

The HRHS Black History + Health Series Highlights: Vivien Thomas

Please see our list of resources that we have collected for your viewing that share the history, impact, and legacy of Vivien Thomas who was an American laboratory supervisor who developed a procedure used to treat blue baby syndrome in the 1940s.

Readings:

- **Vivien Thomas: An Unknown African-American Hero**
<https://www.thedowneypatriot.com/articles/vivien-thomas-an-unknown-african-american-hero>
- **The Remarkable Story of Vivien Thomas, the Black Man Who Helped Invent Heart Surgery**
<https://www.washingtonian.com/2020/06/19/the-remarkable-story-of-vivien-thomas-the-black-man-who-helped-invent-heart-surgery/>

Videos:

- **Vivien Thomas - Black History Month**
<https://youtu.be/r5qRIC3CscU>
Vivien Thomas in an extraordinary man. He was the first to successfully perform heart surgeries for blue baby syndrome and developed procedures that have saved millions of lives. He encountered racism daily and was paid and classified as a janitor even though he was doing postdoctoral work. He had no education past high school, so needless to say he was a genius.
- **"Something the Lord Made" HBO Film**
<https://youtu.be/Ocfm5sLIOM>
Full length biographical drama film about the black cardiac pioneer Vivien Thomas (1910–1985) and his complex and volatile partnership with white surgeon Alfred Blalock (1899–1964), the "Blue Baby doctor" who pioneered modern heart surgery.