



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

## Retired Air Force, Marine, Army & Navy

Issue 176

August 13, 2022

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

**2022 THEME: "EDUCATE AND PREPARE YOURSELF,  
WE ARE FACING TOMORROW'S PROBLEMS TODAY"**



The **Valencia College Foundation** seeks to provide the margin of excellence for which Valencia has long been known. The foundation is a separate, not-for-profit, IRS approved 501(c)(3) corporation chartered in 1974 to provide financially for the educational needs of Valencia that cannot be met through state aid or student tuition income. More than 40 community leaders volunteer generously of their time, talent and resources by serving on the board of directors...

Valencia College Foundation received more than \$2.5 million in external funding and pledges to support scholarships, faculty chairs and learning programs during the 2019-20 fiscal year. More than 730 individuals, corporations and organizations contributed.

In 2011, the Valencia Foundation received the prestigious Circle of Excellence National Award from the Council for Advancement and Support of Education.

For more information visit: <https://valencia.org/>

The **RAFMAN Club Foundation, Inc.** is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) corporation. We are committed to investing in education and assisting students that are having financial difficulties in achieving a college education; to assist as many students as possible. In 1996, we established a scholarship with the Valencia College Foundation and through our fundraisers we have donated approximately \$90,000 in scholarships to Valencia College students.

The RAFMAN Club was honored as the 2013 Outstanding Civic and Service Organization by the Association of Fundraising Professionals of Central Florida.

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Articles with credits/sources are due on the Sunday before the First Saturday.

### Thanks

to all of you who continually contribute to the newsletter.  
—President Jarvis



Rev. 05/30/2020...vwf



## President Message

Greetings in the month of August, the word that means “inspiring reverence or admiration and the eighth month of the year, it’s also a month that we cherish because we are grateful to be able to celebrate another month that makes up our calendar year.

Our newsletter this month is a combination of our regular monthly newsletter and our scholarship and education edition. Prior to the coronavirus outbreak our scholarship recipients were presented at our annual scholarship banquet in March or April each year and during the pandemic in 2020 and 2021 it was done in our June newsletter. This year scholarship edition of our newsletter is being done in August because this year the Valencia College Foundation did not release the names of the students who applied for a scholarship until July of this year. We sincerely apologize for the lateness of presenting our 2022 scholarship recipients. To our donors and sponsors thank you for your generous support, patience and understanding, your support and donations are instrumental in helping us provide these students with a scholarship. Together we can continue to make a difference.

We are looking forward to working with the Valencia College Foundation and resume holding our annual scholarship banquet in 2023. The RAFMAN Club Foundation is committed to education.

To our seven scholarship recipients it is my hope that you are successful in your chosen field of study. As a former student and graduate of Valencia college I know that it can be challenging to attend school and work a full-time or part-time job, but it is your hard work, dedication and passion toward your education that enables you to achieve your goals of graduating from college. We congratulate you on the success that you have achieved at this point in your life. I encourage each one of you to continue to work toward the goals you have set for yourself in life, your accomplishment may serve as an inspiration to others. Today we live in a global economy, so remember this quote from former President Barack Obama.

“In a global economy where the most valuable skill you can sell is your knowledge, a good education is no longer just a pathway to opportunity- it is a prerequisite”

As you read this newsletter, you will see many people who have dedicated themselves to their profession and are successful because they were determine to succeed. We included the late Mary McCloud Bethune whose statue sets in the National Statuary Hall in Washington DC to serve as a Beacon of Hope for all those who desires to enjoy the richness of this great nation, its character, the diversity of its people, its creativity and abundance of ideas and the passion to explore and succeed. Anyone who choose to do so, can take part in the good things this country has to offer.

Finally, be a good citizen, do your civic duty, be aware of current events in your country, be able to separate the good from the bad. America belongs to all of its citizens.

