

Jeannette E. South-Paul, M.D.

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Dr. Jeannette E. South-Paul's strong desire to help others began early in life. She grew up in Philadelphia, where her family lived above and ran The Helping Hand Mission. She spent much of her youth helping her mother and father care for the inner-city homeless population.

"As immigrants from Jamaica, my parents were committed to public service. We were determined to give back to our community. We felt it was our duty to help those who had nothing," she said.

Spending time with individuals who were homeless encouraged South-Paul to pursue a career in health care. She wanted to help break down the barriers that less fortunate people often deal with when it comes to health care access.

"The conditions facing individuals who were homeless were heartbreaking. They were good people who just needed some care," said South-Paul.

By joining the military, South-Paul was able to earn her medical degree and develop leadership skills. During and after her 22 years of service as an Army physician, she served as a teacher and mentor to medical students. Through Mobile Medical Care, Inc. in Maryland, she developed a military medical student rotation for individuals who are uninsured. She also continues to serve her Pennsylvania community at the Ninth Street Clinic in McKeesport, Pennsylvania. Both programs provide low-income individuals with the medical treatment they need.

"To me, these programs are a way of giving back. You don't negotiate this world by yourself – every one of us needs someone," said South-Paul.



1964 NURSE

1964
Margaret E. Bailey, Army Nurse Corps, becomes the first African American nurse to be promoted to lieutenant colonel.



1967
Benjamin Lawson Hooks, retired Army staff sergeant, becomes the first African American criminal court judge in Tennessee since Reconstruction. He goes on to serve for 15 years as executive director of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP).

JUNE 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 1968: Henry Lewis becomes first black musical director of an American symphony orchestra — New Jersey Symphony.	2 1971: Samuel L. Gravelly Jr. becomes first African American admiral in U.S. Navy.	3 2008: Senator Barack Obama wins Democratic presidential nomination, becoming the first African American nominee of a major U.S. political party.	4 1967: Bill Cosby receives an Emmy Award for his work in the television series <i>I Spy</i> .	5 1987: Dr. Mae C. Jemison becomes first African American woman astronaut.
6 1831: First annual People of Color convention held in Philadelphia.	7 1917: Poetess Gwendolyn Brooks, first black to win the Pulitzer Prize (poetry, 1950), born.	8 1953: Supreme Court ruling bans discrimination in Washington, D.C., restaurants.	9 1995: Lincoln J. Ragsdale, pioneer fighter pilot of World War II, dies.	10 1854: James Augustine Healy, first black Roman Catholic bishop, ordained a priest in Notre Dame Cathedral.	11 1964: Nelson Mandela sentenced to life imprisonment by South African government.	12 1963: Medgar W. Evers, civil rights leader, assassinated in Jackson, Mississippi.
13 1967: Thurgood Marshall nominated to Supreme Court by President Lyndon Johnson.	14 1864: Congress rules equal pay for all soldiers. Flag Day	15 1913: Dr. Effie O'Neal Ellis, first black woman to hold an executive position in the American Medical Association, born.	16 1970: Kenneth A. Gibson elected mayor of Newark, New Jersey, first African American mayor of a major Eastern city.	17 1775: Minuteman Peter Salem fights in the Battle of Bunker Hill.	18 1942: Harvard University medical student Bernard Whitfield Robinson commissioned as the Navy's first black officer.	19 1865: Blacks in Texas are notified of Emancipation Proclamation, issued in 1863. Juneteenth
20 1953: Albert W. Dent of Dillard University elected president of the National Health Council. Father's Day	21 1945: Col. Benjamin O. Davis Jr. becomes first black to command an Army Air Corps base.	22 1897: William Barry patents postmarking and cancelling machine.	23 1940: Sprinter Wilma Rudolph, winner of three gold medals at 1960 Summer Olympics, born.	24 1964: Carl T. Rowan appointed director of the United States Information Agency.	25 2009: Michael Jackson, musician and entertainer, dies.	26 1975: Dr. Samuel Blanton Rosser becomes first African American certified in pediatric surgery.
27 1991: Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall announces his retirement.	28 1911: Samuel J. Battle becomes first black policeman in New York City.	29 2006: Lloyd Richards, theater pioneer and Tony award winner for direction of <i>Fences</i> , dies on his 87th birthday.	30 1921: Charles S. Gilpin awarded Spingarn Medal for his performance in Eugene O'Neill's <i>Emperor Jones</i> .			