



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

## Retired Air Force, Marine, Army & Navy

Issue 172

April 9, 2022

## On Gold Star Spouses Day, a time to remember, support military families

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

Rev. 05/30/2020...vwf

**Corine Gatti-Santillo/** Tue, April 5, 2022, 7:00 AM / FOX News 9:48 AM

Gold Star Spouses Day is today, Tuesday, April 5. It honors the loved ones of U.S. military members who have lost their lives; it acknowledges and remembers the spouses who have stood behind our military members.

Originally called Gold Star Wives Day when it was founded in 1945, the day of remembrance is known now as Gold Star Spouses Day, though some still use the names interchangeably.



Tamra Sipes, national president of Gold Star Wives of America (<https://www.foxnews.com/lifestyle/america-gold-star-families-christmas-foundation>) a nonprofit service organization, is the surviving spouse of Navy SAR Corpsman Robert Sipes. He died in October 1995 in a house fire at age 34. She was only 28, with three small children, when she was widowed.

"You lose the love of your life, it's hard to put one step in front of another," Sipes told Fox News Digital in a phone interview.

"And it's week by week. And the first year. It's like a blur. [But] you just move forward," she added.

Robert Sipes served for 10 years in the Navy as a search and rescue corpsman, with over 50 missions completed. He was stationed at Naval Air Station Whidbey Island (NASWI) in Washington state.

"Eventually, you start to move through [the grief and the loss] — then you want to help others," she said.

Among its goals: Gold Star Wives is fighting to enhance and improve the financial benefits for U.S. military spouses and families today.

Read the full article at [https://](https://www.fox5atlanta.com/news/on-gold-star-spouses-day-a-time-to-remember-support-military-families)

[www.fox5atlanta.com/news/on-gold-star-spouses-day-a-time-to-remember-support-military-families](https://www.fox5atlanta.com/news/on-gold-star-spouses-day-a-time-to-remember-support-military-families)



Tamra Sipes (at right) and another Gold Star Wife are shown laying a wreath at Arlington National Cemetery, at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, on Veterans Day in 2021. (Tamra Sipes)

Argus Leader

## South Dakota to become final state to receive Gold Star Family Memorial Monument, and it's going in Sioux Falls

**Erin Woodiel, Sioux Falls Argus Leader** / Wed, April 6, 2022, 8:32 PM

Read the full article at <https://news.yahoo.com/south-dakota-become-final-state-002931688.html>

Local veteran and city leaders held a symbolic groundbreaking Wednesday for a new Gold Star Family Memorial Monument to be constructed at Veterans Memorial Park.

Gold Star Families are relatives of military service members killed in action. Gold Star Monuments are part of a national effort by WWII Medal of Honor recipient Hershel "Woody" Williams to recognize the sacrifice of these family members who lost loved ones to war.

The Gold Star Monument in Sioux Falls will be the first in South Dakota, meaning the Woody Williams Foundation will now have a monument in all 50 states. According to the foundation, a monument will also be placed in Sturgis.

The Sioux Falls Gold Star Family Memorial Monument will look similar to others around the country, carved in stone with the silhouette of a saluting military service member outlined in negative space. What differentiates each monument are the images on one side, which are specific to each location. The images have not yet been finalized for the Veterans Memorial Park.



Gulf Coast Gold Star Families Memorial Monument (GSFMM) honoring the families of servicemen and women who sacrificed their lives while serving in the military. The Groundbreaking ceremony occurred in Pensacola, FL on May 30, 2019. Florida's Site location: 200 South 10th Avenue, Pensacola, FL 32502

## New Supreme Court Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson

Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson is now the first Black woman to serve in the U.S. Supreme Court. Today, the Democrat-run Senate voted to confirm her position—with three Republicans joining to secure her place in the nation's highest court. She will be sworn in this summer. The vote comes nearly two months after President Joe Biden announced that he would nominate Jackson to the position of Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States to fill the vacancy left by Stephen Breyer, who announced his retirement in January [October 2022].



© Justin Sullivan - Getty Images Today, the Democrat-run Senate voted to confirm her position—with three Republicans crossing party lines in order to ensure her presence in the nation's highest court.

All 48 Senate Democrats, plus the two Independents who caucus with them, voted for Jackson's confirmation. They were joined by three Republicans: Senators Mitt Romney of Utah, Susan Collins of Maine, and Lisa Murkowski of Alaska.

On Monday, Romney, Collins, and Murkowski joined all Senate Democrats in supporting Biden's high court pick and voted (53–47) to advance Jackson's nomination out of committee. The three Republican senators then confirmed they would support Jackson's confirmation. Jackson endured four days of ruthless questioning prior to the vote. During the confirmation hearings, Republicans accused her of being lenient toward child sexual abusers in various cases—without context, and despite having vouched for now Justice Brett Kavanaugh when he was credibly accused of sexual assault during his confirmation hearings. Bizarrely, Senator Ted Cruz spent an alarming amount of his time asking Jackson whether she thought babies could be racist, and Senator Lindsey Graham made it clear he was holding a grudge about how Democrats treated past conservative judicial nominees and would therefore not vote for a Democratic pick. The aggressive questioning was hard to watch, but Jackson's accomplishments, class, and restraint eventually won.





### President's Message

Greetings in the month of April, we are in the spring time of the year, enjoy it, spring is a beautiful time of the year. For those who follow college basketball, March madness is over and the NCAA finals for women and men basketball championship will be over Monday night. Hope you enjoyed the season.

