

Texas Civil Rights Trailblazers #1

Back in 1918 Negroes could not vote and women could not vote either. The white women were trying to help get a bill passed in the legislature where women could vote. I said to the Negro women, "I don't know if we can use it now or not, but if there's a chance, I want to say we helped make it.

—Christia Adair



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Texas Curriculum

Texas Civil Rights Trailblazers #2



I give you the gift of knowledge that, as long as you have your life and health, you can achieve anything. You can speak up and fight for justice and fairness. You can reach your dreams. You can fulfill your potential.

—Suzanne Ahn



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Texas Civil Rights Trailblazers #3



I am trying to show the world that we are all human beings, and that color is not important. What is important is the quality of our work.

—Alvin Ailey



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Texas Curriculum

Texas Civil Rights Trailblazers #4



We declare lynching an indefensible crime, destructive of all principles of government, hostile to every ideal of religion and humanity, degrading and debasing to every person involved. We pledge ourselves to create a new public opinion in the South which will not condone for any reason whatever acts of the mob or lynchers.

—Jessie Ames



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Texas Curriculum

Texas Civil Rights Trailblazers #2

Suzanne Ahn

b. Pusan, Korea, 1952 d. Dallas, 6/22/2003
Active: 1980–2003

Biography / Dallas neurologist Suzanne Insook Ahn organized demonstrations at Dallas nightclubs that barred Asian Pacific American patrons. She served as a leader in organizations that promote the rights of Asian Americans and of women physicians, and she cofounded National Doctors for Equal Rights Amendment. When the 1991 Civil Rights Act specifically excluded Filipino and Native American cannery workers in Alaska, Dr. Ahn flew to Washington, D.C., to confront legislators. In 2002, knowing her death from inoperable lung cancer was near, she gave \$100,000 to the Asian American Journalists Association to encourage those who are telling the stories about the fight for civil rights and social justice for Asian Pacific Americans.

Honors / Profiles in Leadership Award given by Southern Methodist University (2002); recognition as a National Library of Medicine “Local Legend”; included in UT–Austin’s Great Texas Women exhibition.

Question / Use a search engine to find the Web site of the Asian American Journalists Association. What are some concerns of the organization at this time? Write a paragraph giving details about one of their concerns. In a second paragraph, give your own opinion.

Looping Question: Which judge followed up to make sure her own court-ordered prison reforms were carried out?

Photo: National Library of Medicine

Texas Civil Rights Trailblazers #1

Christia V. Adair

b. Victoria, Texas, 10/22/1893 d. Houston, 12/31/1989
Active: 1920–1925 and 1943–1972

Biography / From 1918 to 1925 she organized Euro American and African American women in Kingsville, Texas, to work together for suffrage and to close a local gambling house that employed teenage boys. After her husband died, she served as executive secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) in Houston for 12 years. In 1957 she courageously testified in a lengthy trial to prevent the Houston police from taking NAACP membership records, and she endured persecution until her position was upheld by the Supreme Court two years later. In the 1960s and 1970s, she helped desegregate the Houston public library, airport, veteran’s hospital, city buses, juries, county employment, and department store dressing rooms.

Honors / Christia V. Adair County Park in Houston; life recognition “Suffragette” award, Houston Chapter of the National Organization for Women (1974); Woman of the Year, Zeta Phi Beta Sorority (1952).

Question / Do an Internet search to find photographs (images) illustrating four different kinds of segregated facilities. Write a caption for each photograph.

Looping Question: Which judge followed up to make sure her own court-ordered prison reforms were carried out?

Texas Civil Rights Trailblazers #4

Jessie Daniel Ames

b. Palestine, Texas, 11/2/1883 d. Austin, Texas, 2/21/1972
Active: 1918–1942

Biography / Jessie Ames worked with the state Equal Suffrage Association to make Texas the first southern state to pass the 19th Amendment. She was founder and first president of the Texas League of Women Voters. She became director of the Texas Commission on Interracial Cooperation in 1924 and in 1929 moved to Atlanta to head the National Council on Interracial Cooperation. In 1930 she founded the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching, a group of Euro American women organized to fight racial violence and vigilante executions. She returned to her Texas home in Georgetown in 1968.

Honors / Southwestern University in Georgetown, Texas, sponsors the Jessie Daniel Ames Lecture Series; alcove in the A. Frank Smith Jr. Library at Southwestern University, Georgetown, honors her; included in *Invisible Giants: Fifty Americans Who Shaped the Nation But Missed the History Books* (2002), edited by Mark Carnes.

Question / Find and copy the lyrics to the song “Strange Fruit.” Do you think art and music should address horrific topics such as lynching? Below the lyrics, write a paragraph expressing your opinion.

Looping Question: Who founded the GI Forum to help Mexican American veterans attain their benefits?

Photo: PICB 13189, Austin History Center, Austin Public Library

Texas Civil Rights Trailblazers #3

Alvin Ailey

b. Rogers, Texas, 1/05/1931 d. New York, 12/01/1989
Active: 1954–1989

Biography / Alvin Ailey learned to love gospel music as a child attending the New Vine Baptist Church in Navasota, Texas, with his mother. When they moved to Los Angeles in 1943, he began studying dance. He formed his own company in 1958, and as a choreographer, he explored American and African American dance. In 1969 he founded the Alvin Ailey American Dance Center School to train dance students from all over the world. A firm believer in arts in education, he created student programs in communities traditionally underserved by the arts. Ailey’s best-known choreographic creation, *Revelations*, was inspired by his Texas childhood.

Honors / NAACP Spingarn Medal (1977); United Nations Peace Medal (1982); modern dance’s prestigious Samuel H. Scripps American Festival Dance Award (1987).

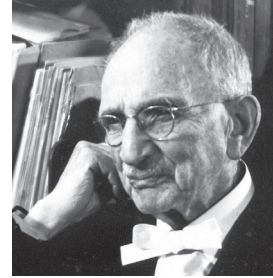
Question / Find three Internet descriptions of Ailey’s dance program *Revelations*. Give the URLs for each, then write about the theme in your own words. Do you think dance can promote better understanding between cultures? If so, how? If not, suggest a better way and describe it.

