

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BLACK MILITARY WOMEN



Message from the President



Welcome to our second edition of the 2023 National Association of Black Military Women newsletter. I hope this message finds you well. With the summer months in full swing there have been many events and activities taking place throughout our communities. The National Association of Black Military Women never sleeps, we are boots on the ground everywhere and this quarters' newsletter will prove that!

Each newsletter will begin with our Mission.

MISSION

Our Mission is to provide an archival facility to collect, preserve, communicate, and reveal informative material on the participation of Black

American Military Women who sacrificed a lot to defend this county. We will ensure that historical documentation is available in the U.S. through lectures, forums, exhibitions, school activities, articles, research, and other activities. NABMW is structured to motivate and support our youth in attaining more remarkable achievements by identifying Black Military Women role models through history. We want to increase an individual's knowledge of Black Military Women who served and are still serving in the military. We want to foster a spirit of camaraderie and goodwill among individuals who are keenly interested in Black history. It is essential to monitor and record military issues about or affecting women in the military.

My motivational quote: Mindset is the driving force in the quest for success and achievement. A mindset that combines discipline, strength, confidence, and ambition is a powerful mindset. This can achieve anything it sets its sights on. A powerful mind can accomplish anything.

Enjoy your summer!

Dr. Annette Tucker Osborne, COL (Ret)



APRIL PURPLE UP FOR THE MILITARY CHILD

April 15, 2023, 10AM -2PM

HemisFair Park, San Antonio, TX

The Defense Department celebrates military children during the month of April. There are more than 1.1 million children who face many challenges and unique experiences because of their parents' military services.

Why Purple? Purple references the joint environment of all service branches, Active duty, Reserve, National Guard, and Veterans. Purple is the combination of all the colors of the U.S. Armed Forces: Air Force, Navy, and Coast Guard blues, Army green, and Marine Corps red. Programs and activities that are similar across all branches of service are called "purple".

NABMW's South Central Regional Director, Bettie Vaughan and Angela Jones represented the April Purple Up Military Child at HemisFair Park, located at 434 S. Alamo, in San Antonio, TX.



AMERICAN LEGION ALAMO POST 2 WOMEN'S VETERANS LUNCHEON

On April 22, 2023, the American Legion Alamo Post 2 located at 3518 Fredericksburg Rd., San Antonio, TX, between 11AM and 1PM honored Women Veterans with a free annual luncheon. All branches of the services were welcome to attend. Veterans did not need to be a member of the Legion to attend. Guest speakers were Julianne Flynn, MD, Executive Director, VA South Texas Healthcare System, and Gerry May Hince, Commander 2022-2023, The American Legion, Department of Texas. Bettie Vaughan, Regional Director, Savetri Stormy, Janice Maupin, and Robin Williams, San Antonio Cluster, attended the American Legion Luncheon.



American Legion Women Veterans Luncheon. Left to right Savetri Stormy, Janice Maupin, and Robin Williams



On Saturday, April 22, 2023 Members of the NABMW Brooklyn and NYC Chapters participated in a community cleanup on Jones Bones, Long Island, New York. Earth Day is celebrated every year on April 22nd to raise awareness and support for environmental protection. The first Earth Day was held in 1970 and is observed by millions of people in over 190 countries around the world.



U.S. ARMY FORT GREGG-ADAMS, VIRGINIA Redesignated as Fort Gregg-Adams



Fort Lee, Va. was renamed Fort Gregg-Adams during a redesignation ceremony on April 27, 2023, honoring two Black Officers who excelled in the field of sustainment and made significant marks in the U.S. Army history.

Lt. Gen. Arthur J. Gregg rose from the rank of private to three-star General during his military logistics career, which began just after WWII and spanned nearly 36 years. LTG Gregg, age 94 is the only living person in Army history to have an installation named after him.

LTC Charity Adams, the first Black Officer in the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps (WAC) later known as the Women's Army Corps (WAC) during WWII, led the first Black WAC Unit that served overseas, the storied 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion.

The Fort Gregg-Adams Redesignation Ceremony was held at the Gregg-Adams Club with the sequence of events as follows: Welcome, Arrival of Official Party, National Anthem, Invocation was performed by Colonel (Chaplain) Thomas E. Allen, remarks were given by Major General Mark T. Simerly, Commanding General, United States Army Combined Arms Support Command, General Charles R. Hamilton Commanding General United States Army Material Command and LTG Arthur J. Gregg. Members of the DMV Chapter, and the Immediate Past President of the NABMW attended the unveiling of the new Gregg-Adams Fort.



General Chalres R. Hamilton, Commanding General United States Army Material Command retired LTC Arthur J. Gregg and Major General Mark T. Simerly, CASCOM stand at the position of attention as the National Anthem was played during Fort Gregg-Adams, Redesignation Ceremony April 27, 2023 t Gress-Adams Club.

**GOVERNOR WES MOORE MAKES 6888th
CENTRAL POSTAL DIRECTORY BATTALION DAY OFFICIAL**

On May 3, 2023, 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion Day became a commemorative day for Maryland. Governor Wes Moore, along with Lt. Governor Aruna Miller, Senate President Bill Ferguson, and House Speaker Adrienne A. Jones signed the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion Day, HB370, into law. March 9th will be designated as the 6888th Day in history. Members of NABMW, DMV Chapter witnessed the historical signing of the 6888th Bill Day.



The ceremony took place in Annapolis and included supporters like Adjutant General for the Maryland National Guard, Janeen L. Birckhead (left) and Col. U.S. Army (Ret.) Edna W. Cummings. The governor signed the bills with Maryland Speaker of the House Adrienne Jones (right) at his side, along with other elected officials.

ATL/METRO CHAPTER'S FIRST SLEEPOVER

On May 12, 2023, Atlanta/Metro Chapter held a night of healing, relaxation, conversation, and camaraderie. Eight (8) Sister Soldiers gathered at Sparkle's home in Forest Park, Ga. Arriving in their pajamas to share laughter, eat, and get pampered with a back and foot massage. The ladies came with their sleeping bags planning to spread out and let their hair down. Afterwards, they played games, gambled, danced, sang, massage, food and drank all night (3:30am), each decided to go home and stretch out in their own beds instead of a sleeping bag. Yes, we knew what the consequences would be on our bodies. Wise choice!!

What benefits did this activity have on the Chapter? The benefit to the Chapter was that we networked and enjoyed each other by just being silly with dancing and singing. Friendships were forged and barriers broken down allowing effective communication.