Once we get past sports and stop talking about our favorite team (I don't have one) it's time to come back to reality and try to deal with the trials, tribulations the good, the bad the pleasant and unpleasant things that are happening all around us.

We know that there are atrocious crime happening against people in countries across the globe, currently the Ukrainian people are in the spotlight, although they are a small country that is outmanned and don't have the military equipment Russia have, you have to admire them for their courage to fight and fierce resistance to their country being taken over. Let's hope that a permanent solution can be found to end this conflict soon.

While the restrictions and precautions that were put in place during the height of the coronavirus epidemic are being rolled back, we all need to be aware that the omicron virus is still out there and precautions must be taken, especially people with underlying conditions. Be safe, we all are responsible for our own health.

As the days and months of the year 2022 continues to past be aware of what's happening in your country and your state. You may be a veteran or related to a veteran who have served this country Honorably for more the 20 years, but that's not considered in the legislation that is being passed in this state and other states, these people are targeting certain groups, regardless of your status.

The month of March was Women's History Month, which was reflected in our March newsletter. We know that there continue to be some push back against women in certain fields, but I think it's safe to say congratulations to women everywhere for the tremendous advancement they have made in science, technology engineering, mathematic, medical, finance, law, and the list goes on and on. Congratulations Ladies, you deserve all the accolades that you receive.

#### Quote:

"If a woman has to choose between catching a fly ball and saving an infant's life, she will choose to save the infant's life without even considering if there are men on base."

—Dave Berry

Submitted by

Arthur Jarvis, President

#### All Members Take Note:

#### Club Meeting

**Saturday, March 12, 2022**

#### 12:30 PM— Meet for Lunch

Host: RAFMAN Melvin Henry  
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!**

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



**April is known for beautiful spring weather, the start of warmer weather-except in Florida where it lives all year long, and for this year, Easter Sunday, April 17<sup>th</sup>. This also means that Good Friday, which is on April 15<sup>th</sup>, is the time to get those seeds in the ground for a beautiful garden, Yeah!!!**

**Here are some other knowledgeable history facts about the month of April: We know it is the fourth month of the year, but that's only by the Gregorian calendar that we adhere to now. It was previously the fifth month in the earlier Julian calendar.**

**April also only had 29 days, but a 30<sup>th</sup> day was added when Julius Caesar established the Julian calendar.**

**In the Southern Hemisphere, April is the seasonal equivalent to October.**

**No one is sure how the month ended up with its name, but we do know the Romans named it "Aprillis." The source behind the word "April" comes from the verb "aperire," which means "to open." It's commonly believed that the word refers to the season of trees and flowers begin to "open" or bloom.**

**On April 15, 1912, the famous Titanic ship hit an iceberg and sunk on her first and only voyage.**

**George Washington was inaugurated as the First President of the United States on April 30, 1789.**

**Of course, one of the most well-known dates of April, is April Fools' Day on the 1<sup>st</sup> of the month. No one is sure where this originated from, but some believe it to be inspired by Geoffrey Chaucer's story in "Canterbury Tales" called "Nun's Priest's Tale."**

**On April 11, 1970, Apollo 13 was launched and ran into difficulties about two days later. It was then that the famous line "Houston, we've had a problem here" was said, and is today usually misquoted.**

**After a 1,500-year break, the first Olympics of the modern era took place on April 6, 1896, in Athens.**

**The explosion of the Chernobyl nuclear plant in Ukraine occurred on April 26, 1986, which forced everyone within a 300-mile radius to be evacuated.**

**The smaller animals that hibernate for the winter in the Northern Hemisphere usually start coming out of their burrows in April.**

**April is also the month that the birds migrate north and settle down for the summer to mate.**

**Ford unveiled their first Mustang on April 17, 1964, costing \$2,368.**

**The first battle of the Revolutionary War, Lexington, and Concord broke out on April 19, 1775.**

**April 15 is known to be National Tax Day, not a date that many look forward to.**

**And of course, as we all know, "April showers bring May flowers,." We know that to be true from the drenching that we all got this year to bring in the month of April.**

**And now, April brings in the NBA's regular season games to be over and the playoffs to begin. Many are disappointed that this ends their favorite team's schedule. Oh well, there's always next year.**

**Hope that you will have a beautiful spring.**

**Keep the faith and I'll see you soon.**

***Peace..... Simon***



RAFMAN Larry H. Colleton

## U.S. Navy To Name Aircraft Carrier After WWII Hero Doris Miller

January 19, 2020 4:36 PM ET  
LAUREL WAMSLEY

In this photo taken May 27, 1942, Mess Attendant 2nd Class Doris Miller stands at attention after being awarded the Navy Cross for his actions aboard the USS West Virginia during the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941. —U.S. Navy



The U.S. Navy says it will name an aircraft carrier after Doris "Dorie" Miller, the African American mess attendant who heroically leapt into combat during the bombing of Pearl Harbor. It marks the first time that an aircraft carrier has been named for an African American, and the first time a sailor has been so honored for actions taken as an enlisted man.

In 1941, Miller was a 22-year-old mess attendant on the USS West Virginia. At the time, black sailors were consigned to roles in the messman branch — work that entailed swabbing decks, cooking and shining officers' shoes.

