

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BLACK MILITARY WOMEN



NABMW Mission Statement

To seek out, record, maintain and tell the history and heritage of African American Military Women who served and are serving in the United States Armed Forces.

Our Motto

“To Tell Her Story”

www.nabmw.org

Message from the President



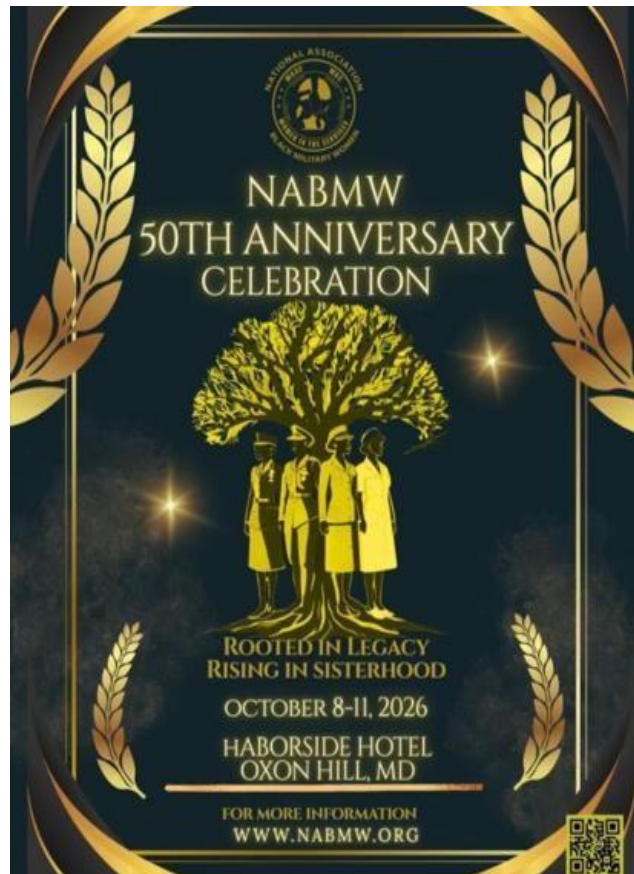
As summer comes to a close, it brings a spirit of renewal and growth while drawing us closer to our 50th Anniversary Celebration, October 8–11, 2026. This milestone invites us to reflect on the extraordinary journey of Black military women whose courage and resilience that built the foundation we stand on today. Our theme, “Rooted in Legacy; Rising in Sisterhood,” captures who we are, honors the legacy we continue to uphold, and reminds us that our strength comes from the women who paved the way and from the unity we continue to build. I am honored to serve as your National President during this meaningful time in our history.

This quarter, I invite you to take an active role in shaping our celebration. Thank you to everyone who has registered for the 50th Anniversary Celebration, volunteered, or supported our fundraising efforts. Your participation helps ensure the celebration reflects the excellence and dignity of our organization.

On a personal note, I am sincerely grateful for your trust and steadfast commitment to our mission. Together, we honor our past as we move boldly toward our future.

“Honoring our legacy, empowering our future.”

Dr. Annette Tucker Osborne, COL (Ret)



Veterans Day Brunch

Congratulations to Major (Ret) Louise Nixon, NE Regional Director and Chief Master Sergeant (Ret) Sebrena Flagg-Briggs SE Regional Director who were honored on November 1, 2025, at the Golconda Temple #24, held in Irvington, New Jersey. Major (Ret) Hurbert Trotman, Brenda Bligen, SNJ President as well as the SNJ Chapter were in audience.



Northeast Regional Meeting



Northeast Regional Director Louise Nixon held her Regional Meeting on November 8, 2025, 1-4pm, at the Hilton Garden Inn 1100 South Avenue Staten Island, New York 10314. Chapters attended a fun-filled event. Meeting provided an opportunity and space to come, chat, chew, and fellowship together.



NABMW Nashville, TN Chapter Installation Ceremony

The Installation Ceremony of the Nashville, Tennessee Chapter held Saturday November 15, 2025, 11 am-1:30 pm at the Operation Stand Down located at 1125 12th Ave South, Nashville, TN 37129. National Secretary Judith L. Cotten served as the Mistress of Ceremony, Regional Director Sebrena Flagg-Briggs read CSM (Ret) Dr. Annie Suggs' Invocation. Guest Speaker Commissioner Hope Oliver, Southeast Regional Director Sebrena Flagg-Briggs served as the Presenter; President Dr. Annette Tucker Osborne served as the Installer.

Dr. Paris Love, President, Ylonda Bannister, Vice President, Dr. Patricia Malone Smith, Treasurer, Dr. Margaret Kelley, Secretary, Tasmie Otukwu, Member, Nneka Norman-Gordon, Member, Sharon Moore, Member, Dr. Karon Uzzell-Bagett, Member, Jonetta Dennis, Member, Morgan Hones, Member, Nateya Mora, Member, Tanaka Ross, Member, Candance Jones, Member, Felicia Whitehead, Member, Breonna Varen, Member, Juantia Aruldoss, Associate Member, Denise McBride, Associate Member, Marian Conolly, Associate Member, Marie Quaker, Associate Member, Karen Johnson, Associate Member, Kimberly Cox, Associate Member, Antanique Dennis, Associate Member.

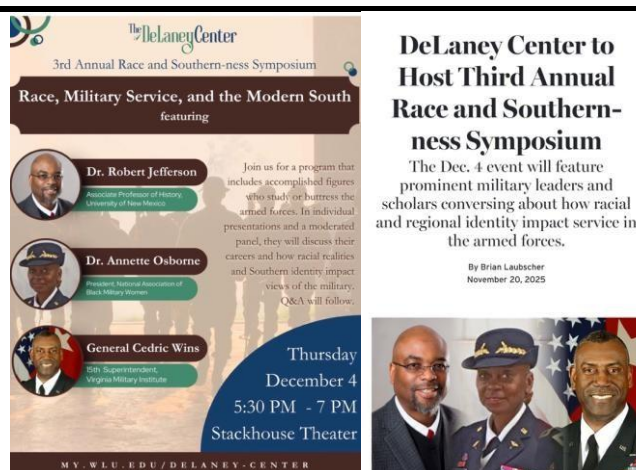


Guest Speaker Commissioner Hope Oliver



Congratulations Tennessee Chapter!

Delaney Center Host Annual Race and Southernness Symposium



The 2025 Delaney Center at the University of Virginia hosted its Annual Race and Southernness Symposium held on December 4, 2025, led by Center Director Dr. Robert Trent Vinson. The symposium explored the historical and contemporary experiences of Black service members, the overlooked legacy of Black military women and the evolving responsibilities of Southern military institutions.

This year's theme "Race, Military Service and the Modern South," brought together three distinguished voices: Dr. Robert F. Jefferson Jr., Associate Professor of History, University of New Mexico, Dr. Annette Tucker Osborne, Retired Army Colonel; President of the National Association of Black Military Women, and Major General Cedric T. Wins (Retired) – 15th Superintendent of the Virginia Military Institute (VMI).

Dr. Robert F. Jefferson Jr. – "The Long Arc of Black Military Service" examined the historical continuum of African American military participation from WWII to the present. He highlighted how Black service members have often served as agents of social change, even written segregated or exclusionary systems. He discussed the tension between patriotism and racial inequality, and how Black veterans shaped civil rights movements across the South.