Submitted by Arthur Jarvis, President

### All Members Take Note:

#### Club Meeting

**Saturday, August 13, 2022**

#### 12:30 PM— Meet for Lunch

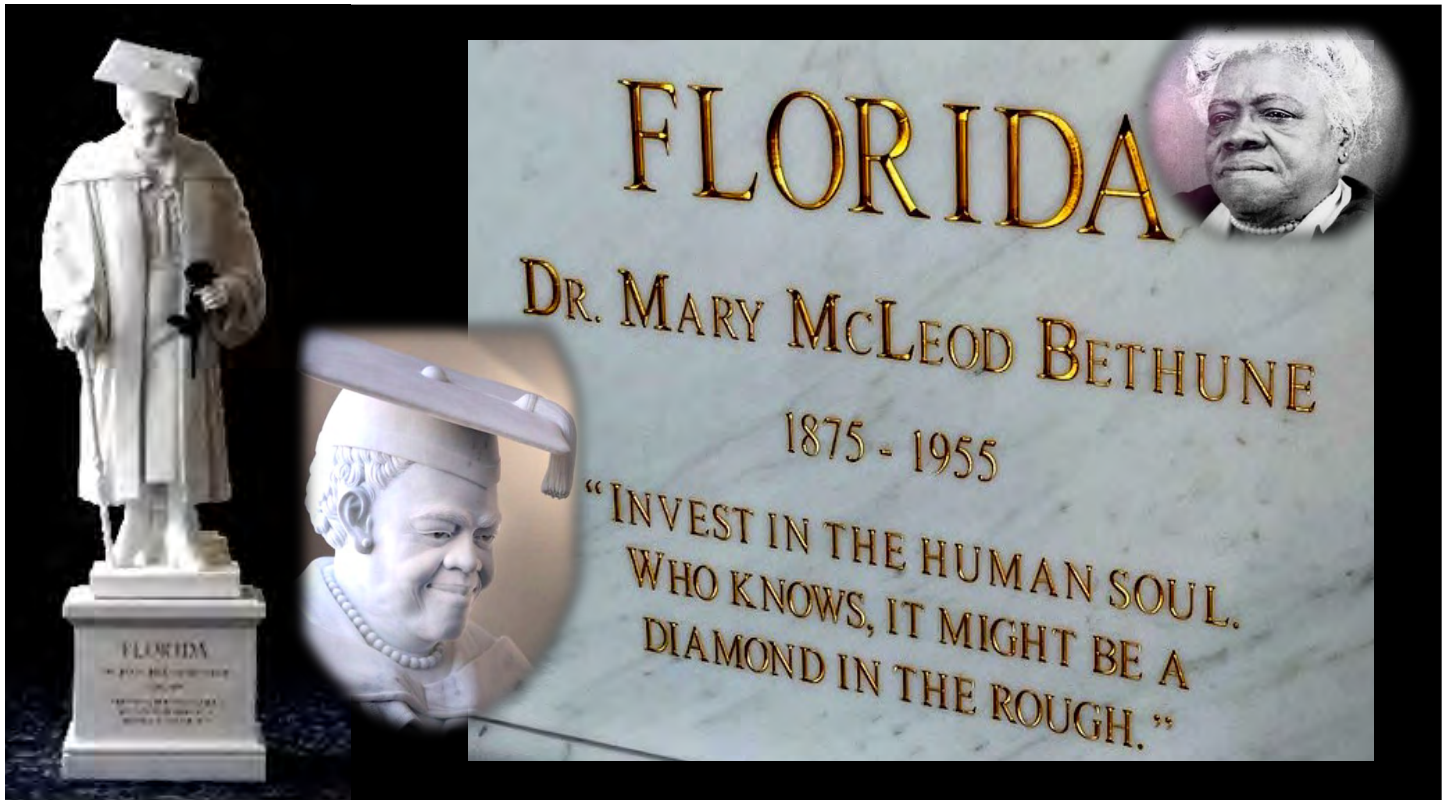
Host: RAFMAN Leslie Stoves III  
Golden Corral  
8032 International Dr. Orlando

#### 3:00 PM — Club Meeting

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

**Keep Safe!**

# Historic first as Mary McLeod Bethune statue installed at the U.S. Capitol



A statue of Mary McLeod Bethune was unveiled at the National Statuary Hall at the U.S. Capitol on Wednesday, July 13, 2022.

<https://mmbstatue.org/media>

A monumental step in history took place July 13 as a statue commemorating world-renowned Florida educator, pioneer and activist Mary McLeod Bethune was unveiled at the U.S. Capitol's Statuary Hall.

Bethune's statue will represent Florida, making her the first Black person selected by a state for National Statuary Hall. Florida's other statue is of John Gorrie, the inventor of an air-cooling machine.

"Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune was an accomplished Floridian whose efforts as an influential leader, educator and civil rights activist made her one of our nation's most notable figures," said Nancy Rae Lohman, who led fund-raising efforts for the statue. "Dr. McLeod Bethune's statue will represent the best of who we are as Floridians."

The statue of Bethune is intended to embody her passion for education and admiration for people. The sculpture depicts Bethune with a stack of books, a graduation cap and gown, a cane, a black rose and a gentle smile. She is standing atop a marble slab engraved with the state of Florida, her full name, her birth and death dates and a quote of hers that captures her essence: "Invest in the human soul, who knows, it may be a diamond in the rough."

Bethune's statue was created from the last piece of statuario marble taken from Michelangelo's cave in Italy. It was crafted by Nilda Comas, the first Hispanic American woman to sculpt a piece for Statuary Hall.