Looping Question: Who supported the cause of workers in the San Antonio Pecan Shellers’ Strike in 1938?

Photo: Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division, Carl Van Vechten Collection, reproduction number LC-USZ62-54231

All for one and one for all.

—J. T. Canales



In this town there is no such thing as Methodist mumps, Baptist domestic troubles, Presbyterian poverty, or Catholic broken legs.

—Henry Cohen



*I have no natural children.
I have adopted the world.*

—Juanita Craft



It has been full six weeks since I have found any man with the temerity to look us in the eye and say he opposed women's voting in the face of the outrageous condition that has been proven to prevail in our state government.

—Minnie Fisher Cunningham



Texas Civil Rights Trailblazers #6

Henry Cohen

b. London, 4/7/1863 d. Galveston, Texas, 6/12/1952
Active: 1888–1949

Biography / Rabbi Cohen of Galveston's Temple B'nai Israel helped Jews and other immigrants who arrived at the city's port of entry find homes in Texas and beyond. As a lieutenant during World War I, Rabbi Cohen was responsible for getting the U.S. Congress to provide Jewish naval chaplains. Serving on the Texas Prison Board during the 1920s, he successfully pushed for improved medical facilities, vocational training, and segregation of hardened criminals from first offenders. He made daily bicycle trips around Galveston to help needy citizens regardless of their religion.

Honors / University of Texas Medical Branch, Galveston, gives the annual Rabbi Henry Cohen Humanitarian Award; Rabbi Henry Cohen Community House built by B'nai Israel; Texas Historical Commission marker on the Galveston County Courthouse honors him.

Question / Use the Handbook of Texas Online and one other source to (1) make a list of Rabbi Cohen's accomplishments; and (2) write a brief biography of him.

Looping Question: Who organized CORE and involved both African American and Euro American volunteers in desegregation in the 1940s?

Photo: UTSA's Institute of Texan Cultures; # 074-0898; Courtesy of Harris Kempner

Texas Civil Rights Trailblazers #5

José Tomás (J. T.) Canales

b. Nueces County, Texas 3/7/1877 d. Brownsville, Texas, 3/30/1976
Active: 1905–1951

Biography / In 1919 State Representative J. T. Canales filed charges against the Texas Rangers with documented cases of vigilante-style oppression of Mexican Americans in the lower Rio Grande Valley; as a result, the force was reorganized. A founder of the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) in 1929, he worked for the organization's growth and advancement. It was Canales who gave LULAC its motto: "All for one and one for all." In 1931 he was one of the attorneys in *Del Rio ISD v. Salatierra*, the state's first case challenging segregated "Mexican" schools, a question not finally resolved in Texas until 1971.

Honors / J. T. Canales Distinguished Alumni Award given by the University of Michigan Law School; J. T. Canales Elementary School in Brownsville named for him; House of Representatives of the 79th Texas Legislature paid tribute to him for his exceptional contributions (2005).

Question / In addition to advocating civil rights for Mexican Americans, J. T. Canales also embraced such causes as prohibition and women's suffrage. In one paragraph each, define and describe those issues. Include the dates when each was resolved in Texas.

Looping Question: Which Texas teacher succeeded in getting the racist name of a road changed?

Texas Civil Rights Trailblazers #8

Minnie Fisher Cunningham

b. New Waverly, Texas, 3/19/1882 d. New Waverly, Texas, 12/9/1964
Active: 1913–1960

Biography / In 1901 Minnie Fisher Cunningham was the first woman in Texas to receive a pharmacy degree. Due to the inequality in wages paid to men and women, she soon left pharmacy to become an activist and president of the Galveston Equal Suffrage Association and then the Texas Equal Suffrage Association in Austin. Her lobbying for women to vote in primaries passed the Texas legislature in 1918. When the Nineteenth Amendment was passed and submitted to the states for ratification, Cunningham helped it pass in the western states, including Texas in 1920. Among the organizers of the National League of Women Voters, Cunningham remained active in national, state, and party (Democrat) politics throughout her life. President Franklin D. Roosevelt nicknamed her "Minnie Fish."

Honors / Included in *Women of the West* exhibition at the Museum of the American West at the Autry National Center of the American West, Los Angeles; Minnie Fisher Cunningham Society established to strengthen the financial future of the League of Women Voters of Texas; included in UT-Austin's *Great Texas Women* exhibition.

Question / Find the name of three Texan men who helped the cause of woman suffrage in Texas. Look up each of them and write a sentence about each. Do you think men should be glad that women vote? Why or why not?

Looping Question: Who sued the corporation that blacklisted him—and won his case?

Photo: Library of Congress, Prints & Photographs Division, Carl Van Vechten Collection, reproduction number LC-DIG-ggbain-32562

Texas Civil Rights Trailblazers #7

Juanita Craft

b. Round Rock, Texas, 2/9/1902 d. Dallas, 8/6/1985
Active: 1935–1985

Biography / The granddaughter of slaves, Juanita Craft was instrumental in organizing 182 branches of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) in Texas in the 1940s and early 1950s. She was the first African American woman to vote in Dallas County in 1944. Craft worked with the youth of the NAACP to desegregate lunch counters, restaurants, theaters, trade schools, public transportation, North Texas State University, and the State Fair. Her steady and nurturing guidance is credited for the very low amount of violence involved in desegregating Dallas. In 1975 at the age of 73, she was elected to the Dallas City Council and later reelected for a second term.

Honors / Linz Award, Dallas's highest civic award (1969); Eleanor Roosevelt Humanitarian Award for public service (1984); her home, now owned by the city of Dallas, has become the Juanita J. Craft Civil Rights House.

Question / Use a search engine or your library to learn about the concept of "Jim Crow." Write a paragraph explaining the meaning of the term. In a second paragraph, give at least three examples of Jim Crow laws or ordinances.

Looping Question: Who oversaw the passage of the Civil Rights Act and the Voting Rights Act?



We will not stop until the dogs stop biting us in the South and the rats stop biting us in the North.