Dr. Annette Tucker Osborne COL (Ret) – "Black Women Veterans and Unwritten Chapters of Southern Military History" centered the often-overlooked contributions of Black military women, particularly those from Southern communities. She addressed the dual burden of navigating both racial and gender bias in military institutions. Elevated the stories of women whose service has been historically minimized, calling for institutional accountability in recognition and documentation. Connected past struggles to present-day advocacy, emphasizing the need for intergenerational storytelling and accurate public memory.

Major General Cedric T. Wins (Ret) – "Institutional Change and the Future of Military Leadership in the South" reflected on leading VMI during a period of cultural reckoning around race, tradition, and identity. Discussed the challenges of transforming long-standing Southern military institutions while honoring their mission. He emphasized leadership responsibility in creating environments where all cadets can thrive. Spoke on the future of military education in the South, stressing, transparency, and modernized leadership models.

These panelists engaged in an hour-long discussion exploring how racial and regional identity shape experiences in the U.S. armed forces, followed by a moderated conversation and audience Q & A.



Caribbean Veterans Association Launch and Ribbon Cutting Ceremony



On December 12, 2025, I had the privilege of participating in the historic launch and charting of the Caribbean Veterans Association, a landmark moment for veteran advocacy across the Caribbean diaspora. The opening ceremony began with the National Anthems of the United States and CARICOM, followed by the Invocation, which I was honored to deliver in the absence of the Chaplain.

Orange County Commissioner Mayra Uribe, District 3, offered warm and inspiring opening remarks as host. The program paid tribute to the organization's visionary leadership Founder ISG Dalia Espeut-Jones, U.S. Army (Ret) and Co-Founder CPT Maxine Reyes, U.S. Army (Ret), whose dedication brought this initiative to life.

BG Stephen Michael, U.S. Army (Ret), delivered the keynote address, emphasizing unity, service, and cultural pride within the veteran community. The ceremony continued with the formal installation of officers, affirming the Association's commitment to strong governance and purposeful leadership. The

event concluded with a meaningful ribbon-cutting ceremony, marking a new chapter of empowerment, connection, and advocacy for Caribbean veterans. As National President of the National Association of Black Military Women, I was proud to witness this moment of shared purpose—a celebration of heritage, service, and the enduring strength of our diaspora.

The Caribbean Veterans Association (CVA) established on 30 September 2024 to honor and unite individuals of Caribbean birth or heritage who have served in the diverse branches of the United States Armed Forces. Rooted in pride, service, and shared cultural legacy, CVA is a space for connection, and advocacy. Governed by a leadership team and supported by representatives from each CARICOM nation. CVA upholds transparency, equal opportunity, and accountability, and operates under Robert's Rules of Order to ensure proper governance and active member involvement.



ISG (Ret) Dalia Espeut-Jones Co-Founder

Orange County Commissioner Mayra Uribe, District 3



Keynote Speaker BG Stephen Michael, U.S. Army (Ret)



Ribbon Cutting Ceremony



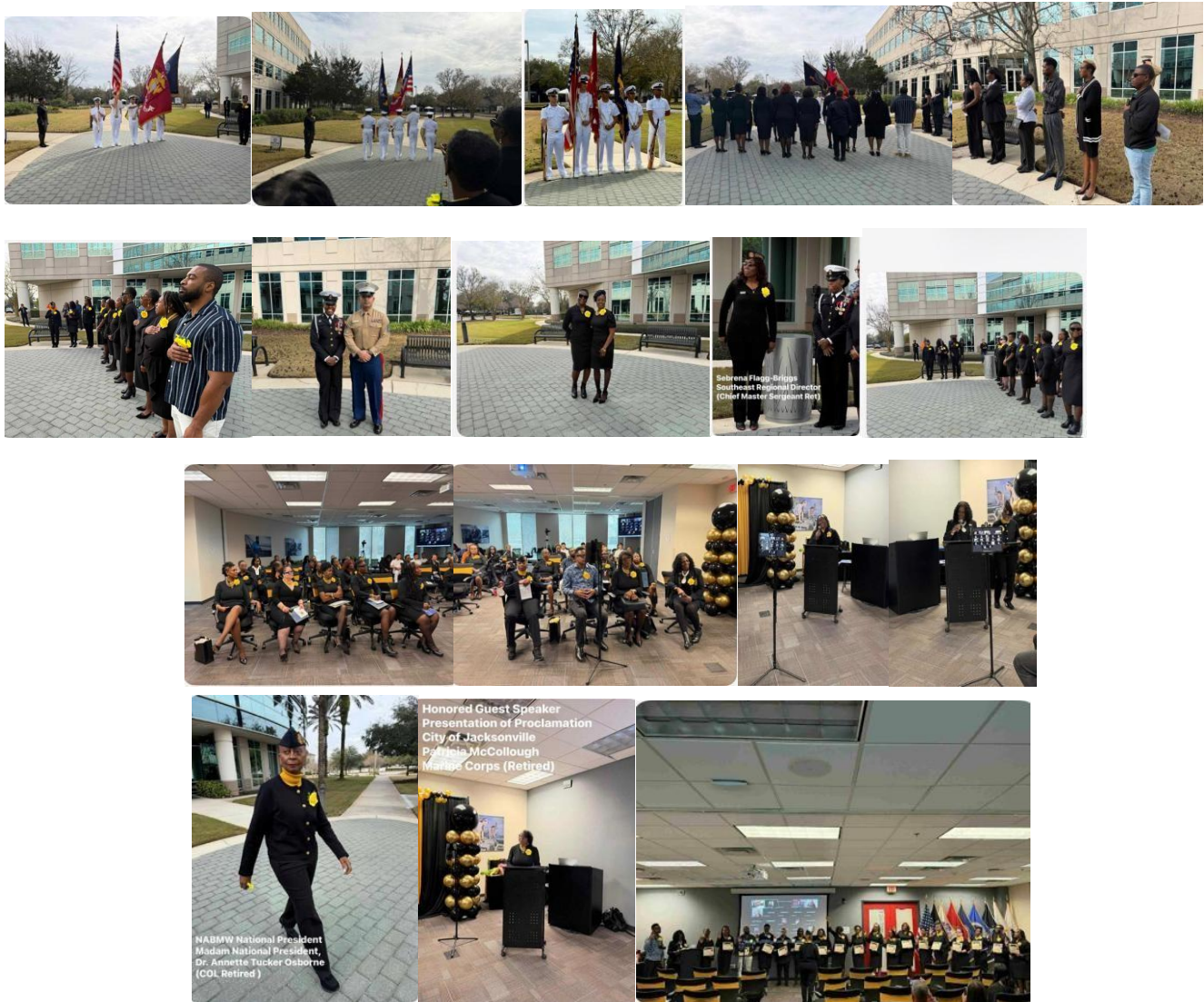
NABMW Jacksonville, Florida Chapter Installation Ceremony



The Jacksonville, Florida Chapter Installation Ceremony held on Saturday, January 24, 2026, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Wounded Warrior Project Building, 4899 Belfort Road, Suite 300, Jacksonville, FL 32256. National Secretary Judith L. Cotten served as Mistress of Ceremonies, Sr. National Chaplain's Invocation was read by Regional Director Sebrena Flagg-Briggs. Guest Speaker Patricia McCullough (Mayor's Office) read the Proclamation. Southeast Regional Director Sebrena Flagg-Briggs served as the Presenter and President Dr. Annette Tucker Osborne COL (Retired) served as the Installer for the ceremony.

