



# R.A.F.M.A.N Club Foundation, Inc.

## Retired Air Force, Marine, Army & Navy

Issue 170

February 12, 2022

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\*Special Thanks to all of you who continually contribute to the newsletter.

\*Please submit your Article & **Credit** by the First Sunday of each month.

## 2022 Black History Month

### Theme: Black Health and Wellness

February 2, 2022

By Equity, Diversity, Inclusion & Respect Team

Department of Corrections

<https://www.doc.wa.gov/news/2022/02022022.htm>

Carter G. Woodson, known as the “father of the Black History” created the celebration of Black accomplishment in 1926. At the time as it is today, Americans celebrated commemorative dates in our history as well as beloved leader’s birthdays. Carter G. Woodson placed Black History month in February because it originally coincides with the birthdates of both Abraham Lincoln and Fredrick Douglas.

He recognized the impact and the power that comes from knowing and furthering the causes of what our “forebears have accomplished.” Black History Month was first recognized nationally in a speech by President Gerald Ford in 1976. In that speech, he challenged America to “seize the opportunity to honor the too-often neglected accomplishments of Black Americans in every area of endeavor throughout our history.” In 1986, Congress passed “National Black History Month” into law with the goal of bring awareness to the Black struggle for freedom.

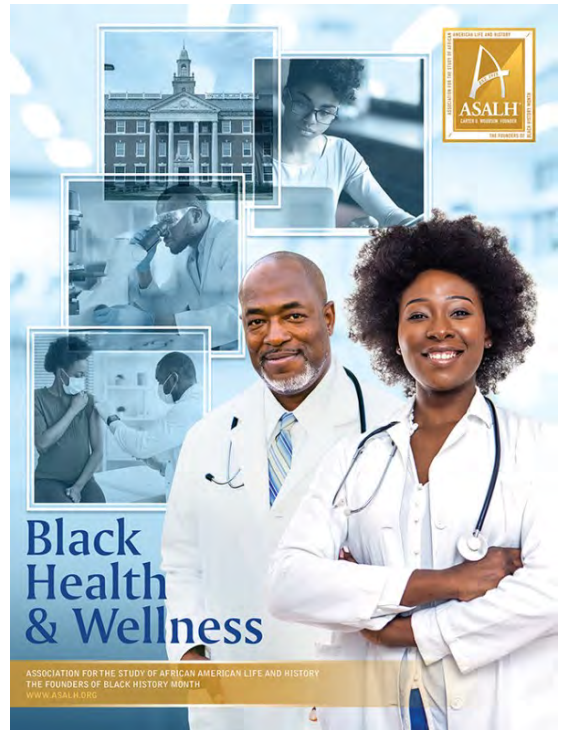
Now, celebrating Black History is not just an acknowledgement of the past, but a commitment to the future. Black history is American history. Understanding past barriers to progress for marginalized individuals, specifically people of color helps us better recognize systems that still produce discriminatory practices and disparate outcomes. Knowing Black History not only helps us recognize these systems, it also makes clear that these systems affect more than just the marginalized and people of color. Systems of racism and oppression hurt us all.

Since its inception, Black History celebrations have always had a theme. The importance of yearly themes is to focus the attention on a particular aspect of Black culture and experience. The 2022 Black History Month’s theme is Black Health and Wellness. This focus will celebrate the contributions and breakthroughs of Black professionals as well as speaking to the cultural richness of those “non-traditional” health and wellness practitioners (e.g., doulas, midwives, etc.). This theme will be collectively celebrated by focusing on familiar “rituals” and practices that many in the Black community perform to improve wellness.

**ASSOCIATION FOR THE STUDY OF AFRICAN AMERICAN LIFE AND HISTORY**  
**2022 Black History Theme Executive Summary Black Health and Wellness**  
 301 RHODE ISLAND AVENUE, NW | SUITE 2204 | WASHINGTON, DC 20001 202.238.5910 | ASALH.ORG

The theme for 2022 focuses on the importance of Black Health and Wellness. This theme acknowledges the legacy of not only Black scholars and medical practitioners in Western medicine, but also other ways of knowing (e.g., birthworkers, doulas, midwives, naturopaths, herbalists, etc.) throughout the African Diaspora. The 2022 theme considers activities, rituals and initiatives that Black communities have done to be well.

In order to foster good health and wellness Black people have embarked on self-determination, mutual aid and social support initiatives to build hospitals, medical and nursing schools (i.e. Meharry Medical College, Howard University College of Medicine, Provident Hospital and Training School, Morehouse School of Medicine, etc.) and community clinics. Clinics were established by individuals, grassroots organizations and mutual aid societies, such as the African Union Society, National Association of Colored Women and Black Panther Party, to provide spaces for Black people to counter the economic and health disparities and discrimination that are found at mainstream institutions. These disparities and anti-Blackness led to communities developing phrases such as “When white folks catch a cold, Black folks get pneumonia.” Initiatives to help decrease disparities have centered several outcomes, including having more diverse practitioners and representation in all segments of the medical and health programs including such as the Ronald E. McNair Scholars. Even the impact of popular culture texts like Doc McStuffins cannot be dismissed.



The rise of fields, such as Public and Community Health and Health Informatics have led to a rise in preventive care and a focus on body positivity, physical exercise, nutrition, exploring other dietary options such as veganism and vegetarianism, and gardening. Black Health and Wellness not only includes one’s physical body, but also emotional and mental health. At this point in the 21st century, our understanding of Black health and wellness is broader and more nuanced than ever. Social media and podcasts, such as The Read, hosted by Crissle and Kid Fury have normalized talking about mental health and going to therapy as well as initiatives such as Therapy for Black Girls. More of us understand the need to hold down, lift up, center, and fight fiercely for our beloved trans siblings and family. Black girls are doing breathwork, and there are whole yoga studios dedicated to people of color.

Mindful of Sister Audre Lorde’s words, we are doing more to move forward holistically for the betterment of ourselves, our bodies, our relationships, our communities, and our planet.

We are determined to create a platform that shines a light on the multiple facets of Black health and wellness through education and activism. There is much to uncover, amplify, question, and correct.

In the still overhanging shadow of the COVID-19 pandemic, Black people should and do use data and other information-sharing modalities to document, decry, and agitate against the interconnected, intersecting inequalities intentionally baked into systems and structures in the U.S. for no other reason than to curtail, circumscribe, and destroy Black well-being in all forms and Black lives. Moreover, Black communities must look to the past to provide the light for our future, by embracing the rituals, traditions and healing modalities of our ancestors. These ways of knowing require a decolonization of thought and practice.