What did the Chapter learn from this activity? The chapter learned that they could laugh harder than cry. We can lean and depend on each other without deceptions or prejudgments.

Theme: Hawaiian theme, everyone wore grass skirts, a lei, and flowered headband. Enjoyed by all



MULTICULTURAL SD1 DORIE MILLER USN MEMORIAL POST 213

On Tuesday, May 16, 2023, Members Annie Suggs, and Carol Barnes of the NABMW Brooklyn Chapter attended the Memorial Day Event. Post 213 salutes the outstanding patriotic citizens of Brooklyn for their ongoing support. Post 213 began in 1999 Dorie Miller American Legion has welcomed VETERANS and their Families from all branches of the Armed Forces. Today, the Post continues to embrace and celebrate partnerships with Veterans and their communities. As Post 213 moves forward in our efforts to salute our country's veterans, we are proudly inspired by our faith in serving God, Country, and Community. Their mission seeks to embody the goals, aspirations, dreams, peace, and blessings of our country, friends, and families.





NEW YORK CITY TRANSIT VETERANS RESOURCE GROUP

MTA MEMORIAL CELEBRATION

On Monday, May 15, 2023, members of the Brooklyn Chapter attended the MTA Memorial Day Service at 2 Broadway, New York, to honor transit employees who have died while serving the Armed Forces. Members supported the event by the reading of the departed MTA members. The National Anthem was sung by an MTA Police Officer. The program included MTA Police Pipes and Drums, the MTA Police Department Honor Guard MTA Chaplain, and the Benediction given by MTA's Chief Chaplain.



Fort Belvoir Community Hospital Renamed to Honor Army Doctor

On May 16, 2023, NABMW's DMV Chapter President COL (R) Princess Facen and members of the DMV Chapter attended the ceremony renaming Fort Belvoir Community Hospital to the Alexander T. Augusta Military Medical Center in honor of U.S. Army Lt. Col. (Dr) Alexander Thomas Augusta.

The decision to change the hospital's name came after a thorough search for a figure who exemplifies American values. "The renaming is a tribute to the bravery, sacrifice, and values of a notable American pioneer and hero," said U.S. Army Lt. Gen. Telita Crosland, Director of the DHA.

Born in 1825, Dr. Augusta overcame numerous obstacles throughout his life. He worked as a barber in Baltimore, Maryland, while pursuing his dream of attending medical school. When faced with rejection from medical schools, he made the decision to relocate to Canada, where he found acceptance into the medical program at the University of Toronto. He received an M.B. in 1856. Driven by his passion for medicine, he furthered his career by commissioning as a major in the Union Army and was appointed head surgeon in the 7th U.S. Colored Infantry.

Dr. Augusta went on to become the highest-ranking black officer in the Union Army, the first black professor of medicine at Howard University in Washington, D.C., and the first black officer to be buried at Arlington National Cemetery. His contributions during the Civil War exemplified dignity and distinction while breaking barriers of segregation and discrimination.

The ceremony concluded with the unveiling of the new unit colors, symbolizing the organization's responsibilities. Additionally, a portrait of Dr. Augusta was revealed following the presentation of the organization's new flag.



US Army Lt. Gen. Telita Crosland Director of the DHA



Chief Nurse Tonya Rogers

Members of DMV Chapter

BITES & BRUSHES

The NABMW, Brooklyn Chapter on May 21, 2023, held its first successful fundraiser of 2023. The fundraiser included canvas, paint, brushes, instructions, and best of all food, drinks, and music. Cost \$35 person. The event was held at Black Veterans for Social Justice, Brooklyn, New York.

HerStory.





NATIONAL MEMORIAL DAY PARADE WASHINGTON, DC

MAY 29, 2023

The American Veterans Center included the 6888th Postal Battalion float. Members of the National Association of Black Military Women (NABMW) rode on the float.

The 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion (1945), nicknamed the “Six Triple Eight”, was a predominantly black battalion of the Women’s Army Corps (WAC). The 6888th had 855 women, consisting of both enlisted personnel and officers, deployed during WWII, and led by Major Charity Adams.



CITY UNIVERSITY OF THE CITY NEW YORK (CUNY)

Army ROTC Commissioning Ceremony

On behalf of MG Michel M. Russell, Sr. Commanding General of the 1st Theater Sustainment Command, Fort Knox, Kentucky cordially invited members of the NABMW Brooklyn Chapter to its Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) Program’s Commissioning Ceremony held on June 6, 2023. This marks the 1st full year the Empire Battalion was approved as a Senior Reserve Officer Training Corps (SROTC). The host program and Dr.Rishi Raj, CUNY, former Military Science Department

Chair was instrumental in bringing ROTC back to the CUNY Campus. The graduation was held at the Great Hall, on the City College of New York campus.

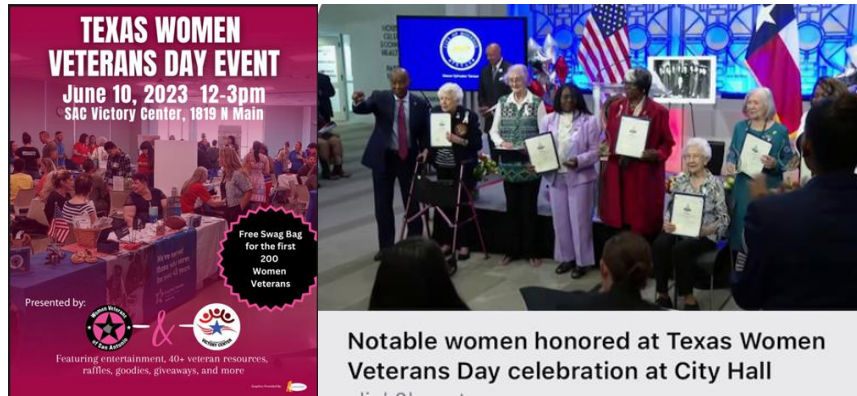
Brooklyn Chapter Scholarship Committee awarded two ROTC students. Annie Suggs, VP and Melissa Jones, Secretary, represented the NABMW Brooklyn Chapter at the 2023 CUNY Army ROTC graduation ceremony supporting 2LT Phan, a NABMW Brooklyn Scholarship Awardee.



2LT Phan receiving her first salute.



