

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 we step into a new year, I am filled with pride and gratitude for the extraordinary women who make up the National Association of Black Military Women. Our legacy is built on courage, resilience, and unwavering commitment to service—and it is sustained by the powerful bonds of sisterhood that unite us across generations. In every chapter, every story, and every salute, we see the strength of women who have served with honor and continue to uplift one another with grace and purpose.

Next year (2026) holds special meaning as we celebrate the 50th Anniversary of NABMW—a milestone that honors our rich history and the trailblazers who paved the way. Let us deepen our connections, celebrate our shared legacy, and embrace the future with bold hearts. Sisterhood is more than camaraderie—it is a call to action, a promise to stand together, and a reminder that we are never alone in

our journey. As your National President, I invite each of you to lean into this spirit, share your voice, and help shape the legacy we leave for those who follow. Together, we rise.

Dr. Annette Tucker Osborne, COL (Ret)

2025-2026 NABMW Executive Board National Instillation Ceremony 2024



SAVE THE DATE
date
01.11.2025

National President
Dr. Annette Tucker Osborne, COL (Ret.)

Vice President of Operations
Irma Cooper, COL (Ret.)

Installation Ceremony

The Place	The Hotel
10180 Eagle Creek Center Blvd Orlando, Florida 32832 Rm 301-301	Holiday Inn Express & Suites Orlando-Southwest 1215 Piversky Way Orlando, FL 32832

Rates King \$139 / Double \$149 rates include complimentary airport shuttle as well as hot breakfast buffet.
 Call (407) 207-7001 to book your room.
 (Group Name: National Association of Black Military Women)

RSVP no later than December 1, 2024
 by emailing Dr. Judith Cotten, National Secretary
 at nabmwsecretary@gmail.com

Opening Ceremony	INSTALLATION CEREMONY
<p>Welcome Fred Robinson, USMC SGT (R) Master of Ceremony</p> <p>Invocation Rev. Dr. Annie L. Suggs</p> <p>Posting of Colors American Legion Post 331 Honor Guard</p> <p>Pledge of Allegiance</p> <p>National Anthem Carole Davis President National Council of Negro Women of Central Florida</p> <p>Recognition of Distinguished Guest</p> <p>Keynote Speaker Val Demings Former U.S. Representative (D-FL)</p> <p>Remarks</p> <p>Benediction</p>	<p>Presenter Louise Nixon</p> <p>Installer Val Demings</p> <p>Installation of Officers 2025-2026</p> <p>President - Dr. Annette Tucker Osborne</p> <p>VP of Operations - Irma Cooper</p> <p>VP of Military Affairs - Stanlee Richards</p> <p>Secretary - Dr. Judith L. Cotten</p> <p>Treasurer - Melissa Jones</p> <p>Assistant Treasurer - Debra A. Gomes</p> <p>Historian - Ida Goodwine</p> <p>Assistant Historian - Cheryl Adams-Alexander</p> <p>Assistant Historian - Christine Lewis</p> <p>Public Relations - Lynkeisha Dixon</p>

The Instillation Ceremony of the National Officers was held Saturday January 11, 2025, 1:00pm-5:00pm at 10180 Eagle Creek Blvd, Orlando, FL.32832. Introduction of Master of Ceremony Orlando Chapter Associate Member David Daniels; Master of Ceremony Fred Robinson, USMC SGT (R) Orange County Mayor’s Veterans Advisory Council Chair, Rev. Dr. Annie Suggs CSM (Retired) U.S. Army, gave the invocation. Posting of Colors performed by American Legion Post 331. National Anthem performed by Carole Davis, President National Council of Negro Women Central Florida; Guest Speaker the Honorable Valdez V. Demings, Former U.S. Representative (D-FL). Northeast Regional Director MAJ (R) Louise Nixon served as the Presenter and the Honorable Valdez V. Demings served as the Installer.

Fred Robinson presented the National President with Orange County Mayor Jerry L. Demings Proclamation proclaiming Saturday January 11, 2025, as **GREATER NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BLACK MILITARY WOMEN’S DAY!**

David Daniels Introduction of Master of Ceremony

Invocation



Fred Robinson, USMC SGT (R)

Rev. Dr. Anne L. Suggs

Keynote Speaker Val Demings



Posting of Colors American Legion Post 331

National Anthem Carole Davis

Former U.S. Representative (D-FL)



Presenter MAJ(Ret) Louis Nixon and Installer Val Demings



Instillation of Officers 2025-2026

President- Dr. Annette Tucker Osbrne, VP of Operations, Irma Cooper, VP of Military Affairs –
Stanlee Richards, Secretary Judith Cotten, Treasurer Melissa Jones, Assistant Treasurer Debra Gomes,
Historian Ida Goodwine, Assistant Historian Cheryl Adams-Alexander, Assistant Historian Christine
Lewis, Public Relations Lynkeisha Dixon

Appointed Members: Rev. Dr. Annie L. Suggs, Chaplain, Louise Nixon, NE Region Director, Stacey
Dawson, Assistant Membership





COMRAIDE - Fred Robinson, U.S. Marine Corps Veteran. Chair. Orange County Mayor - Veterans Advisory Council.
Presenter of Proclamations from Orange County Mayor, Jerry Deming's.



NABMW Brooklyn New York Chapter Instillation Ceremony



The Instillation Ceremony of the Brooklyn Chapter was held Saturday February 8, 2025, 1:00-4:00pm at the historic Comus Club located at 244 Decatur Street, Brooklyn, New York 11233. National Secretary Judith L. Cotten SSG (R) served as the Mistress of Ceremony, Blossom Ferguson LTC (R) gave the invocation, National Anthem was sung by Tanya Wilson-Thomas, Guest Speaker NYC Division of Veterans Services Commissioner James Hendon, Northeast Regional Director Louise Nixon MAJ(R) served as the Presenter, President Dr. Annette Tucker Osborne COL (R) served as the Installer for the ceremony.

