

# Profiles

February is Black History Month



## Herbert J. Babineaux, Jr.

**Time at JSC:**

14 years

**Organization:**

Office of the Chief Information Officer

**Position title:**

Computer Engineer, AST

**Education:**

Bachelor's of Science in Computer Science, Louisiana State University

**Place of birth:**

Arnaudville, Louisiana

**What does Black History Month mean to you?**

Having grown up in the Deep South during the 60s and 70s, I have seen firsthand the devastation resulting from the practice of racial discrimination. Although having experienced such discrimination in my life, I know that my personal experiences were mild compared to those of my predecessors. As I learn about the accomplishments of such individuals as Booker T. Washington, George Washington Carver, Jesse Owens, Martin Luther King, Jr. and Barbara Jordan, I am struck with awe.

Although born into slavery, Booker T. Washington became America's premiere black educator promoting the notion that education should be used as the primary tool to help blacks overcome their economic poverty and gain their equality in the U.S. Also born a slave, George Washington Carver's scientific work (agronomy and chemistry) on the sweet potato and peanuts allowed the South to loosen its dependence on cotton as a cash crop. Jesse Owens, gold medalist at the 1936 Berlin Olympics, shattered Hitler's attempt to use the games as a showcase of the athletic prowess of the so-called Aryan race. Civil Rights Leader Martin Luther King, Jr. showed the world courage by laying down his life to support a cause that he so deeply believed in. The wit and wisdom of Barbara Jordan earned her the reputation of being one of the greatest orators of modern time.

Black History Month is an opportunity for me to reflect on my own life and accomplishments. By learning how those who have come before me were able to overcome great adversity and achieve success, I am motivated to apply these same principles to my own life and profession. The lessons learned from these great people are for everyone, regardless of race.

**Favorite words of wisdom:**

Blessed is the man who finds wisdom, the man who gains understanding, for he is more profitable than silver and yields better returns than gold.

(NIV Bible, Proverbs 3:13, 14)

## Sharon R. Evans

**Time at JSC:** 15 years**Organization:** Human Resources, Education & Student Programs Branch**Position title:** Student Programs Specialist**Education:** Sterling High School, some courses taken at San Jac College**Place of birth:** Houston, Texas**What does Black History Month mean to you?**

Black History Month is a time where I can reflect on all the great things that have been accomplished by African-Americans.

**Favorite words of wisdom?**

Be strong. "He" doesn't give you no more than you can handle.



## Andrea Renee Falls

**Time at JSC:** 18 Years**Organization:** BJ3/COD Procurement**Position title:** Contract Specialist**Education:** Business Management Degree, University of Houston-Clear Lake**Place of birth:** Rayne, Louisiana**What does Black History Month mean to you?**

Black history to me means being blessed to have a great and wonderful multicultural life, opportunities of an education and career, community service and being an AMERICAN. From God's grace and mercy my ancestors riding on the back of a bus to me being able to ride anywhere on a bus, drive a bus or even own a bus. The bottom line is without Black History there wouldn't be a ME.

**Favorite words of wisdom?**

Faith equals opportunities to infinity plus 2 square.



## Rodney L. Lofton

**Time at JSC:** 23 years**Organization:** ISS Program Office, Space Station Payloads Office**Position title:** Increment Payload Manager**Education:** Bachelor's of Science in Mechanical Engineering, Brown University, 1977; Master's of Aerospace Engineering, Cornell University, 1979**Place of birth:** New Bern, North Carolina**What does Black History Month mean to you?**

Recognition and celebration of the positive accomplishments of African-Americans have made to this country and the world as a whole.

**Favorite words of wisdom?**

Always be conscious of your actions and deeds, for they may indeed have an effect on lives of others that may not be readily apparent to you.



## Janice K. Hall

**Time at JSC:** 14 years**Organization:** Office of the Comptroller (Org LA)**Position title:** Program Analyst - Space Shuttle Program**Education:** University of Houston (Main Campus), Bachelor's of Science, Mathematics.**Place of birth:** Galveston, Texas**What does Black History Month mean to you?**

That a wonderful legacy was established, through blood, sweat and tears, that I am able to enhance.

**Favorite words of wisdom?**

Seek ye first the kingdom of God. Also: If it is to be, it's up to me.



## SPACE CENTER Roundup

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