He had awoken at 6 a.m. and was collecting laundry when the Japanese attack began and an alarm sounded on the ship, according to the Navy. Miller headed to the antiaircraft battery magazine, but it had already been destroyed by torpedo damage. He proceeded to the deck, where he was assigned to carry his wounded comrades, including the ship's captain. Miller was strong: a former high school football player in Waco, Texas, he was the ship's heavyweight boxing champion.

"Miller went topside, carried wounded on his shoulders, made several trips up and down, wading through waist-deep water, oil-slicked decks, struggling uphill on slick decks," Navy Rear Adm. John Fuller said in 2016.

The young sailor then took over a .50-caliber anti-aircraft machine gun and fired it until the ammunition ran out. No matter that he'd never been trained on the weapon.

"It wasn't hard," he remembered, according to a Navy history. "I just pulled the trigger and she worked fine. I had watched the others with these guns. I guess I fired her for about 15 minutes. I think I got one of those [Japanese] planes. They were diving pretty close to us."

The ship's communications officer, Lt. Cmdr. Doir C. Johnson, said that Miller was "blazing away as though he had fired one all his life," according to the Navy Times.

The West Virginia was heavily damaged in the attack. Japanese planes had dropped armored bombs and launched multiple torpedoes on the vessel. The ship slowly sank, and more than 100 of the men aboard the ship died that day.

For his bravery, Miller was presented with the Navy Cross in May 1942. He was the first black sailor to be awarded the medal, one of the Navy's highest honors.

"This marks the first time in this conflict that such high tribute has been made in the Pacific Fleet to a member of his race and I'm sure that the future will see others similarly honored for brave acts," Adm. Chester Nimitz, the commander of the U.S. Pacific Fleet, said at the time.

Miller had won renown, and he was brought home in November 1942 for a two-month tour to promote war bonds. His image was used on a Navy recruiting poster.

He did not survive the war. Miller was aboard the USS Liscome Bay when it was struck by a Japanese torpedo in the Pacific in 1943. Nearly 650 of the more than 900 sailors on board died when the ship sank, and Miller's body was never recovered.

He was posthumously awarded a Purple Heart, among other honors.

Shortly after Miller's death, the Navy began a small officer-training program for black sailors. In March 1944, the Navy commissioned its first black officers, known as the Golden Thirteen...*Continued on page 10.*

\*<https://www.npr.org/2020/01/19/797756016/u-s-navy-to-name-aircraft-carrier-after-wwii-hero-doris-miller>





RAFMAN Joe Cockerl

# Harlem Hellfighters

The Harlem Hellfighters were an all-Black military regiment that fought in World War I. The 369<sup>th</sup> Infantry (formerly the 15<sup>th</sup> New York (colored) Regiment) was one of the few black combat regiments in World War I. African American servicemen were segregated from whites. The United States Armed Forces were segregated in 1917. This is the reason why the 369<sup>th</sup> Infantry was solely of African Americans.



The mistreatment of African Americans during this time was highlighted by the fact that not all military branches wanted to accept them. The Marines would not accept any Black servicemen and the Navy enlisted a small number in menial roles. The Army stood out for accepting the bulk of African American servicemen during World War I.

The whites hated the idea of fighting alongside of their fellow black servicemen. United States armed forces' military commanders refused to command these African American troops; therefore, they fell under the command of the French Military Armed Forces. The Hellfighters saw more continuous combat and suffered more casualties than any other U.S. unit during World War I. The Germans nicknamed the 369<sup>th</sup> the "Hellfighters", because of their unyielding demonstration of bravery and fighting ability.

The 369<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment (Hellfighters) became one of the most decorated regiments of World War I. The Hellfighters won a number of awards for their service, including the Croix de Guerre medal from France and the Distinguished Service cross and the medals of Honor from the United States.

When the troops departed for Europe in 1918, The Harlem Hellfighters were not allowed to take part in the farewell parade because of their skin color. In 1919, The City of New York was the first to greet the full regiment of Black servicemen in a parade along Fifth Avenue. Never has there been a show of pride from White America. The Hellfighters felt it by a hail of chocolate candy, cigarettes, and coins thrown from open windows up and down Fifth Ave.

Although the Hellfighters received praise for their service, they faced racism and segregation in a county in which racism and segregation was the law of the land. Their contribution to World War I has mostly faded from public memory in the years after the war.





RAFMAN Melvin Henry, VP



Rev. Dr. Clarence R. Taylor, Pastor

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FAMU GOSPEL CHOIR

Min. Darien K. Bolden, Jr.  
Director

Warren Darel Bowers, II  
President





# **National Former Prisoner of War Recognition Day comes on the 9th of April in honor of the courage and bravery of men and women that have survived torture at the hands of their captors.**

## **Why National Former Prisoner of War Recognition Day**

The men and women who serve their countries in war as military officers are indeed heroes. Their line of work being dangerous, it happens that they get captured sometimes and go through prolonged periods of torture and hardship. During this time, they have to endure the pain that comes from separation from their families, torture and mistreatment at the hands of the captors, and worse, fear. During this whole time, the prisoners of war demonstrate remarkable faith and endurance, progressively waiting to be rescued.