The Instillation of Brooklyn Chapter Officers: Dr. Annie L. Suggs CSM (R), President, Melissa Jones SGM (R), Vice President, Ashley Carter 1LT, Secretary, Angela Roberts MSG (R) Treasurer, Deborah Hunter Smith SSG (R) Assistant Treasurer, Hope Harrell SFC (R), Membership Chair, Melissa Del Valle PFC, Assistant Membership Chair, Bernadette Klaiber PFC, Public Relations Officer/Community Outreach, Maureen A. Weise-King MSG (R), Scholarship Committee Chair, Michelle Wilson SGT (R), Social Media Officer, Trinette Rembert SSG (R), Social Media Officer. Members of the NYC Chapter, family, friends, and online members showed their support.







ORLANDO VA WOMEN'S TEA PARTY



By April Harrison

On January 31, 2025, The Lake Nona VA Medical Center held a Women Veteran's Tea Party. It was a day to celebrate women veterans. The event was inspiring, engaging, emotionally charged, encouraging, entertaining, informative, and most importantly heartwarming to be in a room with women who understand the true meaning of serving our country and NOW, to live beyond the uniform and prioritize our health and wellbeing. It was exhilarating to laugh and participate in activities with Paulette Julien, Chaplain, Orange County Mayors' Advisory Council, (OVAC), Dr. Annette Tucker Osborne, NABMW President, Daila Espeut-Jones, Orlando Chapter Member, April Harrison, Orlando Chapter Interim President, and Miss Veteran USA, and every beautiful soul in attendance.





The Jacqueline Smith Foundations' Annual Veteran Volunteer Awards



The Jacqueline Smith Foundation presented its Volunteer Veteran Awards on Saturday, February 8, 2025, at the annual "Dancing with the Vets" gala. The annual Valentine's Day gala was held at the Double Tree Hotel, in San Antonio, Tx. This annual Valentine's Day Gala event recognizes and serves

to educate veterans on available community resources. National Association of Black Military Women (NABMW) South Central Regional Director Bettie Vaughan received the Veteran Volunteer Award.



NABMW Brooklyn Chapter and Delta Sigma Theta Sorority



The National Association of Black Military Women (NABMW) Brooklyn Chapter collaborated with the Brooklyn Alumnae Chapter of the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. to host a screening and panel discussion of the film “The Six Triple Eight” in Brooklyn New York. SGM (R) Melissa Jones and SGT(R) Michelle Wilson sat on a panel along with DST members and a Representative from The Honorable Hakeem Jefferies office. The event celebrated the legacy of the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion, the all-female unit to serve overseas during World War II. The event also featured the Godson of a 6888th member and the granddaughter of another member. The partnership proved to be a successful inspiring partnership.

BROOKLYN
ALCANTARA CHAPTER
3,237

Brooklyn Chapter
National Association of
Black Military Women

JOIN US FOR
A VERY SPECIAL
DSTV SCREENING

A TYLER PERRY FILM ON NETFLIX

THE SIX TRIPLE EIGHT

Lt. COL. CHARITY ADAMS EARLEY
MEMBER OF DELTA SIGMA THETA SORORITY

DEC 21 6 PM
FREE FOR THE COMMUNITY
CORNERSTONE BAPTIST
CHURCH
574 MADISON ST, BROOKLYN

RED TALKS IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE MOVIE
SCREENING TO FOCUS ON BLACK WOMEN IN THE
MILITARY AND VETERAN BENEFITS







Women on the Move celebrates trailblazers who have served to make a difference in their communities.



Onyx Magazine held its 10th Annual Onyx Magazine Women on the Move on March 1, 2025, celebrating impactful and influential women” “Moving Forward Together!” Women educating and inspiring generations. This event celebrates trailblazers who positively impact their communities and professions. Each year, the magazine selects women who are esteemed in the highest regard and proudly recognize their accomplishments. National President Dr. Annette Tucker Osborne was one of the recipients of that award. The award luncheon was held on March 1, 2025, 12:00 noon at the JW. Marriott Orlando Grande Lakes, 4040 Central Florida Pkwy, Orlando, Florida.





Women's History Month Ceremony



By April Harrison

The National Association of Black Military Women (NABMW) Orlando Chapter held its first annual Women's History Month Event on March 2, 2025, 1-3pm at the American Legion Post 331,

Orlando, Fla. Event Coordinator and Mistress of Ceremony Daila Espeut-Jones, 1SG US Army (Retired), Invocation performed by George McZeal 1SG, US Army (Retired) Orlando Chapter Chaplain. Opening remarks & introduction of. Guest speaker, April Harrison, Senior Chief/Command Senior Enlisted Leader, US Navy (Retired). Guest speaker Paulette Julien, YN2, US Navy (Veteran), *Chaplain, Orange County Mayor's Advisory Council*, gave a speech that was personal, heartfelt, encouraging, and allowed God to use her so that everyone in the building could listen with understanding. It was absolutely inspiring and empowering.

Special Presentation by Paula Edwards, Colonel, US Army (Retired) *National Association of Buffalo Soldiers and Troopers Motorcycle Club Orlando Chapter*. She performed an incredible rendition of the life of Cathay Williams (Buffalo Soldier). Many thanks to the dignitaries, Spectrum news channel, family, friends, and all our guests. And a huge thank you to the Event Coordinators and Mistress of Ceremony Daila Espeut-Jones and Marsha LeBeau Tim. This event came together flawlessly because of your dedication and commitment. Our National President Dr. Annette Tucker Osborne shared some great insights, upcoming events, membership opportunity, and the importance of Women's History.

As the interim president, I am proud and honored to be a part of this organization to continue "Moving Forward Together and Educating & Inspiring Generations." Special thanks to the Gary Simise Foundation Central Florida Chapter & Mission BBQ for providing delicious meals.





NATIONAL COUNCIL OF NEGRO WOMEN STATEN ISLAND SECTION



Celebrating Trailblazers of Change!