Pamela Monk, President, Jacqueline Molinse, VP, Renee Tillman, Treasurer, Magdelyn Applewhite, Secretary, Shanita Burks, Financial Secretary, Dr. Carmen Davenport, Parliamentarian, Mary Harris, Historian, Angela Dawson, Membership Chair, Vernell Razor Membership Co-Chair, Cassandra Montgomery, SGT-AT-Arms,

Latocha Duckworth, Chaplain. Associate Members: Brenda Brooks, Stephanye Williams, Jeremiah Williams, Carolyn Campbell, Cheryl Gonzalez, Terrilyn Torres, Ernestine Feggans, Patricia McCullough, Vanessa Williams, Lorraine Greene, Yvette McKenzie, Clara Winson.



Congratulations Jacksonville Chapter!

Wreaths Across America Brooklyn Chapter NABMW



NABMW Brooklyn Chapter proudly attended Wreaths Across America at Cypress Hills Cemetery, Brooklyn, New York. Joining hands to honor our fallen soldiers by placing wreaths on their graves during

this holiday season. This year, only 996 wreaths were secured due to budget cuts, yet over 2,700 soldiers are laid to rest at Cypress Hills. That means next year must be bigger, stronger, and more impactful. We were honored to stand alongside incredible partners including @neirstavern, @fdny, cadets from the Civil Air Patrol, JROTC students from Benjamin Cardozo HS, and @redcrossny all united in remembrance and respect. Shout out to the truck serving hot chocolate, coffee, and snacks from @stopandshop. NABMW was presented with a small, decorated tree from Gold Star Mothers as a thank you for our support and commitment to honoring our veterans.

Each year, NABMW is humbled to partner with Wreaths Across America and Cypress Hills Cemetery to ensure our heroes are never forgotten, especially during the holidays. Their service lives on and so does our commitment. They served, we remember.



NABMW Brooklyn Chapter Holiday Celebration



The Brooklyn Chapter held its business meeting and holiday celebration at the historical Comus Club located 244 Decatur Street, Brooklyn New York.



NABMW is proud to congratulate our very own Southeast Regional Director Sebrena Flagg-Briggs who was a featured guest panelist alongside winwithblackwomen Founder Jotaka Eaddy during the Rise and Rhythm Cruise held February 1-5, 2026. Sebrena represented with excellence on the Rise, Rest, and Resist (RRR) Why Black Women Matter panel, lending voice, leadership, and insight to this powerful and inspiring gathering. Congratulations Sebrena! Thank you for representing NABMW!!



The NYS Department of Veterans Services Black History Month

During the New York State Department of Veterans Services Black History Month Virtual Program on Friday, February 6, 2026, one of our own – **Major (Ret) Louise Nixon** a proud member of the National Association of Black Military Women where she serves as the NE Regional Director – was featured as part of the department’s signature program, “**The Weight & The Witness: Honoring Black Veterans Through, Story, Poetry, and Living Memory**”.

This statewide virtual gathering centered the lived experiences, resilience, and enduring legacy of Black service members across generations. Through storytelling, artistic expression, spoken words, and intergenerational dialogue, the program uplifted voices that have too often gone unseen, yet whose contributions have profoundly shaped our nation’s military history. **Major Nixon** served as a living witness, offering her personal reflections and military journey as part of the event’s mission to preserve, honor, sacrifice, and illuminate the truth of Black military service.

369th Division Sustainment Brigade Harlem Hellfighters Ball



usmint.gov/learn/coin-and-medal-programs/medals.

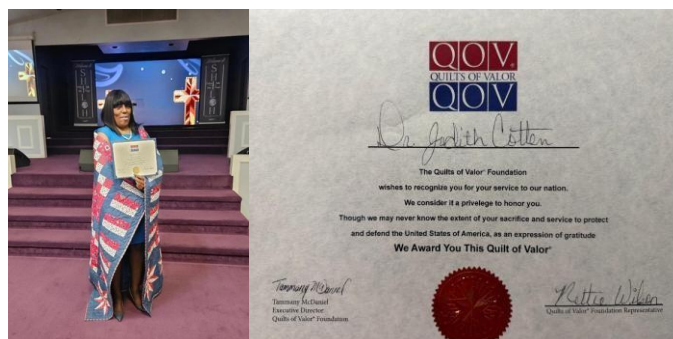
Congratulations to the 369th Infantry Regiment-the Harlem Hellfighters for hosting an outstanding 2nd Annual Hellfighters Ball on February 27, 2026, held at the Harlem Hellfighters Armory 2366 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY.

The Harlem Hellfighters Recognition Project honored descendant families of the original their legacy Harlem Hellfighters affirming the SPIRIT of services their legacy inspires.

National President Dr. Annette Tucker Osborne was honored to present the replica of the Congressional Gold Medal to Colonel (Retired) Stephanie Dawson, First African American woman to Command the 369th Sustainment Brigade. Colonel Dawson received the medal in recognition of her extraordinary service. Colonel Dawson stands as history in the proud lineage of the Harlem Hellfighters. Members of the New York City and Brooklyn Chapter came out to honor Colonel Dawson. Congratulations Ma’am!



QUILT OF VALOR

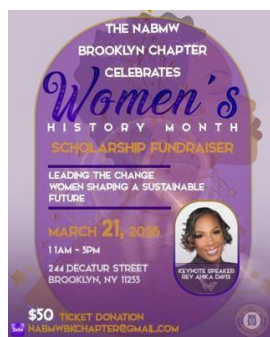


On March 1, 2026, Judith L. Cotten President ATL Chapter and National Secretary was awarded the Quilt of Valor at Shiloh Baptist Church, Jonesboro, Ga. The quilt was physically wrapped around her shoulders to personally deliver the message: “Thank you for your service, sacrifice, and valor.”

Quilts of Valor are never simply given as gifts; they are awarded in a formal but intimate ceremony that is similar to bestowing a personal medal. Veterans and active-duty service. Members from any branch and of any rank are eligible, provided they have an honorable or general discharge and meet specific conflict-era criteria.

Congratulations Judy!

BROOKLYN CHAPTER CELEBRATES WOMEN’S HISTORY MONTH



On March 21, 2026, 11:00 am-5:00 pm, it is located at the historical Comus Club, Inc. 244 Decatur Street, Brooklyn, NY 11233. Brooklyn Chapter members celebrated Women’s History Month Scholarship Fundraiser. The Keynote Speaker was Rev. Anika Davis.



Atlanta Chapter Member Receives Resolution for Her Service

Congratulations to Atlanta Chapter member Sharon Lise who was presented by Georgia Senator Tonya Anderson and State Representative Sandra Givens presented her with a resolution for her continued service to veterans. Congratulations Sharon!



NABMW Jacksonville Celebrates International Women's Month Spotlight



National Association of Black Military Women was recognized during International Women's Month Spotlight. Jacksonville Chapter member Mary Harris was recognized for her dedicated service and contributions to our nation through the United States Navy.

Mary served as a Paralegal aboard the USS Simon Lake (AS-33) from August 1987 to August 1989 while the ship was stationed in Holy Loch, Scotland. During her time on board, the USS Simon Lake played a vital role as a submarine tender, providing essential repair, logistical, and maintenance support to U.S. Navy submarines during the Cold War era. During Mary's tenure, the ship was also honored with the Meritorious Unit Award, recognizing the crew's outstanding performance and dedication. The USS Simon Lake's legacy includes deployments in Holy Loch, Scotland; Rita, Spain; Kings Bay, Georgia, and La Magdalena, Italy, before decommissioned on July 31, 1989. Mary continued her commitment to service throughout her naval career and retired from the United States Navy in September 2003 after years of honorable service.