—James Farmer Jr.



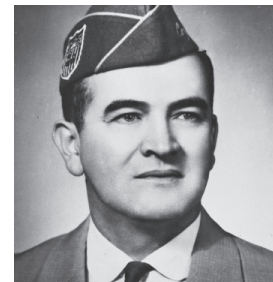
To me, the most sinister aspect of that whole period was the systematic way respectable educators, ministers, artists, writers, librarians—Americans from every walk of life—were hauled in by some committee or publicly denounced by some vigilante group, and pronounced “guilty.”

—John Henry Faulk



*Al fin el trabajador habia tenido el valor de salir al frente y defender sus derechos.
(Workers finally had the courage to step forward and defend their rights.)*

—Trini Gámez



The biggest impact I had was that I never pushed or favored any demonstrations or revolt to tear down the system. I always thought the system would work with us.

—Héctor P. García



Texas Civil Rights Trailblazers #10

John Henry Faulk

b. Austin, Texas, 8/21/1913 d. Austin, Texas, 4/9/1990
Active: 1957–1990

Biography / A radio host and storyteller, Faulk aired a program of music, humor, and listener participation. When AWARE, Inc., alleged that Faulk had communist sympathies and these allegations prevented him from getting a job with a prominent radio system, Faulk sued the company in 1957. The suit was stalled for five years before Faulk was ultimately awarded the largest libel judgment in history to that date (all the financial judgment was used up by accumulated debts and legal fees). He wrote a book about his ordeal, *Fear on Trial* (1963), which became a TV movie (1974). Throughout the remainder of his life he spoke at universities and other venues about citizenship and the First Amendment.

Honors / John Henry Faulk Conference on the First Amendment sponsored by UT–Austin Center for American History; Paul Robeson Award from Actors' Equity Association (1983); Austin downtown branch library named for him.

Question / John Henry Faulk won the Paul Robeson Award from Actors' Equity Association. In a paragraph, write about who Paul Robeson was. Why was this award named for him? List three other recipients of the award (note: There are several "Paul Robeson" awards; include "Actors' Equity" in your search).

Looping Question: Who helped desegregate department store dressing rooms, juries, and libraries in Houston?

Photo: Faulk (John Henry) Papers, di-03020, Center for American History, University of Texas at Austin

Texas Civil Rights Trailblazers #9

James Farmer Jr.

b. Marshall, Texas, 1/12/1920 d. Fredericksburg, Virginia, 7/9/1999
Active: 1942–1999

Biography / A disciple of Mohandas K. Gandhi, James Farmer Jr. founded the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) and organized the first sit-ins in the nation to have both African American and Euro American volunteers in 1942. During the 1950s and 1960s CORE supported integration with nonviolent activities such as sit-ins, picketing, freedom rides, and prayer vigils. Farmer, who risked his life on numerous occasions, became disenchanted with the increasing violence of some black leaders and moved on to an academic life in the 1970s. President Richard Nixon appointed him the Assistant Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare in 1968. Along with Roy Wilkins, Whitney Young, and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Farmer is remembered as one of the "Big Four" of the civil rights movement.

Honors / Presidential Medal of Freedom (President Clinton, 1998); Texas State Legislature recognized James Farmer Jr. Day on January 12, 2005.

Question / In one paragraph, write about the Freedom Rides of the 1960s. In the second paragraph, write whether you think the goal was attained and give reasons for your opinion.

Looping Question: Whose bill to abolish the poll tax led to the 24th Amendment?

Photo: Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division, Carl Van Vechten Collection, reproduction number LC-DIG-ppmsc-01266

Texas Civil Rights Trailblazers #12

Héctor P. García

b. Tamaulipas, Mexico, 1/17/1914 d. Corpus Christi, Texas, 7/26/1996
Active: 1948–1996

Biography / Dr. Héctor García returned from U.S. military service in World War II determined to change the lives of Mexican American Texans living in poverty and discrimination. Through the GI Forum, which he founded in 1948, Dr. García worked to acquire veterans' rights for Hispanics, such as home loans, education, medical care, and insurance. A full-time physician, he continued to campaign on behalf of Mexican residents and Mexican American citizens and pushed for desegregation of restaurants, businesses, schools, hospitals, and cemeteries. At the time of his death he was working to improve life in the *colonias* (impoverished neighborhoods) on the Texas/Mexico border.

Honors / Presidential Medal of Freedom (President Reagan, 1984); a city park and a post office in Corpus Christi are named for him; a bronze statue of him is located at Texas A&M University–Corpus Christi.

Question / Who was Felix Longoria? Describe the incidents in Three Rivers surrounding Longoria's funeral. Where was Longoria buried? What do you think Americans learned—or should have learned—from "the Longoria incident," as it is often called?

Looping Question: Which pharmacist/congressperson initiated legislation to allow doctors to prescribe generic drugs?

Photo: UTSA's Institute of Texan Cultures, No. 068-0557

Texas Civil Rights Trailblazers #11

Trinidad (Trini) Gámez

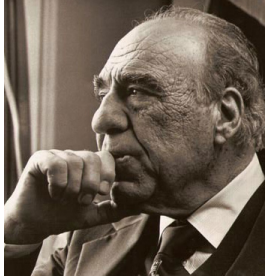
b. Karnes County, Texas, 5/1/1929 Living in Hereford, Texas, 2009
Active: 1975–present (2009)

Biography / Hereford farm worker Trini Gámez gained organizational skills as a PTA volunteer and a room mother and began putting them to use as a union organizer in 1975. Working with the Southwest Voter Registration Education Project, she helped to eliminate at-large elections and get voting precinct lines drawn more fairly in Hereford. With Texas Rural Legal Aid (TRLA), she facilitated campaigns by the Texas Farm Workers Union in the area, advising workers of their rights. When agricultural worker strikes and lawsuits changed the balance of power in the 1980s, local officials threatened to eliminate funding for TRLA, but the group rallied support from throughout the state.

Honors / Denison Ray Award from the National Legal Aid and Defender Association (1994); "A Vision for the 21st Century" honoree, Hispanic Heritage Month (1999).