The National Council of Negro Women Staten Island Section’s “Trailblazers of Change” event was held on Friday, March 21, 2025. The event, held at the St. George Theatre in Staten Islnd celebrated pioneers in African American history in honor of Women’s History Month. The evening ‘s program highlighted the stories of the influential African American figures, with a special focus on the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion, an all-black, all-female military unit deployed overseas during World War II.

The National Council of Negro Women Staten Island Section is committed to uplifting African American women through education, advocacy, and community engagement. With a strong legacy of leadership. NCNW-SI continues to empower future generations. The evening kicked off with a powerful panel discussion featuring several influential community leaders who will reflect on the contributions of African American pioneers, both locally and nationally.

Panelists included:

Louise Nixon- Northeast Regional Director of the National Association of Black Military Women.
 Tanisha Franks – NYC Department of Education, advocate for educational equity, Councilwoman Debi Rose (Ret) – Former NYC Councilwoman and champion for social justice and community activism, NYPD First Deputy Commissioner Tania Kinsella- The highest-ranking Black woman in the NYPD breaking barriers in leadership.

Following the discussion, attendees were treated to a screening of “The Six Triple Eight”, a film by Tyler Perry a poignant film that brings the heroic story of these trailblazing women to life detailing their struggle against racism, sexism, and adversity while serving their country.



INAUGURAL FLORIDA STATE TUSKEGEE AIRMEN COMMERATION DAY

A Celebration of American WWII Heroes!

The Florida chapter of the Tuskegee Airmen celebrated their inaugural Florida Commemoration Day on March 27, 2025, at the Westgate Lakes Resort and Spa on Turkey Lake Road in Orlando. The public event was hosted by the Central Florida Chapter Tuskegee Airmen Inc. and featured keynote speaker Doug Melville, grandson of Tuskegee Commander Benjamin O. Davis, Jr. and guest of honor Daniel Keel, one of the last remaining Florida Tuskegee Airmen, Mistress of Ceremony Gail Paschall-Brown. Ms. Brown is a seasoned reporter at WESH 2 News in Orlando, Florida.

**First Annual State Of Florida
Tuskegee Airmen Commemoration Day**
MARCH 27th, 2025 7PM to 9PM
A Celebration of our WWII American Heroes!
 Invited to attend: Original Tuskegee Airmen and their Families - Federal, State, and Local Elected Officials - Community Leaders
Westgate Lakes Resort & Spa
9500 Turkey Lake Road, Orlando 32819
MARCH 27: Commemoration Day Celebration
FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
 Interactive Discussion about Tuskegee Airmen History - Book Signings
 Question & Answer Session - Hero's Farewell - Reading of the TACD Bill
Scheduled Speakers & Guests:

 Gail Paschall-Brown WESH Anchor TACD Facilitator	 Doug Melville Descendant Gen. Benjamin Davis Jr.
 Daniel Keel Triple Rated Pilot, Navigator, Bombardier	 George Hanly Combat Pilot WWII, Korea, & Vietnam USAF Lt. Col. Ret.

Seating is limited -
 Click Or Scan to Register
<https://mp.gs/tpkcp25>



Contact
 321.246.7924
 President@CFCTA.org



NABMW SOUTH CENTRAL REGIONAL BI-ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Words of reflection by Veteran Dr. Jacqueline Pierre 26-year Navy Veteran

I recently attended my very first National Association of Black Military Women (NABMW) conference, and I'm still reflecting on the powerful connections, the wealth of knowledge shared, and the inspiring stories that unfolded over the course of this unforgettable event. As a new member, I felt not only welcomed but deeply moved by the sense of unity and purpose among the. Phenomenal women in attendance.

The 2025 South Central Bi-Annual NABMW Conference, themed "Uniting Minds, Shaping Futures" took place aboard the Carnival Dream and was a tremendous success. The energy was palpable as we gathered to celebrate our legacy, share our experiences, and invest in our futures – together.

We were graced with the presence and wisdom of national and regional leaders, including **Dr. Annette Tucker Osborne, COL (Ret)**, our National President; **COL (Ret) Irma Hagans Cooper**, Vice President, Operations; **Judith Cotten**, National Secretary and **Bettie Vaughan**, South Central Regional Director. Their words were more than inspiring.

Vernita Sneed, South Central Region Asst. Director, delivered an excellent session on financial management. She guided us through building generational wealth, **Janice Maupin** opened our eyes to the world of grants-how to find them, apply, and make them work for us. **Lakeshia Howard**, San Antonio Vice President reminded us of the importance of self—care. She encouraged us to take 10-20 minutes every single day just for ourselves and introduced us to the calming 4-7-8 breathing technique, which I've already begun to incorporate into my daily routine. **Judith Cotten**, our National Secretary, offered guidance on Indexed Universal Life (IUL) policies and how they can play a strategic role in long-term financial planning.

We were also encouraged to expand our knowledge of the rich history of Black women in the military. Two highly recommended reads were:

"One Woman's Army: A Black Officer Remembers the WAC" by **Charity Adams Early**
"Sisters in Arms: A Novel of the Daring Black Women Who Served During World War II" by **Kaia Alderson**.

The conference closed on a beautiful note, with Chaplain Bridgette Lightbourne from San Antonio offering words of spiritual reflection and heartfelt performance of a song by CeCe Winans, which left many of us in tears and filled with hope. As I reflect on this experience, I am beyond grateful to be a part of NABMW, I left the conference not only more informed, but also more connected – to my history, to my purpose, and to my incredible sisters-in-arms. I look forward to what lies ahead and to continuing the mission of NABMW: preserving our legacy, empowering one another, and shaping a brighter future-together.



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BLACK MILITARY WOMEN ORLANDO CHAPTER

CELEBRATES ONE YEAR ANNIVERSARY

April 26, 2025, marked Orlando Chapter's first anniversary, the meeting was held at the American Legion Post 331, 4325 Fairmont Avenue, Orlando, FL. The chapter voted on the nominated members for officer positions. Members were also able to vote via zoom.