We salute Mary Harris for her trailblazing role, dedication to duty, and for paving the way for future generations of women in the Navy.

Thank you for your service and for being an inspiration during International Women's Month!

NABMW SNJ CHAPTER WOMEN'S HISTORY CELEBRATION



Southern New Jersey Chapter of the National Association of Black Military Women hosted Honoring Her Service Women's History Celebration. The celebration held on March 28, 2026, 2:00-6:00pm, at the Merion, Cinnaminson, New Jersey. Theme: From Service to Legacy – Her Story Matters. President Brenda Bligen and VP Terri Sims gave the welcome & opening remarks, National Anthem was song by Dr. Torrye Hairston (Army, Ret), Tribute to 6888TH by (Military Brat.) Historian & Ambassador 6888) Dr. Karen Jordan. SNJ Chapter awarded five honorees with a beautiful statue of a warrior. The following women were honored: Dr. Annette Tucker Osborne, Colonel (Retired Army) Air Force Chief MSCT Sebrena Flagg-Briggs (Retired Air Force), (Committee Woman Westampton TWP) Dr. Ashlee Caldwell, (Combat Veteran), Deputy Mayor, Willingboro, TWP) Dr. Tiffani Worthy, NE Regional Director, Louise Nixon, Major (Retired Army). Keynote Speaker (Army Chaplain) Michael C. Bell, Comedy Performance Comedian Stiletto, Musical Solo Dr. Torrye Hairston (Retired Army). Closing Remarks- President Brenda Bligen & VP Terri Sims.



SNJ President Brenda Bligen

SNJ Chapter

Dr. Annette Tucker Osborne Honoree COL (Ret)



SNJ President and VP Terri Sims



Major (Ret) Louise Nixon Honoree

Air Force Chief MSCT (Ret) Sebrina Flagg-Briggs Honoree



NABMW Jacksonville Chapter Day



An Historic and Proud Moment for the Jacksonville Chapter to share the official proclamation recognizing January 24, 2026, as National Association of Black Military Women-Jacksonville Chapter Day. This proclamation stands as a powerful tribute to the courage, resilience, leadership, and legacy of Black military women who have served our nation with distinction-often without recognition. To have the City of Jacksonville formally acknowledge this legacy and the establishment of its first NABMW local chapter is truly monumental. Jacksonville Chapter thanks Mayor Donna Deegan and the City of Jacksonville for honoring our history, uplifting our stories, and help to ensure they are preserved, celebrated, and passed on to future generations.

Today, we celebrated service.

Today, we celebrate sisterhood.

Today, we celebrate legacy.

Congratulations NABMW Jacksonville Chapter – this is a NEW DAY!

Black Military Women Honored at Black History Month Celebration in South Los Angeles

Community leaders, veterans, and families gathered on Sunday February 15, at MJ's Unique Social Club for a Black History Month Celebration honoring the service, leadership, and legacy of Black military women and veterans. The event hosted by the Los Angeles Chapter of the National Association of Black Military Women (NABMW-LA) in partnership with the historic Jackie Robinson American Legion Post 252 and American Legion Auxiliary Jackie Robinson Unit 252. The afternoon highlighted generations of service- from World War II trailblazers to today's veteran leaders.

The keynote speaker was Mayumi Kimura, Deputy Secretary, Women Veteran Affairs (CALVET). Appointed by Governor Gavin Newson. In February 2025, Kimura delivered remarks honoring the historic contributions of Black military women including the women of the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion-the all Black, all-female battalion to serve overseas during World War II-and acknowledged the continued leadership of Black women veterans in California.

Calvet's Women Veterans Division and minority & Underrepresented Veterans Division were present and hosted a resource table providing direct outreach to veterans and their families. Representatives offered information about state and federal benefits and engaged with families, including discussions with teenage children of veterans about college education benefits and higher education pathways.



Pictured Latia Suttle, U.S. Army Veteran, James Marshall, Kainnon Maxwell with his mom, U.S. Navy Veteran Salena Maxwell, U.S. Army Veteran Patricia Jackson-Kelley, and U.S. Army Major Nicole Pranthers

NABMW Celebrates Women's History Month



First President Colonel (Ret) Dolores Hampton (Center), Second President MG Rosetta Burke (Ret) (in uniform), Third President Colonel (Ret) Kathaleen Harris, (Top Left), 4th President Colonel (Ret) Stephanie Dawson, (Top Right), 5th President LTC (Ret) Patricia Jackson-Kelley (Bottom Left).

NABMW Jacksonville, FL. Chapter Supports Habitat for Humanity



Jacksonville's April Business Meeting and Mental Health Training

During Jacksonville's Business meeting held a Mental Health Training given by Letha Page, LCSW, MCAP, CFMHE A New Page Counselling, LLC the theme "Carrying It All After Service."



Power Rising 2026, Chicago, Illinois

The Power Rising 2026 Summit took place from April 16-19, 2026, at the Hilton Chicago, Chicago, Illinois. Organized under the theme "Rooted and Rising: Whole Health, Whole Self," focusing on resources for Black women to thrive in all aspects of life.

This national movement brought together hundreds of Black women leaders, professionals, and advocates to turn collective wisdom into strategic economic and political action. Conveners Rev. Leah Daughty and Minyon Moore led the organizers. High Profile Speakers: Featured a keynote address and "Sunday Soul Brunch" conversation with Former Vice President Kamala Harris. Other notable speakers included Tamika D. Mallory, Donna Brazile, Angela Rye, and Star Jones, with guest appearance by the children of Jesse Jackson.

The Five Pillars of Activism

The summit's 25 + specialized sessions were structured around five central areas of community development.

- Business & Economic Empowerment
- Culture, Community, and Society
- Education, Technology, and Innovation
- Health & Wellness

The gathering provided a space for Black women, from coast to coast, to come together as one. We leverage our collective wisdom in ways that allow us to develop strategic avenues that maximize our

economic and political power – for the betterment of ourselves, our families, our communities, and our future.

National President Dr. Annette Tucker Osborne, Past President Patrica Jackson-Kelley, Regional Director Southeast Sebrina Flagg- Briggs, LA Chapter President Dr. Andrea Lorenz, Brooklyn Chapter Member Trinette Rembert, and Southern New Jersey Chapter Member Jenifer Flagg.



Chicago Mayor

Rev. Shavon Arline-Bradley, NCNW Dr. A. Lois Keith, National Board, NCNW U.S. Rep. AOC



U.S. Rep Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez

U.S. Rep Yvette Clarke

Dr. A. Lois Keith, National Board Chair NCNW



Star Jones



Honoring the Legacy of Wereth 11



<https://wereth.org>

On May 9, 2026, National President Dr. Annette Tucker Osborne, COL (Ret), and SSG (Ret)Trinette Rembert proudly represented the National Association of Black Military Women (NABMW) in Belgium as they laid commemorative wreaths and flowers at the sacred memorial site of the Wereth 11. This was the

President's second visit to Belgium for the 82nd Memorial for the Wereth 11 Soldiers. Eleven African American Soldiers served their country with valor and dignity during WWII. Theirs is a narrative of courage and sacrifice, one that deserves to be honored and remembered. During a world engulfed in the flames of war, these soldiers answered the call to duty despite facing discrimination and segregation at home. They represented the best of the United States of America.

