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*standout .*

*symbolic .*

*insightful .*

*events of remembrance .*



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I love groundbreaking history whether momentous, wacky, or playing with fire! For those who yearn to learn or vow not to forget...

Week 1 April 🌐

◆ April 5, 1856 Birthday - Booker T. Washington, born a slave and later freed and self-educated, became the principal of a "training school" for African Americans. July 4, 1881, this vocational school, called the Tuskegee Institute in Alabama, consisted of 30 adult students in a one-room shack. Almost a century and a half later, five academic programs developed in nursing, engineering, arts and sciences, and more.

Today, renamed Tuskegee University, Bachelor's, Master's, and PhD degrees are offered. What a difference one man made for African Americans!

◆ April 2, 1978 - TV's "Dallas" debuted as a miniseries on the CBS network. The first nighttime soap series, based at the Southfork-named ranch, was not expected to hit. But surprise: it governed a 13-year run. Lead characters painted magazine covers, Friday nights were never the same, and Dallas parties thrived. The Ewing family leads, J.R., Pam, Bobby, Lucy, and the ever-unstable Sue-Ellen never failed to shock their worshippers.

Dallas-mania continued all the way to, "Who shot J.R.?" And, THAT was entertainment!

◆ April 6 Birthday—Merle Haggard, California-born, famed musician, songwriter, and country singer. Haggard was a self-taught guitarist and a young teen whose best friend was trouble after his father's sudden death. He was arrested for petty crimes and enjoyed juvenile detention facilities several times. Haggard escaped from most of them. Apparently, his first talent!

Haggard was discovered in a local bar and began night gigs while an oil field hand during the days. Married and broke, he committed a robbery, was caught, and completed a sentence in San Quentin. Johnny Cash's concert at the prison pushed Haggard to a music career. After meeting death row inmate Caryl Chessman, Haggard was released, scared straight, and began performing in local bars. History began.

The 1960s & 70s magnified Haggard; by 1970 he was one of the most famous country artists in the world. If you didn't know Merle Haggard, his "Mama Tried" nailed it along with the unforgettable, "Okie From Muskogee." Collaborations followed along with numerous TV and documentary appearances. Haggard released 70 albums and wrote almost half of his songs. Collaborators included Willie Nelson and George Jones.

Haggard favored Fender guitars, endorsed them, and introduced a limited edition acoustic guitar in 2001 labeled Merle Haggard Signature Edition 000-28SMH.

Haggard passed away on his birthday, April 6, 2016, of complications from pneumonia after a lung cancer diagnosis.

His career awarded him numerous Grammys, CMAs, and Hall of Fame titles.

People say it takes a village. It takes a legend... Merle Haggard.

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Much more at: [https://lnkd.in/d\\_eM-7Tz](https://lnkd.in/d_eM-7Tz),  
<https://lnkd.in/dYGY7sBN>

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Was this fun?