### President's Message

*Greetings in the month of February 2022, Black History Month, the month where each year we celebrate the accomplishment and contribution of African Americans in the United States. Many of those accomplishments were done under less-than-ideal conditions.*

*While much has been accomplished and great progress has been made there is still a long way to go, in fact today we see our very basic rights, the right to vote, the right to hold peacefully assembly being attacked by some in power and unfortunately the highest court in the land the U.S. Supreme Court has been filled with a majority of people who don't see any problems with the laws that are being put in place to hinder the progress of minority groups. (Note: for the first time in over 36 years the Florida Supreme Court don't have a Black Judge. There were five well qualified Black Judges on the list submitted to the Governor to choose from).*

*So, in the year 2022 as we celebrate Black History in the month of Feb, remember those who long ago paved the way, but is no longer with us, and those who helped pave the way but is no longer active, we are standing on their shoulders and please remember those individuals and organizations that fights for rights, equality and against discrimination of any kind.*

*Be aware of what is taking place in your country. It's your duty and responsibility.*

### Quote

*"One of the great liabilities of history is that all too many people fail to remain awake through great periods of social change. Every society has its protectors of status quo and its fraternities of the indifferent who are notorious for sleeping through revolutions. Today, our very survival depends on our ability to stay awake, to adjust to new ideas, to remain vigilant and to face the challenge of change." — Martin Luther King Jr.*

*Submitted\_*

*Arthur Jarvis, President*

### All Members Take Note:

#### **Club Meeting**

**Saturday, February 12, 2022**

#### **12:30 PM— Meet for Lunch**

Host: RAFMAN Donald Durant  
Golden Corral  
8032 International Dr. Orlando

#### **3:00 PM — Club Meeting**

L. Claudia Allen Senior Center  
1840 Mable Butler Ave.  
Orlando, FL 32805

**Keep Safe!**

## ***Entertainment News and More.....From Simon***

We are now in our second month of 2022. The month of February has two distinguished holidays, both President's Day and Valentine's Day. One is about a former president-actually our 1<sup>st</sup> President George Washington and I like to throw in Abe Lincoln- and the other holiday is about Love. I hope that you will enjoy both holidays to the fullest and receive back all the love that you give out on Valentine's Day.



This month I am sharing with you a very enlightening article. I hope that you will enjoy reading it as much as I did.

## **Black Army Veteran's historical stand paves way for changes**

Nearly 70 years ago, an Army Veteran's stand against racial injustice changed interstate transportation.

Sarah Keys was a young, Black soldier serving at Fort Dix, New Jersey. She traveled on her way home to Washington, North Carolina, Aug. 1, 1952.

"I boarded this bus to take my first journey home after entry in the military," she said.



### ***A ticket leads to troubles***

She bought a direct ticket to make sure she had no changes. At the time, buses in the South were segregated. However, a 1946 law declared buses originating in the North did not have to follow Southern laws.

But several hours later, after pulling into Roanoke Rapids, North Carolina, the bus changed drivers. The driver ordered the young Army soldier to the back of the bus. She refused to give up her seat. The driver collected every ticket on the bus – except one.

The bus driver then ordered everyone off the bus. Keys went to the bus station to get a ticket.

"When I got to the ticket window, the lady behind the curtain in the ticket window pulled down the curtain and dimmed the lights," she said. Keys turned around to find a janitor sarcastically asking if she knew where she was – a perceived reference to being in the South.

"I said to myself, 'Oh God, Sarah, you're in trouble,'" she remembered.

Keys went back outside and asked the driver again if there was a problem with a ticket. A few feet away, police asked the driver if Keys was the unruly passenger he mentioned. He confirmed she was, so the police then took her into custody.



## ***A night in jail***

For the next 13 hours, law enforcement held Keys, placing her in a jail cell.

A dirty mattress, one she described as “dirtier than any you see discarded on the street,” was in the cell. Rather than soil her neatly pressed Army dress uniform, Keys paced the floor all night long.

The jailer came the next morning to bring her in front of the chief of police. Evans received a \$25 fine for disorderly conduct.

The first of two panels from the “Closing the Circle” exhibit highlighting Army Veteran Sarah Keys Evans’ struggle.



## ***Highlighting her fight***

For years, her story went under the radar even though her trip was more than three years before Rosa Parks would stage her bus boycott. In fact, Parks’ boycott came six days after the Interstate Commerce Commission publicly announced the ruling in Keys’ favor. Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy later used the Keys case to call on the ICC to ban Jim Crow laws in interstate travel following the Freedom Rides.

“I’m a native and I didn’t know,” said Dr. Georgette Kimball, a retired 42-year educator who was part of a project team who brought her story to light. “She made a difference. It’s a piece of history that needs to be known.”

In August 2020, Keys’ fight was finally brought to a tangible reminder with the “Closing the Circle” display at Sarah Keys Evans Plaza in Roanoke Rapids. The plaza uses her married name.

Over a period of several years, people dug into the story and realized the impact the Army Veteran had made on interstate travel. Dr. Charles McCollum Sr., a retired educator and pastor of two Baptist churches, said the Southern Christian Leadership Conference banquet honored Keys Evans, which helped spread the story. From there, the team worked with the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation for a public art initiative.

Eastern Carolina Christian College & Seminary received a foundation grant to bring awareness to her legacy. The plaza includes eight chronological mural panels and two bronze plaques mounted on two semi-circular brick walls. The plaza, located in Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Park, shows her struggle and tells a story in a public forum.

“Her courage was so great,” said Dr. Ervin V. Griffin Sr., president emeritus of Halifax Community College. “I don’t know if I could’ve done it. That’s why she’s a trailblazer.”



The second of two panels from the “Closing the Circle” exhibit highlighting Army Veteran Sarah Keys Evans’ struggle.

### **Today**

Keys Evans, now 92, lives in New York. She has not returned to Roanoke Rapids in the nearly 70 years since that night, instead joining the unveiling virtually.

Despite a later ruling, she never received her money back, said Ophelia Goulz-Faison, who researched Keys Evans’ struggle. She’s still out the \$25 – about \$250 in today’s value.

Despite being part of a landmark decision that changed American transportation, the Army Veteran said she doesn’t want the story lost.

“I’d like to be remembered as someone who helped somebody along the way,” Keys Evans said.

Hope that you enjoyed this.

I also hope that your Super Bowl will be a good one. Who you got??

Keep the faith and I’ll see you soon.

*Peace..... Simon*



## **HITLER'S VIEW OF AMERICA**

Submitted by RAFMAN Larry Colleton

In early 1942, Adolph Hitler framed the Second World War as a battle between homogeneity and diversity. On the one hand, Germany was committing genocide against Jews and non-Aryans. In Japan, the island nation was as homogenous as any country in the world at that time. Japan remains that way today. It is a country that is very anti-immigrant.

Hitler predicted that Germany would defeat America in World War II in a speech given in January 1942. He described America as a melting pot, a community made up of citizens foreign to each other.

His description of America was correct. Where he was wrong is to assume that this melting pot would not come together to defeat this maniacal dictator and his ilk's desire for hegemony. This melting pot and community of citizens foreign to each other did come together to defeat Germany and Japan.

I am afraid that Hitler's prediction of America's defeat may come true without a bullet being fired by a foreign adversary. This country is as divided today as it was just prior to the civil war. It does appear that whites are arming themselves to kill their fellow Americans. Unfortunately, this violent movement did not begin in the last year. Regrettably, it has been brewing since Brown v. Board of Education. White resentment towards People of Color has never gone away. They resent Black, Brown, and Asian advancement. They feel that somehow their shortcomings and failures are due to People of Color. They resent Affirmative Action programs. They resent discussion of America's past and present. They do not want to talk about the enslavement of the African, or the attempted genocide of Native Americans or the taking of the land from Texas to California from Mexico.

