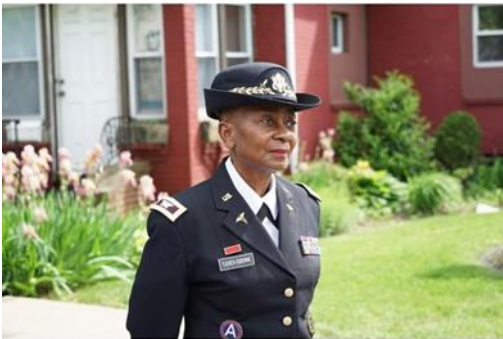


NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BLACK MILITARY WOMEN



Welcome to the Newsletter's Third Edition

Message from the President



I cannot believe my first year as your National President has gone by so quickly. Looking back on this year, I am so grateful and thankful for every one of your selfless efforts. Everything we have done together as NABMW is being recognized. Our advocacy, community services, and how we strive to educate others in telling HerStory.

I appreciate and respect your time, which you can never take back. All of us have found a calling to give back to our veteran sisters. I am extremely proud of the chapters that have developed since I've been in office. The organization has gone

from five chapters to a total of eleven. You all stepped up to the plate to make this happen. We could not have been successful without the efforts of the senior chapters supporting our new chapters and we are continuing to grow in leaps and bounds. I would like to especially thank our Regional Director Bettie Vaughan (South Central Region). Without her dedication we would not have had four chapters in her region. Thank you, Bettie!

There is more work to be done and with the support of all of you, next year will be even better than the first! Let us recognize each other for our efforts. Remember to keep our service members and women in prayer. Please take a moment of silence for those that we lost throughout the year and say their name.

Let us make 2024 our NABMW best year yet. We have Great things to do!! We will be celebrating our 23rd Biannual Convention in Chicago, on September 18-22, 2024. We hope everyone will be there with bells on in support!!

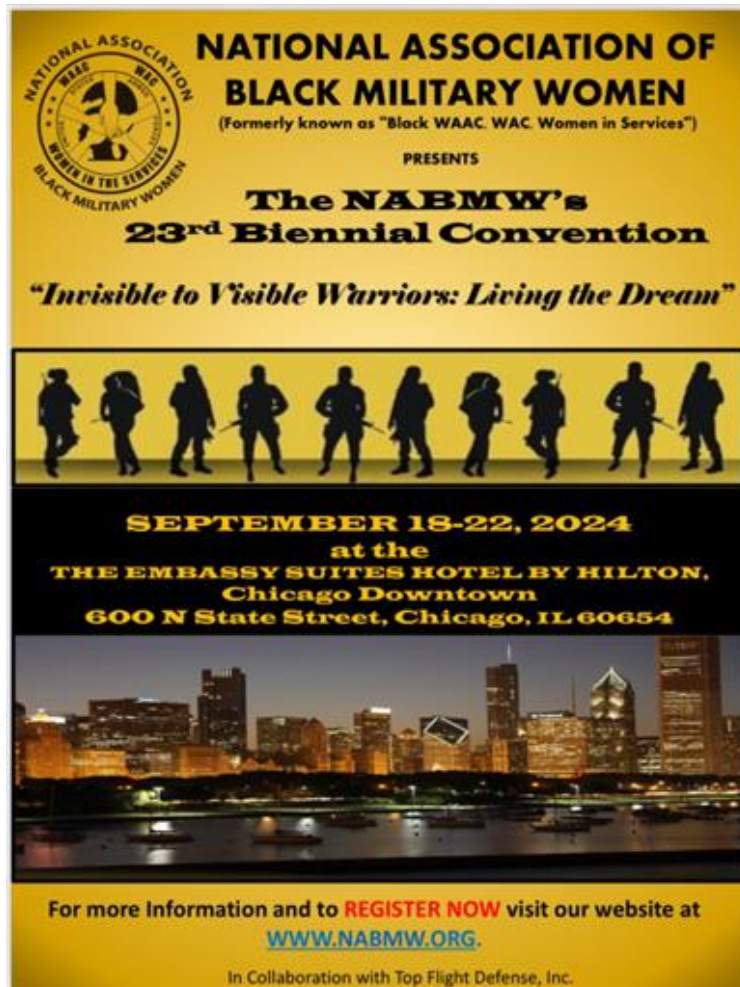
May this festive season bring you joy! Wishing you and your family an incredible happy holiday and a joyous New Year! Happy Holidays!!

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 country. 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: "Success is not measured by what you accomplish, but by the opposition you have encountered, and the courage with which you have maintained the struggle against overwhelming odds".- Orison Swett Marden

Dr. Annette Tucker Osborne, COL (Ret).



The poster for the National Association of Black Military Women's 23rd Biennial Convention features a yellow background. At the top left is the NABMW logo, a circular emblem with a central figure and the text "NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BLACK MILITARY WOMEN" and "MEMBER IN THE SERVICES". To the right of the logo, the text reads "NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BLACK MILITARY WOMEN (Formerly known as 'Black WAAC. WAC. Women in Services') PRESENTS The NABMW's 23rd Biennial Convention 'Invisible to Visible Warriors: Living the Dream'". Below this is a silhouette of ten military women in various poses. The event dates "SEPTEMBER 18-22, 2024" and location "at the THE EMBASSY SUITES HOTEL BY HILTON, Chicago Downtown 600 N State Street, Chicago, IL 60654" are listed. A photograph of the Chicago skyline at night is shown below the text. At the bottom, it says "For more information and to REGISTER NOW visit our website at WWW.NABMW.ORG." and "In Collaboration with Top Flight Defense, Inc."

62nd Annual Buffalo Soldiers Memorial Celebration



September 3, 2023

West Point, New York



For the last 62 years, members of the Buffalo Soldiers Association West Point (BSAWP) and the West Point community have gathered annually for the purpose of honoring the incredible legacy of the Buffalo Soldiers. This year was no exception. Soldiers of the 9th and 10th Cavalry Regiments who embodied the Army's values were honored during their service to the Corps of Cadets between 1907-1947. The celebration was held on Sunday September 3, 2023, with a Wreath Laying Ceremony followed by the Memorial Luncheon. MG Barrye L. Price, PhD. U.S. Army retired, President and CEO, Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of American (CADCA) served as the Keynote Speaker.



MG Barrye L. Price, PhD.



Dr. Aundrea Matthews Buffalo Soldiers of West Point



Chaplain Annie Suggs, NABMW

HOUSTON TEXAS DAY IN HONOR OF SPECIALIST VANESSA GUILLEN



The story of U.S. Army Specialist Vanessa Guillen will forever be remembered in the State of Texas. The life may have tragically ended abruptly at age 20, when she was killed by another Fort Hood soldier in 2020 after reporting sexual harassment, but her name will live on. Texas Senate unanimously passed House Bill 2248, declaring September 30th “Vanessa Guillen Day”. The degree as to which the

community came out to seek justice for SPC Guillen. So many saw themselves with her propelling the hashtag #Iam Vanessa Guillen. It brought soldiers to speak out on similar sexual traumatic instances they experienced while in the military.

Specialist Guillen was robbed of the opportunity to live a long fruitful life. Establishing her birthday as a statewide day of remembrance will ensure that we never forget her memory as we continue the fight to preventing military sexual trauma. NABMW Houston Chapter attended the event honoring her 24th birthday.



