



NABVETS

2024 AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH JOURNAL

DEDICATED TO THE MEMORY OF
RICHARD "RICK" LANE & GEORGE W. OWINGS, III

HONORARY CHAIRS

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February 17, 2024

AARP Maryland is proud to sponsor the 24th Annual Buffalo Soldiers Memorial Banquet, celebrating your lifetime of service to our country and to your community. This year carries a special significance as we mark the 80th anniversary of the D-Day landings along the Normandy coast. It was the largest seaborne event in military history and changed the tide of World War II, at a very great cost. We are forever grateful for the sacrifices made that day.

On behalf of AARP Maryland and our 850,000 members across the state, I am here to congratulate tonight's distinguished honorees. Through your service to our country, your continued work in as community leaders, and your personal examples of commitment and integrity, you honor the legacy of the heroes of D-Day.

AARP has a long history of supporting those who have served in the United States armed forces. We launched the Veterans and Military Families initiative (VMF) in 2018 to further integrate enterprise efforts to support and strengthen the military community's overall health and well-being as they navigate life's transitions. Now, with nearly 6 million AARP members who have served or are currently serving in the U.S. military, AARP is the largest veteran support organization in the marketplace.

Our mission is simple but important: We want to empower veterans, military, and their families to navigate the complexities of life's transitions by delivering tangible, actionable value; with an authentic and unwavering commitment to those who have served our country.

We welcome you to join us, as we work to protect Social Security and Medicare, tackle issues like age discrimination faced by older workers, advocate for community and home-based services that enable people to age in place, protect Marylanders' wallets and pocketbooks from unfair utility rate hikes, and combat hunger among veterans and other Marylanders.

Right now, we continue to build an army of concerned citizens who care about their community and want to make sure Marylanders have choices, control, and independence through every stage of their lives. Visit us at www.aarp.org/md for more information or send an email to md@aarp.org.

Warmest regards.

David Conway
AARP Maryland State President

PUBLISHER'S NOTES



BY CLARENCE "TIGER" DAVIS

This year, 2024, presents an array of interesting topics on African Americans in Defense of America. We began the year with good intentions to provide our sister warriors with overdue attention as NABVETS is committed to erasing the benign neglect of the past. However, recognizing the historical significance of 2024 to our parent's generation, it is paramount that we revisit events of World War II and the further impact of the Korean War on the social structure of America. After an intense discussion with Editor, Andy Pierre, and the editorial committee, it was decided to present the public with a collection of historical interests with the hope that each reader will take the next step and examine in full detail that with which we only "scratch the surface."

On June 6, 2024, the world will commemorate the 80th Anniversary of D-Day and the invasion of Nazi-controlled Europe. Often omitted, the 320th Balloon Barrage Battalion will land at Normandy, and one of its medics, Waverly Woodson, after being wounded, will ignore his pain and provide life saving medical attention to perhaps 200 troops. United States Senator Chris Van Hollen is seeking the Medal of Honor as proper recognition for his sacrifice, valor, and heroism.

Later, towards the end of 1944 on December 16th, the "Battle of the Bulge" commences and will be the precursor for the direct invasion of Germany. The 761st Tank Battalion, 183rd Combat Engineers, 333rd Artillery and a host of other segregated

units will display extraordinary military prowess and enhance Allied prospects for victory. The Wareth 11 will be subjected to the savagery of the Nazis on December 17, 1944. All readers are encouraged to seek more information on this tragedy. Following heavy losses, General Dwight D. Eisenhower will seek Negro Volunteers to replenish his white combat arms units for the final thrust into Germany. More than 5000 volunteers will step forward and 2221 will be selected to serve in integrated units – laying the foundation for President Harry S. Truman's Executive Order in 1948 which led to desegregation of the United States Armed Forces.

When war broke out on the Korean Peninsula, the U.S. war machine was ill-prepared to respond and needless to say, Truman's Orders had been largely ignored. The armed forces were still segregated and it became too cumbersome to determine the race of individual soldiers and the process began to assign personnel in accord to their training and skills. Thus, the U.S. Military integrated in the middle of a war. It worked and the significance for civilian society would soon be evident.

All of the social progress in the United States Military will lead to the May 17, 1954 Supreme Court Decision in Brown v. Board of Education. While we applaud the legal genius of Charles Hamilton Houston, Thurgood Marshall and others, it was the successes of social change in the military which compelled the decision in Brown v. Board of Education. All of our supporters and readers are encouraged to begin, now, to make plans for celebration of the Brown Case – a tribute to America's ability to change and move towards "a more perfect union."



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EDITOR'S NOTES

BY ANDY PIERRE

"What about the ladies," was the response of Tiger's wife, Barbara after examining the contents of the 2023 souvenir journal. "Well honey," he replied, we will focus on them next year in 2024. Since that promise, much has happened. Several key icons – Rick Lane, George W. Owings, Wilbert Walker, Erwin Burtnick and many others have passed on to Glory. Also, I am reminded that 2024 is a significant year for World War II and we only have a few remaining combatants from the "big war."

To avoid Ms. Barbara's dog house for Tiger, I shall endeavor to make good on his promise, give proper recognition to our WWII combatants and remember the greatness of our comrades who have found eternal peace. It won't be easy but I will do my best, as editor of the NABVETS Journal, to "remember the ladies."

