Black History Month: Charles Drew

By: Jessica Cox, Jocelyn Flores, and Charles LaPradd
Our famous African American figure is Charles Richard Drew. Charles Drew was a doctor, a surgeon, and a medical researcher. Our group choose Charles Drew because being a surgeon, a medical researcher, AND a physician sounds like a handful and we really wanted to learn how he managed to handle all of those careers at the same time.
Biography:

Charles Richard Drew was born June 3, 1904 in Washington D.C. As he got older he went to Amherst college in Massachusetts. He had skills for track and football in college as well. After four years in sports Charles then taught biology and served as a coach for Morgan state college at Baltimore before going to McGill university in Montreal. He also received his MD (or his doctor of medicine) degree in 1933.
Continued Biography

Charles Drew broke walls (a metaphor not literally) during a time when the country was racially divided to become one of the most important scientists of the 20th century. His research and developments for blood storage during World War II did not only save hundreds of thousands of lives, but also advanced the nation’s knowledge in blood plasma as well. In 1938, while earning a diploma at Columbia University, Drew won a fellowship to train at Presbyterian Hospital in New York with a respected surgeon Allen Whipple. Whipple assigned Drew to work with John Scudder, who was granted funding to set up an experimental blood bank.
Charles Drew lived in Washington D.C. His greatest impact was in New York where he and other doctors worked to store blood plasma. Thanks to him and other scientists, we now have knowledge to blood preservation, and for that we thank you Dr. Charles R. Drew.
Our Timeline!

• 1904--Born June 3 in Washington, DC to Richard and Nora Drew
• 1922--Graduated from Dunbar High School, Washington, DC
• 1926--Received AB from Amherst College, Amherst, Massachusetts
• 1926-28--Athletic Director and Instructor in Biology and Chemistry at Morgan College, Baltimore, Maryland
• 1933--Received MD and Master of Surgery from McGill University Faculty of Medicine, Montréal, Canada
• 1933-35--Internship and residency at Montréal General Hospital
• 1935-36--Instructor in Pathology at Howard University School of Medicine, Washington, DC
• 1936-37--Assistant instructor in Surgery at Howard University and surgical resident at Freedmen's Hospital
• 1937-38--Instructor in Surgery at Howard University and Assistant Surgeon at Freedmen's Hospital
• 1938-40--Graduate work at Columbia University and surgical resident at Presbyterian Hospital, New York
• 1939--Married Minnie Lenore Robbins on September 23; they had three daughters (Bebe, Charlene, and Rhea) and a son (Charles Jr.)
Continued Timeline:

- 1940 --Received Doctorate in Medical Science from Columbia University for research and dissertation on blood banking; returned to Howard University School of Medicine as assistant professor of surgery and surgeon at Freedmen's Hospital (June)
- September 1940-January 1941 --Medical supervisor for the Blood for Britain project organized by the Blood Transfusion Betterment Association in New York
- February 1941 --Appointed Assistant Director of the first American Red Cross Blood Bank (Presbyterian Hospital, New York) and Assistant Director of Blood Procurement for the National Research Council, in charge of blood for use by the U.S. Army and Navy
- April 1941 --Certified a diplomate of the American Board of Surgery, returned to Howard University School of Medicine
- October 1941 --Appointed professor and Head of the Department of Surgery at Howard University, and chief surgeon at Freedmen's Hospital, certified as an examiner for the American Board of Surgery
- 1944-46 --Chief of Staff, Freedmen's Hospital
- 1944 --Received the NAACP's Spingarn Medal for work on the British and American blood plasma projects
- 1946 --Elected fellow of International College of Surgeons
- 1946-48 --Medical Director, Freedmen's Hospital
- 1949 --Consultant to U.S. Army Surgeon General's Office, part of a team to assess health care in post-war Europe
- 1950 --Died April 1 of injuries received in car accident near Burlington, North Carolina
THE END!!!!