The anniversary celebration luncheon was held at The Hampton Social, 9101 International Drive, Orlando Florida.



SIX TRIPLE EIGHT RECEIVES THE CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL



[usmint.gov/learn/coin-and-medal-programs/medals](https://www.usmint.gov/learn/coin-and-medal-programs/medals)

April 30, 2025, the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion was awarded the Congressional Gold Medal – the nation’s highest civilian honor- in recognition of their extraordinary service during World War II. The medal was presented to the family of unit commander Lieutenant Colonel Charity Adams, with more than 300 family members of the Six Triple Eight in attendance.

National President Dr. Annette Tucker Osborne had the privilege of attending the ceremony held at U.S. Capital in honor of the “Six Triplet Eight” and to witness the acceptance of the Congressional Gold Medal to the children of Lieutenant Colonel Charity Adams Earley son Mr. Stanley Earley, III and daughter Judith Earley to be among over three hundred family members of the women of the 6888th Post Directory Battalion. In attendance was Past Presidents of NABMW COL (Ret) Stephanie Dawson, and LTC (R) Patricia Jackson-Kelley, along with LTC (Ret) Blossom Ferguson, Catherine LaPorte Public Affairs Officer U.S. Army NYC Recruiting Battalion, and Suzanne Walker LTC (Retired) DMV Chapter member.





U.S. MEMORIAL WERETH



<https://wereth.org>

On May 17, 2025, NABMW President Dr. Annette Tucker Osborne had the honor and privilege of being a part of the 81st Memorial ceremony in Belgium to serve as a speaker representing the National Association of Black Military Women.

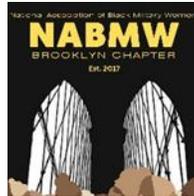
Eleven African American Soldiers served their country with valor and dignity during WWII. Theirs is a narrative of courage and sacrifice, one that deserves to be honored and remembered. During a world engulfed in the flames of war, these soldiers answered the call to duty despite facing discrimination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





Etienne Goyens with COL (ret) Annette Tucker Osborne

NABMW BROOKLYN CHAPTER SPRING DANCE



On May 20, 2025, National Association of Black Military Women Brooklyn Chapter hosted an amazing Spring Dance for over 100 guests. The night was a celebration of military sisterhood as a fun time with family and friends was had by all. The chapter also celebrated both Vice President Melissa Jones and Commander Willie Bennett's birthday. The Spring Dance was held, at the American Legion Hall, 1130. E. 92nd St. Brooklyn, NY 11236 from 8PM-2AM.





**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BLACK MILITARY WOMEN BROOKLYN CHAPTER
SUPPORTS WOMEN VETERANS**



Rain or shine Brooklyn Chapter supports Member Michelle Wilson who was honored among other women veterans at the Women’s Veterans Recognition Day event in Brownsville Brooklyn. Congrats Michelle!!





MJHS Vet-to-Vet Café



MJHS presented a conversation about Veterans’ Mental Health and the power of community on May 28, 2025, via Hybrid event from 11:00am-12:30pm EST. From the Office of Congressman Hakeem Jeffries, NY Green & Gold Congressional Aide Jonah Warner co-moderated the session alongside MJHS Veterans Program Manager. Dr. Annie L. Suggs, President, NABMW Brooklyn Chapter gave a powerful presentation of our moral obligations to provide mental health services to our veterans. She discusses how community is a vital part of care. CEO Black Veterans for Social Justice Wendy McClinton, also served as a presenter.



NAACP LAKELAND BRANCH MEMORIAL DAY



The NAACP Lakeland Branch held its annual Memorial Day Program on Saturday, May 24th, 2025, at 10 a.m. at the Veteran Memorial Park, Lakeland, Florida. The event was organized by the NAACP Lakeland Branch Armed Services Veterans Affairs Committee in honor of fallen service members. This years’ guest speaker was Dr. Annette Tucker Osborne, Colonel (Retired), President, National

Association of Black Military Women. Atlanta Chapter members flew down for support!! Thank you Sabrina Bradley and Yvonne Barrett appreciate ya'll!!





NOLA President wins Volunteer of the Year Award



NABMW NOLA Chapter President Belinda Hill won Volunteer of the Year Award and NABMW NOLA Chapter Vice President Kimberly Cureaux won Veteran of the Year Award at the DAV LA State Convention May 2025. Congratulations!



NYC NABMW Chapter in Honor of Crescencia Garcia



Members of the NABMW NYC Chapter on Memorial Day placed a wreath on the grave of Crescencia Garcia, member of the 6888th Central Postal Battalion Directory at the St. Michael's Cemetery, located 72-02 Astoria Blvd. Queens, NY. Pictured is Ms. Garcia's daughter.



Orlando Chapter Member Installed as District 72nd Vice Commander

On June 14, 2025, at the 106th American Legion Florida Department Convention in Orlando, Fl. Dr. Karen Warren was installed as District 72nd Vice Commander. The 7th District covers: Pasco County (East of 1-75), Polk County (Post 3, Bartow, Post 4, Lakeland, Post 8 Winterhaven, Post 201, Winter Haven, Post 15 Dade City, Post 34 Haines City, Post 71 Lake Wales, Post 118 Zephyrills, and Post 339 Nalcrest.

Pictured is 7th District Commander Calvin Thompson (r) 2nd Vice Commander, Dr Karen Warren, and 1st Vice Commander, George Mike Wallace. Dr. Karen Warren is also a member of the Orlando Chapter.



FLAG DAY CEREMONY IN BATON ROUGE. LA.

NABMW NOLA Chapter attended Flag Ceremony in Baton, LA. Present was Master of Ceremony American Legion NEC Byran Comeaux and guest speaker Major Evita Mosqueda US Marine Corps.