Often forgotten in war tales is the story of medical personnel – primarily the nurses – who provide care and encouragement to wounded warriors – many of whom who have lost all hope and vision of what the future could be. Pia Marie Winters Jordan tells the story of these ladies in her dissertation, "Memories of a Tuskegee Airmen Nurse and Her Military Sisters." Originally published in June of 2023, Jordan focuses on a four year period from 1942 to 1946 when up to 28 women from the Army Nurses Corps staffed the station hospital at Tuskegee. Jordan is the project director of the Tuskegee Army Nurses Project and is currently working on a documentary. The book can be purchased from Amazon.

There were many other Army Nurses units associated with the segregated armed forces and as time moves forward, NABVETS will chronicle those stories.



Impressed by my new found knowledge of sister warriors, I am compelled to present other stories involving both military ladies and others who have impacted the quality of life and the pursuit of a more perfect union. NABVETS, in this journal, will revisit the Keys v. Carolina Coach Company – the first major challenge to Plessy v. Ferguson – and the Kingdomware Technologies, Inc. v. United States and its impact on minority and veteran owned businesses. Both cases are led by female freedom fighters and both will be landmark victories against entrenched racism and the status quo.

Lessons, in unforgotten events from WWII, will be highlighted by the publisher and directions for enhancing individual knowledge and understanding of the full scope of interactions and shortcomings of leadership in addressing the socio-psychological issues concomitant to a world built on racial interpretations of man's existence on planet earth. The reader will be inspired to take the next step to enlightenment and those who pride their intellect will reach even higher. I urge all to google: Whites Only Liberation of Paris and Townsville Mutiny to see how far we have travelled.

AFT-Maryland is proud to support the NABVETS Baltimore Chapter #0053

24th Annual Buffalo Soldiers Memorial Banquet

honoring

First Sergeant **Rick Lane** (USAF)
and the late Honorable **George W. Owings, III** (USMC)

We Salute your Service.



Kenya Campbell
President



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COMMANDER'S CALL

BY COMMANDER BERNARD WATTS



Medgar Evers, Parren J. Mitchell, Harold Washington, Benjamin Hooks, Sandye McIntyre, James Lewis and Edward Brooks are names of WWII combatants of national prominence – men who returned home from war and committed their lives to opening society for all to experience and enjoy the “American Promise.” We, all, know these men and applaud their service in civilian endeavors although we never fully appreciated their service in defense of America.

Somewhat obscure are people like Senator Clarence Blount, Coach Edgar Lee Bell, Allen Meacham, Dickie Brown and other veterans of WWII who devoted their lives to development of youth. Senator Blount will become Principal at Paul Laurence Dunbar High School. Coach Lee would become the builder of men and develop some of the greatest scholar-athletes in the Baltimore area and in particular East Baltimore; while Mr. Meacham, a teacher at Dunbar, will concentrate his energies in building little leagues in West Baltimore. Brown, a math teacher, will become a premier baseball coach at Dunbar who occasionally filling in as coach of the basketball team at Dunbar high school.

Blount will be the quintessential warrior and earn a battlefield commission while fighting his way through North Africa and subsequently Italy. Bell (Coach Lee) will be a Sergeant at the Battle of the Bulge (Bastogne) the defining engagement for ending WWII. Meacham will serve in the United States Navy and Brown will complete the cadet program at Tuskegee. The common thread in all was their commitment to the next generation.

Today, the African American Community finds itself trapped in the downward spiral of inequity and destruction. NABVETS-Baltimore must step up to the plate with even greater vigor than our fathers who met the challenge of apartheid and its associated violence to build a generation of youth that ultimately would confront the everyday humiliation, evil and terrorism perpetrated upon the African American Community. Our survival is at stake and our children and grandchildren are essential to overcoming the blight of today and shining light on what could be our tomorrow. Now is not the time for excuses. Failure is not an option; we must find a way.

Our youth must be included in any strategy to combat the decadence in our daily lives. We must reach out to our children. It is their time to take responsibility for leadership – the same as in 1960 when students and other young warriors took on America’s un-Americanism. Our youth are the key and we must enjoin them to engage in a solution to the ills of today. It is their time. We must stand with them and give guidance and support but only they can arrest and eradicate the self-destruction of today.

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GALLERY OF HEROES

This journal honors giants like Richard “Rick” Lane, George Owings, Wilbert L. Walker, Patricia Craig, and Eddie Bernice Johnson—
“extraordinary individuals who exceeded duty’s call to enable America’s full potential.”

These icons did more than catch excellence—“their lives offer hope and model service for us all.” We celebrate their vital contributions and pay tribute to other inspirational figures, like the surviving Montford Point Marines in this region. Though departed, their „enduring legacies march on.“ This journal lauds those who pursued excellence and catalyzed lasting change.

“Perfection is not attainable, but if you chase it, you will catch excellence.”
- Vince Lombardi



JULIUS W. BECTON JR.

When President Harry S. Truman issued Executive Order 9981, which effectively ended segregation in the United States Armed Forces, Julius Becton was a young lieutenant and often recalled the resistance of Army commanders to the orders of the Commander in Chief. His personal accounts illuminate the importance of the military in the social fabric of American society. Becton, after a stellar four-decade career, retired as a lieutenant general and broke other barriers as he transitioned to civilian life. He passed on to glory on November 28, 2023. He should be remembered for serving in three wars and earning the Silver Star in Korea and Vietnam, but he must also be remembered for enduring racism, bigotry, and subjugation, which facilitated other African Americans ascending to the ranks of general.