We pause to remember the eleven African American soldiers of the 333rd Field Artillery Battalion who made the ultimate sacrifice during World War II. Their courage, resilience, and service will never be forgotten. NABMW remains committed to preserving the stories of our heroes and ensuring their legacy continues to inspire future generations. "Gone but never forgotten."

RIP

PVT. Curtis Adams, SSG Thomas J. Forte, TECH/4 James A. Stewart, TECH/4 William E. Pritvhatt, CPL. Mager Bradley, TECH/5 Robert L. Green, PFC George Davis, PFC Jim L. Leatherwood, PFC George W. Moten, PFC Due W. Turner, PVT Nathaniel Moss.



Wereth 11 soldiers had their last meal at this table

Members of NABVETS and NABMW

NABMW Jacksonville Chapter Attends WAVES Game Opener May 15, 2026

Members of NABMW Jacksonville Chapter came together for an evening out to celebrate the opening of the local all females WAVES Game. Jacksonville Chapter were proud to share that they sold sixty tickets, many chapter members participated by making generous donations in support of this effort. The donated tickets were given to the staff and women of a local women's shelter. After several discussions with the WAVES organization, they are still willing to establish a partnership with the chapter. Congratulations Jacksonville!!



National Association of Black Military Women

NABMW NOLA Chapter Historian, Ms. Sheron Stewart and fellow WAC are the first women allowed to place Wreath. Congratulations NOLA, so proud of your representation.



National Association of Black Military Women NOLA

NABMW NOLA Chapter, Councilman Eugene Green, and Oliver Thomas in collaboration with the Reclaiming Legacy Project participated in this special event honoring the life and legacy of Andre Cailloux at St. Augustine Church.

Cailloux, one of the first black officers of any North American military unit, was a hero of the civil war. He was also a parishioner of St. Augustine Striving together to keep his life and legacy alive.



Women Veterans Day Recognition – St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands



The Office of Veterans Affairs – U.S. Virgin Islands hosted by Mr. Patrick Farrell, Director of Veteran Affairs held its annual Women Veterans Day Recognition Program on June 12, 2026, in St. Croix, honoring the service and sacrifice of women veterans across the territory and the nation. Wanda Williams U.S. Army Veteran, served as the Mistress of Ceremonies, Invocation Ms. Denise Joseph U.S. Army Veteran, National Anthem & Virgin Islands March, Pre-Recorded, Pledge of Allegiance, all in Attendance, Empty Chair Tribute, Felician Neale, U.S. Air Force Veteran, Introduction of Dignitaries Mistress of Ceremonies, Musical Selection DERI *Featuring Wyni-Lee on Aconsotic Guitar*, Remarks: Ms. Hillis Benjamin, Commander, American Legion District 10, U.S. Army Veteran, Dr. Annette Tucker Osborne, U.S. Army Colonel Veteran, Introduction of Keynote Speaker Ms. Zahlyn Rodriguez, U.S. Air Force, Keynote Address Ms.

Jacqueline Hayes-Byrd, Executive Director, VA Center for Women Veterans, Executive Director, VA Center for Minority Veterans, U.S. Air Force Veteran.

Musical Selection DERI *Featuring Wyni-Lee on Aconsotic Guitar*, Remarks – Mr. Patrick Farrell, Director, Virgin Islands Office of Veterans Affairs, Benediction Ms. Denish Joseph, U.S. Army Veteran.

As the National Association of Black Military Women, (NABMW) celebrates 50 years of honoring the legacy of Black military women, the U.S. Virgin Islands' Women Veterans Day Recognition Program in St. Croix offered a powerful reminder of why our mission endures.

Representing NABMW during this historic anniversary year, Dr. Annette Tucker Osborne, COL (Ret), delivered keynote remarks that connected the courage of today's women veterans to the generations of Black military women whose stories shaped our organization's founding in 1976. Her message emphasized reembrace, visibility and the ongoing responsibility to preserve the narratives of women contributions have too often been overlooked.

The program featured a ceremonial welcome, recognition of local women veterans, musical selections, and remarks from distinguished guests- coming together as a celebration of service and a reaffirmation of NABMW's 50-year commitment to honor the past, uplift the present, and inspire the future.

The event celebrated courage, community, and the shared commitment to ensuring that women veterans—receive the honor they deserve. Mr. Farrell presented NABMW with the official Virgin Islands Office of Veterans Affairs Director's Coin, President Dr. Annette Tucker Osborne presented Mr. Farrell with our NABMW coin.



Mistress of Ceremonies, U.S. Army Veteran Wanda Williams



Keynote Speaker, Jacquelyn-Hayes Byrd



Mr. Patrick D. Farrell, Director, Virgin Islands Office of Veterans Affairs – Presented NABMW coin. President presented NABMW coin to Mr. Farrell



NABMW Atlanta Chapter Celebrates Outstanding Accomplishments



The National Association of Black Military Women Atlanta Chapter proudly celebrates the outstanding accomplishments of Atlanta members who were recognized for their leadership, service, and continued impact in their communities. The chapter was honored to have the most nominations than any other participating organization. Nominations: Barbara Amey, Yvonne Barrett, LaVeda Bennett, Judith Cotton, Dorothy Britto, Yolanda Edwards, Debra Gomes, Sharon Lise, Stephanie Willis. Receiving prestigious awards in addition to certificates of recognition: Melissa Deane, Ericka Braswell, Cassandra Randolph, and Lakeysha Daniels were also recognized with certificates celebrating their dedication and service.

Congratulations to each honoree. Your commitment to serving beyond the uniform continues to inspire, empower, and leave a legacy. Together, you are preserving HerStory, honoring service, and proving that our legacy lies on through leadership, excellence, and purpose. Congratulations!

Juneteenth 2026



For over 40 years, Opal Lee fought tirelessly to make Juneteenth a national holiday - knocking on doors, marching through streets, and refusing to let the world forget. In 2021, President Biden signed the Juneteenth National Independence Day Act into law – and Opal Lee was right there in the front row, this Juneteenth 2026 The “Grandmother of Juneteenth “is celebrating her 100th Birthday.

Veterans of Foreign Wars/**Gold Star Wives of America, Inc.**

Shared by Tanya L. Wilson Thomas

VFW National Legislative Service Acting Director Nancy Springer testified at a House Committee on Veterans’ Affairs Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs Legislative Oversight hearing, addressing each of the seven legislative proposals and bills under consideration, highlighting three measures the VFW supports during the testimony.

H.R. 1865, Justice for ALS Veterans Act of 2025

H.R. 5723, Fraud Reduction And Uncovering Deception (FRAUD) in VA Disability Exams Act

H.R. 6698, Board of Veterans Appeals Annual Report Transparency Act of 2025

It was quite an honor for Gold Star Wives of America, Inc. to have been one of the organizations invited to provide testimony along for two of the bills being considered. Proud to stand and be sworn in, inside the Halls of Congress, along with Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW). Vietnam Veterans of America, American Veterans (AMVETS). Gold Star Wives of America, Inc, testified regarding two bills:

H.R. 1004, The Love Lives On Act 2025

H.R. 1685, Justice For ALS Veterans. Act 2025

These are bills which have a profound impact on our veterans, like Gold Star Wives and our families! GSW’s are staunch believers that the death of our Service Member Spouses, never diminishes their actual service to our country, nor does their service or the impact of their death on our families, dissipate into thin air! It still counts. Their service still contributed to our country’s well-being. Gold Star Wives of America, Inc. will continue to remember them as we also continue to advocate to maintain valuable benefits which help us support our families.