On the **9<sup>th</sup> of April, 1942**, the Japanese took captive many troops of the United States forces that had been deployed to the Bataan Peninsula in the Philippines. This followed a very long battle that took place in extreme conditions. The American captives were compelled to march across 65 miles to the location of the Japanese prison camp. As part of the hardship, the captives were not provided any medical attention, food, or even water, an action that saw thousands of them lose their lives. The mistreatment went on for the ones that were still alive past the tough march. The Japanese prison camp was located in compounds deep within an unfamiliar jungle and the captives were held there for close to three years, a period characterized by hardship, brutality, and suffering. Some lost their lives during this period.

Since the age of the Revolutionary War, there have been so many service members who have been captured, with the number growing even higher when the ones that died and others that were never found are included. Nonetheless, every prisoner of war goes through the above-mentioned conditions, and worse, thereby deserving of a special day of recognition.

## **How we can celebrate/observe National Former Prisoner of War Recognition Day**

One of the ways to observe the National Former Prisoner of War Recognition Day is by posting on social media using the **#NationalFormerPrisonerOfWarRecognitionDay** hashtag. This would serve to create awareness about this day and in so doing ensure that all the POWs and those serving their countries feel recognized and appreciated.

- On 9<sup>th</sup> April 1942, the largest number of U.S. Forces were taken captive by Japanese troops.
- The capture took place in the Bataan Peninsula in the Philippines, a site that witnessed a remarkable battle with prolonged periods of extreme conditions
- After the capture, the troops had to walk through a 65-mile distance to the prison camp, a journey filled with fear, torture, hunger, and starvation. Many died.
- The day was proclaimed by President Ronald Reagan on 1<sup>st</sup> April 1988, under the presidential proclamation 5788.

## **History of National Former Prisoner of War Recognition Day**

The history of the National Former Prisoners of War Recognition Day traces back to 1984 when a campaign led by former prisoners of war started. The movement was in pursuit of a day to recognize them. Congress approved with legislation that set this day on 9<sup>th</sup> April every year. The day was proclaimed by President Ronald Reagan on 1<sup>st</sup> April 1988 through the presidential proclamation 5788.

From page 6...

By naming the aircraft carrier for Miller, says Acting Secretary of the Navy Thomas B. Modly, "we honor the contributions of all our enlisted ranks, past and present, men and women, of every race, religion and background. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. observed, 'Everybody can be great — because anybody can serve'. No one understands the importance and true meaning of service than those who have volunteered to put the needs of others above themselves."

"Doris Miller stood for everything that is good about our nation," said Modly, "and his story deserves to be remembered and repeated wherever our people continue the watch today."



## BY EDITORIAL TEAM

<https://aerocorner.com/profile/aircraftcompare/>

## The Best (Current) American Fighter Jets

Since Wilbur and Orville Wright first took off at Kitty Hawk, America has always been a leader in flight. That legacy continues today, as America remains one of the biggest producers and users of top-of-the-line fighter jets. These are the 15 best American fighter jets currently in use by the U.S. Military.

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With contractors like McDonnell Douglas and Boeing right here in our own backyard, newer versions of these craft are easier to come by. There's also the fact that there are significant financial incentives for some in private industry and political office and government to grow military spending.

Whatever the reason, there is no denying that America replaces its fighter jets faster and with more regularity than most nations. For example, Japan, whose military budget is eighth largest in the world, still has a few McDonnell Douglas F-4 Phantom II in its air force.



America, by contrast, spends more on the next eight militaries combined, which - other social factors aside - contributes to its ability to replace those old F-4s with the biggest and best fighter jets out there.

Another thing demonstrating that discrepancy is the size of the US Air Force and Navy's aircraft roster. **How many fighter jets does the US have?** Exact figures of fighters themselves are hard to come by, but the American Military has 13,000 total aircraft. No other military has more than 3,000.

With that in mind, let's take a look at the aircraft which make the cut to be the best current United States fighter jets.

## 1. F-15 Eagle

Few aircraft are more iconic in the American imagination than the McDonnell Douglas F-15. Since the 70s, it has been virtually synonymous with "fighter jet" in the minds of most Americans, and for good reason.

That isn't to say that the F-15 is the most recent fighter jet on our list - on the contrary, this decades-old jet is one of the oldest entries. Even so, its continued use is a testament to just how durable and serviceable this old ace of the skies continues to be.



The F-15 has been sold to allies such as Israel and Japan, as well as other nations such as Saudi Arabia. It has been extremely successful, with no recorded losses in combat and a long and illustrious service record in the American and Israeli Air Forces in particular.

## 2. F-15E Strike Eagle

[Editorial Team](#) McDonnell Douglas F-15E Strike Eagle

A variation of the classic F-15, the McDonnell Douglas / [Boeing F-15E Strike Eagle](#) was first introduced in 1989. This two-seat upgrade to the classic jet is able to operate in all kinds of visibility and weather conditions, continuing the F-15's reputation for versatility.

The F-15E Strike Eagle has been designed to operate in a dual capacity, being as adept at taking on air-to-air missions against other aircraft as it is in carrying out air-to-ground assignments.



That two-seat upgrade is also important. Having an extra pilot on hand can be incredibly helpful for getting radar readouts, selecting targets, and assisting with other essential in-flight duties.



### 3. F-16 Fighting Falcon

[Editorial Team](#) F 16 Fighting Falcon

This is another fighter jet that has a long service history, first entering service in 1979. In that time, it has come to be another staple of the American Air Force and Navy, with more than 1,000 still in service today.

This is another versatile aircraft which is able to take on a wide variety of missions. Like the F-15 and its Strike Eagle upgrade, it has been frequently used for air-to-air and air-to-ground missions.