**CLAYTON COUNTY VETERAN OF THE MONTH
HONORS COL (R) HARRIET STATEN**



Colonel (Retired), ATL/Metro NABMW Member Harriet Staten 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. A grateful community remembers those who served in the Armed Forces of the United States during times of war and peace, whose courage and

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personal sacrifices defended and preserved pur freedm. Colonel (Retired) Staten received this distinguished awad on October 3, 2013. Congratulations COL Staten!



Florida Veteran Hall of Fame Honors Major (R) Tony Williams



Florida Veteran Hall of Fame recognizes and honors military veterans who, through their work and lives during/after military service have update, have made significant contributions. Major (R) Tony Williams is a 2023 Tampa inductee being praised for his counseling program for veterans.

Williams dropped out of school at 17 and enlisted in the Army. He believes it was the best decision he ever made. States he had people in the military him in the right path. Williams defied the odds. He received his G.E.D., an R.O.T.C. scholarship and climbed the ranks as an officer before becoming a Major in the Army. But when it was time to retire, leaving his military routine, transitioning to civilian life was difficult.

Pursuing his Master's degree in counseling and therapy allowed him to continue to servc his military brothers and sisters. The Department of Veterans Services estimated more than 40% of veterans have some mental health need, based on self-reporting and psychiatric evaluations.

New York State Veteran Hall of Fame Honors CSM (R) Annie L. Suggs



Annie L. Suggs, a native of Farmville, North Carolina and has resided in Brooklyn, New York, for over 50 years. She entered the military as a Private E1 in the U.S. Army Reserve, 305th Engineer Detachment at Fort Totten, New York on June 7, 1979. She attended Basic Combat Training at Fort Jackson, SC, and Advanced Individual Training at Fort Benjamin, Harrison, Indiana.

Her assignments included the 99th Signal Batralion Company C in Brooklyn, New York, 408th AG Battalion Det. 1 in Fort Totten, New York: and 943rd Replacement Company in Fort Totten, New York, and 943rd Replacement Company in Fort Totten, New York, 1-309th 78th Division, Training Support Battalion, Fort Dix, New Jersey; 3rd Battalion, and the 391st Regiment, 7th Brigade, 98th Division, Fort Dix, New Jersey.

Ms. Suggs was deployed to Bosnia and Herzegovina for Operation Joint Endeavor and mobilized for Operation Enduring Freedom.

She has received numerous awards and decorations during her 27-year career. CSM (Ret) is a graduate of the United States Army Sergeant Majors Academy. She holds a Bachelor of Science in

Organizational Management from Nyack College and a Master of Divinity from New York Theological Seminary. She is a Doctor of Ministry candidate at Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School.

CSM (Ret) serves as Vice President of the National Associatio of Black Military Women, Brooklyn Chapter, and National Chaplain for the National Association of Black Military Women Executive Board. Cogratulations Annie!

 **Military Women's Memorial Gala Honors Actor Blair Underwood** 



On October 18, 2023 the Military Women's Memorial 2023 Patriot Leadership Award honored Blair Underwood for his work to bring national recognition to the women of the SIX TRIPLE EIGHT Central Postal Directory Battalion for executive producing a new stage play for Broadway called "6888 A New Musical", a musical based on an all-Black, female Army battalion that served overseas in World War II.

The Patriot Leadership Award recognizes women and men extraordinary caliber whose actions and leadership have honored and empowered our nation's military women. It honors exceptional Americans whose inspirational service and selfless dedication embody the ideals and patriotism espoused by over 3 million women who have served our country from the American Revolution to today.



 **Walton County Fair** 

The Walton County Fair took place October 16-18, 2023, at the Fair Grounds, DeFuniak Springs, Florida. One of our newest members-at-large Sandra Macon, Retired SSG Wounded Warrior Medical Platoon Sgt.

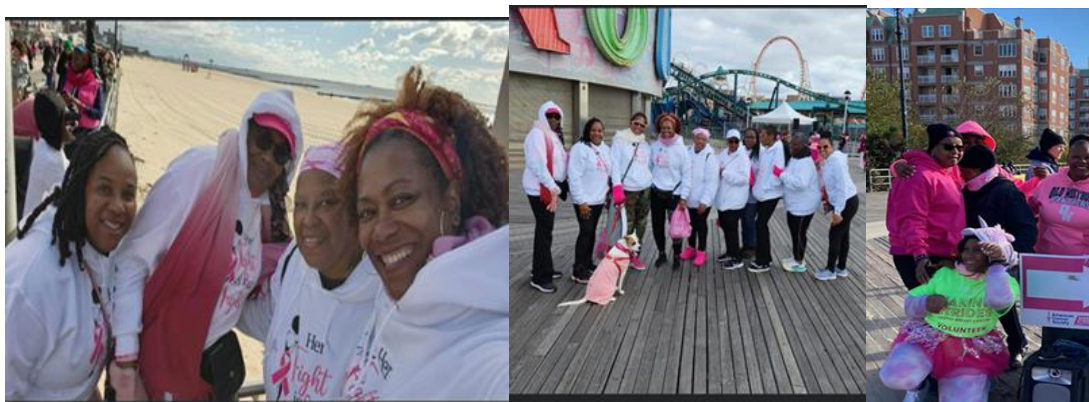
Representing NABMW setting up her own table with NABMW information. Because of her efforts SSG (R) Macon was successful with having a veteran join.



Sunday October 22, 2023 thousands gathered for Making Strides against Breast Cancer Walk in Brooklyn, It was a sea of pink along the Coney Island boardwalk in Brooklyn Sunday, made up of breast cancer survivors and their supporters who play a big role in the fight against the disease.

Participants walk to celebrate and honor breast cancer survivors, thrivers, and caregivers, educate the public about prevention and detection to reduce the risk of the disease, a raise funds to help end breast cancer as we know it.

The NABMW Brooklyn Chapter participated in this event and raised over a \$1000 thanks to Co Chair Annie Suggs!!



Trinette Rembert, a Brooklyn Member who has relocated to South Carolina walked the 2 mile cancer walk with over 1,000 people from across Grand Strand on October 8, 2023 participated in the 17th annual “In the Pink”. participated in their Breast Cancer Awareness Walk held by the Tidelands Health Foundation in Murrells Inlet. Every year, the event raises approximately \$60,000 for local breast cancer research, education and resources.



Trinette and Tranee attended 2 mile walk in South Carolina

Women’s Club Thanks Halloween Sponsors

The DeFuniak Springs Woman’s Club coordinated with local businesses, private individuals and volunteers to position 34 stations around Lake DeFuniak in Florida., Children wearing delightful costumes accompanied by parents, grandparents and even dogs, made the circuit demanding treats from tables with candy and trinkets. Stations were judged on costumes, decorations and originality. First prize went to Christopher and Lynn Bivens, second prize Rene Youell Law Office, and third prize to The National Association of Black Military Women! Congratulations SSG(R) Sandra Macon (Member at Large), Florida.



Bronx Halloween Day Parade



On October 28, 2023, the community-based Bronx Halloween Day Parade celebrated its 38th year of marching down the streets of 163rd street ending at Bill Rainey Park, 810 Dawson Street, Bronx, New York 10450 from 12- 5PM. The theme this year: the 80's horror movies. The parade is a safe place for all children and adults to enjoy Halloween festivities. After the parade live performances, featuring celebrity guests, politicians, marching bands, costume contest with cash prizes and more.

The parade is a citywide event and has been considered the second largest Halloween Parade in New York City.



The Installation Ceremony of the New Orleans Chapter was held on Saturday, October 21, 2023, at the New Orleans VA Medical Center located at 2400 Canal Street, New Orleans, LA 70119. 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.