# 2022 **Scholarship RECIPIENTS**

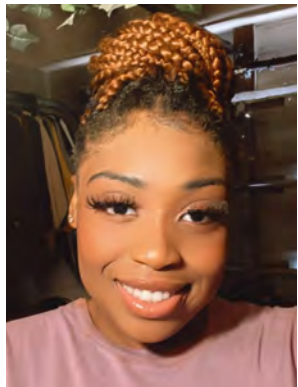
\*GPA at the Time of Application



**Nicole Bernard**

2005 Graduate of Jones High School

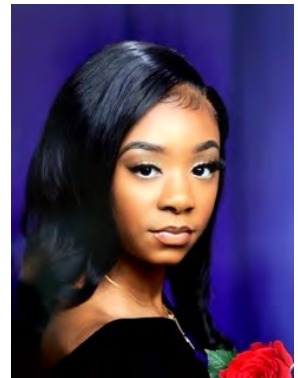
It is my dream to become a Neonatal Nurse. I would like to learn as much as I can and achieve the unthinkable in this society to help innocent babies see a future.



**Tracy George**

2021 Graduate of Maynard Evans High School

My personal life goal is to be successful by education and through entrepreneurship. I know that with education it's going to take me far in life. A college education is not only taking me through a self-discovery journey but will also mold me to become a head-strong adult.



**Ezzaris Hill**

2021 Graduate of Olympia High School

My career goal is to be a Dermatologist Physician Assistant. This takes approximately 6 years to complete. I have programmed myself to think of school in a way that keeps me motivated to keep going. This career will ensure financial stability and a stable position since there is such high demand in many states around the United States.



**Rat Tyler Jenkins**

2019 Graduate of Jones High School

I recently switched to Computer Science as a Major because of my love for technology and it will be the future. My career goal is to become a Computer Engineer and I'm currently working hard to get there.



# 2022 Scholarship RECIPIENTS

\*GPA at the Time of Application



**Laure Joseph**

2019 Graduate of Ocoee High School

I just want to be a Doctor. I decided to be a Biller/Coder because I would be working at a hospital making money so I can save to pay for my classes. Scholarships would help me a lot because I won't be spending so much time at work just to pay for my classes and I can have more free time to study and go for what I love.



**Ty Berry Keneard**

2021 Graduate of University High School

My educational goals and aspirations are to get an AA Degree at Valencia and to transfer to FAMU or UCF for a Bachelor's and Masters Degree in Business Administration. Also, my career aspirations are to be a Financial Analyst or Forensics Accountant for a company or corporation.



**Maiya Malone**

2021 Graduate of Dr. Phillips High School

I completed my first semester of college with a 3.63 GPA. I am now obtaining an AA Degree in Business. My current aspirations are to finish with a 4.0 GPA from Valencia College so that I may attend FAMU and major in Real Estate or Sales to become a Real Estate Investor.

**KEEP  
EDUCATING  
YOURSELF**



## RAFMAN Club Foundation, Inc. Scholarship Awards' History

<b>YEAR</b>	<b>THEME</b>	<b>KEYNOTE SPEAKER</b>
1996	"An Educated Mind Will Make A Difference"	Mrs. Della Paul, Valencia Community College
1997		
1998	"Education Is The Key To Success"	Mr. Jonathan Gayles, Program Officer, FL Education Fund
1999	"Helping Others Achieve Their Goals Through Education"	Ms. Daisy Lynum, Commissioner Orlando District 6
2000	"Educating Citizens of A Diverse World"	Mr. Alzo Reddick, Sr. FL State Representative
2001	"The Value of Education in Today's Society"	
2002	"Education; A Passport to a Better Future"	Chief Jerry Demings, City of Orlando, Chief of Police
2003	"Education An Investment in the Future"	Honorable Buddy Dyer, Mayor City of Orlando
2004	"Achieving Your Goals Through Education"	Mr. Byron Brooks, Orlando Dr. Families, Parks & Rec.
2005	"Make the Right Choice, Choose Education"	Ms. Marcia Hope Goodwin, Dr. Comm Affairs, Orlando
2006	"Achieving the Dream Through Education"	Mr. Bruce Antone, FL State Rep. Distrit 39
2007	"Celebrating Our Commitment to Education"	Dr. Sanford Shugart, President Valencia College System
2008		
2009	"Education A Prerequisite to Success"	Mr. Gerald Jones, Valencia College Student Development Coordinator
2010	"Strengthening Our Communities Through Education"	Dr. Alzo Reddick, Sr., Director Defense Transportation
2011	"Make the Right Choice; Choose Education"	Comm. Tiffany Moore, O County Dist. 6
2012	"Educate Today, For Change Tomorrow"	Hon. Buddy Dyer, Mayor City of Orlando
2013	"Continuing Our Commitment to Education"	Dr. Barbara Jenkins, Superintendent Orange County Public Schools



