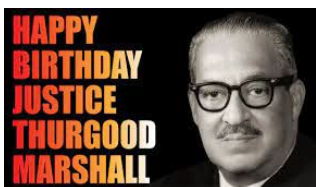


# NJDMAVA Office of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging



Not only do we celebrate America's birthday in July, the month also brings us the birthdays of so many important individuals in history that we thought we should highlight just a few of them here!



## Thurgood Marshall 02 July

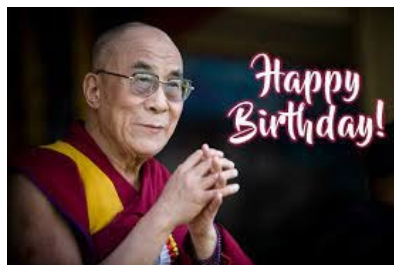
Thurgood Marshall was the nation's first African American Supreme Court Justice – appointed by President Lyndon B. Johnson in 1967.

In addition to being a justice, Marshall was also a well-known civil rights attorney and activist. He led the NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund and played a critical role in the ending of racial segregation in 1954 with the *Brown v. Board of Ed.* decision, which rejected the “separate but equal” doctrine.

This year, we celebrate his birthday with the first African American female Supreme Court Justice, Ketanji Brown Jackson.

## Dalai Lama 06 July

Happy 88<sup>th</sup> birthday to the 14<sup>th</sup> Dalai Lama, the most famous Buddhist teacher in the world. The term “Dalai Lama” is given to the spiritual leader of the Gelug school of Tibetan Buddhism. The Dalai Lama dedicates his life to serving people and is widely respected for his commitment to both nonviolence and Tibetan freedom. He was awarded the 1989 peace prize for advocating for solutions based on tolerance and mutual respect. In 2006, he was awarded the US Congressional Gold Medal. Despite being exiled from Tibet, he has continually sought to preserve the historical and cultural heritage of his people.



## Frida Kahlo 06 July

Frida Kahlo, a female Mexican artist, is one of the most recognizable painters of the 20th century. In particular she is known for her many portraits, self-portraits, and works inspired by the nature and artifacts of Mexico.



## Amelia Earhart 24 July

Amelia Earhart was an American aviation pioneer and writer who was the first female aviator to fly solo across the Atlantic Ocean. She was one of the first aviators to promote commercial air travel and was instrumental in the formation of The Ninety-Nines, an organization for female pilots. Earhart was inducted into the National Aviation Hall of Fame in 1968, the National Women's Hall of Fame in 1973, and she is ranked 9th on Flying's list of the 51 Heroes of Aviation.



## Nelson Mandela 18 July

On this day, we celebrate the birth of the South African civil rights leader. The Father of South Africa was born in 1918 and won the Nobel Prize for Peace in 1993. He then served as the country's first Black president from 1994 to 1999, leading the country's transition from apartheid to multiracial democracy. Mandela demonstrated that all people can make a positive impact on the world through small acts of kindness.