TEXAS WOMEN'S VETERANS DAY EVENT



Notable women honored at Texas Women Veterans Day celebration at City Hall

The Women's Veteran Day Program was held June 10, 2023, 12 PM -3PM, at the San Antonio College Victory Center. The Women Veterans Program connects women veterans to local, state, and federal resources. Their mission is to ensure that women veterans of Texas have equitable access to federal and state veteran benefits and services. The Texas Veterans Program serves to educate and inform women veterans of benefits and advocates on their behalf by creating public awareness; recognizing and honoring women veterans; identifying needs and making legislative recommendations. The Texas Veterans Program is committed to improving the lives of women veterans and their families. The San Antonio Chapter and the South Central Regional Director Bettie Vaughan represented NABMW.



WOMEN'S ARMED SERVICES INTEGRATION ACT



On June 12, 1948, President Harry S. Truman signed the Women's Armed Services Integration Act allowing women to serve as regular members of the military. This momentous event is celebrated on June 12th of each year in recognition of the anniversary of the 1948 Women's Army Services

Integration Act signing. This year was particularly significant as it is the 75th Anniversary of the groundbreaking legislation for American Military Women, granting women an opportunity for a career in the military. First Lady Dr. Jill Biden served as one of the speakers at the Women’s Memorial Museum.



Statement from President Joe Biden on the 75th Anniversary of the Desegregation of the Armed Forces

On July 26th, 1948, President Truman signed Executive Order 9981, ending the unconscionable racial segregation of our Armed Forces, and bringing our nation closer to our founding values. This landmark executive order, issued more than a decade before the passage of the Civil Rights Act, directed the military to ensure the “equality of treatment and opportunity for all persons in the armed services without regard to race, color, religion or national origin.” It was a vital step forward for our nation. It recognized the equal bravery and sacrifices of generations of service members of color who deserved to be honored. So today, as we commemorate this milestone on our unending journey toward our more perfect union, we honor the contributions, sacrifices, and resilience of the brave servicewomen and men of every background who stepped up to defend our nation—in so many cases, even before their rights as equals under the law had yet to be realized.

We celebrate this proud legacy of service, we also honor those who currently serve in uniform and recommit ourselves to the work we must do – as a military, and as a society – to ensure they can do so with dignity and respect, secure in the knowledge that their talents will be valued, their sacrifices will be honored, and their families supported.

America’s greatest strength has always been our diversity, and there is no greater testament to this than the success of our military. Let us continue to break down barriers so that all qualified servicemembers, no matter their race, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, or religious background, are treated with dignity and respect, can reach their full potential, and have their contributions valued. On this day, the 75th Anniversary of the Executive Order that forever strengthened our military, we must remain unflagging in our effort to complete the work that lies ahead. That is how we will ensure the United States Armed Forces remains the greatest fighting force in the history of the world.



DoD Celebrates the 75th Anniversary of the Desegregation of the Federal Workforce and Armed Forces

On July 27, 2023, the Department of Defense (DOD) commemorated the 75th Anniversary of President Harry S. Truman signing Executive Orders 9980 and 9981 desegregating the federal workforce and Armed Forces. These landmark decisions are remembered for impacting the civilian workforce who support service members protecting our nation and representing our core values worldwide. The Department of Defense remains a dynamic organization committed to today's diverse and mission-ready Total Force, which constantly evolves to overcome new threats and challenges.

JUNETEENTH



The Emancipation Proclamation issued by President Abraham Lincoln on January 1, 1863, had established that all enslaved people in the Confederate States in rebellion against the Union “shall be then, hence forward, and forever free”. But the Emancipation Proclamation did not instantly free all enslaved people.

Confederate General Robert E. Lee had surrendered at Appomattox Court house two months earlier in Virginia, but slavery had remained relatively unaffected in Texas – until U.S. General Gordon Granger stood on Texas soil and read General Orders No. 3: “The people of Texas are informed that, in accordance with a proclamation from the Executive of the United States, all slaves are free”.

Celebrations broke out among newly freed Black people, and Juneteenth was born. That December, slavery in America was formally abolished with the adoption of the 13th Amendment. The year following 1865, freed men in Texas organized the first of what became the annual celebration of “Jubilee Day” on June 19th in the ensuing decades, Juneteenth commemorations featured music, barbeques, prayer services and other activities, and as Black people migrated from Texas to other parts of the country the Juneteenth tradition spread.

In 1979, Texas became the first state to make Juneteenth an official holiday with several others following over the years.

Juneteenth (short for “June Nineteenth”) marks the day when federal troops arrived in Galveston, Texas to take control of the state and ensure that all enslaved people be freed. The troops’ arrival came a full two and a half years before the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation.

Congress in June 2021 passed a resolution establishing Juneteenth as a national holiday; President Biden signed it into law on June 17, 2021. (Retrieved from <https://www.history.com/news/what-is-juneteenth><https://www.history.com/news/what-is-juneteenth>)

Members from California, Florida and Texas celebrated Juneteenth in their home states.



DVS/NEW YORK METS MILITARY TRANSITION SUMMIT



On June 24, 2023, NABMW NE Regional Director Louise Nixon served as a panelist for the Division of Veterans Services/New York Military Transition Summit at Citi Field. “Meeting the Needs of Women Veterans” session. The NABMW Brooklyn Chapter set up a table for information. Several breakout sessions were held throughout the day which drew an audience of newly transitioned Veterans who were returning or moving to New York City.

Andi Coakley of Blue Star Families moderated the panel, and joining her were Dr. Jennifer Friedburg, VA NY Harbor Healthcare System who discussed women’s healthcare at the VA and Noah Angeles, Principal, York Early College Academy who spoke on navigating the NYC public school system.

Commissioner Hendon, Louise Nixon NE Regional Director and Erica Newhouse, Exec. Dir. Blue Star Families



Ellen Greeley, Asst. Commissioner

**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BLACK MILITARY WOMEN
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS INSTALLATION CEREMONY**



Installation Ceremony of the San Antonio Chapter was held on Saturday, June 24, 2023, from 12 PM through 2PM, at the Good Samaritan Veterans Outreach and Transition Center, located at 202 Connelly Street, in San Antonio, Texas. South Central Regional Director, Bettie Vaughan, served as the Presenter and the National President, Dr. Annette Tucker Osborne, was the Installer for the ceremony.