What helps distinguish the [F-16 Fighting Falcon](#) is the fact that it is also adept at carrying out electronic attacks, an ability which is evermore valuable in our ever-changing electricity-dependent landscape.

### 4. F-22 Raptor

[Editorial Team](#) Lockheed Martin F 22A Raptor

A much more recent addition to the Air Force's roster, the [F-22 Raptor](#) was first adapted by the military in 2005. The Air Force has designated this fighter jet as part of its fifth generation of aircraft.

One of the most distinguishable parts of this jet is the fact that it's able to maintain low visibility, hiding from other jets and giving it a distinct advantage over other aircraft.

Production of the F-22 ceased in 2011, though it remains a vital part of the Air Force's roster. While there weren't as many built as the venerable F-15 and F-16 models, the F-22 still had a respectable 195 total craft produced.



### 5. F-35A Lightning II

[Editorial Team](#) F 35A Lightning II receiving fuel

This stealth fighter jet has had a long and sometimes troubled production history. During the course of its testing, it had significant problems, ranging from battery issues to difficulties in adverse weather conditions to issues with its stealth features.

This resulted in lengthy production delays, to say nothing of the billions spent on correcting these issues.

Thankfully, many of those issues have been sorted out, and the [F-35](#) is finally starting to see service.

The Israeli Air Force has placed a considerably large order for these new fighter jets, and were the first country to deploy them in action in Syria in May 2018. The US used them in anti-ISIS strikes in 2019.



## 6. McDonnell Douglas F/A-18 Hornet

[Editorial Team](#) McDonnell Douglas F/A-18 Hornet

Now we switch from fighter jets used by the United States Air Force to those piloted by their Brothers and Sisters in Arms in the Navy. The [F-18 Hornet](#) was first produced by McDonnell Douglas in the mid-70s, though Boeing has taken over production since the mid-90s.



It is a craft which has seen extensive use in America's engagements in the Middle East over the past couple decades, playing key roles in the air offensives during the Gulf War and the Iraq War.

Its longevity is due in large part to its versatility. The F-18 Hornet is designed for and has carried out, at various stages of its operational career, everything from reconnaissance to close aerial support to suppression of and attacks on opposing forces.

## 7. Boeing F/A-18E/F Super Hornet

[Editorial Team](#) Boeing F/A-18E/F Super Hornet

As you might guess, this is a variant of the McDonnell Douglas F/A-18 Hornet. It is capable of longer missions thanks to an external fuel system. It also lives up to the "super" part of its name, being considerably larger than the standard F-18 Hornet.

It first entered active service in the US Air Force in 2001, and entered service in the Royal Australian Air Force in 2010. The United States Navy placed an order with Boeing for 78 more in March 2019.



Like its predecessor, the [F-18 Super Hornet](#) has seen considerable action in the Middle East, being used in anti-ISIS strikes. The F-18 Super Hornet is an aircraft carrier-based fighter jet, as exemplified by those anti-ISIS strikes, which took place from the USS George H.W. Bush.



## U.S. Army Reserve 114th Birthday!—America's Army Reserve and its People, Shaping Tomorrow

<https://www.usar.army.mil/News/Videos/?videoid=768762>

Today's Army Reserve covers more than 20 time zones across five continents. Our people are the most important weapon system in accomplishing the mission, ensuring units are ready and capable to deliver victory. Our Soldiers are mentally tough and with a desire to serve their country now and lead troops into the fight of tomorrow. In an ever changing landscape of both visible and invisible threats, we stand ready to defeat our enemies anytime, anywhere. Modernization drives our ability to support operations in the multi-domain environment. We will mobilize rapidly with the right capabilities to win the future fight. America's Army Reserve is ready now, shaping tomorrow.

On April 23rd, America's Army Reserve will celebrate the generations of Soldiers who, like many patriots before them, embraced their roles as "Citizen Soldiers," continuing their proud and distinguished legacy of service in the Army Reserve. Through the Cold War, Korea, Vietnam, the Persian Gulf War, and the Global War on Terror, and countless other crises, operations, emergencies, and natural disasters, Warrior Citizens of the Army Reserve have never failed to answer the Nation's call.

April 23, 1908, Congress created the Medical Reserve Corps, a group of 160 doctors formed to provide the Nation with a reservoir of trained medical professionals for employment in times of national emergency.

A month after Congress established the Medical Reserve Corps in 1908, one of the Army Reserve's greatest Citizen Soldiers, President Theodore Roosevelt, signed the bill into law. Later, under the National Defense Act of 1920, Congress created the Organized Reserves for officers and enlisted.

Today, that reserve force is known as the U.S. Army Reserve, a specialized and skill-rich force of more than 189,000 Warrior Citizens.

Throughout history, Citizen Soldiers have leveraged professional skills while serving in uniform, adding substantial value and depth to the force, with skills, education and expertise acquired in the private sector. The U.S. Army Reserve has always been, and will continue to be, comprised of men and women with great talents and throughout history, Citizen Soldiers have leveraged professional skills while serving in uniform, adding substantial value and depth to the force, with skills, education and expertise acquired in the private sector.



***The U.S. Army Reserve is comprised of men and women with unique talents and abilities, and they manifest themselves through leadership, bravery, and strong ambition.***

The U.S. Army Reserve is comprised of men and women with unique talents and abilities, and they manifest themselves through leadership, bravery, and strong ambition.