National Veteran Outreach Program

Stand Down Day

The National Veteran stand down day was held on Thursday November 2, 2023, from 10 am-1:00pm, at the American GI Forum located at 611 N. Flores St, San Antonio, TX. The stand down provided a resource event for the homeless. Event details: haircuts, dental screening, clothing, housing, employment, hot lunch, military items, music, VA assistance, legal aid, women's pavilion, medical assistance and more!

Two Vietnam veterans started stand-downs in 1988. The event was named for a military term for a combat unit's time to rest and recover while at war. Today it is a grass roots effort to offer the same services to homeless veterans. San Antonio chapter members came out to support the event. Regional Director, Bettie Vaughan, Mary Hayes, Angela Jones, Vernita Sneed, Dominique Hailey, and Bridget Lightbourne were in attendance.



ANNUAL VETERANS' APPRECIATION DAY PARADE & RESOURCE FAIR

HONORS LTC (R) GLENNIE MILLARD

NYC Chapter celebrated the 2023 Brooklyn Veterans Parade Grand Marshall LTC (Ret) Glennie Millard, November 4, 2023.





Sherri

November 8, 2023 Members of the New York City Chapter and a member of the Brooklyn Chapter attended the Sherri Shepherd Show





NYC Carnegie Hall

On November 9, 2023 members of the NYC Chapter attended a Carnegie Hall show telling the story of the overlooked service of Black Americans who faced harsh discrimination at home but who still proudly fought for their country.



Veterans Day Celebration

The NOLA New Orleans Chapter attended the Veterans Day Celebration on November 8, 2023 from 10:30 a.m to 12:30 p.m in the Delgado City Park Campus.



Veterans Headstone Flag Placements, Avondale Restlawn Cemetery and Mausoleum

On Friday November 10, 2023 from 8:00 a.m. -11:00 a.m members of the NOLA New Orleans Chapter and the DAV Westbank Chapter 23 with helping to place flags for Veterans Day.





Veterans Day Parade

On Saturday November 11, 2023 from 11:00 a.m.- 1:00 p.m. NOLA Chapter attended the Veterans Day Parade in Lafayette, LA to support local member Sapphire Andrus-Sam. Ms. Andrus-Sam is a member of the Francis-Benoit American Legion Post 504 and was gracious enough to let our Chapter ride on their float and throw beads and candy! Weather did not permit a huge turnout but smiles on those that were priceless. Thanks Lafayette!



CITY OF BUFFALO CELEBRATES FIRST EVER "BLACK VETERAN DAY" IN THE U.S.



This day also marked the 75th anniversary of the executive order to desegregate the U.S. military! Local leaders in Buffalo, New York, gathered to celebrate the city's first-ever "Black Veterans Day," WGRZ On Your side news reports. The proclamation to declare November 7th Black Vets Day in the City of Buffalo was signed by Mayor Byron Brown in what he and the day's co-founder, Dewitt Lee, called a small token of appreciation for the Black service women and men in the armed forces.

November 7, 1775, was an important date in history, marking the moment the English offered to organized search enslaved people who joined the British army during the American Revolution. It was a pivotal moment in history, opening the door for Americans to follow suit and pave the way for the eventual freeing of all enslaved Africans in America.

Co-founder Lee called it a special moment for the city, Not only was it the first celebration for Black Veterans in the city of Buffalo, but it was also the first in the United States, Canada becoming the first to observe the holiday last year.



NEW YORK CITY VETERAN DAY PARADE



On November 11, 2023, NYC and Brooklyn Chapters marched in the Annual Veterans Day Parade down 5th Avenue.



Charleston, North Carolina Veterans Day Parade honors those who serve



The NABMW Charleston Chapter participated in the Charleston Veterans Day Parade. The annual Veterans Day Parade was held on Sunday, a couple of days ahead of Veterans Day. Charleston, S.C. (Lowcountry Weekend) paid tribute S to Lowcountry veterans on Sunday.

The Ralph H. Johnson VA Health Care System hosted the event for the 22nd year to honor and thank Lowcountry veterans of every generation who served the nation during times of peace and war. The

parade featured a historic military vehicle procession with motorcycle groups and veteran service organization floats. Joe Lysaght served as the Grand Marshal.

The parade began at 1p.m. on Concord and Market Streets. The parade route took participants west on Market Street to East Bay Street, then south on East Bay to Broad Street, then west on Broad Street to Colonial Lake where it ended.

Chicago Chapter attends Veterans Day Ceremony



The Dayton Veterans Affairs Medical Center hosted its second Annual Veterans Day Parade at 11 a.m. on Saturday. The event featured more than thirty parade entries, a flyover by a North American AT-6D Texan. The NABMW Chicago Chapter participated in Resource Fair at the Dayton VA Medical Center, 4100 W. Third St., Dayton, Ohio, for their Veterans' Day Celebration. Members of the Chicago Chapter set up an information table highlighting the purpose of and history of NABMW. Handouts were given to the public with contact information.



San Antonio Hemisfair Veterans Day

San Antonio Veterans Day at Hemisfair Park November 11, 2023, 12:00 pm-8:00 pm presented by Endeavors is a celebration honoring veterans who have served in the US Armed Forces. San Antonio known as Military City USA for residents having served in times of peace and war. The event honors our veterans of today and tomorrow with live entertainment and fun interactive activities for the whole family. Venita Sneed, Park Ranger Angela Jones, and Bridget Lightbourne.



VETERANS DAY CELEBRATION

Atlanta Chapter attended a Veterans Day Celebration at the Morrow Center 118 Southlake Circle, Morrow, Ga 30260. NFL Legend Rocky Bleier Former Football Champ and Vietnam Veteran spoke at the Morrow Veterans Day Event. Bleier is a motivational speaker sharing a story of encouragement, hope and impact.



TUSKEGEE VETERANS DAY

Florida Member at Large Belinda Morgan Sterling spent time with a triple-rated 101- year old Tuskegee Airmen. Lt. Daniel Keel. He is one of five Tuskegee Airmen that was triple-rated as a pilot navigator, and bombardier. Mrs. Morgan Sterling also met Fred Klum, a retired Air Force Airman, who is also 101 years old.



Veteran's Day Luncheon 2023 Links, Inc. Charleston Chapter

The Charleston Chapter will be co-sponsoring a community services project with The Links, Incorporated organization. The Charleston Chapter met the Links, Inc. for a Veteran's Day luncheon. The organization presented the Charleston Chapter with gift bags as a thank you gift for their service to our country.



ARMY WAR COLLEGE FOUNDATION OUTSTANDING ALUM FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE

COL (R) Edna W. Cummings



On November 15, 2023, the Army War College Foundation was pleased to commemorate the 122nd Birthday of USAWC on Wednesday November 15, 2023, with the induction of four individuals to the Outstanding Alum Program. The ceremony was held at the U.S. Army War College, Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania. The 2023 honorees were Gen (Ret) Vincent K. Brooks, MG (Ret) Williams N. Clark, COL (Ret) Edna W. Cummings and COL (Ret) Kip O. Lassner.

Col. Cummings shared her moment with friends who traveled to Carlisle, PA to make the day extra special!



MILITARY MEDICINE: VIETNAM MEMORIAL PRESENTS



On Thursday, November 16, 2023, for the opening of exhibition in the lobby of the Vietnam Memorial Gallery from 5:30-7:00pm. The event featured special remarks by Commissioner Jeanette M. Moy, Office of General Services. *Military Medicine: Vietnam War to Present* will be on view in the Vietnam Memorial Gallery located in the Robert Abrams Justice Building at the Empire State Plaza, from November 13, 2023, through December 31, 2024. Exhibition hours are Monday-Friday, 10:00 a.m. to 4p.m. The exhibition explored the importance of military medicine and the highlights of New York men and women who changed the lives of America's service members.