One of the two major political parties in this country has embraced these grievances and made them part its political platform. Nowhere is that more visible than the voter suppression laws passed by Republican led states. The goal is two-fold. First, to make voting as difficult as possible to frustrate those who do not consistently vote. Second, even if one votes, to disqualify the ballot due to some procedural error.

The Republican Party has asserted that their goal is to ensure voter integrity. This alleged desire for voter integrity is the party's attempt to provide cover for the "Big Lie" that the 2020 election was stolen from Donald Trump. Donald Trump lost. Donald Trump is a sore loser. Donald Trump is a pathological liar. The Republican Party has adopted the lie. It owns it.

Recently, the Republican National Committee censured two Republican members of the House, Liz Cheney, and Adam Kinzinger. Why the censure? The two Republicans have the temerity to sit on the January 6 Select Committee in the House of Representatives.

On January 6, 2021, thousands of Trump supporters stormed our nation's capital. They injured more than 100 police officers and 5 people died. These insurrectionists urinated and defecated on the floors of the capitol. They caused 30 million dollars damage to the building. The Republicans do not want an inquiry by House to be conducted. The leadership refused to appoint members to the Committee. Cheney and Kinzinger to their credit were profiles in courage and volunteered to sit on the Committee.

At every election cycle, it is asserted that this is the most important election of your life. I am here to state emphatically, that the mid-term election of 2022 is the most important election of your life. This democratic republic is at risk of falling into the hands of people who are quite comfortable with gaining power by any means necessary. In other words, lying about the 2020 election and passing voter suppression laws are means to gaining power. Specifically, the objective is to win control of the U. S. House and Senate. If the Republican Party is successful, this country as we know it will not be same.

The party has codified the "Big Lie" in numerous states. It is banning books. It is restricting subject matter to be taught in schools under the guise that Critical Race Theory is being taught in secondary schools and colleges. It is only being taught in law schools. The Republican party has promoted homogeneity (America is a white country). From Nixon's Southern Strategy to Reagan's welfare queen to Trump's Mexico sending people bringing drugs, criminals, and rapists. Now, the new mantra is to call Blacks who are investigating Trump racists.

Enough of us (diversity) must come together to ensure that this movement towards civil war is stopped via the ballot box. It is the only way to save this democratic republic from itself.



**CELEBRATE BLACK HISTORY THROUGHOUT THE YEAR!**

**BLACK HISTORY AMERICA'S HISTORY!**





## **Ziryab: The Slave that Changed Society**

**Submitted by Joe Cockerl**

**Society as we know it today would cease to exist, if it was not for a seventh Century Moorish liberated black slave known as Ziryab. He was known to have knowledge in music, astronomy, geography, meteorology, botanic, cosmetics culinary art and fashion.**

**The accomplishments of this one man and his lasting influence on much of the world were so great as to be almost unbelievable.**

**Ziryab was born, raised and educated in Baghdad. His ascension to greatness began as a young man at the Baghdad leader's court. He displayed an outstanding singing voice. He studied music and became a celebrated royal musician. Ziryab is known to have invented the guitar, harp, oboe, tambourine, as well as the flute. He developed the first music conservatory, this method of teaching replaced the older system in which students were taught music on a one on one basis.**

**Ziryab was known to have pioneered major changes in personal hygiene. He encouraged women to practice female hygiene, he also stressed the importance of bathing daily and using deodorant and brushing one's teeth. He taught men to improve their personal appearance by shaving and having their hair cut. He also has been known to open one of the first beauty parlors for women.**

**Men and women fashion as we know it today would have not been possible if it was not for Ziryab. HE began the fashion trend of day and evening wear. Ziryab also encouraged fashion wear for the four seasons: summer, spring, fall and winter.**

**One of Ziryab's greatest improvement for mankind was to change society's eating habits. People in the seventh century ate their food on a large wooden table. The food was placed on the table and they would use their hands to get food, the same way that Romans dined. There were no table manners. Ziryab accustomed the people to plates and forks, spoons and knives. He also brought about the full course meal. Dinner was served starting with soup, meat, ending with dessert. When you sit down to a fine meal, you can thank a little known black ex slave name ziryab.**

**It is unfortunate that society have forgotten or ignored this man's enormous contribution to society. Perhaps his deeds will be fully appreciated in the future.**



Submitted by Donald Durant



## Congratulations!



To My Daughter  
**Alesha Ann Sullivan**  
 on her promotion to  
 First Sergeant—US Air Force  
 She is station at  
 Aviano Air Base Italy.

# Houston Doctor Accuses Chase Bank of Racism in Federal Lawsuit

By Tom Cleary

**heavy. on Houston**

Justin Moore/  
 Facebook Houston doctor  
 Malika Mitchell Stewart,  
 pictured with her attorney,  
 Justin Moore, is accusing Chase  
 Bank of racism in a federal law-  
 suit filed in February 2022.

Malika Mitchell-Stewart is a  
 Black Houston doctor who filed  
 a federal lawsuit against Chase  
 Bank accusing employees of  
 racism. Mitchell-Stewart, who  
 recently completed her residen-  
 cy and started her career as a family physician, said she was  
 turned away and accused of a crime when she tried to deposit a  
 \$16,000 check from her new employer in December 2021.



Mitchell-Stewart, 34, filed her lawsuit against JP Morgan Chase and two employees of the bank's Sugar Land branch in U.S. District Court for the District of Southern Texas on February 3, 2022. She is being represented by Dallas-based civil rights attorneys Justin Moore and Paul Stafford. Mitchell-Stewart is seeking \$1 million in compensatory and punitive damages in the lawsuit, which accuses JP Morgan Chase, Trupti Patel and Shae Wells of violating the Civil Rights Act, which "forbids racial discrimination." The incident occurred on December 18, 2021, at Chase Bank's First Colony Branch.

The lawsuit says, "Dr. Mitchell-Stewart just completed her residency and started employment with the Valley Oaks Medical Group. As she embarks on her career as a physician, and throughout her career, it is a professional requirement that Dr. Mitchell-Stewart's criminal record be spotless. She knows that to be accused of a crime would not only be damaging but it could derail a career that she is just now starting. Until recently, Dr. Mitchell-Stewart certainly did not expect that when she attempted to open a bank account with Chase and proudly



deposit her first check as a new physician she would be accused of fraud and denied the ability to open a bank account at one of the more prominent retail banks in the world.

Moore and Stafford added in the lawsuit, “What Dr. Mitchell-Stewart was reminded of on this day was that she is a Black woman attempting to deposit \$16,000 in a predominantly white affluent suburb. ... Solely because of her race, Dr. Mitchell-Stewart was discriminated against by members of Chase’s banking staff and denied services provided to non-African American customers of Chase.”

Chase Bank said in a statement, “We take this matter very seriously, and are investigating the situation. We have reached out to Dr. Mitchell-Stewart to better understand what happened and apologize for her experience.”

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## **Dr. Mitchell-Stewart Says in the Lawsuit ‘She Was Humiliated & Treated Like a Criminal’ by Chase Bank Employees, Who Accused Her of Having a Fraudulent Check**



FacebookMalika Mitchell-Stewart.