NAACP Celebrates America's 250th Anniversary.



On June 14, 2026, the NAACP hosted a webinar in celebration of America's 250th Anniversary. The program focused on honoring the service, sacrifice, and historical contributions of African Americans in the United States military, while reflecting on the continuing legacy of leadership, civic engagement, and advocacy.

The online Webinar provided an opportunity to reflect on the nation's history through the lens of service, freedom, and civic responsibility. Participants recognized the significant role African American veterans and service members have played in defending democracy, advancing civil rights, and shaping the American story. The discussion also emphasized the importance of preserving these stories so future generations understand the courage, resilience, and leadership that helped move the nation forward. NABMW proudly acknowledges Past National President Patricia Jackson-Kelley, LTC (Ret.), for her participation and continued commitment to preserving the stories of Black military women and veterans.



SPOTLIGHT ON CAROLINE F. ADAMS FAWKES, COL (R)

Congratulations to the National Association of Black Military Women newest lifetime member from St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands during the June 12, 2026, Women Veteran Day Program Recognition. Colonel Fawkes was the first and only State Army Aviation Officer within the National Guard comprising of the fifty-one (51) states and three Territories (1986-2002). First and only female within the Armed Forces to pilot the C-23B Sherpa Aircraft (1992-2002). In her last two assignments, she served as Director of Joint Visitor's Bureau and Director of Plans Operations for the Joint Task Force in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. Over the course of her military career, COL Fawkes has received a plethora of awards, medals, and letters of commendation. Her highest award is the Legion of Merit and the Defense Meritorious Service medal

received in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. August 19, 2013, she became the Supervisor of Elections after spending thirty-two years in the military.

The National Association of Black Military Women is proud to welcome her into our sisterhood!!



SPOTLIGHT ON ARCHBISHOP DR. ELOISA CRAWLEY-BONAPARTE

Dr. Eloisa Crawley-Bonaparte's life is a testament to courage, tenacity, and lifelong service. A woman of color, she shattered norms by serving as Chief Master Sergeant in the U.S. Air Force during the Vietnam War – rising through a historically male-dominated military at a time when few women of her background were present. Her legendary discipline and passion continue to define her path.

Archbishop Dr. Eloisa Crawley-Bonaparte, is a NABMW Life Member and has been honored as State of Connecticut Veteran of the Year and National Recognition 2025-2026 where she received from the Governor and all the State Senators and Congressional Representatives. Featured in the Connecticut Veterans Bulletin for her trailblazing as a Vietnam Veteran for her extraordinary leadership. The National Association of Black Military Women is proud to Spotlight Dr. Eloisa Crawley-Bonaparte. Congratulations!!



SPOTLIGHT ON DR. ANNIE L. SUGGS, CSM (RETIRED)



Congratulations to our National Sr. Chaplain and Brooklyn Chapter President Dr. Annie L. Suggs, CSM (Ret) who will receive from the Buffalo Soldiers Association of West Point, Inc. The SGT. Sanders H. Matthews Veteran Award. The award honors individuals who embody the legacy and service of the historic Buffalo Soldiers. The

award named after Staff Sgt. Sanders H. Matthews Sr., believed to be the last known Buffalo Soldier to serve at West Point.



SPOTLIGHT ON CHERYL ADAMS-ALEXANDER COL (RETIRED)

Congratulations to our National Assistant Historian COL (Ret) Cheryl Adams-Alexander who will receive from the Omicron Chi Eta Phi Sorority, Incorporated the 2026 Mabel Keaton Staupers Award. The Mabel Keaton Staupers award is an honor given by Chi Eta Phi Sorority, Inc. It recognizes nurse and healthcare leaders who demonstrate exception leadership, advocacy, and commitment to health equity and the legacy of nursing pioneers.



National Association of Black Military Women Jacksonville Fl, Chapter

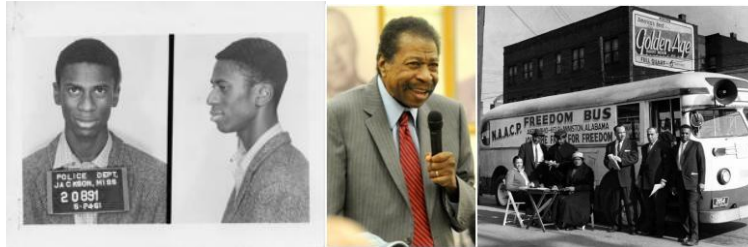


Jacksonville's Chapter's very own Patricia McCollough recently attended a Civil Rights Ceremony honoring the remarkable women of the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion – the Six Triple Eight. With the powerful motto “No Mail, Low Morale” these trailblazing women ensured service members stayed connected to home during WWII – lifting spirits and making history.

We are proud to witness and celebrate moments like these that preserve the legacy of strength, service, and sisterhood.



Bruce Carver Boynton



On this day ...December 20, 1958, law student Bruce Carver Boynton stopped at the Trailways bus terminal in Richmond, Virginia, while traveling home to Selma, Alabama. Hungry from the journey, he entered the restaurant area and sat in the “white” section because the “colored” section was filthy and unsanitary. When a waitress and then a manager ordered him to move, he refused, insisting on his right to be treated with dignity. Police arrived, and Boynton arrested and jailed overnight, and fined for trespassing. Instead of accepting the injustice, he appealed his case arguing that segregated facilities serving interstate passengers violated the Interstate Commerce Act. As a law student, he understood that his personal humiliation could become an important test case.

Two years later, in *Boynton v. Virginia*, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in his favor. The decision outlawed segregation in bus terminals serving interstate travelers and helped inspire the Freedom Rides of 1961, in which interracial groups rode buses across the South to test whether the law would be enforced.

Azie Taylor Morton



Azie Taylor Morton holds the historic distinction of being the first and only African American to hold the office of U.S. Treasurer, a role that placed her signature upon the nation’s currency. Her journey to this position was one of remarkable perseverance, raised by her grandparents in a Texas farming community and overcoming the profound racial barriers of her time, including denied graduate school admission due to segregation. A dedicated public servant, her career included significant work with the Committee on Equal Employment Opportunity before her presidential appointment. Beyond her treasury duties, Morton represented the U.S. in significant international diplomatic roles. Her lifelong commitment to civic engagement and education is memorialized by a scholarship fund established in her name.

Dr. Shirley Ann Jackson



Dr. Shirley Ann Jackson, the first Black woman to earn a Ph.D. from MIT, helped developed technologies like caller ID, call waiting, portable fax machines, and fiber-optic cables through her groundbreaking research at Bell Labs. She later led Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and made history in public service, leaving impact on STEM and communications.

Vernon Dahmer



Vernon Dahmer died because he insisted Black people should be able to vote 1966 Hattiesburg, Mississippi. Vernon Dahmer was a grocery store owner, a farmer, and a civil rights leader. He was also a leader of the NAACP in Mississippi. In a state guilty of voter suppression, he did something dangerous. He helped Black citizens register to vote. He paid poll taxes for those who could not afford them. He told people their voices mattered. That made him a target. Just after midnight on January 10, 1966, members of the Ku Klux Klan surrounded his home. They opened fire.