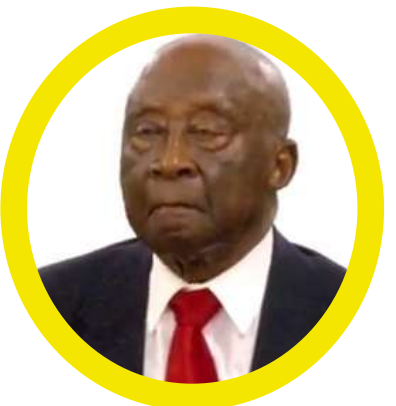


Staff Sergeant Eugene Groves, born in Belton, South Carolina on July 8, 1929 enlisted in the United States Marines at the age of 17 and received basic training at Montford Point at the end of WWII. Less than five years later, he is engaged in major battles in the Korean War. He retires in 1966. In December 1954, he married Juanita Freeman in Raleigh, NC. She passed on to Glory December 13, 1996. He remains a member of Metropolitan Baptist Church in Washington DC.

Sergeant Ivor Griffin was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania on April 4, 1927 and enlisted in the USMC at the age of 17. Upon his retirement, he will have seen duty in WWII, Korea and Vietnam. He was honorably discharged on February 7, 1948 but after a brief but successful tenure in civilian life, he missed the camaraderie of the Corps and re-enlisted and completed 23 years on active duty. Today, he actively promotes the history of the Corps and African American Marines and rejoices in expounding on the trials and tribulations of those who broke the color barrier.



Claude David was born on September 13, 1925 in the Bronx, New York and upon graduation from DeWitt Clinton High School in June 1942, he enlisted in the United States Marines. After basic training at Montford Point, he was assigned to Camp Pendleton, CA and subsequently shipped to the Pacific Theatre. After the war, he was honorably discharged and returned to his beloved New York. He married his sweetheart in 1958 and by 1965, he had moved to Edmondson Village in Baltimore. Deacon David is a member of Brown Memorial Baptist Church.



Though we reflect on history's gaps, let no obscurity veil those now marching into harm's way. As we honor past struggles, we exalt the three from Georgia who sacrificed all – their names forever etched in memory. Their courage compels us to hallow each moment and uplift our youth who now walk the warrior's path, our future bound to their bravery.



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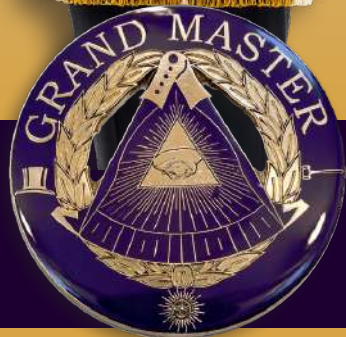
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Numbers. 30:2

"If a man makes a vow to the LORD, or takes an oath to bind himself with a binding obligation, he shall not violate his word; he shall do according to all that proceeds out of his mouth."

CONGRATULATIONS AND BEST WISHES

The Honorable Noel C. Osborne, Sr., 33°
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FRONT & CENTER

BY ROBERT GUYE

"I was told, 'You're Rick Lane's replacement.' I replied, 'No one can replace Rick!' But someone had to coordinate VIPs, honorees, and dignitaries for NABVETS events. After a moment, I said, 'I'll do my best, but I'm no Rick Lane.' I recruited 1st SG Chester Wilton to help, as the task is enormous.

We're honored to work with Most Worshipful Grand Master Noel C. Osborne, Sr. and PGWM Carmen F. Kearney, Honorary Chairpersons for the 24th Annual Buffalo Soldiers Memorial Banquet, along with the late Richard 'Rick' Lane and the late Honorable George W. Owings, III.

Rick was a tireless advocate for veterans, serving in various roles, including Deputy Secretary of the Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs (MDVA). He provided life-saving services to veterans and their families beyond those available through government. We miss Rick and grieve his loss.



Former MDVA Secretary George W. Owings, III was a constant presence in the 'Black Veterans Movement.' He recognized disparities and inequities and worked to address them. Because of his efforts, all veterans in Maryland worked together to focus on issues and solutions.

Rick would be proud of our other Honorary Chairs, MWGM Osborne and PGWM Kearney, for all they've done for our nation and NABVETS.



MEMORIAM

Milton Donald Bell
Gloria White Gardner
Timothy D. Wilson
Marshall "Eddie" Conway
Ernie Grecco
Wilbert L. Walker
Martin Cruise
Norman E. Johnson
Kenneth Gant
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24TH ANNUAL BUFFALO SOLDIERS MEMORIAL BANQUET

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- Governor's Challenge to Prevent Suicide Among Service Members, Veterans, and their Families
- Maryland Joins Forces

This year, let us help in securing your earned benefits

Thank You For Serving



DELEGATE CHANEL BRANCH'S

Tireless Fight for Veterans' Rights

Delegate Chanel Branch has proven herself a champion of Maryland veterans time and again. Her steadfast commitment to securing their rights and improving services began early in her time as an elected official. In 2019, Branch sponsored successful legislation to expand employment opportunities for veterans, service members, and their spouses. Her bill removing unnecessary licensing barriers passed unanimously.

When the COVID-19 pandemic hit, Branch spearheaded emergency reforms allowing online notarization and witnessing of important documents to protect vulnerable veterans.

Her quick action ensured their access to critical services. Most recently, Branch's impassioned advocacy ended unfair burial charges for veterans' families—a two-year effort sparked by Korean War veteran Leroy Thornton's appeal.

"Lip service is fine, but our heroes deserve tangible benefits," Branch pressed fellow legislators. She would not rest until this injustice was corrected.

Thanks to Branch's bold leadership, Maryland now proudly upholds its duty to those who served. Her voice rings out for all who have answered the call, demanding they receive the honor and support owed to them.