Mitchell-Stewart, who lives in Missouri City and graduated from the McGovern Medical School at the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston, Texas, said in the lawsuit she went to the Sugar Land Chase Bank branch on December 18, 2021, to open an account and deposit a signing bonus check from Valley Oaks Medical Group for \$16,780.16. Mitchell-Stewart had recently opened a medical office on Braxton Drive in Houston, according to her Instagram.

Submitted by  
Donald Durant

[THE BIDEN-HARRIS ADMINISTRATION](https://www.whitehouse.gov/administration/)

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/administration/>



# KAMALA HARRIS

THE VICE PRESIDENT

A career for the people — breaking barriers and fighting for working families

Kamala D. Harris is the Vice President of the United States of America. She was elected Vice President after a lifetime of public service, having been elected District Attorney of San Francisco, California Attorney General, and United States Senator.

Vice President Harris was born in Oakland, California to parents who emigrated from India and Jamaica. She graduated from Howard University and the University of California, Hastings College of Law.

Vice President Harris with her mother, Shyamala

“My mother would look at me and she’d say, ‘Kamala, you may be the first to do many things, but make sure you are not the last.’”

Vice President Harris and her sister, Maya Harris, were primarily raised and inspired by their mother, Shyamala Gopalan. Gopalan, a breast cancer scientist and pioneer in her own right, received her doctorate the same year Vice President Harris was born.

Her parents were activists, instilling Vice President Harris with a strong sense of justice. They brought her to civil rights demonstrations and introduced role models—ranging from Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall to civil rights leader Constance Baker Motley—whose work motivated her to become a prosecutor.

Growing up, Vice President Harris was surrounded by a diverse community and extended family. In 2014, she married Douglas Emhoff. They have a large, blended family that includes their children, Ella and Cole.

Vice President Harris at the Pride Parade in San Francisco, California

Throughout her career, the Vice President has been guided by the words she spoke the first time she stood up in court: Kamala Harris, for the people.

In 1990, Vice President Harris joined the Alameda County District Attorney’s Office where she specialized in prosecuting child sexual assault cases. She then served as a managing attorney in the San Francisco District Attorney’s Office and later was chief of the Division on Children and Families for the San Francisco City Attorney’s Office.



She was elected District Attorney of San Francisco in 2003. In that role, Vice President Harris created a ground-breaking program to provide first-time drug offenders with the opportunity to earn a high school degree and find employment. The program was designated as a national model of innovation for law enforcement by the United States Department of Justice.

In 2010, Vice President Harris was elected California's Attorney General and oversaw the largest state justice department in the United States. She established the state's first Bureau of Children's Justice and instituted several first-of-their-kind reforms that ensured greater transparency and accountability in the criminal justice system.

As Attorney General, Vice President Harris won a \$20 billion settlement for Californians whose homes had been foreclosed on, as well as a \$1.1 billion settlement for students and veterans who were taken advantage of by a for-profit education company. She defended the Affordable Care Act in court, enforced environmental law, and was a national leader in the movement for marriage equality.

Vice President Harris speaking at an event

**“AT EVERY STEP OF THE WAY, I’VE BEEN GUIDED BY THE WORDS I SPOKE FROM THE FIRST TIME I STOOD IN A COURTROOM: KAMALA HARRIS, FOR THE PEOPLE.”**

KAMALA HARRIS, AUGUST 19, 2020

In 2017, Vice President Harris was sworn into the United States Senate. In her first speech, she spoke out on behalf of immigrants and refugees who were then under attack. As a member of the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, she fought for better protections for DREAMers and called for better oversight of substandard conditions at immigrant detention facilities.

On the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, she worked with members of both parties to keep the American people safe from foreign threats and crafted bipartisan legislation to assist in securing American elections. She visited Iraq, Jordan, and Afghanistan to meet with servicemembers and assess the situation on the ground. She also served on the Senate Judiciary Committee. During her tenure on the committee, she participated in hearings for two Supreme Court nominees.

As Senator, Vice President Harris championed legislation to reform cash bail, combat hunger, provide rent relief, improve maternal health care, and address the climate crisis as a member of the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works. Her bipartisan anti-lynching bill passed the Senate in 2018. Her legislation to preserve Historically Black Colleges and Universities was signed into law, as was her effort to infuse much-needed capital into low-income communities during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Vice President Harris embraces a young supporter

On August 11, 2020, Vice President Harris accepted President Joe Biden's invitation to become his running mate and help unite the nation. She is the first woman, the first Black American, and the first South Asian American to be elected Vice President, as was the case with other offices she has held. She is, however, determined not to be the last.

## Lloyd J. Austin III

*Secretary of Defense*

Lloyd James Austin III was sworn in as the 28th Secretary of Defense on January 22, 2021. Mr. Austin is the principal assistant to the President in all matters relating to the Department of Defense and serves on the National Security Council.

Mr. Austin was born in Mobile, Alabama, and raised in Thomasville, Georgia. He graduated from the United States Military Academy with a Bachelor of Science degree and a commission in the Infantry. He holds a Master of Arts degree in counselor education from Auburn University, and a Master of Business Management from Webster University. He is a graduate of the Infantry Officer Basic and Advanced courses, the Army Command and General Staff College, and the Army War College.



His 41-year career in the Army included command at the corps, division, battalion, and brigade levels. Mr. Austin was awarded the Silver Star for his leadership of the Army's 3rd Infantry Division during the invasion of Iraq in 2003. Seven years later, he would assume the duties of Commanding General of United States Forces – Iraq, overseeing all combat operations in the country.

After a tour as the Army's Vice Chief of Staff, Mr. Austin concluded his uniformed service as the Commander of U.S. Central Command, responsible for all military operations in the Middle East and Afghanistan. In this assignment, he led U.S. and coalition efforts to battle ISIS in Iraq and Syria. He retired from the Army in April, 2016.

Since his retirement from military service, Mr. Austin served on the Boards of Directors for Raytheon Technologies, Nucor, and Tenet Healthcare.

# JERRY L. DEMINGS

## Orange County Mayor

Mayor Jerry L. Demings was sworn in on Dec. 4, 2018 as the 5th elected Mayor of Orange County and is the first African-American to serve in the role. He oversees more than 8,000 Orange County employees and a \$4.9 billion budget as the County's chief executive officer. He says that his goal is to make Orange County the "Experimental Prototype Community of Tomorrow" by creating a community culture of innovation, collaboration and inclusiveness.

Always a trailblazer, Mayor Demings became Orlando's first African-American police chief in 1998 and was elected the first African-American Orange County Sheriff in 2008. He was re-elected in 2012 and again in 2016.

An Orlando native, Mayor Demings is married to former Orlando Police Chief Valdez B. Demings, who also made history as the first female police chief in Orlando. In November 2016, she was elected to the 115th Session of the United States Congress and was re-elected in 2018. Congresswoman Demings represents Florida Congressional District 10. They have three sons who are all graduates of Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University.

A lifelong public servant, Mayor Demings is a graduate of Jones High School and holds a bachelor's degree in finance from Florida State University and a master's of business administration from Orlando College. He graduated magna cum laude.

He is a graduate of the 194th session of the Federal Bureau of Investigation's National Academy and studied at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government.

