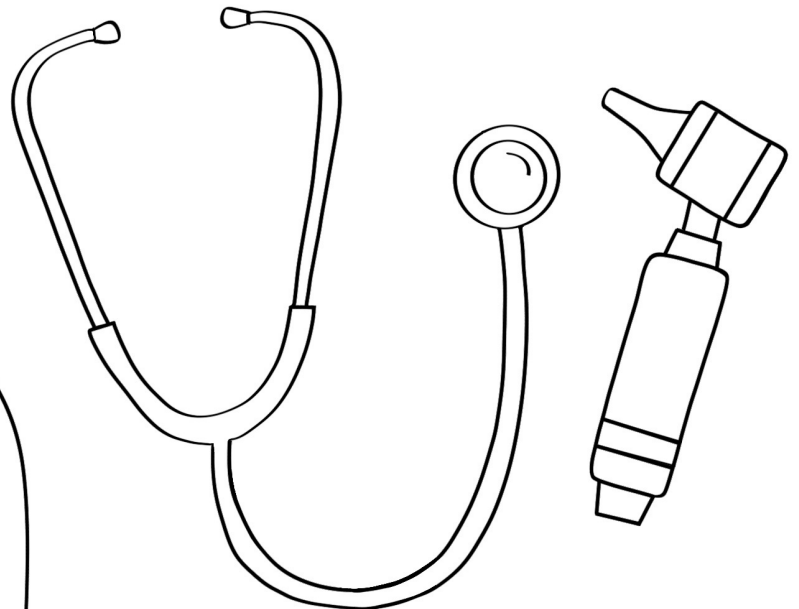
# George W. Stanley Ish

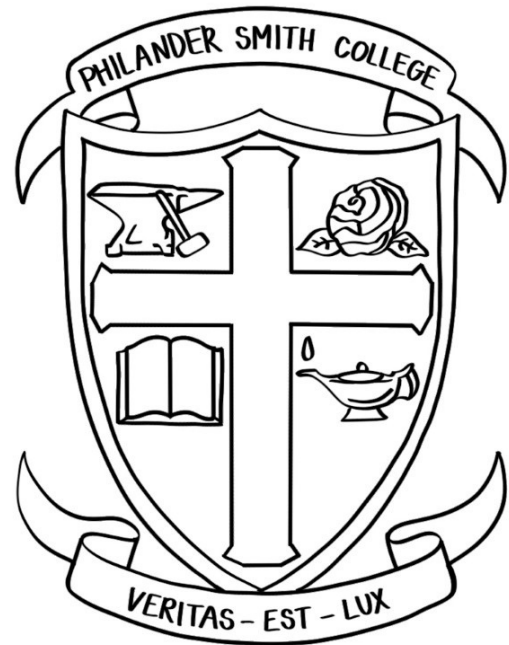
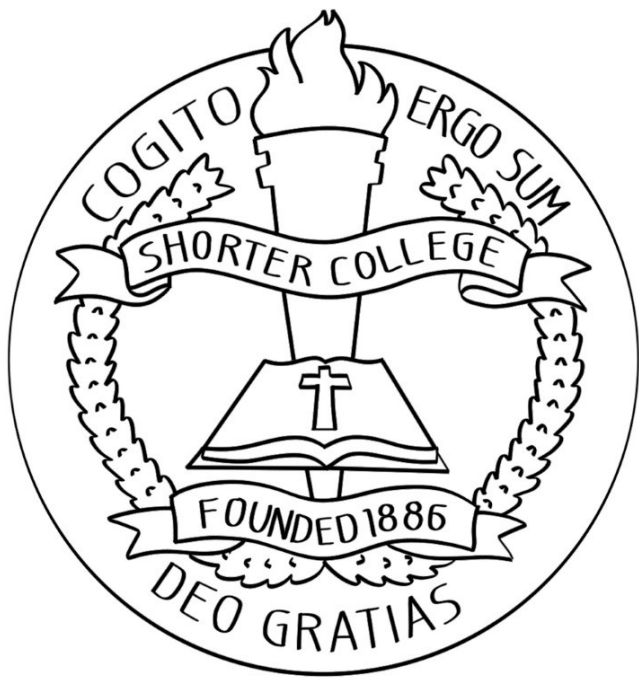
(1883-1970)

George William Stanley Ish was a prominent Black physician in Little Rock who provided care for citizens of the capital city. He graduated from Harvard Medical School and was instrumental in founding both United Friends Hospital and the J. E. Bush Memorial Hospital, primary centers for the medical care of Black patients. Black and white physicians held him in high regard, and he was a staff member at predominantly white hospitals in Little Rock.

Ish was largely responsible for convincing the state to build the McRae Memorial Tuberculosis Sanatorium, the separate Black sanatorium (when segregation was the law of the land), located in Alexander, Arkansas. Through his efforts and persuasion, McRae was the first institution in Arkansas to use isoniazid and streptomycin in the treatment of pulmonary tuberculosis.

He was a staff physician at the Arkansas Baptist Center and St. Vincent Infirmary as well as a school physician and instructor in health education at Philander Smith College.





# Arkansas HBCUs

Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) provide a unique higher education experience that is especially geared toward students of color. In Arkansas, there are four HBCUs: Shorter College (North Little Rock), University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff (Pine Bluff), Arkansas Baptist College (Little Rock), and Philander Smith University (Little Rock). Depictions of their seals are shown above.

**The CALS Encyclopedia of Arkansas contains a  
wealth of information about these and other  
Arkansas Black History icons.  
Check out more information about the icons  
included in this book here!**

EOA entry: Daisy Gatson Bates



EOA entry: Annie Abrams



EOA entry: Dorothy M. Hoover



EOA entry: Mamie Parker



EOA entry: Charles Bussey Jr.



EOA entry: Cornelius Coffey



EOA entry: Nolan Richardson



EOA entry: George W. S. Ish



EOA entry: Shorter College



EOA entry: University of  
Arkansas at Pine Bluff



EOA entry: Arkansas  
Baptist College



EOA entry: Philander Smith  
University





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