Introducing the
Crispus Attucks Black IPA

The Beer: We are pleased to re-introduce our Black IPA. The Black IPA is a nice blend of three special hops to achieve a beautiful balance of bitterness, flavor and aroma in addition to a blend of six specialty grains for a smooth finish and excellent texture.

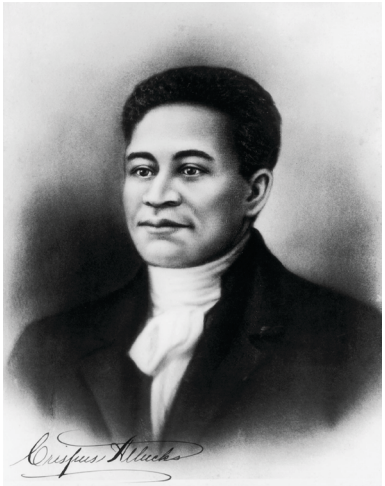
Early Portrait of Crispus Attucks: We are pleased to dedicate our Black IPA to American Patriot Crispus Attucks.. Crispus Attucks was a merchant seaman and dockworker who was born around 1723 in Framingham, Massachusetts and died on March 5, 1770 at the Boston Massacre. Most historical documents describe his ancestry as African and American Indian. His father, Prince Yonger, is thought to have been a slave brought to America from Africa and his mother, Nancy Attucks, was a Natick Indian. Historians disagree on whether Crispus Attucks was a free man or an escaped slave, but all are in agreement that he was the first casualty of the Boston Massacre, in Boston, Massachusetts, and is widely considered to be the first American casualty in the American Revolutionary War.

Apparently, young Attucks developed a longing for freedom at an early age. Biographers believe that Attucks escaped to Nantucket, Massachusetts, and sailed as a harpooner on a whaling ship. He spent much of the remainder of his life at sea often working on whalers, which involved long voyages. He may only have been temporarily in Boston in early 1770, having recently returned from a voyage to the Bahamas.

Attucks' occupation made him particularly vulnerable to the presence of the British. As a seaman, he felt the ever-present danger of impressment into the British navy. As a laborer, he felt the competition from British troops, who often took part-time jobs during their off-duty hours and worked for lower wages. Historians definitely place Attucks in Boston in March of 1770.

The Boston Massacre: A fight between Boston rope makers and three British soldiers on Friday, March 2, 1770 set the stage for a later confrontation. After dusk on Monday, March 5, 1770, a crowd of colonists confronted a sentry and as anger escalated, a church bell rang, which drew people out of their homes. The British soldiers of the 29th Regiment of Foot were called to duty. In turn, townspeople responded by hurling snowballs and debris at the soldiers. A group of men led by Attucks approached the vicinity of the government building with clubs in hand. Violence soon erupted, and a soldier was struck with a thrown piece of wood.

Five Americans were killed and six were wounded in what became known as the Boston Massacre. Attucks was the first one killed; he took two bullets in the chest. Rope maker Samuel Gray and sailor James Caldwell also died in the incident. Samuel Maverick, a 17-year-old joiner's apprentice, died the next day. Irish leather worker Patrick Carr died nine days later.

Samuel Adams, a cousin of John Adams, named the event the "Boston Massacre," and helped ensure that it would not be forgotten. Boston artist Henry Pelham created an image of the event and Paul Revere made a copy from which prints were made and distributed. Some copies of the print show a dark-skinned man with chest wounds, presumably representing Crispus Attucks.

Crispus Attucks became the first casualty of the American Revolution and is immortalized as "the first to defy, the first to die," and has been lauded as a true martyr, "the first to pour out his blood as a precious libation on the altar of a people's rights."