Jamaican American Association of Central Florida 2025 Community Service Award

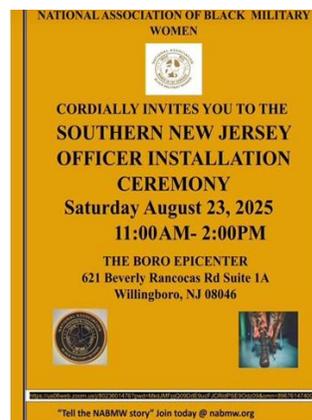
The NABMW Orlando Chapter Vice President received the Jamaican American Association Service Award held on Saturday August 9, 2025, 6:00pm at the Hilton Orlando Altamonte Springs Hotel, Altamonte Springs, Fl. 32701.



President Daila Espeut-Jones received the Central Florida's Community Service Award August 9, 2025, 6:00pm at the Hilton 350 Northlake Blvd., Altamonte Springs, Fl. 32701.



South New Jersey Instillation Ceremony



The SNJ Instillation Ceremony of the newly elected officers was held on August 23, 2025, 11:00am-2:00pm, located at The Boro Epicenter, 621 Beverly Rancocas Rd, Ste, 1A, Willingboro, NJ 08046. Jenifer Flagg-Briggs served as the Mistress of Ceremony, Sr. Chaplain Rev. Dr. Annie Suggs CSM (Retired) gave the invocation, Northeast Regional Director MAJ (R) Louise Nixon served as the Installer and Chief Master Sergeant (Retired) Sebrena Flagg-Briggs, Southeast Regional Director, served as the Presenter.

The Instillation of Officers:

Brenda Bligen, President, Teresa Sims, Vice President, Joyce Montague, Secretary, Michelle Giles, Asst. Secretary, Linda Clayton, Chaplain, Celeste Skipworth, Treasurer, Dr. Phylis Riley-Sabb, Lisa

Boyd, Historian, Sarita Wilson, Membership Chair, Cora Byrd, Fund raiser, Laverne Jarrett, Parliamentarian.



U.S. Capital Honors Harlem Hellfighters Congressional Gold Medal



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

The Harlem Hellfighters unit was awarded the Congressional Gold Medal at a ceremony held on September 3, 2025, at the U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC. This the highest civilian award from Congress. The Harlem Hellfighters is a nickname for the New York National Guard’s 15th Infantry Regiment, later classified as the 369th Infantry Regiment. The award was presented posthumously to descendants of the regiment. This ceremony took place several years after the enabling legislation was signed into law. The award authorized: “The Harlem Hellfighters Congressional Gold Medal Act” signed into law by President Joe Biden on August 25, 2021.

Dr. Annette Tucker Osborne attended the ceremony along with other members in attendance: NABMW Past President/former 369th Commander (Harlem Hellfighters) COL (R) Stephanie Dawson, DMV President Teresa Polk, Shay Weems, DMV member, National Secretary/Atlanta Chapter President, Judith Cotten, VP Military Affairs/VP NYC Chapter, Stanlee Richards, Carol St. Pierre, NYC President, Louise Nixon, NE Regional Director, Sabrina Bradley, Atlanta Chapter, and Yvonne Barrett, Atlanta Chapter.







Thursday September 11, 2025, marks 24 years since the tragic terrorist attack on the World Trade Center, the Pentagon, and our nation. At the site of the former World Trade Center, the victims are honored with their names engraved around pools reflecting their location during the attacks and their connections to one another.

Orlando VA Medical Center Lake Nona at 11AM, 1st Canteen Lobby held its annual remembrance ceremony. Keynote Speaker, Calvin B. Wimbish, COL. U.S. Army (Retired) Orlando VA Healthcare Systems, Chaplain Benediction, Craig L. Daugherty.





New Life Tabernacle Veteran Appreciation Celebration



New Life Tabernacle in Brooklyn, NY, held a veteran appreciation celebration service on September 14, 2025, to honor veterans for their courage and sacrifice. The event included heartfelt prayers, special citations and certificates for each veteran, and performance by John McDermott and the Maple Leaf Brass Band. The church family expressed gratitude and love for the veterans 'legacy of service'. Members of the Brooklyn Chapter each received a plaque and had their photo displayed as they approached the front of the congregation to honor their years of service. The event allowed them to mingle and connect with other service members as well.



Citizens of Willingboro, New Jersey

On September 15, 2025 Southern NJ VP Terri Sims and chapter members Jeanette, Veronica, Detessa and Joyce L. supporting “The Concerns Citizens of Willingboro” fill out election post cards to ensure residents remember to VOTE!!



Orlando POW Ceremony

The 2025 Orlando POW-MIA Recognition Ceremony was held at the Dr. Phillips Center for the Performing Arts in downtown Orlando, Florida, on Friday, September 19, 2025. The event, hosted by the City of Orlando, and honored U.S. military prisoners of war and those still missing in action. Orlando Chapter Vice President Daila Espeut-Jones was one of the participants at the event.

PFC (Ret) Jessica Lynch, a former POW during Operation Iraqi Freedom, was today’s keynote speaker. She shared her powerful story of joining the Army, her capture by Iraqi forces, and her eventful rescue by US Forces during the early days of the war. Her message of encouragement to preserve through life’s challenges resonates with us all reminding us to stay focused and motivated in pursuit of our dreams. Jessica’s impactful speech was deeply felt by many in the audience. Lynch reminded the crowd of the thousands of service members who never returned home. “Some of them have been missing for 50, 60 years,” she said, “Even though our hope is dwindling, we must remember that they are not forgotten”. A Special thanks to City of Orlando’s Mayors Veterans Advisory Council for the inclusion.





**The 2025 Military Influencer Conference (MIC)
Shared by LTC (R) Sabrina Bradley**

The Military Influencer Conference and the Edna Cummings Award took place in Atlanta, Georgia, from September 21-24, at the Signia by Hilton. The event is a major gathering for leaders, entrepreneurs, and creatives within the military community, offering sessions on entrepreneurship, advocacy, and community building.