Question / The Texas Farm Workers Union was active in Texas in the mid-1970s to the early 1980s, but many workers now join the United Farm Workers of America (UFW). Who founded the UFW? When and where? Write one paragraph about the UFW; print or draw the UFW symbol in color.

Looping Question: Who started the idea of redress and reparations (apology and money) for Japanese Americans incarcerated during World War II?



The vote that carries the weight of moral conviction behind it, it has been my observation, is a vote that eventually triumphs.

—Henry B. González

I don't like the Klan. But if I don't stand up and defend the Klan's right to free speech, my right to free speech will be gone.

—Anthony Griffin

Some say I am a pioneer but all I was trying to do was win some games.

—Don Haskins



Each time the NAACP took a school district to court that called themselves "separate but equal," we proved through my photographs that the schools were certainly segregated, but not equal.

—R. C. Hickman

Texas Civil Rights Trailblazers #14

Anthony Griffin

b. Baytown, Texas, 1954 Living in Galveston, Texas, 2009
Active: 1975–present (2009)

Biography / African American attorney Anthony Griffin's first case out of law school in 1978 was filed on behalf of his mother, whose salary was lower than men doing the same job. In 1993 Griffin defended the First Amendment rights of Michael Lowe, the "Grand Dragon" of the Texas Knights of the Ku Klux Klan. Because of this, Griffin met with rebuke from many of his African American associates as well as from the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). In 2000 he represented students from Santa Fe, Texas, in a religious liberty case involving school prayer at football games. Griffin continues to work in Galveston as a civil rights attorney.

Honors / Galveston Black Heritage Festival Citizen of the Year (1993); William Brennan Award by Thomas Jefferson Center for Freedom of Expression (1993).

Question / Learn about Christia Adair and the 1957 case in which she testified on behalf of the NAACP. Write a paragraph comparing and contrasting her case with that of Michael Lowe. If you like, use Anthony Griffin's quote as an opening or concluding statement.

Looping Question: Who questioned standardized testing of Spanish-speaking children in the 1930s?

Photo: R. C. Hickman Photographic Archives, The Center for American History, The University of Texas at Austin

Texas Civil Rights Trailblazers #13

Henry B. González

b. San Antonio, Texas, 5/3/1916 d. San Antonio, Texas, 11/28/2000
Active: 1953–1998

Biography / Elected to San Antonio's city council in 1953 "Henry B." spoke out against segregation in city parks and swimming pools. As the state's first Mexican American state senator (elected in 1956), he filibustered for 22 hours to prevent the passage of legislation designed to evade the 1954 Supreme Court decision in *Brown v. Board of Education*. As a U.S. Congressperson in 1961, he introduced a bill to abolish the poll tax, which still existed in Texas and four other states; his bill led to the 24th Amendment. For 37 years Congressperson Gonzalez led efforts for affordable housing, truth in lending, a minimum wage, and equal opportunity while exposing conflict of interest and fraud.

Honors / National Alliance to End Homelessness Award for Public Sector Achievement (1991); Profile in Courage Award from the John F. Kennedy Foundation (1994).

Question / What is a poll tax? How does a poll tax affect the ability of people to vote or not to vote? Can you think of ways that a wealthy person could change the outcome of elections in a poll taxing society? Compose a paragraph about the poll tax which includes the answers to these questions.

Looping Question: What coach won a 1966 championship game with the first all-black starting team in the NCAA?

Photo: Courtesy of Henry B. González Papers (E-HBG-0003), The Center for American History, The University of Texas at Austin

Texas Civil Rights Trailblazers #16

R. C. Hickman

b. Mineola, Texas, 1922 d. Dallas 12/1/2007
Active: 1949–1970

Biography / As a soldier in World War II, R. C. Hickman learned how to take and develop photographs and soon earned the credentials to become an Army photographer. After the war he began a professional career in Dallas and went to the Southwest School of Photography on the GI Bill. Hickman recorded life in Dallas for 30 years. As a photographer for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), he documented unequal conditions in African American and Euro American schools during Texans' long efforts to end segregation. His work placed him at locations where he was not welcome, yet he continued to face the danger in the interest of desegregation.

Honors / Commended by the Texas House of Representatives (1995); Annual R. C. Hickman Young Photographers Workshop offered in Dallas; photographs featured at the MLK station of the Dallas Area Rapid Transit system.

Question / Find the R. C. Hickman Photographic Archive Web site at the Center for American History, University of Texas–Austin. Select three photographs that reveal unequal conditions endured by African American Texans during the 1950s. Give the preferred citation for each photograph (for an example, see below) and write a caption for each.

Looping Question: Who flew to Washington, D.C., on behalf of Filipino and Native American cannery workers?

Photo: R. C. Hickman Photographic Archives, The Center for American History, The University of Texas at Austin

Texas Civil Rights Trailblazers #15

Don Haskins

b. Enid, Oklahoma, 3/14/1930
d. El Paso, Texas, 9/7/2008
Active: 1966–1999

Biography / Although his goal was simply to win a basketball game, Coach Don Haskins of Texas Western College (now UT–El Paso) enabled a legendary step forward for civil rights when his 1966 Miners, with an all–African American starting lineup, defeated an all–Euro American team with an openly racist coach for the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division I National Championship. Called "basketball's biggest upset," the dramatic victory caused other colleges and universities to reevaluate their sports recruiting policies, which largely excluded black players. The 2006 movie *Glory Road* tells the team's story.

Honors / Inducted into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame (1997); inducted into the Texas Sports Hall of Fame (1987); UT–El Paso Athletic Center named for him.

Question / Read about Don Haskins and the 1966 basketball game on at least three different Internet sites. Write about the game in one paragraph. In a second paragraph, tell whether you think Haskins should be called a civil rights hero? Why or why not?

Looping Question: Who started free kindergartens for Spanish-speaking children in Laredo and San Antonio?



Women who stepped up were measured as citizens of the nation, not as women. . . . This was a peoples' war, and everyone was in it.