Mayor Demings currently serves on several regional boards of directors, including the Greater Orlando Aviation Authority, Central Florida Expressway Authority, Metroplan Orlando, Central Florida Regional Transportation Authority/Lynx, Dr. Phillips Performing Arts Center, Orange County Tourist Development Council, Orlando Economic Partnership and he is involved in numerous civic organizations. He is a member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Alpha Phi Omega Fraternity and Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity and is a steward at Saint Mark AME Church in Orlando. Mayor Demings has a passion for working with organizations that support children and volunteers with several non-profit agencies.

### **Contact:**

Mayor Jerry L. Demings  
201 S. Rosalind Avenue, 5th floor  
Orlando, Florida 32801



# Gregory Robinson, James Webb Space Telescope Program Director

Gregory L. Robinson is the Director for the James Webb Space Telescope Program in the NASA Science Mission Directorate (SMD).

Previously, he was the Deputy Associate Administrator for Programs, responsible for assessing NASA programs as the projects and institutions for technical and cost effectiveness, quality, and performance. He also coordinates program and project content with the other NASA Mission Directorates, and federal agencies in which SMD has partnerships. SMD has a portfolio of 97 missions in formulation, development, and operations.

Mr. Robinson served as Deputy Center Director at NASA's John H. Glenn Research Center (GRC), Cleveland Ohio. Mr. Robinson was responsible for planning, organizing, and controlling the effective accomplishment of all missions assigned to the Center. GRC is engaged in a diverse program of research, technology advancement, and project management related to aeronautical propulsion, space power propulsion, cryogenic fluids, microgravity science, expendable launch vehicles, space communications, materials, structures, instrumentation and controls, computational fluid dynamics, and electronics.



Mr. Robinson served as NASA Deputy Chief Engineer (2005-2013); He had primary responsibility and authority for oversight of Agency engineering work, including the design, manufacture, testing, operation, training, and maintenance practices and products. Additionally, he provided policy for and oversight of the readiness and execution of all NASA programs to ensure development efforts and mission operations were planned and conducted with sound engineering and proper programmatic controls.

Mr. Robinson served as the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Acting National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service (NESDIS) Deputy Assistant Administrator, Systems (2011-2012). He led the acquisition, and management of all NOAA satellite flight and ground acquisitions.

Prior to Mr. Robinson's reassignment to NASA Headquarters in 1999, he spent 11 years in various leadership positions at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Maryland. Among his time with NASA, Mr. Robinson has received numerous individual and group performance awards, including the Presidential Rank, Distinguished Executive; and Meritorious Senior Professionals and Executives Award.

He holds a bachelor's degree in Math from Virginia Union University; a bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering from Howard University; and a Master of Business Administration from Averett College. He also attended Harvard University, Kennedy School of Government, Senior Executive Fellows Program; and the Federal Executive Institute (Leadership for a Democratic Society).

Mr. Robinson is a native of Danville, Virginia. He and his wife, Cynthia reside in Manassas, VA, and have three adult daughters.



## African American Submariners in the U.S. Navy



BALTIMORE (Feb. 21, 2009. Members of the Navy's Centennial Seven pose with U.S. Naval Academy midshipmen. From left to right, Capt. Pete Tzomes, Rear Adm. Tony Watson, Capt. Will Bundy, Vice Adm. Mel Williams, Capt. Bill Peterson, Rear Adm. Cecil Haney, and Rear Adm. Bruce Grooms. The Centennial Seven were the only African Americans to command a submarine during the 20th century. Pictured to the right of Grooms, Cmdr. Rich Bryant, who commanded USS *Miami* (SSN-755), and Cmdr. Roger Isom, who commanded USS *Wyoming* (SSBN-742). Bryant and Isom were the first two African Americans to command a submarine during the 21st century.

**Centennial Seven**—The designation "[Centennial Seven](#)" — the only African American men to command submarines within the first 100 years of the submarine service — recognizes their accomplishment.

- [Capt. C.A. "Pete" Tzomes](https://www.history.navy.mil/browse-by-topic/people/trailblazers/pete-tzomes-trailblazer.html)—<https://www.history.navy.mil/browse-by-topic/people/trailblazers/pete-tzomes-trailblazer.html>
- Rear Adm. Tony Watson
- Capt. Will Bundy
- [Vice Adm. Mel Williams](https://engineering.catholic.edu/research-and-faculty/faculty-profiles/management/williams-mel/index.html)—<https://engineering.catholic.edu/research-and-faculty/faculty-profiles/management/williams-mel/index.html>
- Capt. Bill Peterson
- [Rear Adm. Cecil Haney](#)—
- [Rear Adm. Bruce Grooms](#)

Good Read: "Black Submariners in the United States Navy, 1940-1975" by Glenn A. Knoblock with Foreword by VADM Mel Williams, a submarine fleet commander and son of one of the men profiled. An historical overview of black sailors and the evolution of the Steward's Branch, to which black sailors were eventually restricted, precede descriptions of becoming a steward and a submariner, and of life as a submariner during World War II. - Available from on-line retailers.

# Charles Bolden

American astronaut

*Alternate titles:* *Charles Frank Bolden, Jr.*

By [Erik Gregersen](#) • <https://www.britannica.com/editor/Erik-Gregersen/6723>

## Born:

August 19, 1946 (age 75) [Columbia](#) [South Carolina](#)

**Charles Bolden**, in full **Charles Frank Bolden, Jr.**, (born [August 19, 1946](#), [Columbia](#), [South Carolina](#), U.S.), American [astronaut](#) who served as the first [African American](#) administrator of the [National Aeronautics and Space Administration](#) (NASA) from 2009 to 2017.



Bolden received a bachelor's degree in electrical [science](#) from the [U.S. Naval Academy](#) in Annapolis, [Maryland](#), in 1968. He was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the [U.S. Marine Corps](#). He became a pilot and between 1972 and 1973 flew more than 100 combat missions in the [Vietnam War](#).

In 1977 Bolden received a [master's degree](#) in systems management from the [University of Southern California](#) in [Los Angeles](#). He graduated from the U.S. Naval Test Pilot School at Patuxent River, Maryland, in 1979 and flew on test projects involving the A-6 and A-7 [attack aircraft](#). In 1980 he was selected as an astronaut by NASA.

During his time at NASA, Bolden made four spaceflights, the first of which was as the pilot of the [STS-61C](#) mission (launched January 12, 1986) on the [space shuttle Columbia](#). During the six-day flight, the seven-man crew launched a [communications satellite](#). On his second spaceflight, he piloted [STS-31](#) (April 24–29, 1990), on which the space shuttle *Discovery* [deployed](#) the [Hubble Space Telescope](#). Bolden was commander of his next two spaceflights. On [STS-45](#) (March 24–April 2, 1992), the space shuttle *Atlantis* carried the Atmospheric Laboratory for Applications and Science, a laboratory on a pallet housed in the space shuttle's cargo bay that contained 12 experiments studying [Earth's atmosphere](#). [STS-60](#) (February 3–11, 1994) was the first U.S. spaceflight to have as part of its crew a Russian cosmonaut, mission specialist [Sergey Krikalyov](#).  
Astronaut Charles F. Bolden, 1986.