They threw firebombs. Flames tore through the house while his family was inside. Vernon Dahmer fought back. He fired his gun to give his wife and children time to escape. He was severely burned and shot. His lungs filled with smoke. He died later that day. He was 57 years old. The attack shocked the nation. Years later, the men responsible were finally brought to justice. Some were convicted decades after the crime when silence could no longer protect them. He died standing his ground. He believed voting was worth his life. And history remembers him that way.

Harry T. Moore and Harriette Vyda Simms Moore



On this day ...December 25, 1951, NAACP leader Harry T. Moore and his wife, Harriette Vyda Simms Moore were killed when a bomb exploded beneath their home in Mims, Florida, on their 25th wedding anniversary. The couple had developed their lives to investigating racial violence, fighting, lynching, and expanding Black voter registration in Florida. Their activism made them prime targets for white supremacists who feared the growing political power of Black communities. The bombing of their home was one of the earliest high-profile assassinations of the modern Civil Rights era, preceding the killings of other well-known leaders. Their deaths marked the beginning of a tragic wave of racially motivated bombings across Florida and the South. Though justice for the Moores was long delayed, their legacy lives on in voting rights, civil rights organizing, and memorials that honor their sacrifice. They stand as powerful examples of a couple who put everything on the line for freedom.

Phyllis Mae Dailey



On March 8, 1945, Phyllis made history as the first Black woman sworn into United States Navy Nurse Corps to serve in Navy nursing, and the first to become a commissioned Navy officer. Inducted as an ensign on **March 8, 1945**, her commissioning shattered a long-standing racial exclusion policy within naval medicine during the final months of World War II. **Initial Rejections:** Prior to joining the Navy, Dailey attempted to enlist in other military branches, such as the Army and Air Force, denied due to institutional racial barriers. **The First Cohort:** Dailey was the vanguard of a small group of four Black women to serve as Navy nurses during WWII, immediately followed by Edith Mazie DeVoe, Helen Fredericka Turner, and Eula Lucille Stimley.

Ernest Everett Just

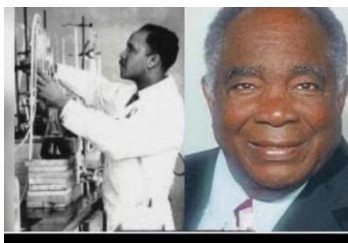


August 14, 1883: On this day ... Ernest Everett Just, a pioneering African American biologist, was born in Charleston South Carolina, in 1883. A gifted scholar, he graduated magna cum laude from Dartmouth College and went on to break significant racial barriers in science. He was one of the founders of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., the first fraternity established at a historical Black college (Howard University). Just's groundbreaking research in the physiology of cell development – especially in fertilization, cell division, and embryonic development – earned him an international reputation. Despite pervasive racial discrimination in the United States, he pursued his work with extraordinary dedication, often conducting experiments in Europe to escape the constraints of segregation at home.

In 1940, while conducting research in France Just caught in the upheaval of World War II. When Germany invaded, he was captured and became a prisoner of war. After his release, his health, already comprised, declined rapidly. Returning to the United States, he succumbed to pancreatic cancer in 1941. His career cut short at the age of fifty-eight, left behind a scientific legacy built on meticulous experimentation and visionary insights about role of the cell surface in development – ideas that influenced biology for decades.

Ernest Everett Just's impact extended beyond science into education, mentorship, and Black intellectual life through his role in founding Omega Psi Phi. In 1996, the U.S. Postal Service honored him with a stamp in its Black Heritage series, cementing his place among the nation's most influential African Americans. Today, he is remembered as both a trailblazing scientist and a leader committed to creating opportunities for future generations, inspiring scientists, scholars, and fraternity brothers alike.

Dr. Herbert Smitherman



Did you know that Crest toothpaste, Folgers Coffee, Bounce Fabric Softener and Safeguard soap was all created by a Black man with a Ph.D. in physical organic chemistry, with a pioneering executive and professional chemist? Dr. Smitherman represents a truth too often erased from dominant narratives: The architecture of modern life is not built by those who name products... it is built by those who engineer their molecular reality. Behind every tube, every bottle, every formula refined for “performance” and “safety” there are unseen hands shaping the very structure of matter itself. This is where real power lives. Not in labels. Not in logos. But in science, Dr. Smitherman did not just contribute to products – he helped transform the invisible chemical foundations that make them work.

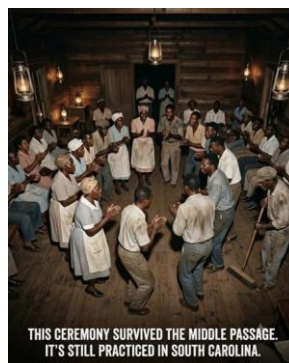
And that forces us to confront a deeper question. How many other architects of our everyday lives have been rendered invisible? They told us to remember the brands. They never told us to remember the minds behind chemistry. This is not just about reclaiming intellectual legacy. It is about honoring the engineers of reality.

Dr. Khalilah Camacho-Ali



A ninth-degree black belt... trained by Bruce Lee. Looks like her husband was not the only athlete in the family. Most people know her as Muhammad Ali's second wife, but there is so much more to her story. Dr. Khalilah Camach-Ali who started training at eight years old and studied under Bruce Lee, Jim Kelly, and Steve Saunders. She built a full career in martial arts, known as an undefeated competitor. Today at 76, she is still very active, acting, advocating for economic empowerment, creating, and still doing speaking engagements for the memoir she wrote, *UNDEFEATED: The Untold Story of My Forgiveness, Healing and Reclamation*, was released in 2023. On another fun fact: She has been on the cover of *Ebony Magazine* seven times. Now that is a lady with an amazing story, not just a part of someone else's.

African American Tradition



Did you know the oldest surviving African American sacred performance tradition in the United States is still practiced today in the “praise” houses of the South Carolina and Georgia Sea Islands? The Guillach Geechee ring shout is a counterclockwise shuffling ceremony combining call-and-response singing, handclapping, and stick-beating rhythms, performed in praise houses that served as the spiritual and community centers of Sea Island life for generations. Musicologists and historians trace the ring shout directly to West and Central African ceremonial traditions, making it one of the clearest surviving cultural connections between African American sacred practice and its pre-slavery African roots.

The tradition also influenced the development of American popular music, making those “Johns Island” praise houses one of the most musically consequential spaces in American cultural history. There is almost

nothing in American cultural life whose roots are this deep, this specific, and this directly traceable to a place and a people.

WALK OF PEACE

Though their journeys look different, the [Walk for Peace Monks](#) and [Martin Luther King, Jr.](#) share a common moral calling. Dr. King, a Baptist minister and civil rights leader, confronted injustice with powerful words, organized movements, and steadfast nonviolence during a pivotal era in American history.

The Walk For peace Monks chooses a quieter path, often without microphones or crowds, communicating their values through mindful walking, calm presence, and peaceful intention. While their approaches differ, their aim is the same: to bring an end to injustice and to cultivate love, peace, and harmony among people. Together, they show that meaningful change does not require fame or authority but begins with compassion, conscience, and commitment to humanity. It is moving to witness how Dr. King's dream lives on through others, whether they recognize it or not, or deep down they do.



