

# PROW

Parkland

Information and stories for Parkland employees  
Feb. 16 – Feb. 22, 2026



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## Recognizing African American healthcare pioneers

2026 marks the 100th anniversary of nationally organized Black history commemorations, a legacy rooted in the work of Dr. Carter G. Woodson and the founders of the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History (ASNLH). When Carter G. Woodson established Negro History Week in 1926, he realized the importance of providing a theme to focus public attention.

Parkland is proud to celebrate the achievements and history of African Americans as part of Black History Month. African American nurses, physicians and researchers have made vital contributions to the advancement of healthcare throughout history, and we are proud to celebrate those who have helped advance our industry to where it is today.

### **Lonnie Bristow, MD**

Growing up in Harlem, Dr. Bristow was introduced to the world of medicine through his visits to Sydenham Hospital, where his mother worked as a nurse. This early exposure to a diverse medical environment ignited his passion for healthcare, leading him to pursue advanced education at Morehouse College, City College of New York and ultimately, a medical degree from New York University College of Medicine in 1957. Dr. Bristow's journey from the vibrant streets of Harlem to the halls of academia set the stage for a distinguished career in medicine.

In the early 1960s, after completing his residency, Dr. Bristow established his practice in the Bay Area, specializing in internal and occupational medicine. His commitment to diversity and equitable healthcare access propelled him to significant leadership roles, culminating in his historic election as the first Black president of the American Medical Association (AMA) for the 1995–1996 term. Dr. Bristow's presidency represented a milestone in the AMA's history, reflecting the organization's evolving stance on racial inclusivity since opening its membership to Black doctors in 1968.



### **Alexa Irene Canady, MD**

Despite facing a significant crisis of confidence during her college years, Dr. Canady's perseverance led her to become the first African American woman neurosurgeon in the United States in 1981. Her remarkable career trajectory continued as she ascended to the role of chief of neurosurgery at Children's Hospital of Michigan, where she made significant contributions to pediatric neurosurgery.

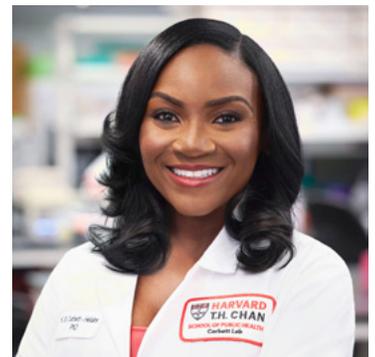
Intending to retire to Florida in 2001, Dr. Canady's dedication to medicine drew her back into the operating room. She responded to the urgent need for pediatric neurosurgery services in Pensacola by joining Sacred Heart Hospital on a part-time basis, demonstrating her unwavering commitment to her patients and her profession.



### **Kizzmekia Corbett-Helaire, PhD**

In early 2020, as a novel coronavirus began its rapid spread, Dr. Corbett was ideally positioned at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to spearhead a response. With five years of research on coronaviruses under her belt, the North Carolina native and senior research fellow at the NIH's Vaccine Research Center wasted no time. Within hours of the virus's genetic sequence being published in January, Dr. Corbett and her team had crafted a blueprint for a vaccine, setting the stage for an unprecedentedly swift development process.

By collaborating with Moderna, Dr. Corbett's innovative work led to one of the first COVID-19 vaccines, receiving emergency authorization from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration in December 2020. This milestone marked a historic achievement in vaccine development, contributing significantly to global vaccination efforts. Recognizing her pivotal role in combating the pandemic, Dr. Corbett was subsequently invited by the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health to lead her own research lab, focusing on pandemic preparedness and the pursuit of universal vaccines.



Source: <https://healthaxis.com/celebrating-excellence-10-african-american-pioneers-in-healthcare/>

## ► Join the HRO Learning Series session on Feb. 17

Please join us for the HRO Learning Series. The next session will take place at noon on Tuesday, Feb. 17. Join using the WebEx information:

- **Join WebEx**
- **Meeting number (access code):** 2309 021 8492
- **Meeting password:** vGVwpVMY334 (84897869 when dialing from a phone or video system)

To ensure you do not miss an event, register for the webinar series by clicking [here](#). If you're unable to attend, a recording will be posted to the [HRO website](#) under the HRO Learning Series icon. Email any questions or concerns to [QualitySafetyOperations@phhs.org](mailto:QualitySafetyOperations@phhs.org).

## ▼ Lasting Impressions: Ajara Turay



Each week, "Lasting Impressions" features a Parkland employee who does exceptional work and provides excellent customer service. This week's "Lasting Impressions" features Ajara Turay, Senior Registered Nurse – Oncology, Infusion Therapy.

*"Ajara is a wonderful example of positivity within our team, bringing infectious joy every day as she dances her way to her work area. Her positive energy creates an environment where people feel supported, valued and cared for. She believes deeply in sharing her energy to uplift others, whether it's through her interactions with patients or her collaborations with team members. Every holiday, she goes above and beyond by decorating herself for the patients. She dresses in festive attire every holiday, making sure the patients feel special and part of the festivities. This small yet meaningful gesture brings joy to many and helps create a comforting atmosphere for those who may not have the strength or the means to celebrate at home. Thank you, Ajara, for always doing the most for your team and the patients. It is greatly appreciated."*



Want to nominate an employee who goes above and beyond? Tell us what makes them so fantastic by emailing [Employees@phhs.org](mailto:Employees@phhs.org) or calling ext. 28048.