The NABMW President was honored to be a part of the medical oral history. Pictured with the New York State (NYS) Office of General Services Commissioner Jeanette Moy. Special thanks to Sara Hill, Curatorial and Visitor Services at NYS Office of General Services and Kathleen Brousseau, Assistant Curator, NYS Office of General Services interviewed me for the oral history. My sister soldiers Judith Cotten, NABMW Secretary who flew to Albany, NY from Georgia and Louise Nixon, Northeast Regional Director who drove 3 hours from Staten Island, NY in support of the event.



Veterans Thanksgiving Appreciation Dinner

Immediate Past President Patricia Jackson Kelley attended the Veterans Thanksgiving Appreciation Dinner held by Toya Barbour, President of the Veteran Advocacy Group of America, 1123 E. Dominquez Street Unit E., Carson, CA 90746.





Charleston Chapter Volunteers at Patriot Villas for the Homeless Veterans

The Charleston Chapter volunteers every other week at the Patriot Villas. They also participated in the Patriot Villas Thanksgiving Dinner (serving our fellow veterans and their families) and during their Christmas gift giving. The Chapter also distributed gourmet coffee gift bags during the cold season.



Orlando's Meet and Greet

The President of the NABMW held a meet and greet on Saturday, November 25, 2023, at 11:00 am at the Doris “Dorie” Miller Memorial Post 331, American Legion located at 4325 Fairmount St, Orlando, FL. Objectives for this meet and greet were to start an Orlando Chapter and meet fellow sister soldiers. The meet and greet flyers were posted in the Orlando VA, on the Mayor’s social media, as well the National Presidents social medias and the NABMW’s website.

There were seventeen women as well as the American Legion’s Chaplain 1SG George McZeal who was instrumental in providing the venue. The NABMW President, the NABMW Secretary Judith Cotton and the NABMW Membership Chair Blossom Ferguson were invited to tell their story and what NABMW’s mission and motto of to tell “HERSTORY ”meant.

At the close of the event six women joined as members at large which included Chaplain Mc Zeal. What also came out of this meet and greet – a cluster was established with a President, VP, Secretary and Treasurer. Look out for Florida more to come!



Democratic Roundtable Discussion

Democratic Leader Hakeem Jeffries and Ranking Member Mark Takano hosted another roundtable discussion on November 30, 2023, in Washington, D.C. VP Military Affairs Stanlee Richards representing NABMW. With the NE Region Director, Louise Nixon attended.



NABMWATL Chapter's Holiday Dinner

The Atlanta/Metro Chapter held its Holiday Dinner on December 2, 2023, at the Magnolia Loung 3920 Jonesboro Rd., Forest Park, Georgia.



Doris “Dorie” Miller- Pearl Harbor



Doris “Dorie” Miller (October 12, 1919 – November 24, 1943) was an American Mess man Third Class in the United States Navy. Dorie Miller was a navy hero when Pearl Harbor was bombed 82 years ago, on December 7, 1941, But because Miller was Black he was relegated to kitchen work- all the more amazing that after the bombings, he appeared on deck and took over one of the machine guns posts where the assigned sailor had been killed. Miller manned anti-aircraft guns (despite having no formal training in their use) and attended to the wounded. He later saved several people once the attack calmed down. He was recognized by the Navy and awarded the Navy Cross, for his actions.

He was the first African American to be awarded the Navy Cross, the Third highest honor awarded by the US Navy at the time; after the Medal of Honor and the Navy Distinguished Service Medal. The Navy Cross now precedes the Navy Distinguished Service Medal. Miller's acts were heavily publicized in the Black Press, making him an iconic emblem of the war for Black Americans. Two years after Pearl Harbor, he was killed in action when his ship, Lissome Bay, was sunk by a Japanese submarine during the Battle of Makin.

Department of Veteran Affairs



The Department of Veteran Affairs announced the addition of three new Vet Centers and six vet Center Outstations (smaller satellite locations) to improve access to counseling for veterans and service members.

Vet Centers are community-based counseling centers that provide a wide range of social and psychological services, including no-cost professional counseling to eligible veterans, service members, and their families. Services include counseling for needs such as depression, posttraumatic stress disorder, and the psychological effects of military sexual trauma. Vet Centers also provide referrals to connect Veterans with their VA health care or benefits.

In fiscal year 2023, more than 115,000 Veterans, service members, and their families received counseling at VA's 300+ Vet Centers nationwide. Vet Center counselors and outreach staff, many of whom are Veterans themselves, are experienced and prepared to discuss the tragedies of war, loss, grief, and transition after trauma. Vet Center teams proactively work in the community, reducing barriers to care and improving access to care.

The newly approved Vet Centers and Outstations will be in Arizona, California, Minnesota, New Jersey, Tennessee, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands.

2024 Year of Military Families

On December 13, 2023, Governor Wes Moore declared 2024 as the “Year for Military Families “ in Maryland and announced a package of legislation will support and empower Maryland’s service members, military spouses, and caregivers.

This is the first legislation announced by the Moore-Miller Administration for the upcoming 2024 legislative session of the Maryland Assembly. “Our military families sacrifice everything so their loved ones can serve.” “Families are much a part of the American story as those in the armed forces,” said Gov. Moore. “States have a duty to answer the service and sacrifice for our military families with dedicated support. That is why we are advocating for this package of legislation in the coming session.”



Sergeant Major Built a Culture of Camaraderie, as Soldiers and as Black Women



As of October 2022, 416 women were serving as sergeants major, the Army’s highest enlisted rank, according to U.S. Army Human Resources Command. Of those, half—193—were Black women (who do not also identify as Hispanic), the most of any group. But Black women make up just 36% of enlisted women in the Army.

In an organization where the officer corps is mostly white, these women often serve as mentors, both to the young women who follow in their footsteps and to the young officers who depend on their guidance to lead soldiers. While enlisted soldiers can join the Army straight out of high school, the officer ranks require a college degree. Of 16,013 women Army officers, 9,353 are white and 2,892 are Black. And twenty-one white women and two Black women served as general officers in 2022.

The number of white women who graduate with an associate degree by the age of twenty-nine is twice as many as Black women, according to the Association of University Women. That comes as disparities continue to exist in the university and economic systems—a recent New York Times story highlighted the lack of economic diversity in the nation’s top schools, saying the disparity had less to do with the academic abilities of students and more to do with their families’ income levels.

**ARMY WOMEN
SERGEANTS MAJOR/E9 IN 2022**

GRADE	TOTAL WOMEN	HISPANIC	AMERICAN INDIAN/ ALASKAN NATIVE	ASIAN/ PACIFIC ISLANDER	WHITE/NOT HISPANIC	BLACK/NOT HISPANIC	UNKNOWN/ OTHER
E1	1,571	458	23	89	433	569	1
E2	2,951	599	22	132	592	817	0
E3	7,539	2,121	85	499	2,433	2,401	0
E4	17,666	4,337	198	1,388	5,686	6,133	24
E5	11,103	2,591	117	1,009	3,331	3,099	95
E6	7,500	1,459	74	715	2,327	2,827	88
E7	4,502	751	47	409	1,737	1,805	122
E8	1,486	350	16	111	414	592	43
E9	416	72	2	20	110	193	19

the WAR HORSE

Despite making up just 36% of the women in the U.S. Army, Black women soldiers make up almost half of women sergeants major. Graphic by Kelly Kennedy/The War Horse.

