

## TRAILBLAZERS

# Emma Chappell



**E**mma Carolyn Bayton Chappell was a true visionary and humanitarian. In 1992, she became the first Black woman to found a bank since Maggie Lena Walker formed the St. Luke Penny Savings Bank in Richmond, Va., in 1903.

Chappell founded the United Bank of Philadelphia, the city's only African-American-owned banking institution, after raising \$6 million to fund the venture. The business pioneer quickly surpassed her goal by successfully galvanizing Blacks across the country by doing so, she made history as the first Black woman to charter a commercial bank in the country.

Chappell was both a local and

national influencer. She broke barriers and shattered glass ceilings, creating a lane for those who'll come after her. She co-hosted a radio program on WURD-AM (96.1 FM/900 AM) with Joanne Bell called "The Black Women's Leadership Council", which aired from 1-4 p.m. on Wednesdays.

Her notable achievements include organizing the Model Cities Business and Commercial Project, a federally funded program in 1974, which later became known as the Philadelphia Citywide Development Corporation. Chappell was the treasurer of Rev. Jesse Jackson's presidential campaign in 1984 and also worked with Jackson's PUSH/National Rainbow Coalition.

## AFRICAN-AMERICAN WOMEN TIMELINE A HISTORY OF GREATNESS

**2001** - Arkansas named a state holiday for Daisy Bates, first state to name a holiday for an African-American woman.

**2001** - Ruth Simmons became the first African-American woman and first African American to be named president of an Ivy League university, Brown University.

**2002** - Halle Berry became the first African-American woman to win the Academy Award for Best Actress.

**2004** - Condoleezza Rice is named as the first African-American female U.S. secretary of State.

**2005** - Jeanine Menze becomes first African-American female U.S. Coast Guard aviator.



Oprah Winfrey

**2007** - Barbara Hillary becomes first known African-American woman to reach the North Pole.

**2008** - Rochelle Kimbrell becomes first African-American female combat pilot in the U.S. Air Force.

**2011** - Oprah Winfrey ends her long-running talk show after 25

years and starts her own television network, OWN.

**2012** - Gabrielle Douglas became the first African-American female gymnast to win the All-Around gold medal at the 2012 London Olympics.

**2012** - Dr. Helen Giles-Gee became the first female and the first African-American president of the University of the Sciences in Philadelphia, Pa.

**2013** - Cheryl Boone Isaacs became the first Black president of the Academy of Motion Picture Sciences.

**2013** - Beyonce became the first woman in Billboard's history to hit No. 1 with her first five studio albums.

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### Carol Horne Penn

VICE PRESIDENT BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT +  
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CLEMENS CONSTRUCTION COMPANY, INC.

Carol Horne Penn is a licensed Pennsylvania attorney with over 16 years of commercial real estate development and construction experience. Penn joined Clemens Construction Company, a GBCA member company, in 2014. She leads the firm's business development and corporate relations where she is responsible for building and nurturing relationships that lead to new opportunities. Additionally, she spearheaded a \$135M mixed use project, inclusive of a hotel, retail and garage in Center City Philadelphia.

Penn led the development and construction of Community Legal Services North Philadelphia office building as well as managing the firm's operations. She has also held other senior leadership positions at the University of Pennsylvania and the Philadelphia Water Department.

She is the 2021 President of Commercial Real Estate Women (CREW) Greater Philadelphia, Vice President of the Board of the Fairmount Park Conservancy, a board member with Community Design Collaborative and SCEC Ventures (Philadelphia Science Center). She is a member of the Urban Land Institute and sits on the Industry Affairs Committee and the Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee for GBCA. Penn is a member of her church's Vestry, the Omega Mu Omega chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority and the Penntowne Links. In 2014 she received the Women of Distinction Award from the Barristers Association of Philadelphia.

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