

# Black History Month

## Ruby bridges

Ruby bridges is an American civil rights activist. At the age of six, she was the first African American child who attended the all-white public at William Franz Elementary school. She was born on the 8<sup>th</sup> of September 1954 in Tylertown, Mississippi, united states. When she was a young child, she enjoyed playing jump rope, softball and climbing trees. In 1960, when she was six years old, her parents responded to a request from the National Association for the advancement of coloured people and volunteered her to participate in the integration of the New Orleans school system, even though her father was hesitant.

At school ruby faced racism every day at school. Many parents stopped their children from going to school. Police had to set up a barricade to stop objects being thrown at ruby outside the school. She was threatened and even "greeted" by a woman displaying a black doll in a wooden coffin. Barbara Henry was the only teacher that agreed to teach her. Ruby was the only student in Barbara Henry's class because all the other parents had pulled their children out of the school. She was not allowed to go to the cafeteria or outside for recess with the other students. Ruby's family faced discrimination outside of the school as well. However, as the year went on, many families began to send their children back to school and the protests and civil disturbances stopped. During Ruby's second year at William Frantz Elementary, she no longer needed to be escorted by federal marshals. She walked to school on her own and was in a classroom with other students. Ruby had paved the way for other African American children.