



Honorable Colin Luther Powell

DOB: April 5, 1937

Contributions: The son of Jamaican immigrants, General Colin L. Powell, USA (Ret) was born in Harlem and was raised in the South Bronx. He has devoted more than 50 years of his life to public service, serving 35 years in the US Army, and rising to the rank of Four-Star General.

Why is Colin Powell an important figure in Black History?

Colin L. Powell was appointed Secretary of State by George W. Bush on January 20, 2001, after being unanimously confirmed

by the U.S. Senate. He was the first African American to serve as Secretary of State. At the time, it was also the highest rank ever held by an African American in the United States government. He served for four years, leaving the position on January 26, 2005. In 1989 he was the first black chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and at 52, the youngest officer to serve in this position.

Among the many U.S. Military awards and decorations Powell has received are the Defense Distinguished Service Medal (with 3 Oak Leaf Clusters), the Army Distinguished Service Medal (with Oak Leaf Cluster), Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit (with Oak Leaf Cluster), Soldier's Medal, Bronze Star Medal and the Purple Heart. He is also honored with a bronze statue at the Buffalo Soldier Memorial Park in Kansas.

Where is Colin Powell today?

It's no surprise Colin Powell is a much sought-after speaker. In addition to his speaking engagements, he is the chair of the Board of Visitors of the Colin Powell School for Civic and Global Leadership at his alma mater, the City College of New York (CCNY). He is the Founder and Chairman Emeritus of the America's Promise Alliance, dedicated to forging a strong and effective partnership alliance committed to seeing that children have the fundamental resources they need to succeed.

Powell is a strategic adviser at Kleiner Perkins Caufield & Byers, the renowned Silicon Valley venture capital firm. He serves on the Board of Directors of Bloom Energy, an alternative energy company that provides unique on-site power generation systems utilizing an innovative new fuel cell technology. In March 2014, he joined the Board of Directors of Salesforce.com, the world's largest provider of Cloud based customer relationship management software.

Recommended reading on Colin

Powell: https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/573932.A_Soldier_s_Way