The National Association of Black Military Women is proud to have our very own SGM (R) Melissa Jones among the ranks of SGMs. SGM (R) serves as National Treasurer and Secretary for the Brooklyn Chapter!



Mrs. Veteran America 2023



The Woman Beyond The Uniform



Ms. Veteran America is a movement, encouraging women veterans to uplift each other and find their tribe. The purpose of this event is to showcase “The woman beyond the uniform.” Along with being Soldiers, Marines, Airmen, Sailors, and Coasties they are mothers, wives, daughters, and sisters. Proceeds from the event provides housing for homeless women veterans and their children throughout the United States.



Meet Krenda Harralson Ms. Veteran America (Mrs. Texas) who was placed in the ten overall. Later she was provided an opportunity to represent the state of Texas in the Mrs. USA competition as Texas USA 2024. Krenda Harralson is the reigning Mrs. Texas USA, and soon, as a proud representative of the Lone Star State where she competed August 2023 in Florida.

Krenda is not your ordinary competitor, but a woman with unique journey and a passion for causes close to her heart. From the age of seventeen, she dedicated over two decades of her life to serving as an army medic. As a combat veteran and a battlefield promoted leader, she witnessed firsthand the sacrifices and challenges our military community faces. Her experience has instilled in her a deep appreciation for the unwavering spirit and resilience of our servicemen and women.

Her commitment did not end there. She is a firm believer in the power of supporting homeless women veterans, who have selflessly served our nation but find themselves in need of assistance. Their courage

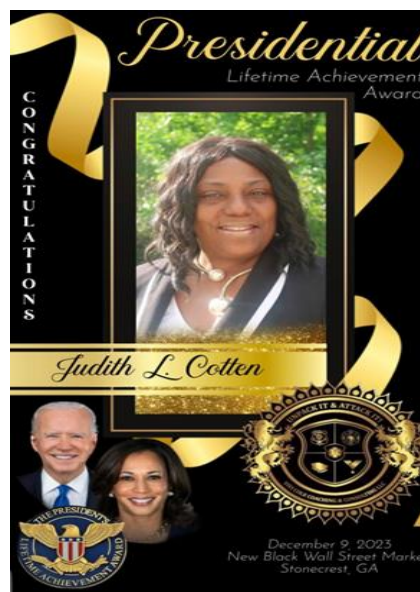
and sacrifice deserve unwavering support. She is dedicated to raising awareness and providing resources to help these incredible individuals rebuild their lives.

She is a staunch supporter of continuing education and the value it brings to individuals and society as a whole. As a battlefield promoted combat veteran, She has experienced the transformative power of knowledge and leadership firsthand. And believe that education is not only a key to personal growth but also a catalyst for positive change in our communities.

She is now preparing to represent the great state of Texas for the upcoming Mrs. USA competition, Krenda is fueled by these passions and guided by the belief that we have the power to make a difference. “Together, let us champion the causes that matter, support our military community, uplift homeless women veterans, prioritize mental health, and empower individuals through education.”



2023 Presidential Lifetime Achievement Award



Atlantic philanthropist Judith Cotten was honored nationally on stage on December 9, 2023, at the New Black Wall Street, Market GA for her valiant community contributions.

The Presidential Lifetime achievement award is widely considered one of the highest honors presented to individuals who have overcome significant obstacles to achieve impressive accomplishments, thus

dedicated their lives to advocating for the most vulnerable among humanity and acted with bravery to drive change in their communities across the world – while blazing trails for generations to come.

For Cotten, a native of Brooklyn, New York, her latest achievement comes amid her notable community-based achievements, most notably as a longtime real estate broker, real estate instructor, property manager, certified Life Coach, no profit organization owner of what is Know Your Worth. In addition to all those achievements Judith Cotten is the National Association of Black Military Women Secretary and President of the ATL/Metro Chapter. Congratulations Judy well deserved!

DAV HOLIDAY SOCIAL

On Wednesday December 13, 2023, between 6:00 p.m. -10:00 p.m., the ATL/Metro Chapter attended the DAV Christmas Dinner located at Merle Manders, 111 Davis Rd. Stockbridge, GA.



Women Veterans Holiday Party

On December 17, 2023, between 2:00 pm- 5:00 pm, the Houston Chapter attended the Women veterans Holiday Party at the American Legion Post 654, located at 3105 Campbell Rd, Houston, Texas.



Meet Veterans Affairs' highest-ranking woman Tanya Bradsher



As deputy secretary, a role she has held for less than one year, Bradsher is the federal agency's highest-ranking woman and the first woman of any race to serve as second in command of the department providing critical service to U.S. military veterans.

The 20-year Army veteran and retired lieutenant colonel, who served as the VA's Chief of Staff before taking on her historic role. Her mission is to ensure that the agency reaches as many Black and minority

veterans as possible. “I’m hopeful to use this platform to reach out to more of our minority veterans, or untethered veterans, or women veterans, “ Bradsher said, “and hoping that by seeing me as deputy secretary, folks who maybe have tried the VA once and weren’t satisfied, look at an opportunity to come back again.

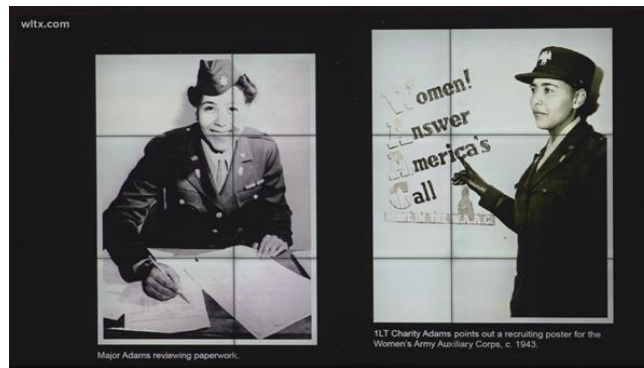
VHA OFFICE OF HEALTH EQUITY SELECTS NEW DEPUTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Kenneth T. Jones, PhD, was recently promoted to Deputy Executive Director of the VHA Office of Health Equity (OHE). Jones started his VHA career in OHE in 2012 and has served in many roles, including Acting Chief Officer in 2018. Jones helped create VHA's first Health Equity Action Plan and the National Veterans Health Equity Report; spearheaded the development of the Veterans Geography of Opportunity Tool that highlights the social, economic, and health conditions in communities where Veterans live; served as co-investigator of one of the largest studies of Transgender Veterans, coordinated VHA participation in the Healthcare Equity Index; and oversaw the funding and support of health equity themed quality improvement projects. He also created the Health Equity listserv with over 150,000 subscribers to date and helped design OHE's Focus on Health Equity and Action Cyber seminar series with HSR&D.

Dr. Jones has a bachelor's degree in sociology from the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor (1999), a master's degree (2001), and a doctorate from the Columbia University School of Social Work in New York (2012). He also has a Health Care Executive Leadership certificate from the Uniformed Services University of Health Sciences (2019). He was an inaugural fellow of the Atlantic Fellows for Health Equity (2017), sponsored by George Washington University and Atlantic Philanthropies.

Fort Jackson renames school in honor of trailblazing Columbia Native



LTC Col Charity Adams grew up in Columbia before becoming the highest ranked woman in the Army. A pioneer in Black history now her name and legacy permanently etched into Fort Jackson. Fort Jackson redesignated its Army support institute campus Tuesday in honor of Columbia native Lieutenant Colonel Charity Adams, the first Black woman to become an officer in the U.S. Army. Lieutenant Adams was born in December 1918 in North Carolina before moving to Lady Street in Columbia as a child as told by a reenactment from Major Laura Rollins.