## NASA

Bolden retired from NASA in 1994. He returned to the Marine Corps and in 1998 reached the rank of major general. He retired from the corps in 2003. In 2009 Pres. [Barack Obama](#) named him as NASA administrator. He was the first African American to hold that position. During his [tenure](#), Bolden oversaw the end of the [space shuttle](#) program (2011) as NASA turned to private companies to transport American astronauts. He also continued the agency's ambitious exploration projects, notably the [Curiosity](#) rover, which landed on [Mars](#) in 2012. With the end of Obama's presidency, Bolden resigned as administrator in January 2017.



Charles Bolden, 1997.

# America's first black Marines: The Montford Pointers

By [ShareAmerica](https://share.america.gov/author/shareamerica/) —<https://share.america.gov/author/shareamerica/>  
Jun 19, 2020

The year was 1943 and Joseph Carpenter had just received orders to report to Camp Montford Point in Jacksonville, North Carolina, from his home in Washington.

"I was proud to be a Marine because they had so much history," said Carpenter, now 96.

But in 1943, Carpenter was about to make history as one of America's first black recruits for the U.S. Marine Corps.

More than 20,000 blacks trained at Montford Point (and thus were called Montford Pointers) because the military then, like much of America, was racially segregated.

The military would change in 1948, when President Harry S. Truman signed an executive order ending segregation in its ranks. But during World War II, Carpenter would train in a black unit.

Whether fighting in segregated or integrated units, black soldiers have participated in every major American war since before the country's founding (see sidebar).

Montford Pointers aren't as well known as the [Tuskegee Airmen](#), the African-American squadron of the U.S. Army Air Corps that flew and maintained combat aircraft in Alabama before becoming known as a respected fighting unit during World War II.

But Montford Pointers also served with distinction. About 13,000 of them decamped abroad during World War II. Nearly 2,000 of them helped Allied forces seize the island of Okinawa in the largest amphibious landing in the Pacific theater of the war.

## Breaking barriers.

Montford Pointers faced segregation when they ventured off of their base and into Jacksonville. A set of laws known as Jim Crow in the South required schools and businesses to keep whites and blacks separate.

Former Sergeant Edwin Fizer, 94, who enlisted in the Marines in 1942, remembers that some of the original white officers and drill instructors doubted the black recruits' abilities, which only strengthened his resolve to succeed.

"We had to get past that to be sure that we were able to stay in the Corps and do well at it," Fizer said from Illinois in a telephone interview. While Fizer saw combat in the battle to retake Guam from the Japanese, Carpenter remained at Montford Point as chief clerk and helped unload European prisoners of war from ships. He retired as a lieutenant colonel in the 1980s. Many of the Montford Pointers extended their service into the Korean and Vietnam wars.



Retired U.S. Marine Lieutenant Colonel Joseph Carpenter (State Dept./D.A. Peterson)



## Montford Point Marine



### A legacy continues

**Retired Lieutenant Colonel Joseph Carpenter, 96,** cradles the Congressional Gold Medal he received in 2012 that honored his service as a Montford Point Marine. (State Dept./D.A. Peterson)

In recognition of their service and sacrifices during World War II, Montford Point Marines received the Congressional Gold Medal in 2012, the highest civilian honor the U.S. Congress gives.

In 1974, Camp Montford Point was renamed Camp Gilbert H. Johnson in honor of the African American sergeant major who served as a drill instructor there. It's the only Marine installation named after an African American, said John Lyles, an archivist at the Library of the Marine Corps. (A U.S. Navy ship bears the camp's name.)

About 400 of America's first black Marines are still alive, according to the National Montford Point Marine Association.

### For a new generation

Fizer wants the next generation to know Montford Pointers' struggles and to recognize times have changed for the better. "I want them to be able to appreciate how we overcame adversity," Fizer said. "This is a foundation that we have built, and they stand on the shoulders of us. And go from there."

*This article was written by freelance writer Lenore T. Adkins, and the original version was published on February 7, 2018.*

## The First African American Graduate of West Point



At age 21, Henry Flipper became the first African American graduate of the United States Military Academy at West Point. His assignment in July 1877 to the 10th United States Cavalry, one of two African American cavalry regiments organized after the Civil War, was the realization of a personal dream.

Flipper's four years as a cadet were characterized by above average grades, earned in an environment of almost total social isolation from his classmates.

Henry Flipper as a cadet at the United States Military Academy

### Library of Congress

The future cavalry officer's military journey began with being born into slavery at Thomasville, Georgia on March 21, 1856. He later attended schools that were operated by the American Missionary Association, as well as being one of the first to attend Atlanta University when it was established in 1869.

In January of 1873 Flipper wrote to James Freeman, a newly elected Congressman from Georgia, requesting an appointment to West Point. Freeman responded that he would recommend Flipper if he proved "worthy and qualified." A series of letters exchanged between the two ultimately resulted in Freeman nominating Flipper to the Academy. Flipper passed the required examinations and officially entered the U.S. Military Academy on July 1, 1873.

Flipper's four years as a cadet were characterized by above average grades, earned in an environment of almost total social isolation from his classmates. When he graduated in 1877, he ranked 50th in a class of 76. He was assigned, along with four other graduates, to the 10th U.S. Cavalry and soon found himself stationed on the frontier with Company A at Fort Sill, Indian Territory.

### Military Career

2nd Lieutenant Flipper in full dress uniform of the United States Cavalry



### **National Archives and Records Administration**

Over the course of the next four years the young lieutenant acted in a variety of different capacities, from briefly serving as commander of Company G, to pursuing the elusive Apache leader Victorio. Flipper was even detailed as Fort Sill's engineer and was ordered to survey and supervise the construction of a drainage system to eliminate a number of stagnant ponds blamed for causing malaria. His efforts were successful and in 1977, what became known as "Flipper's Ditch," was designated a Black Military Heritage Site.

On November 29, 1880 Flipper arrived at Fort Davis and soon was assigned the duties of Acting Assistant Quartermaster and Acting Commissary of Subsistence. He temporarily served as quartermaster until the regimental headquarters of the 1st U. S. Infantry, with its commander Colonel William R. Shafter, arrived in March 1881.

#### **Court Martial**

All seemed to be going well for the only African American officer in the United States Army, until some commissary funds he was responsible for turned up missing. Stalling for time and fearing Colonel Shafter, who had the reputation as a strict disciplinarian, Flipper tried to conceal the loss.

In the fall of 1881, Lieutenant Flipper was court-martialed under the 1806 Articles of War for embezzlement of commissary funds and for "conduct unbecoming an officer and a gentleman." Flipper pleaded not guilty to both charges. The trial was held in the post chapel at Fort Davis. Flipper was ably defended by Captain Merritt Barber, 16th U.S. Infantry, who volunteered to serve as counsel.

Although found not guilty of embezzlement, he was convicted of the second charge for making a false statement, for signing financial records he knew to be incorrect, and for writing a check on a nonexistent bank account. By regulations, this conviction carried an automatic sentence of dismissal from the army. In reviewing the trial, the Judge Advocate General, the army's chief legal officer, recommended a punishment other than dismissal. President Chester Arthur, however, approved the court's sentence and Flipper was dismissed from the United States Army.