Guest Speaker Barabara Gervin-Hawkins State Representative for Texas 120th House District





President Dr. Annette Tucker Osborne, San Antonio Secretary Michelle Washington, San Antonio President Erin O. Weatherly, and South Central Regional Director, Bettie Vaughan



CALVET'S TRAILBLAZER AWARDS

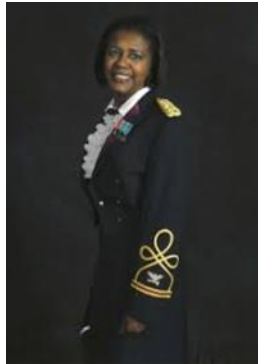


Six women veterans received the CalVet's Trailblazer Awards at the 75th Celebration of Women Veterans on June 12, 2023, at 5PM at the Sheraton Grande Sacramento Hotel, located at 1230 J Street, in Sacramento, Ca. "CalVet's Trailblazer Awards" were created to honor and recognize California women veterans and servicemen who have made significant contributions to their communities and have reaffirmed their perseverance and dedication to duty through community engagement. Trailblazers are women who have served their country or are currently serving and making an impact by enhancing the lives of other veterans, veteran families, or veteran caregivers.

The National Association of Black Military Women is happy to announce that two of our Executive Members was awarded the Trailblazer Award.



SPOTLIGHT ON IRMA COOPER COL (R) VP OPERATIONS



Irma Hagens Cooper, of Los Angeles forged relationships and opened dialogues between law enforcement agencies to create safer communities for underserved and marginalized groups in LA County. Deputy Secretary, Women Veterans Affairs, Virginia A. Wimmer, MSW said, "You used your Commanding Officer skills to hold leadership positions in large organizations like the California & Hawaii Chapter of the NAACP, the California Chapter of the NABMW, and a host of other leadership roles in the local chapters of the VFW and American Legion." Irma Hagens Cooper is a strong advocate for climate and environmental protection to guarantee positive change. She has served on the National Parks Conservation Association to ensure veterans have a voice and a choice. Congratulations Irma on a well-deserved award!



SPOTLIGHT ON LATIA SUTTLE CW2 (R) PUBLIC RELATIONS



Latia Suttle, of Southern California volunteered in the veteran community through organizations and affiliations such as NABMW. She chaired the Armed Services and Veterans Affairs Committee of NAACP, Beverly Hills Hollywood Branch, and wrote resolutions that garnered nationwide support for veterans impacted by the family court and deportation. Latia has crafted language to help legislators author bills to start identifying veteran and military families in family courts. That proposal later developed into SB 1182 (Eggman). The bill was approved by California Governor, Galvin Newsom, on September 17, 2022. Latia’s dedication to serving families is evident from her military service and now to the California communities. Congratulations Latia on a well-deserved award!



SPOTLIGHT ON MSG (R) Sparkle K. Adams



A Forest Park military veteran has been inducted as a member of the Georgia Military Veterans’ Hall of Fame in Columbus, according to Rick White, director of the organization.

Air Force Master Sergeant Sparkle Kornegay Adams, who served 25-plus years of duty. She also served with federal government agencies and is a former mayor and city councilwoman of Forest Park. She has dedicated untiring and selfless volunteering for the benefit of her church, community, city, and nation, and positively impacted thousands of lives.

Sparkle Adams has also been a member of the Forest Park Kiwanis Club and the Atlanta Chapter of the Tuskegee Airmen Walk of Heroes. She is listed at the local Veterans War Memorial, the Ben Hill United Methodist Church Veterans' Ministry, and the Metro Atlanta Chapter of the National Association of Black Military Women. She also founded the Walking in Authority Team Council, a developmental organization for youth. She is a Life Member of the National Association of Black Military Women. Congratulations Sparkle!

NATIONAL PANAMANIAN FRIENDSHIP REUNION, INC.



The National Panamanian Friendship Reunion, Inc. held June 30 through July 2, 2023, US Independence Day Weekend reunion this year at the Holiday Inn Miami West 7700 N.W. 103 Street, Hialeah Gardens, Fl. 33016, Miami Florida. Army Veteran MAJ (Ret) Jean Pickering, Brooklyn Chapter member was one of the honorees! Congratulations Jean!



NAACP Community Townhall in Pomona, Cal 75th Anniversary Honoring Executive Order 9981



Congratulations COL (Ret) Irma Cooper on receiving several awards during the NAACP Community Townhall's 75th Anniversary Honoring Executive Order 9981. The keynote speaker was COL (Ret) Irma Cooper, President of the NAACP San Gabriel Valley Branch. She also serves as Vice President of Operations for the National Association of Black Military Woman. The Guest Speaker at the event was Congresswoman Norma Torres.



NAACP Members from Various Branches



Veterans Treatment Court for Clayton County Superior Court



Veterans Treatment Court (VTC) is a program that can help with benefits, treatment, and housing. It can also help veterans to reconnect with family, employment, and meaningful relationships. Participants in VTC must follow the instructions of the judge and follow the treatment plan developed by the treatment team. Acceptance is based on participant treatment needs and problems with the law. Mentors will ask about the participants' willingness to undergo treatment for trauma, substance use, and mental health care.

Every Wednesday ATL/Metro chapter members Judith L. Cotten, President, Clarice Dailey, V.P., and Kathaleen Harris, Treasurer serves as Mentors for Veterans in the program. They appear in court with their respective Mentees. Throughout the week, they communicate and motivate the Mentees. Kathaleen Harris serves as the Mentor's Coordinator.

Clayton County Veteran of the Month

Staff Sergeant, ATL/Metro NABMW Member, Bonnie E. Crawford of the U.S. Army received the Clayton County Veteran of the Month Appreciation Award from the Clayton County Veterans Advisory Board for her dedication, sacrifice, and service to our country. The sacrifice of a few ensured the freedom of many. A grateful community remembers those who served in the Armed Forces of the United States during times of war and peace, whose courage and personal sacrifices defended and preserved our freedom. Ms. Crawford received this distinguished award on January 11, 2023. Congratulations, SSG Crawford!



The following chapter members were also recipients of the prestigious honor:



January 2023 MSG (Ret) Vickie Jennings, U.S. Army

June 2023 Bonita E. Crawford, Staff Sergeant (Retired), U.S. Army

August 2023 Bridgett Renay, U.S. Navy



HOUSE DEMOCRATIC LEADERSHIP ROUNDTABLE

NABMW was invited to Capitol Hill and participated in the Veteran Service Organizations Leaders Roundtable with the House Democratic Leader Congressman Hakeem Jeffries and Ranking Member of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs Congressman Mark Takano.

