

Civil War April 12, 1861-April 9, 1865

Black Civil War Soldiers

- "Once let the black man get upon his person the brass letter, US, let him get an eagle on his button, and a musket on his shoulder and bullets in his pocket, there is no power on earth that can deny that he has earned the right to citizenship."
- Federal law dating from 1792 barred Negroes from bearing arms for the US army.
- Black soldiers had fought in the Revolutionary War and unofficially in the [War of 1812](#),
- April 12, 1861, The Civil War begins.
- Massachusetts 54th regiment of African American troops led by Colonel Robert Gould Shaw (1837 – 1863) marches out of Boston on May 28, heading into combat.
- April 16, 1862, Congress abolishes slavery in the District of Columbia.
- September 22, 1862, Abraham Lincoln issues Emancipation Proclamation, freeing the slaves in the territory then in active rebellion against the government.
- Sixteen Black soldiers won the Congressional Medal of honor for their brave service in the Civil War.
- January 1, 1863, Emancipation Proclamation goes into effect.
- May 21 - July 9, 1863, Eight African American regiments take part in the Battle of Port Hudson.
- May 22 , 1863, War Department General Order 143 establishes the United States Colored Troops.
- July 1, 1863, First Kansas Colored Volunteers fight in the Battle of Cabin Creek.
- July 18, 1863, 54th Massachusetts assaults Fort Wagner near Charleston, South Carolina; Sgt. William Carney becomes the first African American to receive the Medal of Honor.
- December - Robert Smalls, a former slave from Charleston, becomes the first and only African American to be commissioned a captain in the US Navy during the Civil War.
- April 12, 1864, Fort Pillow massacre in western Tennessee.
- June 15, 1865, Congress passes a bill authorizing equal pay, equipment, arms, and healthcare for African American troops.
- September 29 ,1865-Battle of Chaffin's Farm, Virginia. Fourteen U.S.C.T. earn the Medal of Honor.
- February 1, 1865, Abraham Lincoln signs the 13th Amendment, abolishing slavery throughout the United States.
- June 19, 1865, Enslaved African Americans in Texas are the last to learn of their emancipation. The day is celebrated thereafter as 'Juneteenth.

