

# Famous Figures of Virginia in the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> Centuries

There were many contributions made to Virginia by people in the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries. These contributions brought about political, social, and/or economic changes that helped improve life for all Americans.

**Maggie L. Walker** was the first African American woman to establish and become a bank president in the United States.

**Harry F. Byrd, Sr.**, as governor of Virginia, was known for a "Pay As You Go" policy, which would improve Virginia's roads. He also modernized Virginia's state government, making the government do a better job at accomplishing tasks, but using less money to do it. Unfortunately, Byrd is also known for leading a Massive Resistance Movement against the desegregation of public schools.

**Oliver W. Hill, Sr.**, was a lawyer and civil rights leader who worked for equal rights of African Americans. He played a key role in the *Brown vs. Board of Education* decision.

**Arthur R. Ashe** was the first African American winner of a major men's tennis singles championship. He was also an author and eloquent spokesperson for social change.

**A. Linwood Holton, Jr.**, as governor of Virginia, promoted racial equality, and appointed more African Americans and women to positions in state government than previous governors.

**L. Douglas Wilder**, as governor of Virginia, was the first African American to be elected a state governor in the United States.