#### **Civilian Accomplishments**

Following his dismissal from the army, Flipper attained recognition and respect in a multitude of different careers. In 1887 he established a civil engineering office in Nogales, Arizona, and from 1893 to 1901 he worked for the U. S. Department of Justice as a special agent for the Court of Private Land Claims. In addition to his primary job of translating Spanish documents, he also surveyed land grants and often appeared as a government witness in court cases.

Flipper was next employed as a resident engineer with a mining company in Mexico until the company ordered its employees out of the country following the outbreak of the Mexican Revolution in 1912. He then moved to El Paso, where he served as the local representative of the Sierra Consolidated Mines Company. Due to his fluent Spanish, in 1919 Flipper became an interpreter and translator for a Senate subcommittee on foreign relations, and in 1921, was hired as a special assistant to the Secretary of the Interior working in the Alaskan Engineering Commission. In 1923, William F. Buckley hired Flipper as an engineer for his newly formed Pantepec Oil Company in Venezuela. He remained in that capacity until July 1930 when he sailed for New York.

However despite all of these achievements following his dismissal from the army, Flipper always maintained his innocence of the charges that destroyed his military career. He sought to clear his name through the only avenue open to him, the passage of a bill by Congress.

His first attempt to restore his former army rank and status occurred in 1898. His final effort resulted in legislation introduced into the Senate in 1924. None of the bills gained enough support or interest; all died quietly in committees. Henry Flipper died in 1940 at the age of 84, not knowing that his rank would someday be restored.

#### **The Court-Martial: Another Look**

It was the Civil Rights movement of the 1950s and 1960s, along with a concerted effort by historians to tell the story of all Americans, that brought attention to the circumstances surrounding Flipper's dismissal.

In late 1976, the case was reviewed by the Army Board for Correction of Military Records. While acknowledging that Flipper had falsified reports and lied to his commanding officer, the board concluded that "the continuance of the stigma from a dismissal, which characterizes his entire service as dishonorable, is unduly harsh, and therefore unjust."

The board, therefore, recommended that all Flipper's army records "be corrected to show that he was separated from the Army of the United States on a Certificate of Honorable Discharge on 30 June 1882."

On February 19, 1999 President William J. Clinton posthumously granted "a full and unconditional pardon to Lieutenant Henry Ossian Flipper." The event came 59 years after his death and 117 years after the young lieutenant had been dismissed from the United States Army.

# BLACK HISTORY MONTH: THREE STANDOUTS IN MILITARY HISTORY

February 2, 2022/in Blog /by Greg Drobny - [https://www.codeplatoon.org/author/gregd\\_cp/](https://www.codeplatoon.org/author/gregd_cp/)

**Greg Drobny** is a former Airborne Infantryman, PSYOP Team Chief, political consultant, professional mil blogger, and is Code Platoon's Student Outreach and Recruitment Manager. He holds a BA and MA in history, as well as a Master of Science in organizational psychology. He is married with four children who keep him more than slightly busy and is passionate about helping Veterans find their paths in life and develop the skills needed to pursue their goals.

From the beginning of our history, Black men and women have made tremendous contributions to our society, particularly the U.S. military's success. As we celebrate Black History Month, Code Platoon wanted to recognize standouts from that community who rose above and beyond the call of duty, making their contribution all the more significant, given that they succeeded despite the disparities of their situation. So, we have chosen three individuals who embody that spirit of rising to meet a challenge and overcoming their surroundings.

## Robert Smalls



Born into slavery on a plantation in South Carolina, Smalls eventually married another enslaved person and, after having children, wanted to “buy” his family from the enslavers. Not having enough money, Smalls joined the Confederate Navy and developed enough trust with his commanders that he was allowed to pilot a ship which he then craftily sailed away in – with eight other enslaved people – to freedom in the North.

Following the Civil War, the Department of the Navy gave him enough money to buy the home he belonged to before the war, where he then lived for the rest of his life. But he wasn't done carving out a path, as he went on to serve in the South Carolina State Assembly and the U.S. House of Representatives for five terms, helping shape the country for years to come. To put it bluntly, he never quit fighting, which is the true mark of a hero.

## Clara Leach Adams-Ender

Author of the book *My Rise to the Stars: How a Sharecropper's Daughter Became an Army General*, Clara Adams-Ender had nine siblings, graduated high school at 16 years old, and joined the U.S. Army in 1961 to pay for her nursing school education. Commissioned as a Second Lieutenant, Adams-Ender began her service in the U.S. Army Nursing Corps.

By 1964, Clara became an instructor at Fort Sam Houston, where she taught until 1967, which means that many medics who went to Vietnam received education from her. In 1967, she earned her master's degree in medical-surgical nursing, moving on to teach and work at Walter Reed Medical Center.



By 1978, she was the Assistant Chief of the Department of Nursing at the 97th General Hospital in Frankfurt, Germany. She became Chief there and was promoted to colonel by the time she left in 1981. She attended the U.S. Army War College, became the first African-American Nursing Corps student to graduate from there, moved on to recruiting more nurses for the Army, and advocated for higher wages for nurses in general.

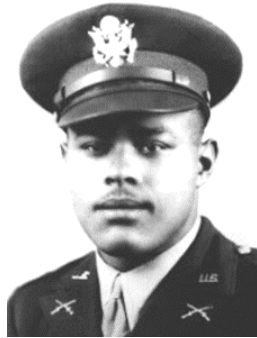
In 1991 she became the Commanding General of Fort Belvoir, Virginia, and Deputy Commanding General of the United States Military District of Washington, two positions she held until her retirement in 1993.

You may notice that there is no crazy story of charging an enemy foxhole or heroism under gunfire in the narrative here, and that is partly why I chose to include her story. We often overlook the people behind the scenes who enable the success of others. In many of those categories, General Adams-Ender did exactly that but also accomplished all of this as the “first” to do so.

She rose to the top from humble beginnings, always advocating for and instructing those who came behind her for them to become better. That's worthy of celebrating any day.

### Charles L. Thomas

Charles was a mechanical engineering student at Wayne State University and worked for Ford Motor Company when drafted by the U.S. Army in 1942. After Basic Training, he was assigned to the infantry but transferred to Officer Candidate School at Camp Carson, Colorado, and was assigned to the 614th Tank Destroyer Battalion after being commissioned as a Second Lieutenant.



In October of 1944, Lt. Thomas arrived on Normandy Beach, and by November, they had connected with Patton's Third Army, seeing their first combat by the end of that month. However, it was the middle of December when his unit found itself in a position that led Thomas to take actions that would eventually earn him the Medal of Honor.

In an effort to capture the village of Climbach, Thomas' scout car was hit by enemy fire, and he was wounded. During his attempt to get his men out of the vehicle, he was shot in the chest, but rather than calling it a day, he coordinated a react-to-contact effort that would make every Ranger Instructor proud, directing where anti-tank guns should be placed, briefed other leaders on the situation as they arrived, and returned fire to provide cover for outflanking maneuvers.

His unit received four Silver Stars and nine Bronze Stars, with (now) Captain Thomas receiving a Distinguished Service Cross. He came home a humble hero, stating, "I know I was sent out to locate and draw the enemy fire, but I didn't mean to draw that much."