—Oveta Culp Hobby



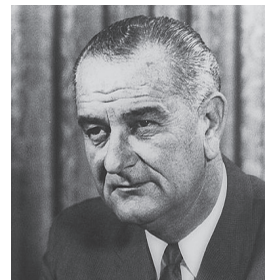
. . . as far as I'm concerned, [Taylor v. Sterrett] is the most important case I have tried. I found that the Dallas County Jail was very much in need of change. It was in deplorable condition, and I think that under my jurisdiction it became one of the best jails in the whole United States.

—Sarah T. Hughes



Mexican children in Texas need an education. . . . There is no other means to do it but ourselves, so that we are not devalued and humiliated by the strangers who surround us.

—Jovita Idar



The vote is the most powerful instrument ever devised by man for breaking down injustice and destroying the terrible walls which imprison men because they are different from other men.

—Lyndon B. Johnson

Texas Civil Rights Trailblazers #18

Sarah T. Hughes

b. Baltimore, Maryland, 8/2/1896 d. Dallas, 4/23/1985
Active: 1930–1975

Biography / Attorney Sarah T. Hughes moved to Dallas with her Texas-born husband in 1922. She served in the Texas House of Representatives during the 1930s, became the first female Texas district judge in 1935 (and was reelected for the next 24 years), and in 1961 was the first female Texan appointed a U.S. district judge. She was especially interested in the rights of women to serve on juries and the reform of the juvenile justice system. In cases related to juvenile justice and prison reform, she personally followed up to be sure court-ordered improvements were made. On a three-judge panel she heard the appeal of the controversial case *Roe v. Wade*. She became a national figure when she administered the oath of office to Lyndon Johnson after the assassination of President Kennedy.

Honors / Sarah T. Hughes Civil Rights Award given by the Federal Bar Association; Sarah T. Hughes Diversity Scholarships awarded by SMU's Dedman School of Law; Judge Sarah T. Hughes Reading Room at the University of North Texas in Denton.

Question / The names of legal cases consist of the name of the plaintiff (or first of several), the abbreviation "v.," meaning "versus," then the name of the defendant. Give the full name of the first plaintiff and defendant in five of these cases and write about the subject of each: *Sweatt v. Painter*, *Taylor v. Storer*, *Nixon v. Herndon*, *Delgado v. Bastrop*; *Faulk v. AWARE*; *Roe v. Wade*, and *Texas Commission of Human Rights v. Lowe*.

Looping Question: Who founded the Southwest Voter Registration Education Project in 1974?

Photo: Squire Hawkins

Photo: Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division, reproduction number LC-USZ62-122229

Texas Civil Rights Trailblazers #17

Oveta Culp Hobby

b. Killeen, Texas, 1/19/1905 d. Houston, 8/16/1995
Active: 1942–1968

Biography / Oveta Culp served as Parliamentarian to the Texas legislature and wrote a book on parliamentary procedure. She studied law at UT and ran for the Texas Legislature. In 1931, she married former Texas governor William P. Hobby. They purchased and published the *Houston Post* until she was called to consider the role of women in the U.S. Army, a request that ultimately led to "Colonel Hobby" organizing and leading the Women's Army Corps. She later served as first Secretary of the newly established U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, the first woman to hold a cabinet position.

Honors / Inducted into the Texas Women's Hall of Fame (1984); inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame (1996); library at Central Texas College in Killeen named for her.

Question / As the nation's first Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare, Culp helped to prevent the spread of polio in the United States. Use a search engine or your library to learn more about her efforts. Compose a paragraph entitled "Hobby and the Salk Vaccine."

Looping Question: Which African American attorney defended a Ku Klux Klansman?

Photo: Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division, reproduction number LC-USZ62-122229

Photo: UTSA's Institute of Texan Cultures; # 084-0596; Courtesy of Ike Idar

Texas Civil Rights Trailblazers #20

Lyndon B. Johnson

b. Stonewall, Texas, 8/27/1908 d. Johnson City, Texas, 1/22/1973
Active: 1931–1969

Biography / From his first year teaching school in Cotulla, Texas, Johnson had an urgent desire to help the poor. As a congressman, senator, and senate majority leader, he directed the passage of laws affecting labor, the elderly, housing, and civil rights, as well as defense and space exploration. As President of the United States, Johnson oversaw the passage of the Civil Rights Act, the Voting Rights Act, and Medicare; each is an aspect of his vision of "the Great Society." He used the power of the federal purse to speed up integration (segregation was still practiced in the 1960s though illegal since 1954) and appointed Thurgood Marshall, the first African American U.S. Supreme Court Justice.

Honors / Awarded a Silver Star for gallantry in action during World War II (Navy); Presidential Medal of Freedom (President Carter, 1980); buildings named for him include NASA's Johnson Space Center, the Lyndon B. Johnson General Hospital (Houston), and the Lyndon Baines Johnson Department of Education Building (Washington, D.C.).

Question / Find out when, where, and on what occasion President Johnson announced his plans for "the Great Society." Do you think that was an appropriate setting to announce future plans? Why or why not? Compose a paragraph describing the announcement and giving reasons for your opinion.

Looping Question: Who organized the "Petticoat Lobby"?

Photo: Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division, reproduction number LC-USZ62-122229

Texas Civil Rights Trailblazers #19

Jovita Idar

b. Laredo, Texas, 1885 d. San Antonio, Texas, 1946
Active: 1910–1920

Biography / A journalist, organizer, and spokesperson for Mexican women and children in Texas, Jovita Idar worked for newspapers that advocated equal justice, women's rights, and education for Hispanic children in Texas; her writing was frequently at odds with the views of powerful Texans and Americans. In 1911 the Idar family called for "the First Mexican Congress" in Laredo, where Mexican Texans could discuss education, social, labor, and economic matters that concerned them. Subsequently Idar founded and served as first president of the League of Mexican Women, which opened free schools for Tejano children in Laredo, and later, in San Antonio.

Honors / In UT–Austin's "Gallery of Great Texas Women"; honored as one of "Thirteen Extraordinary Women" by Texas A&M International University–Laredo's Women Advancing Women organization (2000); included in the National Women's History Project.