After graduating as valedictorian of her high school class she studied math, Latin, and physics, at the historically Black Wilberforce College in Ohio. But while studying for a master's in 1942, during World War II. Adams enlisted in the brand new Women's Auxiliary Corps. She went on to finish the Army's first female officer candidate course in Fort Des Moines, Iowa August 1942. After completing her training, she was promoted to major the highest-ranking Black female officer in the Army. In December 1944 she took her leadership to Birmingham, England and was placed in command of a postal directory company of over eight hundred African American women.

While LTC Charity Adams passed away in 2002 she paved the way for women showing the many opportunities that they have set before us.



Calverton National Cemetery

Our Mission: Remember the fallen. Honor those who serve and teach the next generation the value of freedom

The Brooklyn Chapter along with the NBMW President volunteered to place wreaths on our fallen soldiers. More than three million volunteers took part on December 16, 2023, in National Wreaths Across America Day throughout our nation. Over 4,200 participating locations across the country

include Arlington National Cemetery. The Wreaths Across America event provides a wonderful opportunity for communities to gather during the busiest time of year to pause and say thank you to all who have served and sacrificed for our freedom.

With each balsam wreath placed, the volunteer will also say that service member's name aloud and salute.



Wreaths Across America



Ft. Sam Houston National Cemetery





Wreaths Across America



Freehold, New Jersey

Northeast Regional Director Louise Nixon represented NABMW by attending two ceremonies on Saturday December 16, 2023. The first was in the Borough of Freehold, N.J. The second ceremony was at the historic church, Bethel AME . The renowned, Reverend Sparks received landmark status at this historic cemetery because of the Civil War and WWI Black soldiers are buried there.





The Blak Angels



This is the untold story of the Nurses who helped cure Tuberculosis, is a crucial part of Sea View's history being told: the role of Black nurses in staffing underfunded, overcrowded hospitals, and helping to save hundreds, perhaps thousands, of lives.

So why has this story been hidden for so long? For decades, the contributions of black figures to the history of medicine have too often been ignored or purposely marginalized. In addition to racism, there is another reason the story of the Black Angels has not previously been told: the lack of documentation. The author Maria Smilos writes "when she first met Virginia Allen, the last surviving Black Angel, she asked about the written archival materials, Allen told her "There were none":

At the turn of the twentieth century, tuberculosis, also known as “consumption” and nicknamed the “Captain of all men of death,” was the leading cause of mortality in many American cities. It was a brutal infection that affected all parts of the body but mostly the lungs, where it ate away at the tissue. Victims grew progressively short of breath, coughing up blood and choking as they wasted away.

The predominant treatment of tuberculosis was bed rest, which was believed to help lungs to heal. By the 1930s, a series of medical procedures that collapsed the affected lung, such as artificial pneumothorax (injection of air into the pleural space surrounding the lungs) and thoracoplasty (surgical removal of part of the ribcage), had joined the repertoire. But without antibiotics, there was no cure.

Some sanatoriums, such as those in New York’s Adirondack region with their salubrious fresh air, catered to wealthy patients. But Sea View did not. A municipal hospital in Staten Island, the outermost of New York City’s five boroughs, Sea View was chronically underfunded and overcrowded. It was also understaffed, particularly when it came to nurses. By the end of the 1920s, its white nursing staff began to quit due to a long commute to Staten Island, NY, and the twelve-hour days, but most importantly it was tuberculosis itself. Termed a “pest house” which meant constant exposure to a deadly and frightening disease.



Curlene Bennett is one of two surviving ‘Black Angels.’ Her Global Nursing career spanned 5 decades. She went on to retire as Sea View’s Director of Nursing in 2000.



Virginia Allen is among the last surviving Black Angels

Virginia Allen was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania in 1931. She was inspired by her aunt, who worked as a nurse in New York City. With her parents' support, Allen received her license of practical nursing from Central School for Practical Nurses. She initially worked as a surgical nurse, and in 1947, at the age of sixteen, she joined her aunt and began working as a nurse in Sea View Hospital. Sea View Hospital was the largest tuberculosis sanitarium globally and the site where a lung specialist led the development of isoniazid, a cure for tuberculosis. Black nurses who worked at Sea View Hospital were known as the Black Angels. They consisted of about three hundred Black nurses who cared for quarantined tuberculosis patients from 1928–1960 and provided direct patient care when white nurses refused.

After her work as a Black Angel, Virginia continued her work within the community as a leader and member in multiple organizations. She served as President of the North Shore Staten Island section of the National Council of Negro Women and was a charter member. Allen is also a member of notable organizations such as the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, the New York Urban League, and Sandy Ground Historical Society. In a 2019 interview she explains her satisfaction that people are “paying attention to realize that doctors didn't just come and discover these (tuberculosis) drugs all by themselves, the nurses assisted them in the trials.”

The story of the Black Angel nurses will be the subject of a forthcoming book by Maria Smilios.

National Day of Racial Healing



Launched in 2017, the National Day of Racial Healing is a call to action for racial healing for all people. It originated as part of the W.K. Kellogg Foundation's national Truth Racial Healing & Transformation efforts.

Racism affects all of us, regardless of our backgrounds or circumstances. We all live in a world born from historic racial inequities that have led to broken systems and division, where we do not know one another and our shared history. Unfortunately, one individual or group will not solve these significant challenges. The responsibility belongs to all of us to participate in these honest, powerful, and moving experiences and pursue this racial healing journey together.



Birthday Celebrations

Mrs. Romay Johnson Davis

Celebrates 104th Birthday!

Member of 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion and WWII Veteran



Romay Catherine Johnson was born on October 29, 1919, in King George County, Virginia. She was the middle child of six, the only girl. Her father was a rigger for the Navy. He worked at the Naval Proving Ground helping to assess armor plating for ships. Her mother worked as a nanny for local families. There was no African American high school in King George County, so she attended numerous high schools in New Jersey, New York, and Washington, D.C., staying with various family members. She graduated from Dunbar High School in Washington, D.C.

After graduating high school, Johnson took a job operating a hospital elevator. Later, she worked for the Bureau of Engraving in Washington, D.C. Her job entailed placing paper on an inked mat that had been engraved for currency. She would visually scan the prints for defects or fingerprints and pull those aside so they would not continue further into the currency-making process.

After entering World War II, the United States moved to expand its military capacity. In the spring of 1942, the Women's Auxiliary Army Corps (WAAC), later known as the Women's Army Corps (WAC) was formed. On May 18, 1943, Johnson volunteered for the Army. Her five brothers were already serving in the military. She stated, "I quit to go with my boys." She attended basic training at Fort Des Moines, Iowa.

After completing basic training, she was assigned to the motor pool at Camp Breckinridge in Morganfield, Kentucky. While there she learned to be a mechanic and a driver. Johnson was put in charge of a jeep, two staff cars, a weapons carrier, and a truck. One part of her job was to drive officers to various meetings on the post and in the local area. While at Cape Breckinridge, Johnson volunteered

for overseas duty and was selected to join the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion at Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia, for training before shipping out.

On February 3, 1945, the first group of women from the 6888th sailed to Great Britain. The voyage took 11 days, during which they survived close encounters with Nazi U-boats. They arrived in Glasgow, Scotland, on February 14, 1945. The 6888th was then stationed in Birmingham, England, where they discovered warehouses full of undelivered mail. The unit worked in three shifts around the clock seven days a week to clear the backlog. They adopted the motto, “No Mail, Low Morale”—mail was the only connection the men fighting on the front lines had with friends and family back home. Before the 6888th, mail delivery was intermittent at best. The morale of the soldiers was waning because they had no connections outside the military.