Delegate Branch exemplifies that progress comes through courageous stands against indifference. Let her tireless work be a rallying cry as we carry on the fight. We must be relentless in advocating for veterans and military families, fulfilling America's promise to care for those who gave so much.

Maryland veterans have no better ally than Delegate Chanel Branch. We salute her integrity, tenacity and compassion that delivers real change. She is the champion we need in our corner.



AFT-Maryland
is Proud to Salute

**Dr. Rubin McClain
Freddie Bee
&
Charlie Johnson**

for their years of
Union Activism
and service in
the Labor Movement.



Kenya Campbell
President

on the occasion of this 24th Annual
Buffalo Soldiers Memorial Banquet
NABVETS Baltimore Chapter #0053



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FROM ADVERSITY TO ADVOCACY

How LaTonya Barton Became a Champion for Veterans' Rights

When LaTonya Barton met Tim Barton, they shared a common vision for their future. They set high standards for themselves and their associates, believing that success required hard work and dedication.

After graduating from Radford University in 1992 with a degree in Business Administration and English, Tim returned home from the Gulf War. They married later that year and moved to Waldorf, Maryland.

In 1993, LaTonya and Tim started a part-time business called Experience Technologies, later renamed Kingdomware Technologies, Inc. They drew on LaTonya's IT background and Tim's skills to develop their company, which provided software and tech staffing services to the government.

In 2006, Congress passed legislation requiring the VA to set aside a certain percentage of contracts for small businesses owned by veterans disabled during military service. Yet the VA was failing to meet these mandates. LaTonya was determined to hold the VA accountable.

Her company sued the agency for violating contracting requirements in 2012, eventually

taking the case all the way to the Supreme Court. Against the odds, LaTonya prevailed. In a historic 2016 decision, the Court ruled 8-0 that the VA's contracting practices violated the law. Thanks to LaTonya, the VA was ordered to uphold mandatory set-asides for veteran-owned businesses.

***"If my story and
my case can bring
more awareness
to veterans'
issues, then my
struggle was
worth it,"***

- LaTonya Barton

"This was never about the money," LaTonya said. "It was about fairness and ensuring veterans get opportunities they were promised."

LaTonya's perseverance through her Supreme Court fight cemented her status as a champion for veterans' rights. But she didn't stop there. She went on to testify before Congress on issues facing women veterans and minority veteran business owners. She also lent her expertise to federal advisory committees dedicated to improving opportunities for disabled veterans.

LaTonya Barton's inspiring journey illustrates how adversity can be transformed into service for a greater cause. Guided by her principles and compassion for veterans, she turned hardship into a legacy of positive change.



DOVEY JOHNSON ROUNDTREE

*A Civil Rights Trailblazer
Who Refused to Be Deterred*



SARAH LOUISE KEYS

*A Sister Warrior Who
Challenged American Apartheid*

KEYS V. CAROLINA COACH COMPANY.

Before Thurgood Marshall led the legal team for Rosa Parks, there was Dovey Johnson Roundtree, a pioneering figure whose relentless fight for justice broke down barriers and changed the course of civil rights law.

Born in 1914 in Charlotte, North Carolina, Roundtree faced prejudice from a young age. She attended Spelman College and was deeply inspired by the teachings of activist Howard Thurman. After serving her country as one of the first Black women officers in the Army during World War II, Roundtree set her sights on dismantling segregation as a lawyer.

“My weapon was the law, and I meant to use it”

- Dovey Roundtree

In a time when few Black women were admitted to the bar, Roundtree persevered through immense discrimination to begin practicing law in Washington, D.C. in 1952. She quickly established herself as a formidable advocate for civil rights, representing countless Black plaintiffs in cases fighting segregation in public venues, employment, and housing.

Roundtree played a key role in many landmark civil rights cases, including *Keys v. Carolina Coach Company*, which struck down “separate but equal” transportation rules for interstate travel. However, she did not represent Sarah Keys in this case. Constance Baker Motley of the NAACP Legal Defense Fund was the lead attorney for Keys.

Roundtree’s tireless work for justice earned her a reputation as a fearless and effective civil rights attorney. She was a mentor and inspiration to many young civil rights lawyers, and her legacy continues to inspire new generations of activists to fight for equality.

On August 1, 1952, Sarah Louise Keys, a Private in the United States Army, was traveling from Fort Dix in New Jersey to her home in Virginia. Buses in those days would stop to change drivers. When the new driver demanded that Keys give up her seat to a white Marine, Keys declined. She was arrested and spent 13 hours alone in a jail cell in Roanoke Rapids, North Carolina and fined \$10 for disorderly conduct.

Keys, born in 1928 in Washington, North Carolina, was a daughter of a Navy veteran of World War I, David Keys. She enlisted in the Women’s Army Corps in 1951 and completed basic training at Fort McClellan, Alabama prior to being stationed at Fort Dix.

Constance Baker Motley of the NAACP Legal Defense Fund provided legal representation for Keys.

The Interstate Commerce Commission (ICC) ruled in Keys’ favor in 1952, ordering that bus companies could not discriminate against passengers based on race. Keys died on November 16, 2023 at the age of 95.

She is remembered as a courageous woman who stood up for her rights and helped to make a difference in the fight for racial equality.

In 2020, the City of Roanoke Rapids and Halifax County declared August 1st of that year as Sarah Keys Evans (married name) Day, 68 years after its police arrested the 23-year-old Women’s Army Corps private for refusing to give up her seat for a white Marine. A mural depicting her story was dedicated in her honor.

Keys’ legacy continues to inspire new generations of activists to fight for justice and equality. She is a true American hero.