Question / Jovita Idar once held off several Texas Rangers who arrived to destroy her father's newspaper office. Find at least two versions of the story, and then write a newspaper article about the incident. Create a headline for your article.

Looping Question: Who founded the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching?

Photo: UTSA's Institute of Texan Cultures; # 084-0596; Courtesy of Ike Idar

Photo: UTSA's Institute of Texan Cultures; # 084-0596; Courtesy of Ike Idar



“We, the people’ It’s a very eloquent beginning. But when that document was completed on the seventeenth of September in 1787, I was not included in that “We, the people.” I felt somehow for many years that George Washington and Alexander Hamilton just left me out by mistake. But through the process of amendment, interpretation, and court decision, I have finally been included in “We, the people.”

—Barbara Jordan



I am now an activist on behalf of humanity everywhere. . . . That is my community.

—Mickey Leland



When I was growing up, a lot of us were punished for speaking Spanish. We were punished for being who we were, and we were made to feel ashamed of our culture. . . . My art is a way of healing these wounds, like the sávila plant (aloe vera) heals burns and scrapes when applied by a loving parent or grandparent.

—Carmen Lomas Garza



Never vote for a woman just because she is a woman. . . . It is the candidate’s platform which is important—not the battle of the sexes.

—Jane Y. McCallum



Texas Civil Rights Trailblazers #22

George Thomas (Mickey) Leland

b. Lubbock, Texas, 11/27/1944 d. Ethiopia, 8/7/1989
Active: 1972–1989

Biography / At Texas Southern University, Mickey Leland organized a door-to-door campaign telling poor people about available medical care. As a pharmacist, Dr. Leland pressured Houston to open health clinics. As a state congressperson (elected in 1972), he initiated legislation allowing doctors to prescribe generic drugs. As U.S. Congressperson (elected in 1978), he co-authored legislation to establish the House Select Committee on Hunger and was appointed its first chair. He rallied support that resulted in both public and private action related to prison reform, infant mortality, services for the homeless, and food for at-risk women, children, and infants. Before Dr. Leland's untimely death, he had begun addressing the problem of world hunger.

Honors / Among agencies and buildings named in his honor are the Mickey Leland National Urban Air Toxics Research Center at the Texas Medical Center, Houston; Mickey Leland Center on World Hunger and Peace at Texas Southern University; Mickey Leland International Terminal at Houston's George Bush Intercontinental Airport.

Question / Find out how Mickey Leland died. What was he doing at the time? Compose a three-paragraph essay telling about Mickey Leland's life, his death, and his accomplishments.

Looping Question: Who brought charges of vigilantism against the Texas Rangers?

Photo: USAID

Texas Civil Rights Trailblazers #21

Barbara Charline Jordan

b. Houston, 2/21/1936 d. Austin, Texas, 1/17/1996
Active: 1967–1994

Biography / In 1967 Barbara Jordan became the first African American since Reconstruction to serve in the Texas State Senate; in 1973 she became the first African American woman from the South to serve in the U.S. House of Representatives. In public office, she promoted legislation for minimum wage and workers' compensation, championed the renewal of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, and spoke eloquently in defense of the constitution at the impeachment proceedings of President Richard Nixon. An expert in parliamentary procedure, she worked within the system to champion the poor, the disadvantaged, and people of color. In 1979 she retired from politics to teach courses on intergovernmental relations, political values, and ethics at UT–Austin's LBJ School of Public Affairs.

Honors / Awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom (President Clinton, 1994); Tom C. Clark Equal Justice Under Law Award (1991); inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame (1990); bronze statue at UT–Austin.

Question / In the quotation included here, what did Barbara Jordan mean by "I was not included . . ." ? Find and name three examples of amendments, interpretations, or court decisions that allowed her to say, "I have finally been included . . ."

Looping Question: Who organized and led the Women's Army Corps during World War II?

Photo: Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division, reproduction number LC-U9-32937-32A/33

Texas Civil Rights Trailblazers #24

Jane Yelvington McCallum

b. La Vernia, Texas, 12/30/1877 d. Austin, Texas, 8/14/1957
Active: 1915–1957

Biography / After successfully lobbying and organizing on behalf of woman's suffrage, McCallum banded together six statewide women's groups in order to transform their new voting privilege into political power, forming the Women's Joint Legislative Council, known as the "Petticoat Lobby." Operating from a committee room in the state capitol, the Petticoat Lobby was able to pass bills related to schools, alcohol abuse, prison reform, care of babies and expectant mothers, literacy, and child labor. A speaker, columnist, and author, "Jane Y." also served two terms as Texas's Secretary of State.

Honors / Jane McCallum High School (Austin) is named in her honor; included in UT–Austin's "Gallery of Great Texas Women"; Arthur and Jane Y. McCallum House (Austin) is on the National Register of Historic Places.

Question / What is a political lobby and what does a lobbyist do? Find the names of six groups that utilize lobbyists.

Looping Question: Who organized farm workers in the Texas Panhandle in the 1970s?

Photo: AR.E.004-E(009), Austin History Center, Austin Public Library

Texas Civil Rights Trailblazers #23

Carmen Lomas Garza

b. Kingsville, Texas, 9/12/1948 Living in San Francisco, 2009
Active: 1972–present (2009)

Biography / Carmen Lomas Garza knew that she wanted to be an artist from the age of 13. Drawing strength from the Chicano movement of the late 1960s, she dedicated herself to honoring the special and everyday experiences she remembered from her own childhood. Many of those experiences were not honored at the time because she and others were made to feel ashamed for speaking Spanish and participating in cultural traditions. Lomas Garza uses her art to instill pride in Mexican American history and culture, and for those outside the culture, her works in gouache, oil, cut paper, and metal offer generous access for cultural understanding.

Honors / Lomas Garza's books have received the American Library Association's Pura Belpré Award for Illustration (2000); the Texas Library's Association's Texas Bluebonnet Award (1997–98); listed among the "Best Books of the Year" by both the Library of Congress (1990) and *School Library Journal* (1990).