NABMW represented well and were told NABMW is now on the list to return next year for future Roundtable discussion. Barbara Lee's Office wants to add amendments to appropriations being held to add funding for Veterans Justice Outreach (VSO) to expand to include assisting veterans in Family Court and to do a study on veterans.



Group Photo of VSO's, Democratic Leader Congressman Hakeem Jeffries, Congressman Mark Takano and staff



Democratic Leader Congressman Hakeem Jeffries and Ranking Member of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs Congressman Mark Takano



Democratic Leader Congressman Hakeem Jeffries



Roundtable Discussion



Navy Veteran Daphne Wright, NABMW DMV Chapter President COL (Ret) Princess Fagan and Army Veteran Karisha Dixon



NABMW Members

BROOKLYN CHAPTER HONORS DR. ANNETTE TUCKER OSBORNE COL (R)



"Sharing your Experience, Strength, and Hope ensures a bright future and leaves a legacy of success."

On July 13, 2023, at 7 p.m., via zoom, the Brooklyn Chapter honored Dr. Annette Tucker Osborne COL (Ret) for her years of service, recognizing her for her leadership and guidance as the Brooklyn Chapter's First President. She helped birth, build, and lead in the Chapter's accomplishments for its first six (6) years.

BLACK VETERANS FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE, INC.



On Saturday July 29, 2023 Black Veterans for Social Justice celebrated its 44th Anniversary in BOHO Chic Style at The Rockaway Hotel and Spa 108-10 Rockaway Beach Drive Rockaway Park, NY 11694. *Theme: Giving Honor, Where Honor is Due!*

The evening included a cocktail hour with passed h'ordeures, an open bar for the entire evening plated three-course dinner, Casino Royale, Photo Booth and 360 Fun, Gifts, and giveaways All Night Long, and DJs/Dancing. Semi Formal Attire.



TRI CHAPTER BACKPACK GIVEAWAY



Back to school backpack giveaways and block party was sponsored by NABMW's Brooklyn, ATL Metro, and NYC Chapters on August 5, 2023, from 12:30 PM through 3:30 PM located in Marietta, GA. This event was headed up by Brooklyn Chapter member Verna' Martin. The day included dog training techniques, face painting, hot dogs, snacks for children, face painting, caricaturists, Publix donated key chains, frisbees, and stickers donated by the Cobb County Sheriff's Office. Volunteers: Lorenzo's Dog Training Team, Mil Vet: School supplies and backpacks.



CALVARY REFUGGE CENTER HOMELESS SHELTER, CLAYTON COUNTRY, GA



Through our short-term and emergency housing programs, Calvary Refuge Center has helped thousands of homeless adults and children in need. The average American family is just a few paychecks away from homelessness. Through the continued effort of Calvary's staff, volunteers, financial and other donations, and generous grants provided by federal, state, and county agencies, the Calvary Refuge Center has aided the homeless for nearly 30 years. Members of the ATL/Metro Chapter's civic engagement helped to feed the homeless.



TOXIC EXPOSURE SCREENING



The PACT Act is a new law that expands VA health care and benefits for Veterans exposed to burn pits, Agent Orange, and other toxic substances. The full name of the law is The Sergeant First Class (SFC) Heath Robinson Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics (PACT) Act. There is no deadline to apply for PACT Act-related benefits but most veterans and survivors who apply for benefits or submit an “intent to file” by August 9, 2023, if granted, will have their benefits backdated to August 10, 2022.

If you served on the ground, in the airspace above, in territorial waters, or a ship that was called there, you may be eligible for VA benefits and health care for over 300 conditions. Unsure if you qualify? Attend one of the upcoming VA events, you will learn how to apply for PACT Act-related benefits or submit an intent to file, enroll in VA health care, where to get screened for toxic exposures, and more.

<https://www.va.gov/outreach-and-events/events/>

**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BLACK MILITARY WOMEN
DALLAS TEXAS INSTALLATION CEREMONY**



The installation Ceremony of the Dallas Chapter was held on Saturday, August 26, 2023, from 12 PM through 2 PM at the Courtyard Dallas Midlothian Conference Center 3 Community Drive, Midlothian, Texas 76065. National Secretary Judith Cotten served as the Mistress of the Ceremony, South Central Regional Director, Bettie Vaughan, served as the Presenter and the National President Dr. Annette Tucker Osborne was the Installer for the Ceremony.



Carl O. Sherman Texas House of Representative



PRIVATE MARGARET GLENN SALES SEMMES



ASSUMPTION CATHOLIC MAUSOLEUM

On September 23, 2023, the Chicago Chapter pays tribute to Pvt. Margaret G. Sales Semmes, 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion, World War II Veteran.

Pvt Margaret G. Sales Semmes was a member of the WAC 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion (CPDB) stationed in England and France during WWII sorting mail for the American troops. Born September 21, 1924, Chicago Cook County, Illinois USA, died April 11, 1999, at the age of 74.







TULSA RACE MASSACRE VICTIM



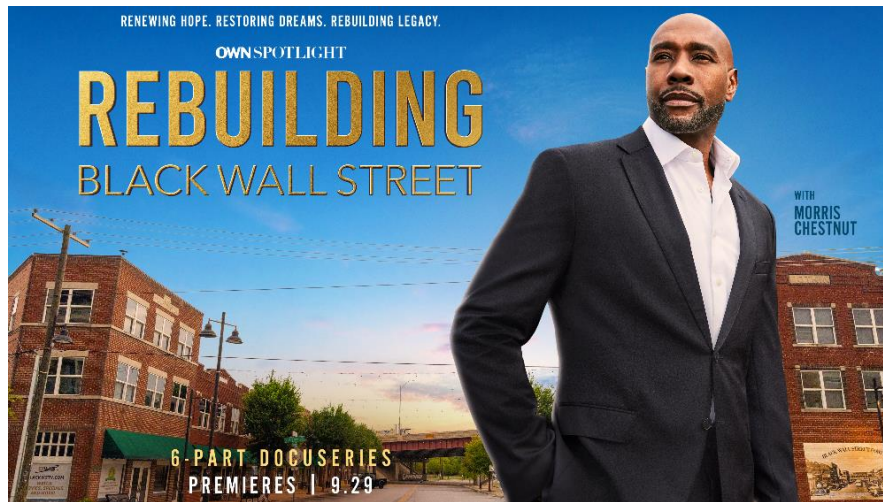
Viola Fletcher born on May 5, 1914, also known as Mother Fletcher, is the oldest known survivor at 109 years of the Tulsa race massacre. One hundred years after the massacre, she testified on May 19, 2021, along with her 100-year-old brother Hughes and Leslie Benningfield Randle, before Congress about the need for reparations. Ms. Fletcher has traveled internationally in addition to her testimony before Congress and supported a lawsuit for reparations - all part of a campaign for accountability over the massacre that destroyed Tulsa, Oklahoma's original "Black Wall Street" in 1921 when she was a child.

