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## Black history more than a month for Hill

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Staff / Nathan Self

Rotary Club of Sandy Springs member Oz Hill, chairman of the Rotary District 6900 Super Conference, prizes service above self like Black History Month celebrants including Gen. Colin Powell, under whom he served in Operation Desert Shield.

Oz Hill may be known to homeowners and developers as the figure on the left side of the dais during meetings of the Sandy Springs Board of Appeals and as a District 1 City Council candidate who once aspired to the same chair.

Fewer residents may know the 48-year-old was a U.S. Army lieutenant colonel, whose military leadership during his 20-year career in operations like Desert Shield earned him dozens of campaign and service honors

It also may not be common knowledge that 2010 marks the five-year anniversary of the security company he established, International Security Solutions Inc., whose clients include the city of Atlanta, DeKalb County, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment and the Birmingham (Ala.) Shuttlesworth International Airport.

Figures like the Rev. Fred L. Shuttlesworth, who brought the Rev. [Martin Luther King Jr.](#) to Birmingham during the civil rights movements of the 1960s, are part of Hill's philosophy about February.

"I believe that every month should be Black History Month. Every day should be Black History Day," said the husband of Traci and father of Tierra, 25, Torryn, 17 and Taylor, 7. "Every day I must work to further the cause of African-Americans and, in doing so, I am furthering the cause of all Americans."

Hill said he counts among his heroes Dr. Carter G. Woodson, who originated National Negro Week in 1926; [Colin Powell](#), the first African-American secretary of state; actor and activist Paul Robeson; A. Philip Randolph, leader of the 1963 [March on Washington](#); [George Washington](#) and [Thomas Jefferson](#).

"First and foremost, make no mistake about it, I am an American," he said. "I choose to focus on things that unite us as a country and a society."

A second but no less important priority for Hill is service above self, which he follows as a member of the Rotary Club of Sandy Springs, the appeals board and the Fulton County Land Bank Authority board of directors.

"He can add clarity and focus to issues that come before us," said Christopher Norman, chairman of the authority board. "He always advocates for the benefit of our stakeholders."

Club spokeswoman Linda Randolph said Hill constantly demonstrates his leadership abilities while serving the club's beneficiaries, which include local and international students.

"Oz does a lot, taking on service jobs quietly behind the scenes," she said.

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