Question / Find Carmen Lomas Garza's official Web site. View her paintings, and select (a) one that reveals something unique about Mexican American culture; (b) one that depicts an experience common to Texans of other cultural traditions, and; (c) one that surprised you in some way. Write a paragraph about each.

Looping Question: Who photographed segregated schools to show that African American and Euro American schools were not equal?

The judges were friends of mine. They inquired after my health, and when I presented my poll tax receipt, one of them said, “Dr. Nixon, you know we can’t let you vote.” I said, “I know you can’t, but I’ve got to try.”

—Dr. Lawrence Nixon



Every person has the ability to do something the world needs. . . . Success means you have found your niche and used your best efforts to try to solve the problems.

—Louise Raggio



The fruits of “racial” discrimination are boomerangs. . . . The vicious practices . . . do harm to the “Mexican,” yes. However, infinitely more harm is done to the group which perpetrates or tolerates the practices.

—George I. Sánchez



*The door has been opened.
It’s up to you to walk through.*

—Heman Sweatt



Texas Civil Rights Trailblazers #26

Louise Ballerstedt Raggio

b. Austin, Texas, 6/15/1919 Living in Dallas, 2009
Active: 1953–1980

Biography / Louise Raggio chaired the Family Law section of the Texas State Bar in the 1960s. She oversaw the removal of 44 legal restrictions that prevented women from having equal opportunities. Initially she opposed the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA), knowing that passage would cause disaster if a unified family code were not in place, so she worked quickly to guide to completion the 1967 Texas Marital Property Act; this law allowed Texas women to buy and sell property, secure bank loans, and start businesses without their husband's permission. Over the next 12 years her committee created for Texas the first complete family code in the world.

Honors / American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) Thomas Jefferson Award (1994); Louise Ballerstedt Raggio Lecture Series in Women's Studies at Southern Methodist University; inducted into the Texas Women's Hall of Fame (2001).

Question / What does the Equal Rights Amendment say? When was it created? During what years was it discussed most vigorously? Do you think the ERA should become an amendment to the U.S. Constitution? Why or why not?

Looping Question: What African American choreographer's greatest work is based on the gospel music of his Texas childhood?

Texas Civil Rights Trailblazers #25

Lawrence Nixon

b. Marshall, Texas, 2/07/1884 d. El Paso, 3/06/1966
Active: 1924–1944

Biography / After a lynching in Cameron, Texas, where he was practicing medicine, Dr. Nixon moved to El Paso where his family might be safer. He organized a branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and voted in the primary and general elections regularly. In 1923 Texas passed a law preventing African Americans from voting in party primaries; the next time Nixon went to vote, he was told that only "Whites" could vote. Subsequently, he filed two separate suits, each of which went all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court and were won; however, both times the Democratic Party foiled the ruling. Dr. Nixon's cause was finally won in 1944 in the case of *Smith v. Allwright*.

Honors / An El Paso elementary school and a street are named for him; county commissioners placed a bronze bust of Dr. Nixon in the El Paso courthouse (2005); Texas Historical Commission placed a marker in Dr. Nixon's El Paso neighborhood (2006).

Question / Research "white primaries," then answer this question: Dr. Nixon could still vote in the general election; why was voting in the Democratic primary so important in Texas in Dr. Nixon's era? Write a paragraph explaining your answer.

Looping Question: Who led Dallas youths in desegregating lunch counters and theaters in the city?

Texas Civil Rights Trailblazers #28

Heman Marion Sweatt

b. Houston, 12/11/1912 d. Atlanta, 10/3/1982
Active: 1946–1975

Biography / As secretary of Houston's branch of the National Alliance of Postal Employees, Sweatt challenged the Postal Service's practice of excluding African Americans from supervisory positions. In 1946, with the support of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), he sought admission to the University of Texas School of Law but was rejected on the basis of race. His case, *Sweatt v. Painter*, stalled and failed in Texas courts but ultimately prevailed in the U.S. Supreme Court in 1950, opening the door to college admission for African Americans. Though he did not finish law school, he completed a degree in Social Work and worked for the NAACP and the Urban League.

Honors / *Dallas Express* "Texan of the Year" (1946); *Houston Informer's* "Texan of the Year" (1946); annual Heman Sweatt Symposium on Civil Rights held at UT–Austin; UT–Little campus renamed Heman Sweatt Campus.

Question / Read about Heman Sweatt. UT tried to offer him alternatives to entering its all-Euro American law school, but he rejected them. Write about Sweatt, his plans and hopes, and the alternatives UT offered him. Do you think he should have accepted any of the alternatives? Why or why not?

Looping Question: Who helped Galveston immigrants find homes and jobs in the first decades of the twentieth century?

Photo: Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division, reproduction number LC-USZ62-120702

Texas Civil Rights Trailblazers #27

George Isidoro Sánchez

b. Albuquerque, New Mexico, 10/04/1906
d. Austin, Texas, 4/05/1972
Active: 1931–1959

Biography / Dr. George I. Sánchez taught school and studied in Arizona, California, New Mexico, and Texas. He worked and conducted research in Mexico and Venezuela. His master's thesis at UT was among the first to question the standardized testing of Spanish-speaking children. When he began teaching at UT in 1940, he continued his efforts to overthrow standardized tests and segregation based on non-proficiency in English and other forms of discrimination. His investigation and expert witness testimony on two court cases—*Delgado v. Bastrop ISD* (1948) and *Hernandez v. Driscoll CISD* (1957)—finally ended segregation based on national origin or Spanish surname.

Honors / Schools and charter schools in Austin, Houston, and San Antonio named for him; George I. Sánchez Centennial Professorship in Liberal Arts at UT–Austin's College of Education.

Question / Find definitions for the terms "de jure" and "de facto." Read about one of the two court cases above. Was the segregation in this case "de jure" or "de facto"? Explain.

Looping Question: Whose efforts led to Texas women being able to buy property and start businesses?