Since the activation of the Medical Reserve 114 years ago, the United States government mobilized more than one million Army Reserve Soldiers for the defense of the nation. Since 2001, more than 300,000 Army Reserve Soldiers have been mobilized and routinely deployed in 30 countries around the world, to include every major combat zone. The service of these patriots made a decisive impact on the history of our country and of the world for the cause of freedom and democracy.

As we begin our next 114 years of service, we do so as one of the most battle-tested and experienced forces in our nation's history. We are Ready Now... Shaping Tomorrow!



# First female officer to command NY Air National Guard sworn in

By

[Dana Kennedy](#)

April 2, 2022 5:31pm

Updated



New York Air National Guard commander Denise Donnell has over 4,000 hours of flying time as a pilot Brigadier General Denise M. Donnell.

Brigadier General Denise Donnell was sworn in Saturday as the new commander of the 5,900-member New York Air National Guard, the aerial arm of the New York National Guard. She is the first female officer to hold the position.

Donnell takes over from Major General Timothy LaBarge, who is retiring after commanding two air wings and leading the New York Air National Guard since 2018 during a 39-year career.

"This is a proud day in New York to recognize the achievements and leadership skills of a woman who has risen through the ranks to serve as a model of selflessness for all New Yorkers," Gov. Hochul said.

Donnell, a Georgetown University graduate who served in the Navy from 1993 to 2002, is a command pilot with over 4,400 hours of flying time, including 280 hours in combat.

She's flown the Navy's P-3 Orion anti-submarine and maritime surveillance aircraft, the Air Force's C-5A Galaxy, LC-130 Hercules "Skibird" and the C-17 Globemaster III, and has commanded at the squadron, group and wing levels. As a naval aviator, Donnell served as an evaluator pilot, mission commander, and quality assurance officer assigned to Patrol Squadron 46, Naval Air Station Whidbey Island, Washington.

<https://nypost.com/2022/04/02/denise-donnell-is-ny-air-national-guards-first-female-leader/>



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# Why South Carolina Women Don't Come Out For National Anthem

Andrew Holleran

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If you watched the South Carolina vs. Louisville game in the NCAA Women's Basketball Tournament Final Four on Friday night, you might have noticed that only one team was on the floor during the national anthem.

While Louisville's players and coaches stood on the floor for the national anthem, South Carolina's team remained in the locker room.

Some at the Final Four were confused by the scene.

Those familiar with South Carolina were not, though.

Gamecocks head coach Dawn Staley and her team have been protesting the national anthem in some form for more than a year. They've remained in the locker room for the national anthem all season long.

Staley explained her mindset to Andscape:

The majority of our players has sat during the playing of the national anthem every game this season – a decision made by our players to bring awareness to racial injustice in our country. If opposing teams choose to play the anthem during the time, we're in the locker room, then we choose to stay in the locker room.

I talked to [South Carolina associate] Coach Lisa Boyer about this on Wednesday. She told me, 'I love our country. That's why I stand, because I love our country. I wouldn't want to live in any other country.'

I love our country, too. I don't like what our country has come to, or what our country has been, but I'd like to think that there are people in our country that's going to lead us more in a unified way than a divisive way, and I'm here for that.

Staley and the Gamecocks will be playing for a national championship on Sunday night. Tipoff between South Carolina and UConn is scheduled for 8 p.m. E.T. The game will air on ESPN.

The post Why South Carolina Women Don't Come Out For National Anthem appeared first on The Spun.



[USA TODAY / https://www.usatoday.com/](https://www.usatoday.com/)

## I saw racism firsthand growing up. It makes me a better doctor for Black patients. **Opinion** by Dr. Ikenna Okezie

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I was in elementary school when I learned my skin color meant something. My brothers and I were spending the weekend at my father's apartment. His building was located just outside of Chicago in a nearly all-white community. When we would visit, one of our favorite things was to go down to the swimming pool. The first time we got in the pool, the parents of the white children came and called their children home. I didn't think anything of it. To me, it seemed purely coincidental that they would need to leave the pool as we were arriving. But then it happened the next time we visited. And the next.



Dr. Ikenna Okezie Courtesy of The Bliss Group

© Courtesy of The Bliss Group PrDr. Ikenna Okezie

I realized they were leaving the pool because of me and my brothers. Why were we being treated differently? I was confused. Had we done something wrong? Maybe they didn't know we lived in the apartment complex and had a right to use the pool. It hurt.

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At that time, I didn't know this would be one of many lived Black experiences I would have. I didn't know that this was the type of experience many people of color would have during their life – be it at a pool, in a classroom, while applying for a job or seeking medical care.

### **Becoming a physician**

I was in seventh grade when I decided I wanted to be a doctor.

My brothers and I spent nearly every free moment, after school and homework, playing and riding our bikes. We would cruise through the streets of our Detroit neighborhood, racing each other and popping wheelies until my father – a doctor – found out we weren't wearing helmets.

He shared with us how important it was to be safe and that if we didn't wear a helmet, we could fracture our skull. Then he showed us images I'll never forget: an X-ray of a child with a fractured skull. As my father explained what anatomy was, my eyes followed the fracture lines. It was the first time I had ever seen anything like that. I was both fascinated by what I saw and heard my father say, and pained by the suffering that child had experienced. In that moment, I knew I wanted to help.