Now at the age of 109, Mother Fletcher is releasing a memoir about the life she lived in the shadow of the massacre, after a white mob laid waste to the once-thriving Black enclave known as Greenwood. Her book, *"Don't Let Them Bury My Story"* " will be published by Mocha Media Inc. and will become widely available for purchase on August 15, 2023, on Amazon.

NEWS UPDATE: On Friday, July 7, 2023, an Oklahoma judge dismisses the Tulsa race massacre reparations case filed by the last known survivors. The three had been locked in a yearlong court battle against the City of Tulsa and other groups and officials over the opportunities taken when the city's Greenwood neighborhood was burned to the ground in 1921.

The City of Tulsa requested the lawsuit be dismissed with prejudice against refiling, arguing in part that "simply being connected to a historical event does not provide a person with unlimited rights to seek compensation from any project in any way related to that historical event." Family attorneys are expected to address the possibility of an appeal.

MORRIS CHESTNUT – RESTORING THE LEGACY OF TULSA MASSACRE SURVIVORS



In the early 20th century, Tulsa, Oklahoma’s Greenwood district was a thriving predominantly Black community often referred to as Black Wall Street. Many African American families had flocked to the area, purchasing the land sold exclusively to “coloreds.” They created a bustling community filled with successful businesses, banks, theaters, and shops. Unfortunately, the success was short-lived, with Greenwood being decimated just two decades after it was settled.

The 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre destroyed homes, businesses, and claimed the lives of many Black Greenwood residents. While those who survived have continued to keep the memory alive, fighting daily for what is rightfully owed to them. Many of their descendants have also kept the spirit of Black Wall Street alive, a testament to the resilient spirit of the community.

Now actor Morris Chestnut has partnered with the Oprah Winfrey Network (OWN) to executive produce a new six-part docuseries shining a light on the legacy of Black Wall Street, *Essence* reports.

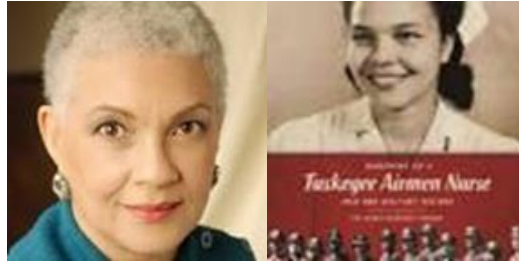
“Rebuilding Black Wall Street” will not only focus on the tragedy that was the Tulsa Massacre. It will also highlight the efforts of the current community to rebuild more than a century later.

“Over the course of six episodes, Chestnut...[will] guide viewers through Greenwood’s rich history and the personal journeys of those featured – many of whom are the descendants of original Black Wall Street residents...As new businesses and projects progress, viewers will experience the physical and emotional challenges that come with large-scale construction and celebrate the promise of Greenwood’s future,” said the docuseries’ producers in a statement.

Chestnut is serving as executive producer and host for the project, partnering with OWN and Greenwood Creative Studios to bring the series to life under his GMC8 Productions banner.

Rebuilding Black Wall Street New Series Premieres September 29, 2023, 9/8 on OWN Network

TUSKEGEE ARMY NURSES



The NABMW's Executive Board had the honor and pleasure of having Pia Marie Winters Jordan attend our monthly virtual meeting. Did you know there were nurses at Tuskegee? Ms. Pia Jordan, Product Director is producing a multi-media documentary on the Army Nurse Corps members who served with the Tuskegee Airmen at Tuskegee Army Airfield during World War II. Her mother, Louise Virginia Lomax Winters, was a First Lieutenant and one of those nurses. Her book "*Memories of a Tuskegee Airmen Nurse and her Military Sisters*" can be purchased on Amazon.

TYLER PERRY TAKES ON THE TRUE STORY OF THE 6888th BATTALION



Almost a full century has passed since the end of World War II, but new stories about the quiet heroism of everyday individuals continue to come to light. Now, Tyler Perry is tackling the war with his new film, "Six Triple Eight," the story of an all-black female battalion. Perry will write and direct his fourth effort for Netflix.

The 6888th Battalion contributed to the war effort in a unique way: by sorting through a three-year backlog of undelivered mail and delivering the mail to American soldiers far from home. In the face of discrimination and a vast, unfamiliar country divided by a global conflict, these 855 women brought hope to the front lines. "No mail, low morale" was the motto they gave themselves, and they fulfilled the promise of delivering mail (17 million pieces of it!) and morale when the United States needed it most.

In recent years, the story of the 6888th Battalion has finally been told. Perry's script is based on the 2021 article by Kevin M. Hymel published in the WWII History magazine. President Joe Biden presented some surviving members of the 6888th with the Congressional Medal of Honor in March 2023.



Kerry Washington will star in the story of the World War II's only all-Black, all women unit.



HENRIETTA LACKS HISTORIC SETTLEMENT AGAINST BIO-TECH COMPANY



Henrietta Lacks family celebrates her 103rd birthday with a historic settlement against Bio-Tech Company that stole her cells. Henrietta Lacks, a Black woman whose cervical cancer cells obtained during a tumor biopsy at Johns Hopkins Hospital in the 1950s were used in revolutionary medical research without her consent, settled with Thermo Fisher Scientific in Baltimore federal court Tuesday.

Through Ben Crump, the civil rights lawyer famous for securing the historic \$27 million settlement for George Floyd's family, Lacks' descendants had argued in a lawsuit filed in 2021 that the Waltham, Massachusetts, biotechnology company unjustly enriched itself off the so-called HeLa cells, reaping billions of dollars from a racist medical system.

