

# CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH



As our nation continues to observe **Black History Month**, we'd like to take this opportunity to recognize Black history in both America and here at Rollins.

Black History Month is meant to **amplify** the contributions of Black Americans, **acknowledge** the challenges they have faced, **educate** against negative stereotypes and racism, and **include** Black history as part of the American history we learn today.

We've been working with our team members at the Rollins Heritage Center to gather notable Black history milestones at Rollins. Below are a few highlights from our past:

- In 1968, a defining year for civil rights, Rollins Today recognized a number of Black employees in top managerial roles at WBEE radio station, including **Bill Manney**, WBEE General Manager, and **Vince J. Sanders**, News Director.
- **Jesse Owens**, the famous track and field Olympian, was a sportscaster for Rollins Broadcasting's Chicago station WBEE. He also published an article on the 1968 Olympics for Rollins Today!
- In 1969, Rollins Broadcasting's WNJR Radio Station in New York City led the way to collect petition signatures in support of a national bill declaring **Martin Luther King Jr.**'s birthday a national holiday.
- In 1969, **Philip Mitchell** was one of the top salesmen at the Piedmont Atlanta branch. He created the most leads in termite services sales and was given a prize check



*Former Olympic Track and Field star, Jesse Owens.*

along with company-wide recognition.



*Philip Mitchell, pictured left, a top salesmen in Orkin's Piedmont Branch 1969*

- **Mark Moss** became Director of National Chain Accounts in 1970. Prior to that, he was promoted to Branch Supervisor in 1968 and Staff Assistant at the Home Office in 1969. He joined Orkin in 1964 as a Pest Control Salesman
- **Jasper Washington** was named Rollins Services Supervisor in 1972. He started with

the company as a porter and worked his way up by taking advantage of various Rollins training programs.

- Dvoskin Wallpaper, a company previously owned by Rollins, awarded the Harry Dvoskin Award to **Martin Luther King Sr.** in 1973. The award was given to the clergyman of the year. Rollins Today highlighted this achievement in an article published in March 1973.



*Harry Dvoskin presenting Martin Luther King Sr. with the Clergyman of the Year award.*

- Today, Rollins has its first African American, and female-led specialty brand, *MissQuito*, which launched in December 2020. It is being led by Natasha Oldham, who has been with Rollins almost eight years. She began as an HR Specialist with Trutech and later served as HR Leader over Trutech, Critter Control and IFC. *MissQuito* will begin servicing customers in March 2021.



*Natasha Oldham, General Manager, at MissQuito.*

Black history is meant to be recognized anytime of the year, not just this month. You can continue supporting Black culture by shopping Black businesses, visiting a Black history or civil rights museum in your area, or studying the African Diaspora, to name a few options.

If you have a personal story or a moment of Rollins history you'd like to share as we honor Black achievement, please submit to [internalcommunications@rollins.com](mailto:internalcommunications@rollins.com). We look forward to highlighting each of our unique, diverse employees throughout the year.