The conference is designed to bring together Companies, Corporations, nonprofit companies, Military, and various other entities that support/sponsor veterans and spouse programs and benefits under one roof for networking and recognition. It was attended by several thousand people from all parts of the country. Next year's conference will be held in Tampa, Florida.

Atlanta Chapter Parliamentarian LTC (Retired) Sabrina Bradley and other NABMW members worked as volunteer staff members for the entire conference honorably representing NABMW. The MIC acknowledges 25 people each year and families via the "Mighty-25 Award" for their contribution towards assisting veterans, spouses and soldiers. This year COL (Retired) Edna Cummings was one of the recipients to be awarded the "Mighty-25 Award at the gala ceremony.





Nassau County Eisenhower Park Heroes Wall of Honor

Shared by Tanya L. Wilson Thomas

What a wonderful day at Nassau County's Eisenhower Park Heroes Wall of Honor Ceremony! So many U.S. service members' names, both alive and deceased have been installed on these walls over the years. Gold Star Wives of America, Inc. attended today with our military community, family members and elected officials to honor the men and women who have served our country. Tanya's own family attended this ceremony last summer when her uncle Army Veteran Gerald Mullen's stainless-steel plaque was installed on these walls. Most times a Veteran's plaque gets installed somewhere posthumously. Here at Eisenhower Park, Nassau County Veterans like Tanya's uncle Gerald, get to see it while they are still here with us!

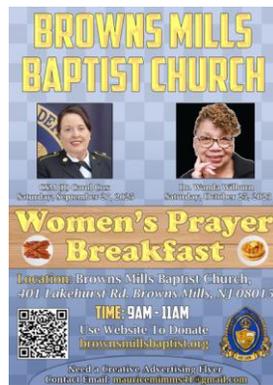
As a Blue Star Mother and Gold Star Wife, Tanya was honored to stand with her GSW Sister Abigail Clark-Curry and her family as we recognized her husband, Dwight Curry (USA) plaque having been installed on these walls with so many others,

Next up on the Heroes Wall of Honor are the GSW NYC Chapter President, Mary Gallagher's late husband, Jim Gallagher (USMC) and Tanya's late husband, Dwight A. Thomas, Sr. (USMC).





Women's Prayer Breakfast



CSM (R) Carol Cox served as Guest Speaker on September 27, 2025, at Browns Mills Baptist Church, 9Am-11AM, 401 Lakehurst Rd., Brown Mills, New Jersey 08015. Southern NJ Chaplain Linda Clayton represented the Chapter.



New York City Chapter Scholarship Award Luncheon

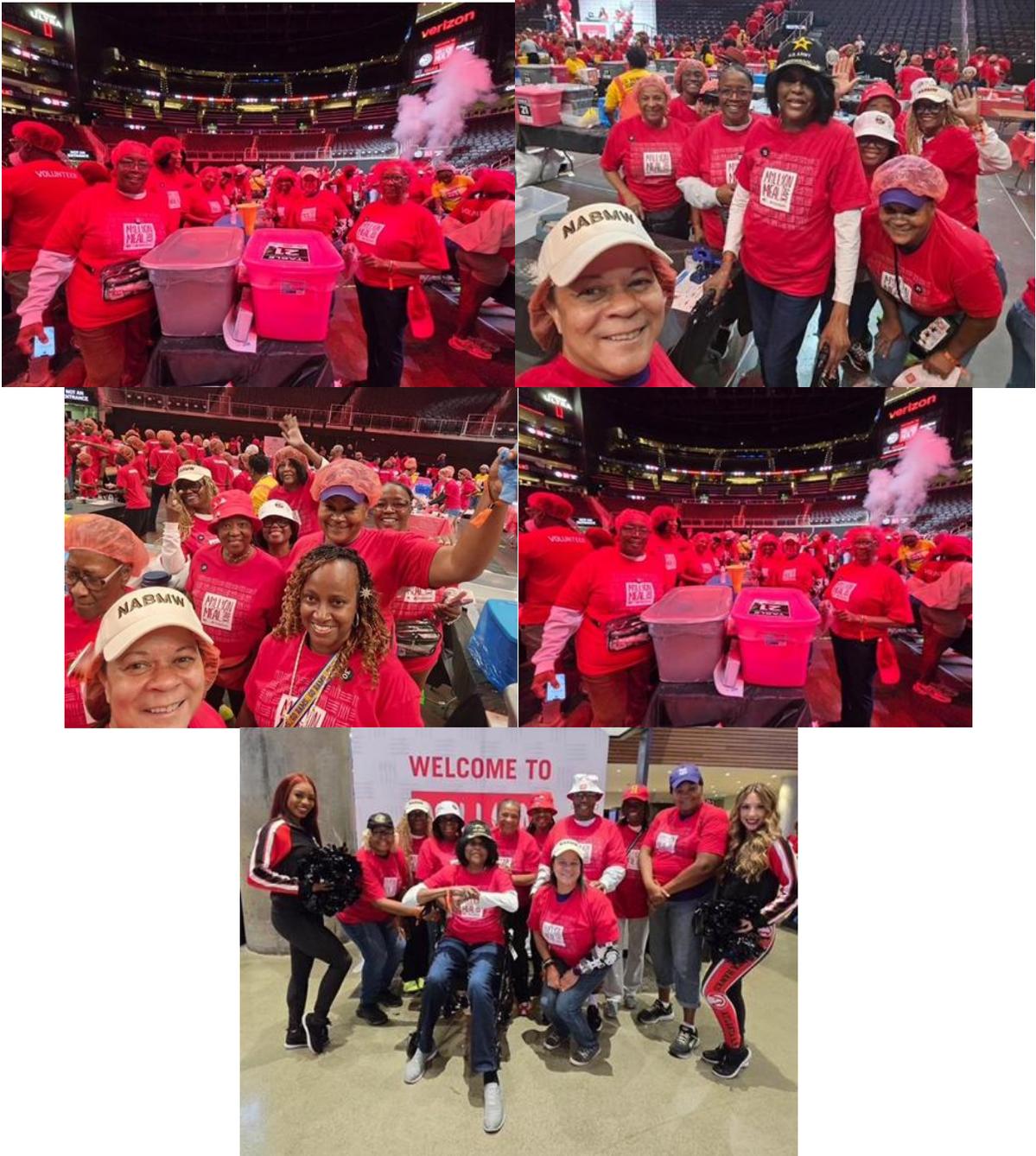
NYC Chapter of NABMW held its Scholarship Luncheon on 9/27/25 at the Eastwood Manor, Bronx, NY for its annual Scholarship Banquet. This year's theme **BOOTS ON THE GROUND** keynote speaker NABMW National Secretary and Atlanta Chapter President Judith Cotten.