After graduating from Harvard with an MD and an MBA, I chose to be a different kind of practitioner. Rather than care for one patient at a time, I felt an urgent need to enter a career that would allow me to impact thousands and possibly millions of people at a time. That, I believe, has been my calling. I wanted to find a way to reduce suffering for as many people as possible. Leveraging my lived experience to make a difference.

The unfortunate reality of health care in America is that, to this day, there are widespread disparities in medicine across many fields in the outcomes for people of color, representing real suffering. That suffering can be seen in the differential rates of maternal mortality rates, diabetes, hypertension, chronic kidney disease and kidney transplants rates, breast cancer survival, and countless others.

**Dr. Mary-Ann Etiebet and Sema Sgaier:** America leads wealthy countries in maternal deaths. Our local data could change that.

Changing this systemic problem for the medical establishment requires acknowledging the reality that many people of color have a lived experience that makes them distrust and mistrust the system itself. In addition to unconscionable programs like the Tuskegee syphilis study and the case of Henrietta Lacks, there are

many less well-known yet equally disturbing cases of medical experimentation on Black and Native American women, fistula repairs without anesthesia and drug testing without permission. Black people and many other minority communities have years of experience that make it difficult to trust a system that is designed to care for them.

© Greg Gibson, APHerman Shaw, a Tuskegee syphilis study survivor, and President Bill Clinton in 1997. Shaw died in 1999.

The solution? Be mindful of this history and contextualize it by letting your patients know, “I hear you. I see you.”

I chose to focus on kidney care for the past decade. While working at a large dialysis company, I was able to be a part of a team that improved care for patients, allowing them to live the best lives they could. Still, I was frustrated seeing patients receive treatment only after their kidneys were already failing. I saw inequities and racial disparity: Black patients and other patients of color disproportionately affected by kidney disease, living on dialysis, waiting for a transplant.

I knew there had to be a better model – one where we could get in front of the disease. A model that would help more patients to be seen and heard, well before their kidneys failed and with time to leverage more treatment options.

No model like that existed. With the help of a team, I created one.

In 2016, my business partner and I founded Somatus with the purpose of completely revolutionizing the kidney care industry. Myself, my co-founder and half of our board of directors are people of color. Aligning with community-based providers, we’ve built a diverse organization, in terms of race and gender, that reflects our patients and, more important, sees them and hears them.

I have hope Today, I know we can make a difference.

It's important to celebrate progress and yet recognize we have a long way to go to have equity in health care. I believe that it takes a village to solve these issues and show up for our communities of color – and that's the village we all live and work in. We need to look closely at how providers and the greater medical establishment choose to engage patients of color.

I recently experienced a sports injury and received phenomenal care from a Korean American orthopedist. He told me, in no uncertain terms, that he hears me, that he cares about me and that he is treating me as he would his brother. I felt it, it comforted me and I think that kind of approach advances recovery and outcomes.

To every doctor, nurse and caregiver who treats a Black patient or any patient of color, I ask that you make a conscious effort to chip away at this wall of mistrust and distrust. Treat your patients as if they are your loved ones.

Having a connection with your physician or medical provider can make all the difference. Please listen to your patients. Tell each patient, “I hear you. I see you. I want to understand you because I care about you.”

If we all did this, little by little, we could close the gap together.

Ikenna Okezie, MD, MBA is chief executive officer and co-founder of Somatus. He graduated cum laude from Yale University with a BA in Economics, an MD from Harvard Medical School, and his MBA with Honors from Harvard Business School.

1 of 200 Photos in Gallery©USA TODAY Network

Marc Murphy, USA TODAY Network

This article originally appeared on USA TODAY: I saw racism firsthand growing up. It makes me a better doctor for Black patients...<https://www.usatoday.com/story/opinion/columnists/2022/03/12/black-doctors-black-patients-black-history/9218089002/>

# Teenager Omarion Calloway Has Been Admitted To His Dream School And Awarded \$1.3M In Scholarships

Ngozi Nwanji

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Afrotech / <https://afrotech.com/>

To not only be first-generation college student, but to also be admitted to the school you envisioned growing up is truly what dreams are made of. Omarion Ikaika Calloway, a high school senior, is proof that your background doesn't have to stop you from turning your ambitious goals into reality.

From the age of 10, Calloway looked after the well-being of his grandmother and disabled autistic uncle, according to Black News. After grieving their passing, he used the inspiration that his grandma instilled in him as fuel to chase his dream of attending New York University.



On Dec. 15, 2021, the teenager received his acceptance letter from the school. But, that's not all. According to the outlet, Calloway's academic excellence has led him to land acceptance into over 21 universities, as well as more than \$1.3 million in scholarships.

"I'm a happy and grateful mother, and I am immensely proud of him," his mother Tiffany shared. "As his mother, I remain so proud of him that tears well up in my eyes just thinking about him being accepted into his dream school. All a mother wants is for her child to have the best life possible."

## Acceptance Letters

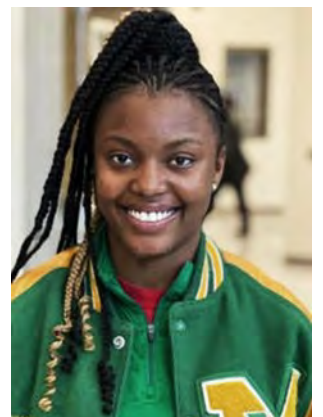
Apart from his dream school of New York University, the Park Crossing High School student has been accepted into Howard University and Hampton University.