**KEYS’ VICTORY WAS A
LANDMARK MOMENT
IN THE CIVIL RIGHTS
MOVEMENT. IT HELPED
TO PAVE THE WAY FOR
THE MONTGOMERY BUS
BOYCOTT, WHICH BEGAN
IN 1955 AFTER ROSA PARKS
WAS ARRESTED FOR
REFUSING TO GIVE UP HER
SEAT TO A WHITE MAN.**

2024 HONOREES

In recognition of honorable and courageous services to national defense and your extraordinary achievements in civilian endeavors which have contributed to the enhanced quality of life for all Americans.

NO CHALLENGE TOO GREAT SALUTING THE MONTFORD POINT MARINES

The Montford Point Marines represent a story of courage in the face of adversity. As the first African Americans to serve in the Marine Corps, the approximately 20,000 Black recruits who trained at segregated Camp Montford Point from 1942 to 1949 paved the way for generations to follow.

Despite rampant prejudice and discrimination, these trailblazing men served honorably and with distinction. Their skills and determination in the face of racism helped advance civil rights and equality in the military.

After World War II, many Montford Point Marines continued blazing trails, becoming leaders and activists at the forefront of the civil rights movement. James Forman, who served in WWII, was a founding member of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC). He played a pivotal role organizing the historic March on Washington in 1963.

Medgar Evers also served his country as a Montford Point Marine before harnessing

that same bravery to fight for equality as an activist in Mississippi. He worked tirelessly as the NAACP's first field secretary in the state before being assassinated in 1963 by a white supremacist.

The courage demonstrated by the Montford Point Marines extended beyond the battlefield. Vernon Jordan enlisted during the Korean War and later became a renowned civil rights lawyer. He served as the executive director of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference and worked closely alongside Martin Luther King, Jr.

The Montford Point Marines exemplified the ability of African Americans to serve capably if given the opportunity. Their legacy paved the way for full integration of the Marine Corps and inspired many veterans to continue fighting for equality long after they left the service. The Montford Point Marines stand as inspirational examples of honor, strength, and leadership in the face of injustice.

PARREN J. MITCHELL FREEDOM AWARD

DR. LONNIE C. SPRUILL, JR.

IOTA Founder



Lonnie Spruill, a City College and Morgan State alum, was commissioned an Army 2nd Lieutenant in 1967, deploying to Vietnam and Korea to oversee Hawk nuclear missiles. After returning to civilian life in 1969, he married and started a family. But NABVETS also proudly honors Spruill as a founder of the great Iota Phi Theta fraternity. On September 19, 1963, twelve young men, amid the civil rights movement's frontlines, committed to building an organization supporting equality. As the last surviving founder, Spruill recalls their "enthusiasm" to answer their ancestors' call. Today Iota Phi Theta is an international brotherhood of over 300 chapters, remaining dedicated to their vision of "Building a Tradition, Not Resting Upon One" and preparing young men to pursue America's promise. The National Iota Foundation, founded in 1992, furthers their interests and produces healthy citizens. NABVETS salutes Spruill and all Iotas, including those now departed, for the journey begun by the terrific dozen.

CHARLIE S. JOHNSON

Groove Phi Groove SFI Founder



Charlie S. Johnson was drafted in 1965 just before graduating from Morgan State University. After basic training and medic training, he was assigned to Germany until honorably discharged in 1967. Johnson then began a career in Baltimore public education, rising to Assistant Principal positions at several schools before retiring in 2001. An Ordained Elder and active in his community, Johnson's proudest achievement was as a founding member of Groove Phi Groove Social Fellowship in 1962. Established by 14 men seeking to promote academic excellence, ethical leadership, and unity, G Phi G is now an international brotherhood supporting college affiliates and community initiatives worldwide. Johnson's lifelong commitment to service and education reflects the fellowship's vision of creating intelligent leaders to address society's challenges.

JEFFRIES CAREY NATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

GERALD STANSBURY

Dorie Miller Medal of Honor Campaign



Gerald G. Stansbury is often called a „Leader Among Leaders“ for his tireless involvement in the struggle for equality. A lifelong Annapolis resident, Stansbury served in the Army and National Guard while attending Morgan State and Sojourner-Douglass College. Currently the Director of Fair Practices for Maryland’s Department of Human Services, he has dedicated himself to community service, most prominently as a multi-term President of the Maryland NAACP. Under his leadership, the NAACP maintained prominence and expanded its role in Maryland. Even after retiring in 2019 with the emeritus title, Stansbury continues leading groups like the Dorie Miller Medal of Honor Committee to recognize the heroism of African American warriors. NABVETS proudly honors Stansbury with the Jeffries Carey Award for his lifetime of achievement and ongoing commitment to justice. His selfless service exemplifies true leadership.

THOMAS WYNN VETERAN OF THE YEAR

ANNETTE MANN

Maryland State Commander, NABVETS



A native of Darlington, Maryland, Annette Mann retired in 2011 after an extraordinary 35-year career with the Maryland Army National Guard, including working in their first Wounded Warrior program. Since retiring, she has been deeply involved with veterans organizations like DAV and NABVETS, rising from membership chair to Vice Commander of Baltimore’s NABVETS chapter. Through partnerships like I’m Still Standing Community Corporation, Mann provides invaluable assistance helping veterans file claims and access benefits. A devout Christian and church deacon who sees the good in all, Mann completed her BA in Human Services and MBA, constantly upgrading her skills to better serve. She now adds Maryland NABVETS State Commander to her resume but remains the region’s paramount VSO representative. With her motto „Everybody has a story!“ she writes a new chapter focused on advancing NABVETS’ mission in Maryland.

