

# Black History is American History



**RUBY NELL BRIDGES HALL** is an American Hero. She was only six-years-old when she became the first African American child to desegregate William Frantz Elementary School. Greeted by an angry mob and escorted by federal marshals, Ruby bravely crossed the threshold of this school and into history single-handedly initiating the desegregation of New Orleans' public schools. At six years old, Ruby's bravery helped pave the way for Civil Rights action in the American South. This escort continued all year. Despite the racial slurs, screaming crowds, and only having one teacher willing to accept her, Ruby did not miss a day of school.

*"Don't follow the path. Go where there is no path and begin the trail. When you start a new trail equipped with courage, strength and conviction, the only thing that can stop you is you!"*



**THE LITTLE ROCK NINE** were a group of nine Black students who enrolled at formerly all-white Central High School in Little Rock, Arkansas, in September 1957.

Under the glare of an angry mob of white students and parents, media cameras, the obstruction by 1,200 armed National Guardsmen, and pro-segregationist governor Orval Faubus, the Little Rock Nine made their way to Central High. The students were: Minnijean Brown, Ernest Green, Thelma Mothershed, Gloria Ray, Melba Pattillo, Terrence Roberts, Jefferson Thomas, Carlotta Walls and Elizabeth Eckford. President Dwight D. Eisenhower sent in federal troops and federalized the National Guard and ordered them to escort and protect the Little Rock Nine rather than obstruct the students from attending school.

*"If Little Rock taught us nothing more, it taught us that problems can make us better. Much better."*  
Jefferson Thomas

## *Trivia Quiz (answers not found above)*

1. Thomas Edison is accredited with creating the electric light bulb; but I am accredited with creating longer-lasting light bulbs with a carbon filament:  
a. James E West      b. Martin Dean      c. Lewis Latimore      d. Garrett Morris
2. I improved the design of the ironing board and became one of the first black woman to receive a US Patent...  
a. Madame CJ Walker      b. Sarah Boone      c. Barbara Jordan      d. Mary Van Brittan Brown
3. I led a team in the development of the first gigahertz processor chip and worked on producing the color PC monitor...  
a. Lewis Latimore      b. Frederick M. Jones      c. Martin Dean      d. Alexander Miles

Answers: 1. c, 2.b, 3. c