Tissue harvested from the Black woman's tumor in 1951 – when it was not illegal to do so without a patient's permission – became the first human cells to continuously grow and reproduce in lab dishes. Lacks died of cervical cancer at just age 31 in the "colored ward" of Johns Hopkins, but the HeLa cells went on to become a cornerstone of modern medicine, enabling countless scientific and medical innovations, including the development of the polio vaccine, genetic mapping, and even COVID-19 vaccines. Though her relatives hadn't previously received financial compensation, they reached an

agreement with the National Institutes of Health in 2013 that gave them some control over how the DNA code from HeLa cells is used. <https://www.foxbusiness.com/category/fox-news-health>.



Attorney Ben Crump, second from left, walks with Ron Lacks, left, Alfred Lacks Carter, third from left, both grandsons of Henrietta Lacks, and other descendants of Lacks, outside the federal courthouse in Baltimore, Oct. 4, 2021. (Steve Ruark, file / AP Newsroom). Civil rights attorney Ben Crump, center, along with lawyer Christopher Seeger, right, and the family of Henrietta Lacks raise their fists as they call out her name after a news conference. Lacks died of an aggressive cervical cancer. (Kenneth K. Lam/Baltimore Sun/Tribune News Service via / Getty Images)

BUFFALO POST OFFICE RENAMED INDIANA HUNT-MARTIN



Congressman Brian Higgins is shown with the late Indiana Hunt-Martin in this 2014 photo

On August 28, 2023, Congressman Brian Higgins & USPS held a dedication ceremony renaming Buffalo’s Central Park Post Office at 170 Manhattan Ave, Buffalo, New York in Honor of WWII Veteran Private Indiana Hunt-Martin. The Post Office has officially been designated the Indiana Hunt-Martin Post Office building by Public Law No: 17-195-. Hunt-Martin served in Europe with the renowned 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion.

Congressman Higgins announced full Congressional approval of legislation (H.R. 2142) designating the central park post office in Buffalo as the “Indiana Hunt-Martin Post Office Building” Hunt-Martin, who lived in Buffalo and Niagara Falls, served as a member of the famous Six Triple Eight Central Postal Directory Battalion during World War II.

Hunts-Martin joined the Women’s Army Corps on September 15, 1944, and served overseas until her honorable discharge on November 10, 1945. “ The Six Triple Eight Central Postal Directory Battalion was a one-of-a-kind African American unit within the Women’s Army Corps assigned to sort and redirect millions of pieces of backlogged mail set to U.S. soldiers serving in the war. The unit worked around the clock, seven days a week, processing an incredible 65,000 pieces of mail per shift under the service motto “No mail, low morale”. In total, the 6888th Central Postal Director Battalion handled 17 million pieces of mail.



BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS



Dr. Doris “Lucki” Allen

Vietnam Veteran U.S. Army 1950 – 1980



Known to her friends nationally and across the world as Lucki celebrated her 96th birthday on May 9th at the Merse Restaurant, in San Francisco, CA. On June 26, 2009, Dr. Doris "Lucki" Allen, Ph.D. became a member of one of the most exclusive organizations in the world: The Military Intelligence Corp Hall of Fame. Lucki joined the US Army in 1950 after serving some years as a teacher in America's segregated schools.

During 30 years of military service, she served in three major careers: Entertainment, Public Affairs (journalism) and Military Intelligence. As an entertainment specialist she assisted in the production of and performed in many shows. She was a key member of a team booking professional entertainment act for soldiers' clubs. Dr. Allen's first assignment in journalism was as a senior editor of a newspaper writing editorials, and sports stories directed at both military and civilian audiences in both the United States and overseas. As an FCC-licensed radio broadcaster of the world and local news, she earned the coveted Department of Defense Certificate of Merit for “Excellence in Journalism.”

In late 1971, Lucki was selected to become a Special Agent \Counterintelligence technician. In that capacity she conducted investigations to prevent, detect and neutralize acts of espionage, sabotage, subversion, and treason directed against the U.S. Army and the Department of Defense.

As a member of the City of Refuge UCC in Oakland, CA, she (known there as "Dr. Lucki") serves as a mentor to many young people in the congregation. Appointed as Church Mother for the City of Refuge, Tijuana, Mexico, Lucki makes frequent visits to its fast-growing congregation. In Zimbabwe, she is an Elder of the Mother of Peace Orphanage that she has supported for many years. As a mentor to many, Dr. Lucki is continuing her role developed in her military career, that of teacher, guide, and leader. Lucki is a Lifetime Member of the National Association of Black Military Women.



Dr. Annette Tucker Osborne, COL (Ret)



OEF

U.S. Army 1984-2013

The National President celebrated her monumental 70th birthday in Ocho Rios, Jamaica among sixty family, friends, and her military sisters that traveled from New York, Connecticut, Texas, Georgia, Florida, Washington, DC, Pennsylvania, and Maryland. The celebration started on May 31st with an all-white meet and greet, and on June 1st (the birthday) colors were orange, purple, or a combination. What a blessing to feel all the love . Those who know her, know her favorite singer is Tina Turner and dedicated her favorite song performed “Proud Mary” with her background dancers the “IKETTES.”







CPL (R) Lorraine West



Korean War Veteran

Served 1951-1953

On July 1st Lorraine West celebrated her 95th birthday, at the Riverside Premier Rehabilitation & Healing Center, 150 Riverside Drive, New York, NY. Lorraine joined the military during the Korean Conflict. Her decision to join was prompted by financial difficulties while attending Eastern Michigan University. Being an adventurous soul, Lorraine decided to become a WAC because the Army needed recruits and was recently desegregated. She is the co-founder of the Black Military Women Foundation (BMWF), former Chair Lady of the Northeast Region of NABMW and is a Life Member of NABMW, member of the Women in Military Service of America (WIMSA), 555 Paratrooper Infantry Division (Triple Nickels) and the 369th Veterans Association.

Lorraine is a senior citizen model. Her pictures are on 1199SEIU flyers, CVS flu season, Sleepy Mattresses, signs on the side of NYC buses, Breast Cancer literature (Lorraine is a Breast Cancer Survivor), and she has run several NYC Marathons!! Lorraine has traveled the world. She practices Ta Chi and is extremely flexible. She is loved by everyone on her block and in her building. Wishing you a very Happy Birthday with many more to come!!