RICHARD & JOSEPHINE ROBINSON LEADERSHIP AWARD

DEBORAH IVEY

U.S. Army Sorority Founder



Born in South Carolina and raised in Washington, D.C., Deborah Ivey is completing an extraordinary Army career of progressive endeavors. A mother, wife, and grandmother, Ivey holds degrees including an Honorary Doctorate in Business Philosophy. With over 30 years as a federal Program Analyst, she dedicates herself to empowering women to boldly reach their potential. Whether through personal ministry or supporting charities aiding the homeless, children, the ill, and more, Ivey inspires confidence and service. An author of over six books, she was a major founder of the Lambda Beta Alpha Military Sorority. For her inspirational leadership, NABVETS honors Deborah Ivey with the Richard & Josephine Robinson Award. Her passion for uplifting others is unmatched.

SENATOR DECATUR TROTTER HUMANITARIAN AWARD

FREDDIE BEE

Educator & Community Leader



Born in Beaufort, SC in 1932, Freddie Bee moved to Baltimore in 1948, graduating Dunbar High School in 1951. He enlisted in the Air Force, serving in Korea and Asia before receiving an honorable discharge. In 1955 he began working for the Baltimore Transit Company while earning his degree from Morgan State in 1963. Bee then embarked on a lifelong teaching career with Baltimore City Public Schools, retiring in 1995. A dedicated member of East Baltimore’s Elks Lodge #1043, he rose to Exalted Ruler and maintained key youth programs and community partnerships. Bee advocated tirelessly for battered women’s services. Now in his nineties, he perseveres in humanitarian efforts despite health challenges. For a lifetime of compassionate service, NABVETS honors Freddie Bee with the Senator Decatur Trotter Humanitarian Award. His commitment to uplifting others remains unwavering.

RONALD HUTCHINS VALOR AWARD

N. RAY STATEN

Veterans' Employment Services



N. Ray Staten exemplifies a "can do" attitude and resourcefulness, prompting the U.S. Department of Labor to think of Maryland first for new veterans' initiatives. His voluntary efforts brought maximum funds to support Maryland veterans. Known for assisting community groups to deliver services, Staten was honored with a 2000 Exceptional Employee Achievement Award. A founding member of Otha Spriggs II American Legion Post 294, he tirelessly built and advocated for the Post and the Legion's mission. Staten was also a founding member of NABVETS-Baltimore. After graduating Dunbar High in 1969, he enlisted in the Army despite many avoiding service. His class had organized to demand a new school facility, foreshadowing Staten's lifelong community commitment. For selfless service and valor, NABVETS honors Ray Staten with the Ronald Hutchins Award. He remains dedicated to uplifting veterans and community.

RICHARD LANE & GEORGE OWINGS, III DEDICATION

LAWRENCE M. MOSES

NABVETS-MD VSO



Lawrence Michael „Mike“ Moses, who served aboard the USS John F. Kennedy during Vietnam, is one of Maryland's most decorated and dedicated veterans. After military service, he worked 41 years in the federal government, becoming a computer specialist. Retiring only meant more tireless work for comrades and community through groups like the VFW, DAV, NABVETS, and American Legion. Holding numerous leadership positions, including NABVETS State Commander, Moses represents veterans with government and corporations. Appointed by Governor Hogan to the WWI Commission and Congressman Hoyer's Academy Selection Committee, he currently lobbies to improve quality of life for Maryland veterans and families. For a lifetime of selfless service to his fellow veterans, NABVETS honors Lawrence Moses with the inaugural Richard "Rick" Lane-George W. Owings III Award. He exemplifies unwavering dedication.

EDGAR LEE BELL & FRANCIS H. BROWN
SAVE THE CHILDREN - SAVE THE NATION AWARD

DR. REUBEN MCCLAIN

Educator & Union Organizer



After leaving Dunbar High in 1962, Rubin McClain enlisted in the Army, serving in the 82nd Airborne including in the 1965 Dominican Republic operation. After honorable discharge, he completed Army Reserves service while pursuing an education career. Earning degrees including a PhD in Psychology, McClain worked in teaching, counseling, training, and administration. Deeply committed to his fellow educators, he served the Baltimore Teachers Union while volunteering with groups like the NAACP and Elks. Though not in major veterans' roles, McClain advocated strongly for VSOs, especially eradicating discrimination. Throughout his career, he never lost sight of developing youth potential. For a lifetime uplifting children and community, NABVETS honors Dr. Rubin McClain with the Edgar Lee Bell-Francis H. Brown Award. His service inspires us to build a just future.

BETTY STOKES & GERALD ELDRIDGE COMMANDER'S AWARD

ARTHUR AMES

9th & 10th Calvary



Arthur Ames, a 1961 Dunbar High graduate, was drafted into the Army in 1966. After training in chemical ordnance disposal, he deployed to Vietnam as an ordnance specialist. Following honorable discharge, Ames worked 28 years for the US Postal Service. Since joining the Buffalo Soldiers in 2009, he has been a pillar of strength for the Baltimore chapter. Through roles as Sergeant at Arms, Historian and Reenactor over 15 years of researching the Buffalo Soldiers, Ames upholds their legacy and encourages others to honor their history. Married 57 years to Carolyn Scott, he exemplifies strength and character. For his dedicated service and leadership, NABVETS honors Arthur Ames with the Betty Stokes-Gerald Eldridge Commander's Award. He continues advancing the Buffalo Soldiers' enduring legacy.

PAUL THOMPSON MEMORIAL AWARD

STEWART V. REDFIELD, JR.

