



African-American history is 365 American history. We are the fiber of America. We are Americans. We may have been transported on slave ships, but as Americans we are all in this boat together. Regardless of race, color, or creed, we must all work together to help generate a more perfect Union. Sharing African-American history should serve as a reminder of the rich history of the American story.



- FREDDA MADDOX, CHESTER COUNTY SHERIFF



My greatest inspiration is Shirley Chisholm. Ms. Chisholm and I have lots of things in common: We were both born in Brooklyn, NY to immigrant parents from the Caribbean. Like Ms. Chisholm's, my parents stressed the importance of education and worked hard to ensure that my siblings and I were afforded one. Largely due to the humble upbringing by Caribbean parents, like Ms. Chisholm, I became very active in my community and became an advocate for the marginalized. After a court mandated reapportionment plan, which led to the redistricting of Ms. Chisholm's district, she was afforded the opportunity to become the first African-American woman to be elected to New York's 12th Congressional District. Due to the redistricting in Chester County, Democrats were now afforded the opportunity to win elections. This increased my chances to win and become the first African-American woman to be elected as a County Row Officer.

> - DEBBIE BOOKMAN, CHESTER COUNTY PROTHONOTARY





am celebrating Black History Month first through prayer of God's mercy in allowing me to see the history of black America and reflecting on its good and bad. And also being part of a new experience/event that will take place on February 15th in the City of Coatesville at City Hall. On that day, the City's Parks & Rec Commission will host a FREE pancake breakfast and book/poetry reading from African-American authors, leaders, and artists. We hope to see our community youth and adults come out to celebrate BHM. Sharing these readings are not only important to American culture, but equally important to our youth that are not frequently exposed to some great African-American literature and history, be it at school or home. Maya Angelou said it beautifully, 'I have great respect for the past. If you don't know where you've come from, you don't know where you're going."

> - JAMES LOGAN, ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER, COATESVILLE



What five adjectives would you use to describe your ancestors or your heritage?