MAJ (R) Margaret L. Jefferson



U.S. Army

1974-1995



On August 28th MAJ (Ret) . Margo Jefferson celebrates her 78th birthday!!MAJ (Ret) Jefferson is a chartered Life Member of NABMW and has proudly served as the South-East Regional Chairperson

since 2010. She received a Direct Commission with the rank of First Lieutenant in the Army in November 1974, MAJ Jefferson began her career as a Finance Officer in January 1975. MAJ Jefferson served as a U.S. Army Officer (Active and Reserve) and U.S. Government employee with over 30 years of government service (10+ years as an Active Army Officer, 10+ years as an Army Reserve Officer and 20 years as an Army Reserve Military Technician), culminating in the rank of Major for the Department of the Army and United States Army Reserve. She is experienced in areas of Planning, Programming, budgeting, Execution, Personnel Management, Equal Opportunity, Training/Schools, and Personnel Security Management. In government circles, Major Jefferson was regarded as a “double dipper”. MAJ Jefferson retired from the U.S. Army-Army Reserve in 1995 and from Civil Service in 2006.



Memorial

MSG (R) Martha Moore Bell 3/2023 NABMW Member ATL Metro Chapter

Annetta Ware Smith, 6/23/2023, NABMW Member

Elder Eleanor Gavin, 6/28/2023, (Sister of Wendy McClinton)

MSG (R) Beverly Brown, 7/29/2023, NABMW Member (Sister of Stephanie Dawson)

Carlos Burton, 6/30/2023, (Brother of Verna' Martin)

Crescencia “Joyce” Garcia, 8/3/2023, Member of the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion

Libbia Pansy Lewis (8/8/2023) NABMW Member

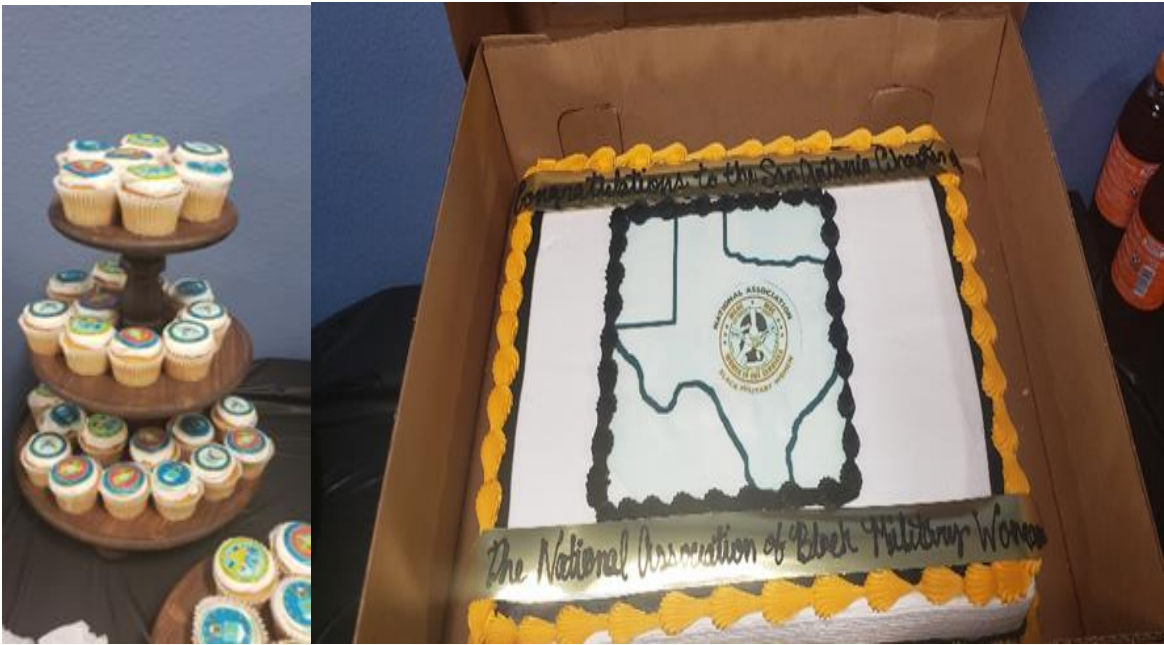
Adrienne Cotten (8/20/2023 (Sister of Judith Cotten)

San Antonio Meet & Greet at the Purple Pig BBQ Resturant



Judith Cotten, National Secretary , Erin O.Wheatley, San Anotnio President, National President Dr. Annette Tucker Osborne
Bettie Vaughan Regional Director





Dr. Annette Tucker Osborne All White Meet And Greet Pre-Birthday Party



LORRAINE WEST BIRTHDAY





Black Veterans for Social Justice, Inc. (BVSJ)





NABMW need your expertise. Please volunteer for at least one committee. **WHATEVER YOUR SKILL WE NEED IT!!** Listed below are the immediate committees in which we need help. Please contact Irma Cooper, NABMW VP of Operations Email:irmacooper05charter.net NABMW Secretary Judith Cotten Email: nabmwsecretary@gmail.com

- ✓ Gladys Carter Scholarship Committee Need 2-3 Members
- ✓ Memorial Ceremony Committee- **Established**
- ✓ Membership Committee – Need 2-3 Members
- ✓ IT Tech Committee - Need 2 Members
- ✓ 2024 Chicago Conference Committee – **Established**
- ✓ Journal Committee 2-3 Members
- ✓ Nomination Committee Need 2-3 Members
- ✓ Bylaws Committee- **Established**
- ✓ Fundraising Committee Need 4-5 Members
- ✓ Webmaster
- ✓ Grant Writers
- ✓ Sponsors/Donations

We are looking for volunteers to become Regional Directors:

North West Region: Alaska, Idaho, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Oregon

North Central Region: Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, Wisconsin

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

South East Region : Alabama, Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, Tennessee



HAVE YOU EVER SERVED OR ARE SERVING IN THE US ARMED FORCES

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

JOIN US Become a member and help us tell “**HerStory**” Help us honor those who ladies who came before us. We seek black military women who have served during WWII, Korean, Vietnam, Gulf, Iraq, and Afghanistan. The National Association of Black Military Women is open to all military women and individuals regardless of race, age, creed, or color - who previously or are currently serving in any branch of the US Armed Forces and to civilians who support the objectives of this organization. All ranks of service are welcomed. We welcome family, friends, men, and women as Associate Members and supporters!

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 Blossom Ferguson, Membership Chairperson at www.nabmw.org

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

Editor In-Chief

Dr. Annette Tucker Osborne

Special Thanks to my Co--Editors Dr. Jonelyn Whales, Melissa Jones

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