Grand Treasurer, MWPHGL-MD



Stewart V. Redfield, Jr., a native of Silver Spring, MD, enlisted in the Navy in 1985 and served over 20 years before retiring in 2007. After cryptologic training, he held various roles supporting Naval Security Groups globally, including Operations Watch Chief, Target Analyst, and Deputy Program Manager for the Navy's Global Signals Analysis Labs. A leader in starting Operation Care Package supporting troops in Afghanistan, Redfield earned numerous awards including the Navy Commendation Medal. After retiring, he worked defense contracts for Hewlett-Packard and founded The Birchmere Group. Holding a B.S., M.S. in Information Assurance, and multiple certifications, Redfield exemplifies outstanding naval service and continued dedication to national security. His technical expertise and leadership strengthened the Navy's cryptologic mission worldwide.

JOHN CRAIG LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

ANDREW PRYOR

Chief of Staff, MWPHGL-MD



Born in Savannah and raised in South Carolina, Andrew Pryor enlisted in the Air Force in 1960 after graduating high school. Over a 26-year career in administrative positions, his assignments spanned the globe. Retiring with numerous decorations, Pryor then worked federal government roles where he excelled. Concurrently, his 50+ year Masonic journey led to leadership positions like Maryland Grand Lodge Chief of Staff. For over 15 years, Pryor has staunchly supported NABVETS' mission to recognize Black veterans' valor. A guiding light of hope and achievement, we also honor his late wife Lucy, married in 1968, and their legacy-carrying son and grandson. With a lifetime uplifting community and fellow veterans, NABVETS honors Andrew Pryor with the John Craig Award. His selfless service drives our progress.

LOUIS DIGGS & ROBERT A. JONES LEGACY AWARD

GEORGE JONES

231st Transportation Truck Company



Born in Baltimore, George A. Jones earned his GED before enlisting in the Maryland National Guard, serving over 20 years and attaining Staff Sergeant rank. Known for his humor and encouragement in getting things done cooperatively, Jones was chosen to lead the 231st Truck Battalion association and preserve its esteemed legacy. As 231st President, he has gradually earned comrades' confidence and looks forward to dedicating himself fully upon upcoming retirement from his role as Director of Facilities at Autumn Lake Healthcare. Jones also served 10 years as a Baltimore County correctional officer. Married over 35 years to Phyllis with four supportive children, NABVETS honors Jones' dedication to the 231st legacy with the Louis Diggs-Robert A. Jones Award. He exemplifies committed service to country and fellow veterans.

JEROME HALL EXCELLENCE AWARD

WILLIAM DAVIDSON, III

Grand Warden, MWPHGL-MD




Born in New Orleans and raised in Washington, D.C., William Davidson graduated Ballou High School in 1978 before training as a Master Electrician. He enlisted in the Army after high school, serving at Fort Belvoir and the Pentagon as a personnel management specialist supervising administrative functions and advising on personnel matters. After active duty, he continued in the Army Reserves assigned to a helicopter unit. Davidson is now employed by the D.C. government. He is also a dedicated Prince Hall Mason, attaining leadership positions including Senior Grand Warden for the Maryland jurisdiction. His mission is helping individuals become better through tradition and service, which NABVETS applauds and will support. Davidson exemplifies commitment to country and community.



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Buffalo Soldiers Memorial Banquet

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J4P
ASSOCIATES



Congratulations!!!

**NABVETS 24th Annual Buffalo
Soldiers Memorial Banquet**

Saturday, February 17, 2024

4-7:30 PM

**Morgan State
University
Baltimore, MD**



**Disabled American Veterans
Dorie Miller Chapter 14
Washington, DC**

Salutes YOU!!!
Commander – CJ Garriss
SVC – Alvester Williams
1VC – Joseph Odom
2VC – Reggie Boone
Treasurer – Kenneth McClanahan
Adjutant – Georgia A. Eaves

**Chapter
14**

Meets Every 2nd Saturday at 10am

807 Maine Avenue Ave., SW

Washington, DC,

Free Parking in Basement of Building.

Accessible from 7th Street SW side.



Have you experienced our new website?

www.GBBR.org

We are reminded of the words of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.,
"The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands
in moments of comfort and convenience
but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy."

These words ring true for the Montford Point Marines,
who stood tall in the face of adversity,
breaking barriers and paving the way for future generations.
Their courage, resilience, and unwavering commitment to service,
even in the midst of racial segregation and discrimination,
are a testament to their extraordinary character.

MARYLAND CHAPTER 17

Congratulations on the 24th Annual Buffalo Soldier's Banquet

*Montford Point Marine Association
Chapter 17*

President KT Tyler | Vice President O'Neal Johnson
Secretary Helen Daniel | Financial Secretary John Harris
Treasurer Ome Jones | Sergeant-at-Arms Ed Porter
Chapter Reverend Howard Gillis

Contact us:
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Meeting every 2nd Saturday
Pikesville NCO Club
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Pikesville, MD 21208



SILENT VETS .ORG

2024 CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT

*Meet & Greet
Benefit*

SAVE THE DATE: 23RD APRIL 2024



EARLY-BIRD SPECIAL:

No later than March 23rd
2024
\$500 - per team
\$125 - per player

PLACE:

The Woodlands Golf
Course, 2309 Ridge
Rd, Windsor Mill, MD
21244

COST:

\$600.00 per team
\$150.00 per player
Sponsorship Available

REGISTER NOW:

Deadline to register: April
17th, 2024, Link to commerce
page: <https://shorturl.at/afovy>

REGISTRATION QR:



AGENDA:

Lite morning fare - 7:00am

Registration - 7:30am to 8:50am

Shotgun Start - 9:00am

Lunch and awards following the
tournament at woodlands golf course

Veteran affairs information surrounding
claims. You can schedule a virtual or in-
person appointment

PRIZES:

1st, 2nd, 3rd, teams,
Hole in one,
Longest drive,
Closest to the pin,
and Putting Contest



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CONGRATULATIONS! Elder Charlie S. Johnson

YOUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN LIFE
ARE A TRIBUTE TO YOUR FAMILY
AND AT KNOX PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH, WE ARE CONTINUALLY
AMAZED AT YOUR CONSISTENCY
AND COMMITMENT TO GOD AND
YOUR COMMUNITY.