## Ramadan observance begins Feb. 17

The observation of Ramadan, a one-month period during which Muslims around the world commemorate the Prophet Muhammad's receipt of the Qur'an, begins at sundown this Tuesday evening, Feb. 17. During the time between Tuesday evening and the evening of Thursday, March 19, Muslims will fast from dawn to dusk each day. This time of fasting is meant to offer Muslims time to engage in intentional spiritual reflection and is often accompanied by giving up behaviors that run counter to living a life of integrity.

During this time, the Spiritual Care office will offer bags containing Ajwa dates and zamzam water to our Muslim colleagues and guests as part of breaking their fast. We encourage anyone celebrating this practice to visit the office during Ramadan for these items.

## Celebrate Black History Month with the VOICES ERG

Join us in honoring the rich heritage and vibrant contributions of the Black community through a series of dynamic events led by the VOICES Employee Resource Group (ERG).

- At noon on Thursday, Feb. 26, VOICES will present "Reflections on African American History: Understanding the Present and Shaping the Future." Robert Edison, Treasurer of the DFW Chapter of ASALH, will deliver a thought-provoking discussion on the meaning of Black History Month, illuminating the visionary work of Carter G. Woodson and highlighting the essential contributions of African American inventors to healthcare. Furthermore, Mr. Edison will address why striving for health equity remains critical in today's healthcare landscape. You can attend in person in the MacGregor W. Day Auditorium, or via WebEx by [clicking here](#).
- In collaboration with Nutrition Services, VOICES is also thrilled to introduce an exclusive Black History Month menu showcasing a delicious array of culturally inspired dishes. This special menu will be available in the Parkland cafeteria on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays, Feb. 2-25.
- Additionally, don't miss our food trucks that are onsite Thursdays and Fridays for the month of February, where you can savor an array of food from local Black-owned food trucks.

At its core, Black History Month strengthens our collective understanding by reminding us that Black history is not separate from American history; it is an essential part of it. Let's come together throughout the month of February to celebrate, honor and embrace the richness of Black history and culture.

## ► Help celebrate Lunar New Year on Feb. 18

Parkland's Healthcare Alliance of Asian Pacific Islanders Employee Resource Group (HA-API ERG) invites you to join them in observing the Lunar New Year from noon to 1 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 18, outside of Park Market. Lunar New Year is a significant celebration across various Asian cultures, marking the start of the lunar calendar and symbolizing prosperity and the importance of family. Traditions often include festive feasts, ancestral tributes and cultural performances.

## Self-Enhancement Workshops in February

Join a FREE virtual workshop hosted by Self-Enhancement and Therapy Services (SETS) at the Employee Health Center, led by EHC clinical psychologists and licensed clinical social workers. [Sign up for a workshop here\\*](#) and you will receive an email with the WebEx link to join the session.

*\*Workshops have a limited number of spots available and are first come, first served. Once full, registration for that workshop will close. Sessions are NOT recorded.*

**The Power of Vulnerability – Building Calm Through Connection**  
Angela Hill, PsyD, ABPP | Noon – 1 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 17

**From Panic to Peace – How to Stop Panic Attacks in Their Tracks**  
Mark Dalal, PhD | Noon – 1 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 19

**Narrative Identity and Psychological Healing**  
Angela Hill, PsyD, ABPP | Noon – 1 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 24

**Engineer Your Joy – The Science of a Happier You**  
Angela Hill, PsyD, ABPP | 3 – 4 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 26



### ► Ash Wednesday Observance on Feb. 18

Parkland staff, physicians, patients and family members are invited to visit the Ron J. Anderson, MD Multifaith Chapel from 7 a.m. - 5 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 18, to observe Ash Wednesday and for the traditional imposition of ashes on the forehead.

There will also be a celebration of the Holy Mass in the Ron J. Anderson, MD Multifaith Chapel at 8:30 a.m. and at noon.

If you are unable to visit the chapel and would like ashes distributed on your floor or work area (for staff or patients) on the hospital campus, please call the Spiritual Care office at 214-590-8512 (ext. 28512) by Tuesday, Feb. 17. While availability may be limited due to increased patient care needs, we will make every effort to accommodate both on-campus and off-campus requests.



### Join the Employee Town Hall on Feb. 19

Parkland's next in-person Employee Town Hall session open to all Parkland team members will be at 11 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 19, in the MacGregor W. Day Auditorium (1st floor, Moody Outpatient Center). As always, this session will also be available via WebEx using the information below.

- **Join the WebEx**
- **Event number:** 2663 913 7572
- **Event password:** pzGKNVkm844 (79456856 when dialing from a phone or video system)

We hope to see you there! To catch up on an town halls you missed, [click here](#).



Parkland

Care. Compassion. Community.

*Parkland Now* is published by the Corporate Communications department at Parkland Health. Please note the submission deadline for each issue of *Parkland Now* is by the end of day each Monday. To publicize your news in *Parkland Now*, please send all submissions to [Employees@phhs.org](mailto:Employees@phhs.org) or call ext. 28048.