The women developed a new system of organizing and tracking mail. The system required tracking individual service members by maintaining about seven million information cards. The cards included serial numbers to distinguish different people with the same name. They also tried to deliver mail with insufficient information through this system. The hardest part for the unit was returning mail when it was addressed to a service member who died. Yet, thanks to their system, they were able to process approximately 195,000 pieces of mail per day. The U.S. Army thought it would take the 6888th six months to clear the mail backlog in Birmingham. The 6888th accomplished the work in three months.

On June 9, 1945, Johnson, and the rest of the 6888th were transferred to Rouen, France. They were there to clear another mail backlog. In France, the Six Triple Eight collaborated with French civilians and German prisoners of war. In December 1945, Johnson was honorably discharged at Fort Dix, New Jersey.

After being discharged Johnson took advantage of G.I. Bill and attended the New York Fashion Institute and later the Traphagen School of Fashion*. In 1953, she designed and made patterns for children’s clothing at Glen of Michigan in New York City. This position allowed her to travel the country buying fabrics and tracking fashion trends.

In 1957, she met Jerry Davis, a carpenter, at a party and they fell in love. She said her husband ‘taught me how to laugh.’ They were married for 42 years until Davis died in 1999.

In the 1970s she returned to school and earned a master’s degree in education from New York University. That was not the end of her thirst for knowledge. She taught herself taxidermy, worked as a real estate agent, built furniture, and learned to paint. At age 78, she earned a second-degree black belt in taekwondo.

As of this writing, Romay Johnson Davis is the oldest living veteran of the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion.

*Traphagen School of Fashion was an Art and Design school in operation from 1923 to 1991 and was located at 1880 Broadway in New York City. The school was founded and directed by Ethel Traphagen Leigh with a focus on the fundamental design movement.



Mother Randle

Celebrates 109th Birthday



One of the Last Two Survivors of Tulsa Race Tulsa Massacre

Her only wish is to see justice for what was done! Mother Lessie Benningfield Randle, one of the last two known survivors of the Tulsa Race Massacre, just celebrated her 109th birthday on November 10th. According to The New York Times, Randle was just six years old when a mob of whites decimated the once-thriving Black Greenwood neighborhood of Tulsa, Oklahoma. It is a day that, a century later, Randle still remembers.

This year, she gathered with family and friends to celebrate and express her deep gratitude for all she had been through, WHAM news reports. Surrounded by flowers, balloons, and small gifts she expressed appreciation for it all, specifically the tribute featuring a rendition of her favorite song “Amazing Grace.”



Stansbury Johnson

Celebrates 97th Birthday

Montford Point Marine



Stansbury Johnson, a Montford Point Marine veteran was presented with the Congressional Gold Medal on Thursday December 21 , 2023 on his 97th birthday. The medal is the nation’s highest civilian award

and was given to him at his home by representatives of the Los Angeles Chapter of the Montford Point Marine Association, who have been delivering the replicas of the joint medal awarded in 2012 to the men who were stationed at the North Carolina camp.

Johnson, a private first-class with a headquarters platoon, was stationed at Montford Point in 1945 where he did paperwork. Johnson states “I wasn’t particularly happy about doing paperwork, but in the Marines, you do what you have to,” he said. “I knew how to type, spell and speak.”

Montford Point was a segregated camp for Black Marines within Camp Lejeune in Jacksonville, N.C. In all, there were 20,000 Marines who served there from 1942 until 1949. The men were the first Black Marines in the service branch and were housed in spare huts and only allowed on the main base of Camp Lejeune if a White Marine escorted them. Many served in support or guard units. In places such as Iwo Jima, the Montford Marines also evacuated wounded dead under heavy fire.

In July 1949, President Harry Truman issued Executive Order 9981 negating segregation, and in September 1949, Montford Point was deactivated, ending seven years of segregation. The camp was renamed Camp Johnson after Sgt. Maj. Gilbert “Hashmark” Johnson, one of the first African Americans to join the Marine Corps. Unlike other Black units, such as the Buffalo Soldiers or the Tuskegee pilots who flew during World War II, there had been little recognition of the Montford Point Marines.

In 2012, President Barack Obama recognized the Marines’ contribution in helping shape U.S. military history by signing a bill into law that presented the Congressional Gold Medal to the Montford Point Marines. The “collective” medal is at the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture.

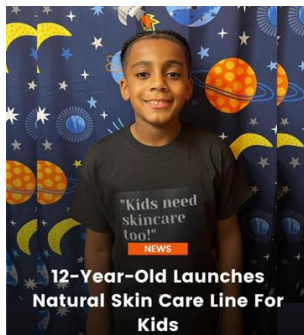
Johnson was one of six children, and all were in the military; one brother, Sgt. Purcell Johnson, was also at Montford Point, but has died. Berger located Johnson thanks to a friend who knew his older sister, Romay Johnson Davis. Davis, now 104 and living in Alabama, is the oldest living veteran of the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion, a unit of all-Black women who mostly served in Europe during the war.

Davis – who herself has a Congressional Gold Medal for her service – will be presented with her brother Purcell’s medal in January. Stansbury Johnson is one of three siblings raised from a single family with each earning a Congressional Gold Medal. Johnson was raised in Virginia and then lived with family in New Jersey and later in Washington, D.C., where he attended high school. After serving at Montford Point, he went to Howard University and earned a business degree. He worked in banking, in jewelry and had a dry cleaning business before coming to California with his wife when he was in his early fifties. He had three children; one daughter has died.

Once in California, he worked for payroll and office machinery companies. He attributes his longevity to “never abusing life” and working hard to get his children through school and to afford to be a family man, he said.



Bron Echols



Meet 12 year old Bron Echols, the Co-CEO and Co-Founder of MelanBrand Skin! When Bron was eleven, his mom knew it was time for him to begin focusing more on his skincare regimen outside of using regular soap and water , and lotion. The lotion never worked very well for moisturizing Bron’s face, and the soap would dry out is his skin. Thus. the all-natural skincare MelanBrand Skin was born!<https://melanbrandskin.com>



Herman Bekele



14 year old Heman Bekele has been named “Americas Top Young Scientist” According to a press release, Bekele’s Skin Cancer Treating Soap (SCTS) has earned him accolades from 3M and Discovery Education in the 3M Young Scientist Challenge, widely regarded as the nation’s leading middle school science competition. He is the first Black scientist to receive the honor, according to information provided to AFROTECH.

Bekele was born in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia and moved to the United States when he was four years old. His mother and special education teacher described him as “self-driven” and says he began exploring science at an early age.



2025 American Women Quarters Program Honorees

IDA B. WELLS & ALTHEA GIBSON

Ida B. Wells & Althea Gibson will be on the new Quarters set to be released in 2025. The United States Mint announced the awardees, and the coins will be produced at the Denver and Philadelphia Mint Facilities. The United States Mint (Mint) just announced their 2025 American Women Quarters Program honorees, which include two iconic Black women: Ida B. Wells and Althea Gibson.

This is the fourth and culminating year of this Program, which began in 2022, and in total it has honored twenty women who have impacted our country's history. Famous Black author Maya Angelou was the first to be featured on a coin in this Program.



