

# COLIN POWELL

1937



Powell was born in Harlem to two immigrants from Jamaica. His family later moved to the South Bronx, where he attended P.S. 39. While Powell attended City College he was a member of the Reserve Officer Training Program (ROTC). Following his commission in 1958 he attended Airborne school and was trained

as a Ranger. He served two tours in Vietnam and steadily rose through the ranks during the post-Vietnam era. After serving as a White House fellow and National Security Advisor to President Ronald Reagan, Powell was named Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. In this capacity, he oversaw the largest U.S. military operation since Vietnam when he helped lead American and allied forces to victory during Desert Storm. Later, he became the first Black Secretary of State and then following his departure from government service, continued his anti-poverty, child mentoring and community service work.