The Atlanta Hawks and State Farm's Fifth Annual Million Meal Pack



The Atlanta Hawks and State Farm held its Fifth Annual Million Meal Pack in Atlanta, Ga on Saturday, September 27, 2025. The event at State Farm Arena saw thousands of volunteers' pack over one million meals to fight food insecurity in the metro Atlanta area. It is the Hawks' largest single-day community initiative of the year.



NABMW NOLA Celebrates 2nd Anniversary

National Association of Black Military Women – New Orleans Chapter -Celebrating their 2nd year Anniversary – Queen Creole Steamboat Ride !! Congratulations!!





88th Annual NAACP Texas State Convention



Texas State NAACP Convention Armed Service and Veteran Affairs Workshops was held on October 9-12, 2025, at the Southpark Hotel Austin, 4140 Governors Row, Austin TX 78744. NABMW Past President LTC (Retired) Patricia Jacskon Kelley served as one of the panelists on the workshop entitled “Standing on the Shoulders of LTC Charity Adams (6888th).”

THETA CHI CHAPTER, INCORPORATED CHI ETA PHI SORORITY, INC.



***Diamonds & Pearls
Biennial Scholarship Awards Luncheon***

The Theta Chi Chapter, Inc. Diamonds and Pearls Biennial Scholarship Awards Luncheon was held on Saturday, October 18, 2025, from 12:00 PM to 4:00PM at Antun’s, 96-43 Springfield Boulevard, Queens Village, NY. This event celebrates 60 years of service for humanity. NABMW President Dr. Annette Tucker Osborne served as the keynote speaker.





NABMW 688TH LEGACY TOUR



The NABMW 6888th Tour: WWII Women’s Heritage Tour: Honoring the 6888th Postal Directory Battalion October 18-28, 2025. Members of the Executive Board, President Dr. Annette Tucker Osborne, Historian Ida Goodwine, Assistant Historian Cheryl Adams-Alexander, Assistant Historian Christine Lewis and Dr. Jonelyn Whales Regional Director/Nomination Chair traveled and walked in the footsteps of our trailblazers to visit key sites in the UK, France and Normandy to learn the vital roles of our sister soldiers of The Six Triple Eight Central Postal Directory Battalion played.

Our journey took us to Birmingham, England, London, Petit-Quevilly, Paris France, and Normandy. Our goal during our journey was to visit the American Cemetery in Rouen Normandy to place wreaths on the graves of the three sister soldiers who died in the vehicle accident.

Unveiling of a Commemorative Plaque

On October 24, 2025, at 11:00a.m. in Petit-Quevilly a Commemorative Plaque Ceremony was held and unveiled on the wall of the former LaFoudre factory, by Mayor Charlotte Goujon where members of the 6888th lived and worked.



The ceremony then moved indoors where Mayor Charlotte Goujon gave a beautiful speech on the Six Triple Eight. President Dr. Annette Tucker Osborne read the Citation given by United States Senator Chris Van Hollen presented in tribute the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion. Rebecca Akin, granddaughter of Rhonda A. Daniels, spoke of her grandmother.





Dr. Annette Tucker Osborne presented Mayor Goujon with a NABMW Challenge Coin.

The American Cemetery Rouen Normandy



We successfully placed wreaths on all three women's graves and emotional day for us all!



A more detailed PowerPoint presentation will be presented later by our group!



Black History Month is Every Month



Floyd Ernest Norman (Walt Disney) born June 22 1935 is an American animator, writer and comic book artist who became the first African-American animator at the Walt Disney Studio, a Disney Legend, and a significant contributor to classic Disney films like Sleeping Beauty, The Jungle Book, and Mary Poppins. He also worked at Hanna-Barbera and Pixar contributing to Toy Story 2 and has mentored many animators sharing his expertise through public talks and writings, according to Disney History 101. In 2007, he was officially recognized as a Disney Legend for his extensive contributions to the company.



Marie Van Brittan Brown and her husband, Albert Brown invented the first closed-circuit television (CCTV) home security system, which is a precursor to the modern video doorbell. In 1966, Brown devised this system to enhance her safety and that of her home, and it featured a camera, multiple peepholes, a monitor, an alarm, and remote – controlled locks.

Her innovation gained recognition including an interview with the NYT and an award from the National Scientists Committee. Her patent, #3,482,037, was granted in 1969, and later inventions, including modern home security systems, referenced her pioneering work.



Ernie Barnes (The Sugar Shack) July 15, 1935-April 27, 2009 was an American artist, well known for his unique style of elongated characters and movement. He was also a professional football player, actor and author. He was the first American professional athlete to become a noted painter, recognized for his unique style of movement and energy.



Bessie Stringfield March 5, 1911 – February 16, 1993, also known as the “motorcycle Queen of Miami” was an American motorcyclist who was the first African-American woman to ride across the U.S. solo, and was one of the few civilian motorcycle dispatch riders for the U.S. Army during WWII. Breaking down barriers and defying expectations along the way. Reflecting on her journey, she said, “to me, what I did , was fun, and I loved it”.