While watching American figure skater Kristi Yamaguchi accept her Gold Medal during the 1992 Winter Olympics, as our National Anthem played, there was a station break. The commercial for (a restaurant) came on with the words “Jap Road” emblazoned across the TV screen and a voice loudly announcing its location, “Wa-ay down ‘Jap Road.’”

—Sandra Tanamachi



There were many times when I thought I might be lynched, but I never thought I would be a heroine.

—Emma Tenayuca



We may have eliminated the statutory provisions for detention camps, but we must always remember it takes eternal vigilance to improve democracy. We must struggle to eliminate the camps of fear, hate, racism and repression.

—Edison Uno



*Su voto es su voz.
(Your vote is your voice.)*

—Willie Velásquez



Texas Civil Rights Trailblazers #30

Emma Tenayuca

b. San Antonio, Texas, 12/21/1916
d. San Antonio, Texas, 7/23/1999
Active: 1932–1939

Biography / Emma Tenayuca began speaking and striking for better wages and working conditions in 1932 when she was still in high school. Popularly associated with the cigar workers and pecan shellers' strikes, she was a leader in the Workers Alliance, which supported the cause of both working and unemployed laborers in many trades, especially Hispanic American workers who were often illegally threatened with deportation. Her affiliation with the Communist Party began to hurt her favored causes, so she stepped out of leadership to work in the background. Blacklisted and unable to find work, she left San Antonio in 1939 and did not return until the late 1960s. By the 1990s, she was considered a heroine.

Honors / Included on National Women's History Month poster (1990); included in UT–Austin's *Great Texas Women* exhibition; Texas Civil Rights Projects gives the annual Emma Tenayuca Community Action Award.

Question / The decade of the 1930s is known as the Great Depression. What was depressed? How was life in America affected? Why do you think many labor movements began or were strengthened during the 1930s?

Looping Question: Whose efforts and lawsuit opened the door to college admission for African Americans in 1950?

Photo: San Antonio Light Collection; UTSA's Institute of Texan Cultures; #L-1662-C; Courtesy of the Hearst Corporation

Texas Civil Rights Trailblazers #29

Sandra Tanamachi

b. Harlingen, Texas, 1945 Living in Lake Jackson, Texas, 2009
Active: 1992–2004

Biography / When she moved to Beaumont, teacher Sandra Tanamachi was alarmed to come across "Jap Road." Even though four of her Japanese American uncles had served honorably in the U.S. military during World War II—one of them was killed in action—she was all too familiar with that racial slur. In 1992 she approached Jefferson County commissioners about changing the road's name, but they didn't see the need. Gathering help and support from others, including a letter-writing campaign, she asked again in 2004; this time, the commissioners agreed. Within months, the other three counties in Texas which had "Jap Roads" renamed them.

Honors / Bronze Good Citizenship Medal from the Cradle of Texas chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution, (2005); Edison Uno Civil Rights Award from the Japanese American Citizens League (2006); Japanese Foreign Minister's Commendation (2006).

Question / A controversy exists about the use of Native American names or mascots for sports teams such as the Washington Redskins or Chief Wahoo of the Cleveland Indians. Find the names or mascots of ten such sports teams. Do you think the teams should change their name or mascot? Why or why not?

Looping Question: Who filed two separate lawsuits in an attempt to do away with all-White primaries?

Photo: Nobuyuki Okada, Japanese American National Museum

Texas Civil Rights Trailblazers #32

William C. "Willie" Velásquez

b. Orlando, Florida, 5/9/1944 d. San Antonio, Texas, 6/15/1988
Active: 1966–1988

Biography / In 1967 Willie Velasquez helped found the Mexican American Youth Organization (MAYO) and served as statewide coordinator for La Raza Unida. As boycott coordinator for the United Farm Workers in 1968, he organized strikes in the Rio Grande Valley of Texas. In 1969 he helped found the Mexican American Unity Council and served as its first director. Envisioning a time when Latinos would play a role in the democratic process, he founded the Southwest Voter Registration Education Project in 1974, conducting registration drives in 200 cities and Indian reservations and, through the subsequent Southwest Voter Research Institute, polling and educating voters on the issues.

Honors / Awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom (President Clinton, 1995); Southwest Voter Registration Institute renamed the William C. Velásquez Institute (1997); William C. Velásquez Elementary School dedicated in Fort Bend County (2006).

Question / A 2007 U.S. Senate bill is named for Fannie Lou Hamer, Rosa Parks, Coretta Scott King, Barbara Jordan, César Chávez, and Willie Velásquez. What was the purpose of this bill? Write a sentence about each nominee explaining why he or she should be included in the bill's title.

Looping Question: Which artist's work depicts memories of her childhood in Kingsville?

Photo: San Antonio Light Collection; UTSA's Institute of Texan Cultures; #L-7055-C; Courtesy of the Hearst Corporation

Texas Civil Rights Trailblazers #31

Edison Uno

b. Los Angeles, 10/19/1929 d. San Francisco, 1976
Active: 1969–1976

Biography / From 1942 to 1946, Edison Uno's family was incarcerated at the Department of Justice run-camp in Crystal City, Texas, an experience that greatly influenced his life. As Assistant Dean of Students at the University of California, San Francisco, from 1969 to 1972, he led rallies to start the first Ethnic Studies department in the U.S. at San Francisco State University. He worked to reform the makeup of grand juries to include minority jurors and was the first Japanese American to serve on a San Francisco grand jury. In 1970 Uno introduced to the Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) a resolution requesting redress and monetary reparations for Japanese Americans incarcerated during World War II. When President Reagan signed the Civil Liberties Act of 1988, he was putting Uno's idea into law.

Honors / American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) Alexander Meiklejohn Award; San Francisco Bar Association's Liberty Bell Award; annual Edison Uno Memorial Civil Rights Award given by the JACL.

Question / Learn about the camp at Crystal City. Write a one-page essay about the Crystal City Department of Justice Camp. How do you think being incarcerated there as a teenager would affect your life?

Looping Question: Who helped pass the Nineteenth Amendment (women's suffrage) in the Western states?

Photo: Nancy Araki, Japanese American National Museum