Born into slavery, Ida B. Wells would go on to become a civil rights activist, feminist, journalist, researcher, and educator. Wells was an outspoken critic of segregation, an anti-lynching advocate and prominent fighter for Black women's suffrage. During her lifetime in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, Wells founded numerous civil rights organizations, including co-founding of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP).



As her contemporary Jackie Robinson did with baseball, Althea Gibson did in tennis by “breaking down color lines and paving the way for equal opportunities.”

In 1950, Gibson was the first African American to compete at the U.S. National Championships, historically besting Barbara Knapp in the first round. During her career, Gibson won eleven titles and appeared in nineteen major finals, which included Wimbledon, U.S. and French Open championships in singles and doubles. In addition, a decade later, Gibson also “became the first African American to compete on the women’s professional golf tour in 1960.”

In a statement, Mint Director Ventris C. Gibson said, “It’s a privilege for the Mint to connect America through coins, and to tell our nation’s story through honoring the women in this amazing program.”

“The pioneering women we have recognized are among the many in our nation’s history who have made significant contributions and championed change in their own unique way,” Mint Director Gibson continued.

Under Public Law 116-330, Janet Yellen, the first woman Secretary of the Treasury consulted with the Congressional Bipartisan Women’s Caucus, the National Women’s History Museum, and the Smithsonian American Women’s History Museum to select the awardees. The quarters’ designs featuring the five honorees will be revealed next year.

The other three honorees selected this year were Girl Scouts founder Juliette Gordon Low, pioneering astronomer Dr. Vera Rubin, and disability activist Stacey Park Milbern.



Nurses hit Capitol Hill to plead for aid on staffing , violence



The American Nursing Association sent nurses to Capitol Hill seeking action on violence prevention and other issues and threw its support behind staffing minimum at hospitals. Nearly 400 nurses from across the country gathered June 15 in Washington, D.C. for ANA Hill Day, as they sought to build support for four of ANA’s key federal policy issues: addressing the nurse staffing crisis, removing

barriers to APRN full practice authority; building and sustaining the nursing workforce; and understanding the value of nurses and health care worker burnout.

Hill Day participants urged support on four priority health policy issues:

Addressing the Nurse Staffing Crisis

Improving Care and Access to Nurses Act (ICAN) H.R. 2713

Workplace Violence Prevention for Health Care and Social Service Workers Act (H.R. 2663/ S.1176)

National Nursing Workforce Center Act S.1150/H.R. 2411

ANA supports enforceable safe nurse staffing standards, including acuity and setting-specific ratios, as an approach to promote the recruitment and retention of nurses and improve quality outcomes for patients. ANA urges lawmakers to improve nurse staffing and the nursing work environment by enacting legislation to prohibit mandatory overtime for nurses; requiring OSHA to issue a national health care workplace violence standard; and implementing nurse staffing standards to ensure nurses have the time and resources they need to deliver quality care and positive patient outcomes.

ICAN promotes patient access to healthcare services delivered by the provider of their choice by removing outdated Medicare and Medicaid barriers on APRNs. The ICAN Act will permanently remove the barriers waived during the PHE.

The National Nursing Workforce Center Act expands the authority of the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) to establish health workforce research centers and specifically requires that HRSA establish a center focused on nursing.

The Workplace Violence Prevention for Health Care and Social Service Workers Act requires the Department of Labor to issue an interim, and later final, occupational safety and health standard that requires employers to take actions to protect nurses and other health care workers from workplace violence.



You can read more about these issues at RNAction.org



NABMW NATIONAL MEMBER PROFILE



Annie Suggs
Chaplain

Dr. Sherry Payne
Asst. Chaplain

Louise Payne
NE Regional

Dr. Vitina Speciale-Olmo
Parliamentarian



NABMW CHICAGO CONVENTION 2024 LEADERS



Cassandra Taylor, Chair



Dr. Sherry Payne, Co-Chair



Kathaleen Harris, Convention Advisor

Memorial



Cynthia Feleicia Parker (October 13, 2023) Sister-in-law of Chicago President Arlene Duncan

Spencer Nixon (October 17, 2023) Cousin of NE Regional Dir. Louise Nixon

Myra Hagans Nganda (October 20, 2023) sister of VP Operations Irma Cooper

James A. Goodson, Jr. (October 25, 2023) Cousin of National Secretary/Atlanta Chapter President

Roland D. Nixon (October 27, 2023) Uncle of NE Regional Dir. Louise Nixon

Willie Gibbs Sr. US Army Veteran (December 6, 2023) Uncle of ATL/Metro Member Vickie Jennings

Alberta Harrell Robinson (December 16, 2023) Mother of DMV President Princess Facen

Michael Anthony Jones (December 10, 2023) Cousin of Asst. Chaplain/Convention Co-Chair Sherry Payne

Jean Delores Jones (January 5, 2024) Aunt of Asst. Chaplain/Convention Co-Chair Sherry Payne

William Earl Wilson (January 17, 2024) Korean War Veteran Father of NABMW Past President Stephanie Dawson

CPL. Lena D. King (January 27, 1923-January 18, 2024) 6888th Central Postal Battalion and recipient of the Congressional Gold Medal



National Association of Black Military Women



Photo Gallery

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BLACK MILITARY INSTALLATION CEREMONY, NEW ORLEANS

You can find more Installation pictures on the National Website www.nabmw.org click at the top Newsletters







Mrs. Romay Johnson Davis Birthday Celebration



This coin is for you in celebration of your 104th birthday from the Deputy Secretary of Veterans Affairs, Tanya J. Bradsher



Two Vetreans Ms. Romay C. Johnson Davis - Army and Mr. Carlton Philpot - Navy





**You can also call her,
Deacon Romay C. Johnson Davis
at Dexter Avenue King Memorial Baptist Church**



From ALL OF US, We wish Mrs. Romay Catherine Johnson Davis a very Happy 104th Birthday



- Two Army Women

Military Medicine





BRONX HALLOWEEN DAY PARADE







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 Cotton Email: nabmwsecretary@gmail.com

- ✓ Scholarship Committee (6888th Scholarship)-Elizabeth Helm Frazier/
Clarice Daily /Need 2 Members
- ✓ Memorial Ceremony Committee- Chaplain Annie Suggs/Chapter Chaplains
- ✓ Membership Committee – Blossom Ferguson/Renee Anderson/Need 2
Members
- ✓ IT Tech Committee - Need 2 Members
- ✓ Newsletter Committee – Jonelyn Whales/ Melissa Jones (Asst. Editors)
- ✓ 2024 Chicago Conference -Chair Cassaundra Taylor, Co Chair Sherry
Payne, Convention Advisor Kathaleen Harris, Each Chapter to submit at
least one person to represent their Chapter, also at least two members from
the Executive Board
- ✓ Nomination Committee Jonelyn Whales/Sharon Lise
- ✓ Mentorship Committee Need 2-3 Members
- ✓ Bylaws Committee- Judith Cotten, Chair Established
- ✓ Fundrasing Committee Need 4-5 Members
- ✓ Public Relations Assistant needed



CALLING ALL BLACK MILITARY WOMEN

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 who 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 the only 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 us continue to **HONOR** and praise Black Military Women by telling their stories!

Editor In-Chief

Dr. Annette Tucker Osborne

Editors Melissa Jones , Jonelyn Whales

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Vanessa Lee	Annie Suggs	



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BLACK MILITARY WOMEN

(Formerly known as "Black WAAC, WAC, Women in Services")

PRESENTS

The NABMW's 23rd Biennial Convention

"Invisible to Visible Warriors: Living the Dream"



SEPTEMBER 18-22, 2024

at the

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For more information and to **REGISTER NOW** visit our website at

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