John Baxter Taylor became the first Black athlete to win an Olympic gold medal for the U.S. His victory wasn't just about speed- it was about breaking barriers and proving that excellence knows no color. Taylor's story is a reminder that Black history is filled with firsts that continue to inspire generations.



In 1947, Callie Odem Gentry served as a stenographer of the Tuskegee Airmen at what was then known as Lockbourne Air Force Base near Columbus, Ohio. The base was activated June 1942 as the Northeastern Training Center of the Army Air Corps, providing basic pilot training and military support. During WWII, it was a U.S. Army Air Forces training base. Its primary unit was the Tuskegee Airmen's 477 Composite Group. Mrs. Gentry served as support personnel with the group one year. She served with headquarters as a stenographer. She was sent out in the field to take shorthand after a plane crash at the base, taking depositions from the witnesses, the duties necessary to assist on the case owners of the property and performed whatever necessary to assist on the case.



Alwyn Crendall Cashe (July 13, 1970 – November 8, 2005) was a United States Army senior non-commissioned officer who was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor for heroism in Iraq. On November 10, 2020, the United States Congress voted to upgrade Cashe's initially awarded Silver Star to the Medal of Honor.

On December 16, 2021, more than 16 years after his death at age 35, Cashe's widow, Tamara, accepted the Medal of Honor from President Joe Biden at a ceremony commemorating the actions of Cashe and two fellow soldiers for their acts in separate battles.

In 2022, The Lake Baldwin State Veterans' Nursing Home a 112 bed skilled nursing facility a former VA Community Living Center in Orlando, was opened May 21, 2022. Renamed Sgt. First Class Alwyn C. Cashe, State Veterans' Nursing Home in his honor who grew up in nearby Oviedo.



I had the pleasure of visiting the newly renamed The Alwyn C. Cashe State Veterans' Nursing Home in Orlando, Florida

Memorial



September 21, 2024 – Patricia Lewis, Sister of USA Vet. Hattie Fields

October 7, 2024 – Horace Yancey III, Brother of Jackie Yancey-Mitchell, TSgt (R)

October 11, 2024 – Gwendolyn Guyton, Daughter of Angela Guyton Cyril, SFC

October 19, 2024 – Gilroy Weise, Father of Maureen Weise-King, MSG (R)

November 21, 2024 – Andrew Hamilton Osborne, Husband of President Dr. Annette Tucker Osborne

December 7, 2024 – Bernardine Stevenson, Mother of Pearl Jesse, SFC (R)

December 10, 2024 – SSG Nathan Taylor, Brother of Cassandra Taylor, SFC (R)

December 19, 2024 – Evelyn Jefferson, Mother of Vernita Sneed, CW3 (R)

December 21, 2024 – Evelyn Bluntson, Mother of PO1 Brigett Renay-Smith

January 4, 2025 – Patricia Carroll, Mother of Ericka McRae, SPC

January 11, 2025 – Benjamin B. Reid, Son of Celeste Skipworth-Reid, MSgt (R)

February 15, 2025 – Joseph Lise, Father of PO3 Sharon Lise

March 27, 2025 – Darryl Stevenson Jr. - Stepson of Sharon Sweeting Lindsey, MAJ (R) US Army

May 11, 2025 – Noel Alton Cole, Brother of Sabrina Bradley, LTC (R)

May 16, 2025 – Janell Ramsey – Sister of Pearl Jessie, SPC (R)

June 7, 2025 – Mickey C. Allen - Mother of Sparkle K. Adams, MSgt (R) USAF

June 21, 2025 – SFC (R) Rae Anthony McFarlane, US Army, Cousin of 1SG Dailia Espeut-Jones

June 27, 2025, To the family and Unit of US Navy Sailor Angelina Petra Pesendiz

June 28, 2025 – Hugh M. Reid, SSGT USAF - Brother-in-law of Donna W. Greene, CMSgt, USAF

August 2, 2025 – Edith Johnson-Bookard (member) of Barbara Bookard MSG (R)

September 1, 2025 – Lawrence Thomas, Nephew of Bernice Simmons, LTC (R) US Army, Lifetime Member

October 27, 2025, Dr. Joyce Bowles, COL (R) Charter Member, DMV Chapter

October 30, 2025- Francesa Speciale- Mother of Dr. Vitina Speciale-Olmo, Associate, Parliamentarian

November 1, 2025 – Barbara Ann Haper LTC (R) Lifetime Member

December 2025 – Elsie G. Hackett (94 years old) Associate Member Aunt of COL (R) Kathaleen Harris 2nd President, NABMW





National Association of Black Military Women



Photo Gallery



NABMW Executive Board Instillation









Six Triple Eight Congressional Gold Medal



Stanley Early (son of LTC Charity Adams) Granddaughter of 6888th Cresencia Garcia



Slyvia Schuster Banks (Sister of Gladys Schuster Carter)

Trish Banks (Niece of Gladys Schuster Carter)



Oscar Carter Son of Gladys Carter



Elizabeth A. Helm-Frazier and Edna Cummings Granddaughter of Lena King



NABMW SOUTH CENTRAL REGIONAL BI-ANNUAL CONFERENCE CRUISE









Harlem Hellfighters Congressional Gold Medal





NOLA Celebrates 2nd Anniversary







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

- ✓ Financial Secretary
- ✓ IT Design/WebMaster
- ✓ Mentorship Committee Need 2-3 Members
- ✓ Fundrasing Committee Need 4-5 Members

ATTENTION! ATTENTION! ATTENTION!

Regional Directors needed for the following Regions:

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

North 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

Have you ever served or are serving in the US Armed Forces? If so, **JOIN US** Become a member and help us tell “HerStory” Help us honor those ladies who came before us. We seek Black military women who have served during WWII, Korean, Vietnam, Gulf, Iraq, and Afghanistan. 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 Mary Hayes, 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

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For all Chapters that are doing events send your information to post in our next edition **November 2025- January 2026** events/pictures to annetteosborne@aol.com