## Young Black Excellence

Calloway's story is one of many that serve as a testament to the drive and hard work of Black youth that is more than inspiring.

AfroTech recently shared the story of Kenyari Sawyer, a Georgia teen who has been admitted to 48 of the 92 schools she's applied to since August 21. The 17-year-old received over \$600,000 in scholarships. According to Sawyer, she dreams to become a lawyer.

"I want to start my own law firm, become a defense attorney, and go up the ranks from there," she said.







**RAFMAN**  
**Jerald Marks**  
**APRIL 1**



**RAFMAN**  
**Raynard Graham**  
**APRIL 23**

## The 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Valencia College & RAFMAN CLUB Foundations' 2022 Scholarship Award

*Theme: TBA (To Be Announced)*

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

Due to the Coronavirus Pandemic the RAFMAN Club Foundation Annual Scholarship Banquet normally held in March each year has been cancelled.

We are still planning to select a number of Valencia College students for a RAFMAN Club Foundation scholarship. To pay for these scholarships we will be selling ads and asking our sponsors to help a student by purchasing:

**CREDIT HOUR(S):**

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**AD:** ☐ Full Page Ad (\$200)

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**DONATION:** ☐ \$500.00 in support of scholarships and expenses.

☐ Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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*The RAFMAN Foundation is a 501(c)(3) Non-profit Organization.*

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

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### Sick n' Shut-ins:

None.

Thanking God for His keeping power!

### To Bereaved Families:

We extend our prayers and heart-felt sympathy to families everywhere! God bless President Volodymyr Zelensky and the Ukrainian people.



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### **Built Together to Serve**

*He makes the whole body fit together perfectly. Ephesians 4:16 NLT*

In rural Amish culture, the building of a barn is a social event. It would take months for a single farmer and his family to construct a barn, but the Amish, doing it together, make quick work of it. Lumber is stocked ahead of time; tools are prepped. On the designated day, the entire Amish community gathers early, divvies up tasks, and together pitches in to raise a barn—sometimes in a single day.

This is a good picture of God's vision for the church and our role in it. The Bible says, "All of you together are Christ's body, and each of you is a part of it" (1 Corinthians 12:27 NLT). God has equipped each of us differently and divvied up tasks in which we each do our "own special work" as part of a body "fit together perfectly" (Ephesians 4:16 NLT). In community, we're encouraged to "carry each other's burdens" (Galatians 6:2).

Yet too often we go it alone. We keep our needs to ourselves, wanting control of our circumstance. Or we fail to reach out and help shoulder the weight of someone else's need. But God longs for us to connect with others. He knows beautiful things happen when we ask for others' help and pray for others' needs.

Only by depending on one another can we experience what God has for us and accomplish His amazing plan for our lives—like building a barn in a day.

By Kenneth Petersen

### **SCRIPTURE: 1 Corinthians 12:18-30 NIV**

18 But in fact God has placed the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be. 19 If they were all one part, where would the body be? 20 As it is, there are many parts, but one body.

21 The eye cannot say to the hand, "I don't need you!" And the head cannot say to the feet, "I don't need you!" 22 On the contrary, those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, 23 and the parts that we think are less honorable we treat with special honor. And the parts that are unpresentable are treated with special modesty, 24 while our presentable parts need no special treatment. But God has put the body together, giving greater honor to the parts that lacked it, 25 so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. 26 If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it.

27 Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it. 28 And God has placed in the church first of all apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, of helping, of guidance, and of different kinds of tongues. 29 Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? 30 Do all have gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret?



### **REFLECT & PRAYERS**

What keeps you from sharing your needs with others? What can you do today to reach out to someone else and help shoulder their burden?

Loving God, we know sometimes we are so private that we shut others out of our lives; thinking we can go it alone. Help us to reach out and invite others in. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

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

<https://odb.org/>

Posted April 2, 2022 by Our Daily Bread Ministries  
Their mission is to make the life-changing wisdom of the Bible understandable and accessible to all.

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**APRIL 2022**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Jerald Marks	2
3	4	5 Gold Star Spouses Day	6	7	8	9 National Former Prisoner of War Recognition Day
10	11	12	13	14 Air Force Reserve Birthday	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23 Army Reserve Birthday  Raynard Graham
24	25	26	27 La Wanda Carter	28	29 Day of Remembrance for all Victims of Chemical Warfare	30 National Military Brats Day
Holocaust Remembrance Week - April 24 - May 1						

<https://militarybenefits.info/national-vietnam-war-veterans-day/>

<https://www.hfotusa.org/important-military-holidays-and-observances-for-2022/>

<http://www.holidays-and-observances.com/military-holidays.html...>

<https://www.timeanddate.com/holidays/us/2022>

**MAY 2022**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Silver Star Banner Day	2	3	4	5	6 Mallory Graham Military Spouse Appreciation	7 Rep. Val Demings Military Service Academy Day
8	9	10	11	12	13 Children of Fallen Patriots Day	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21 Armed Forces Day
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30 Loretta Cockerl Memorial Day					



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The RAFMAN Club Foundation is a 501(C) (3) non-profit organization that consist of military veterans providing academic scholarships to students, social service for senior citizen, youth mentoring and civic outreach for those in need within the Central Florida Community.

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