Thomas stayed in the Army until 1947 and then went to work as a missile technician before eventually landing the sweet, sweet role of – wait for it – a computer programmer! That's right – this man had the career of a legend before passing away from cancer in 1980.

Unfortunately, it was not until 1997 that his Distinguished Service Cross was upgraded to the Medal of Honor after many recognized the reality that Black soldiers had been passed over for this prestigious award for no other reason than the color of their skin. Thomas' name was one of those who came up in a study to determine this, after which time he was posthumously awarded this highest of medals, and deservedly so.

## 25th United States Colored Troops: The Sable Sons of Uncle Abe

### [Gulf Islands National Seashore](https://www.nps.gov/guis/index.htm)

<https://www.nps.gov/guis/index.htm>

*"As a regiment we cannot be excelled, as men, we have only our equals, but as citizens, our motto is, veni, vidi, vici. We came as soldiers, as men we saw and acted upon, and as the noble handiwork of God, we have conquered one-half of the prejudice that has been for the last half-century crushing our race into the dust. And now . . . it affords us, I say us, for I share in common with my poor benighted race, a happy time in thinking that through the instrumentality of an all-wise Providence we are considered, by all that are lovers of the Union and Freedom, freemen."*

—Private Jacob S. Johnson, Company H, 25th USCT, January 22, 1865



### UNITED STATES SOLDIERS AT CAMP "WILLIAM PENN" PHILADELPHIA,

"Rally Round the Flag, boys! Rally once again!  
Shouting the battle cry of FREEDOM!"

### *Library Company of Philadelphia*

During the Civil War, men of African descent fought to preserve the nation they helped create and extend freedom to enslaved people. Black infantrymen in the 25th United States Colored Troops (USCT) carried freedom's banner into northwest Florida...



## THE BUFFALO SOLDIERS

<https://www.history.com/topics/westward-expansion/buffalo-soldiers>

Following the U.S. Civil War, regiments of African American men known as buffalo soldiers served on the western frontier, battling Indians and protecting settlers. The buffalo soldiers included two regiments of all-Black cavalry, the 9th and 10th cavalries, formed after Congress passed legislation in 1866 that allowed African Americans to enlist in the country's regular peacetime military.



The legislation also brought about the creation of four Black infantry regiments, eventually consolidated into the 24th and 25th infantries, which often fought alongside the 9th and 10th cavalries. Many of the men in these regiments, commanded primarily by white officers, were among the approximately 180,000 African Americans who served in the Union Army during the Civil War.

Two African American Union soldiers, from the William A. Gladstone Collection of African American Photographs, circa 1860s.

Glasshouse Vintage/Universal History Archive/  
Universal Images Group/Getty Images

For more than two decades in the late 19th century, the 9th and 10th cavalries engaged in military campaigns against hostile Native Americans on the Plains and across the Southwest. These buffalo soldiers also captured horse and cattle thieves, built roads and protected the U.S. mail, stagecoaches and wagon trains, all while contending with challenging terrain, inadequate supplies and discrimination.







## RAFMAN OF THE QUARTER October/November/December 2021

**Simon McRae**



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*Theme: TBA (To Be Announced)*

***Sponsorship Deadline : April 15, 2022***

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### **Mortality and Humility**

*What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. —James 4:14*

Ancient scholars Jerome and Tertullian referenced stories of how in ancient Rome, after a general triumphed in an epic victory, he would be paraded atop a gleaming chariot down the capital's central thoroughfares from dawn to sunset. The crowd would roar. The general would bask in the adoration, reveling in the greatest honor of his life. However, legend has it that a servant stood behind the general the entire day, whispering into his ear, *Memento mori* ("Remember you will die"). Amid all the adulation, the general desperately needed the humility that came with remembering that he was mortal.

James wrote to a community infected with prideful desires and an inflated sense of self-sufficiency. Confronting their arrogance, he spoke a piercing word: "God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble" (James 4:6). What they needed was to "humble [themselves] before the Lord" (v. 10). And how would they embrace this humility? Like Roman generals, they needed to remember that they would die. "You do not even know what will happen tomorrow," James insisted. "You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes" (v. 14). And owning their frailty freed them to live under the solidity of the "Lord's will" rather than their own fading efforts (v. 15).

When we forget that our days are numbered, it can lead to pride. But when we're humbled by our mortality, we see every breath and every moment as grace. *Memento mori.*—By Winn Collier

### **SCRIPTURE: James 4:7-17 NIV**

7 Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. 8 Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. 9 Grieve, mourn and wail. Change your laughter to mourning and your joy to gloom. 10 Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.

11 Brothers and sisters, do not slander one another. Anyone who speaks against a brother or sister or judges them speaks against the law and judges it. When you judge the law, you are not keeping it, but sitting in judgment on it. 12 There is only one Lawgiver and Judge, the one who is able to save and destroy. But you—who are you to judge your neighbor?

#### **Boasting About Tomorrow**

13 Now listen, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money." 14 Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. 15 Instead, you ought to say, "If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that." 16 As it is, you boast in your arrogant schemes. All such boasting is evil. 17 If anyone, then, knows the good they ought to do and doesn't do it, it is sin for them.



### **REFLECT & PRAYERS**

What does this story of the Roman generals and the phrase *Memento mori* say to you? Why do you need to remember your mortality?

God, thank you for the reminder that our lives are temporary. And that the praises and admirations of others may feel good in the moment but, it has no lasting value or benefit. In everything we do may it bring you honor. When we receive praise may we always direct it to you. Thank you Lord, it's in Jesus Name we pray. Amen.

God, I like to think that my life is in my control. I sometimes act as though I'll live forever. Humble me. Help me find life only in You. Amen.

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/... NIV>

<https://odb.org/>

Posted Feb. 9, 2022 by Our Daily Bread Ministries  
Their mission is to make the life-changing wisdom of the Bible understandable and accessible to all.

Our Daily Bread Ministries | PO Box 2222 |  
Grand Rapids, MI 49501-2222



**FEBRUARY 2022**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 G.I. Joe Day National Freedom Day	2	3 Four Chaplains Day—WWII	4 USO Day	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12 International "Red Hand Day" Against the Use of Child Soldiers
13	14 Valentine's Day	15 Remember the U.S.S. Maine Day	16	17	18	19 Coast Guard Reserve Birthday Iwo Jima Day
20	21 President's Day	22 Washington's Birthday (Actual)	23	24	25	26
27	28	<a href="https://www.hfotusa.org/important-military-holidays-and-observances-for-2022/">https://www.hfotusa.org/important-military-holidays-and-observances-for-2022/</a> <a href="http://www.holidays-and-observances.com/military-holidays.html...">http://www.holidays-and-observances.com/military-holidays.html...</a> <a href="https://www.timeanddate.com/holidays/us/2022">https://www.timeanddate.com/holidays/us/2022</a>				

**MARCH 2022**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Tuesday, Mar. 1—First Day of Women's History Month —World Compliment Day —Solo Vacation Day				3 Navy Reserve Birthday	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13 US K-9 Corps Veterans Day	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25 Medal of Honor Day	26
27	28	29 Vietnam Veterans Day	30	31		



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Place  
Stamp  
Here

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