HILL AND GLAUDE PAY TRIBUTE TO DEMOCRACY

As the 2024 elections approaches, writers Harrison Hill and Kim Glaude' believed it was necessary to compose some lyrics with a melody, specifically in reminding American's that not only exercising their right to vote is a privilege, but necessary in preserving democracy regardless of party affiliation.

It's our hope that the song American will be the catalyst in reminding all Americans, that participating and exercising your vote, will ensure a fair and democratic process in electing our next, local state and federal leaders.

of light for all, who wish to migrate to this country, from Europe, the Caribbean's, South America, Asia and Africa in hope that the same opportunity given to others, will be extended to them, in a fair and reachable immigration process.

American can be downloaded and streamed now on multiple media platforms such as Apple music, iTunes, Spotify, Amazon music etc.

The song can be purchase directly and for comments or remarks please visit www.songcastmusic.com/profiles/pwgmusic and www.pwgmusic.com

Democracy serves as a beacon

[Instagram.com/kimisstre](https://www.instagram.com/kimisstre)



Congratulations

On behalf of President George Gresham, Secretary-Treasurer Milly Silva, MD/DC Executive Vice President Lisa Brown, and the 450,000 members of 1199SEIU United Healthcare Workers East, we're proud to support **24th Annual Buffalo Soldiers Memorial Banquet.**

*Quality Care and
Quality Jobs For All!*

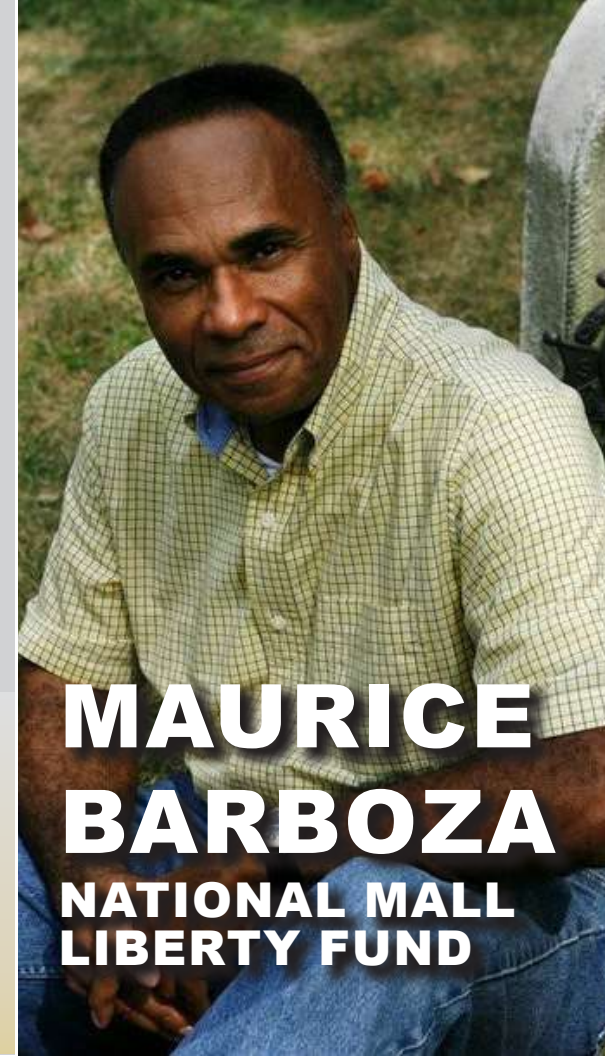
HONORING UNSUNG HEROES



Stand alongside us as we uphold the valor and sacrifices of these extraordinary patriots whose bravery shaped the fabric of our nation.

The National Mall Liberty Fund DC beckons all to unite in commemorating the vital role played by black soldiers in the Revolutionary War, ensuring that their legacy stands as an everlasting testament to courage, resilience, and the pursuit of liberty.

Together, let us honor their gallantry and preserve their memory at the heart of our nation's capital, honoring those who fought for freedom and paved the way for a brighter tomorrow.



**MAURICE
BARBOZA**
**NATIONAL MALL
LIBERTY FUND**



DAVID CONWAY

MARYLAND STATE PRESIDENT

David Conway has been named Maryland State President for AARP Maryland. A gifted communicator and team player, Conway has dedicated over four decades to sales leadership and community service. He looks forward to this new role empowering Marylanders 50+ to choose how they live as they age.

Save the date

Friday, June 21, 2024

African American Fire Fighters Historical Society's

12TH ANNUAL MEMORIAL BANQUET

6:00 Reception | 7:00 Dinner | 8:00 Program

REGINALD F. LEWIS MUSEUM
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Celebrating 15 Years of Collecting
and Preserving African American
Fire Fighter History.

Honoring 70 Years
Since BCFD's First
African American Hire.

While recognizing Baltimore City Fire
Department's African American
3 Generation Family of Fire Fighters.