Memorial



Please note some dates may be dates of the memorial service

March 27, 2025, Mary Jacqueline Minter, LTC (R) USA Army Nurse Corp DMV Member

May 3, 2025, Glorious Elaine Qualles Major (R) USA Army Nurse Corp, NYC Member

June 7, 2025, Anna Mae Roberston, US Army, 6888th Member, U.S. Congressional Gold Medal

October 30, 2025, Francesca Speciale, Mother of Dr. Vitina Speciale-Olmo, Associate Member

November 4, 2025, Barbara Ann Harper LTC (R) USA Army Nurse Corp, ATL & NYC Member

November 16, 2025, Dr. Joyce Bowles, LTC (R) USA Army Nurse Corp, DMV Member

January 17, 2026, Elsie G. Hackett, Aunt of COL (R) Kathaleen Harris, Past President

February 4, 2026, Cleveland McNellie, Father of Edith Robbins, San Antonio Member

February 14, 2026, Mrs. Patricia Sue Antell-Carson, mother of Veteran Arlene Duncan USMC

February 13, 2026, Cedric Moore, SGT (R) US Army, Father of Lakeisha Howard, President San Antonio

February 17, 2026, Cheryl Lynn Brown, Sister of MSgt (R) Stephanie Homes, Member

February 24, 2026, Darlene Faye Dawson, Aunt of COL (R) Stephanie Dawson, Past President

February 28, 2026, Andrew Morgan Bowens, Husband of Sandra Bowens, President Charleston

March 9, 2026, Haynie M. Brooks, mother of MSgt (R) Teresa Hall, San Antonio Member

March 11, 2026, Rodney Levon Lewis Husband of Renee Tillman-Lewis, Treasurer, Jacksonville

March 16, 2026, Margaret "Margo" Jefferson, Major (R) US Army, ATL, Life Member

April 2, 2026, Irene W. Jamison, Mother of SSG (R) Brenda E. Jamison, Member

April 9, 2026, Jane Louise Thomas, Mother of Dr. Andrea Lorenez, LA Chapter President

April 22, 2026, SPC Stephanie Nious, Sister of Shauna Kay Nious, San Antonio Member

May 2, 2026, Sheila Ann Nelson, Sister of MSgt (R) Sparkle K. Adams, Life Member, ATL

May 14, 2026, Norma Jean Richardson, Mother of CMSgt (R) Donna Greene, VP, Chaplain Charleston

May 25, 2026, Thelma E. Newton, Sister of SGT (R) Debra Newton, Brooklyn Member

May 30, 2026, Sammie Clay, TSGT (R) US Air Force Korean & Vietnam War 1952-1972

June 5, 2026, Lillie Mae Cooper Fluellen, Aunt of SFC (R) Dorothy Cannon

June 6, 2026, Gifford Shreves, Brother of Ernestine Feggans, Jacksonville, Associate Member

June 2026, Mary C. Dean, Mother of SGT (R) Kathy Dean, Life Member, Brooklyn

June 28, 2026, Rodney G. Person Cousin of Major (R) Teresa Polk, DMV President

July 2, 2026, Denzil Alan Broom, Sr. SGT (R) US Army, Husband of President, Pamela Monk, Jacksonville

July 10, 2026, Warren Joseph Godfry, Jr, SFC (R) Husband of Annette Godfry, San Antonio Member

July 24, 2026, Jean Jacques Noel, Uncle of COL (R) Carol St. Pierre, NYC President

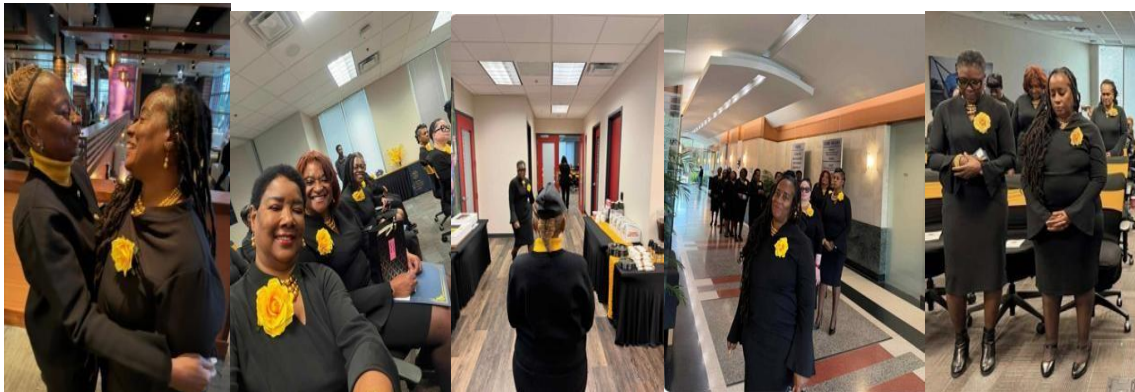
July 26, 2026, Carl C. Cush Sr, Navy Veteran, Uncle of Dr. Annette Tucker Osborne, NABMW President

NABMW PHOTO GALLERY

HARLEM HELLFIGHTERS



JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA INSTALLATION



St. Croix, Women Veterans Day Celebration





NABMW need your expertise. Please volunteer for at least one committee. WHATEVER YOUR SKILL WE NEED IT!! Listed below are the immediate committees on which we need help. NABMW National Secretary Judith Cotten Email: nabmwsecretary@gmail.com

IT Design/Webmaster
Mentorship Committee Need 2-3 Members
DMV Committee for our 50th Anniversary Celebration Volunteers are Welcome.

ATTENTION! ATTENTION! ATTENTION!

Regional Directors needed for the following Regions:

North West Region-Alaska, Idaho, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Oregon, Washington

Central Region – Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, Wisconsin

Central East Region – District of Columbia, MD, North Carolina, Virginia, West Va.

South-West Region- Arizona, South California, Colorado, Hawaii, Nevada, New Mexico, and Wyoming



IT IS TIME THAT WE TELL OUR STORIES AND GIVE HONOR TO THE WOMEN WHO SERVED

Join NABMW and Help Tell Her Story

Have you served, or are you currently serving, in the U.S. Armed Forces? If so, we invite you to **join us** as we continue telling “HerStory” and honoring the women who served before us.

NABMW seeks Black military women who served during World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, the Gulf War, Iraq, Afghanistan, and other periods of service. Women of all ranks and branches are welcome.

Membership is open to:

- Black military women who are veterans, reservists, or currently serving on active duty

- Family members, friends, men, and women who wish to support the mission as Associate Members

Together, we can preserve our history, celebrate our legacy, and ensure that the stories of Black military women continue to tell their story.

The NABMW is an organization dedicated to African American Military in keeping our history alive and told. **Membership** is a major part of the growth of our organization. Each of us knows a military woman who is a veteran, reservist or currently serving on active duty. Take it yourself to find a Sister Soldier and encourage her to join. **Contact Brenda Bligen, Membership Chairperson** at www.nabmw.org

Let us continue to **HONOR** and praise Black Military Women by telling their stories!

Editor In-Chief

Dr. Annette Tucker Osborne

Contributors

Brenda Bligen	Michelle Wilson	Sharon Lise
Judith Cotten	Stanlee Richards	Pamela Monk
Melissa Jones	Tanya Wilson-Thomas	Roy Tucker
Carol St. Pierre	Mary Harris	
Annie Suggs	Patricia Jackson-Kelley	
Trinette Rembert	Caroline Fawker	
Debra Newton	Stephany B. Neal	
Louise Nixon	Catherine LaPorte	
Sebrena Flagg-Briggs	Belinda Hill	



For all Chapters that are doing events send your information to post in our next edition events/pictures to annetteosborne@aol.com