## RAFMAN Club Foundation, Inc. Scholarship Awards' History

YEAR	THEME	KEYNOTE SPEAKER
2014	"Continuing Life's Journey Through Education"	Vice Admiral David Brewer III, USN Retired
2015	"Reach High, Dream Deep"	Dr. Falecia Williams, West Campus President Valencia College

March 26, 2016—21<sup>st</sup> Annual RAFMAN Club  
Foundation's Scholarship Banquet  
Theme: "Setting High Expectations"  
Speaker: Dr. Angela Felecia Epps  
Dean FAMU Law School, Orlando



March 18, 2017—22<sup>ND</sup> Annual RAFMAN Club  
Foundation's Scholarship Banquet  
Theme: "Embracing the Challenge"  
Speaker: The Honorable Val Demings,  
U.S. House of Representative,  
Florida District 10



March 24, 2018  
23<sup>RD</sup> Annual RAFMAN  
Club Foundation Scholar-  
ship Banquet  
Theme:  
"Embracing the Challenge  
of STEM"  
Speaker: Dr. Eugene  
Jones, II  
Exe. Dean Valencia  
Downtown Campus







## RAFMAN Club Foundation, Inc. Scholarship Awards' History

YEAR

THEME

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

April 6, 2019 24<sup>th</sup> Annual RAFMAN Club Foundation Scholarship Banquet  
Theme: "Education a Pathway to Success"—The Honorable Mayor Jerry L. Demings, Orange County FL



2020

"Pursuing the Dream, Achieving the Goal,

Mr. Alvin Cowans, President / CEO McCoy  
Federal Credit Union *\*Banquet Canceled*

2021

"STEM, Education And The Future"

*\*Banquet Canceled*

**Front Row (L/R):** Arthur Jarvis-President, Melvin Henry-Vice President, Simon McRae-Bus. Manager/Assist. Treasurer, Donald Durant-Secretary/ Corr. Sec., Larry H. Colleton-Treasurer/Assist. Chaplain: **Back Row (L/R):** Joseph Cockerl-Sgt.-At-Arms, Jerald Marks, Sr.-Chaplain, Tyrrell Carter-Assist. Business Manager, Michael Dixon, Raynard Graham,;  
**Not Shown:** Leslie Stoves, III, Freddie Moore, James E. King, Jr, and Thomas Carter.



*Commissioner Victoria P. Siplin*  
ORANGE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS - DISTRICT 6



**CONGRATULATIONS  
TO THE  
RAFMAN CLUB AND ITS  
2022 HIGH SCHOOL  
GRADUATES AND SCHOLARS**

*"For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord,  
plans to prosper you and not to harm you,  
plans to give you hope and a future."  
Jeremiah 29:11 NIV*



***Progress Requires Collective Commitment.***

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

**PHONE: (407) 836-5860 OR EMAIL: [DISTRICT6@OCFL.NET](mailto:DISTRICT6@OCFL.NET)**

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# CONGRATULATIONS!

RAFMAN Club Foundation, Inc.  
on your 27<sup>th</sup> year of providing

*Scholarships*  
**FOR COLLEGE**

A CHURCH BIG ENOUGH TO KNOW YOU—SMALL ENOUGH TO LOVE YOU



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REV. ERIC L. KIRKLAND, SR. , PASTOR

<https://www.facebook.com/tabernaclemissionary>



# Congratulations!



“Father God, we pray Your watchful care  
over our Schools, the STUDENTS,  
Teachers and Staff;  
may our vigilance not be in vain.  
Lord God, let Your presence  
and watchful eye be our fortress.”

—Pastor C. Redding Taylor



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\*STREAMING LIVE

[facebook.com/sylvesterfranklin.96](https://www.facebook.com/sylvesterfranklin96)

Bethlehem Missionary Baptist

*Welcome to the House of Bread—Bethlehem*





2022 RAFMAN Club Foundation's  
Scholarship Sponsors  
✻ Thank You! ✻

CITY OF ORLANDO  
ORANGE COUNTY COMM. VICTORIA SIPLIN  
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SCHWAB CHARITABLES  
ORLANDO UTILITIES COMMISSION  
POSTELL'S MORTUARY  
WOMEN'S AUXILIARY AMVET POST 30  
NAVY FEDERAL CREDIT UNION  
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SHARLA JUNIUS  
MARY DAWSON  
MINISTER CEASER ALEXANDER  
MS. DEBRA MCCOY

ADS

O. C. COMMISSIONER VICTORIA SIPLIN  
ORLANDO UTILITIES COMMISSION  
TABERNACLE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH  
BETHLEHEM MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

ARTHUR JARVIS, CHAIRMAN  
JOE COCKERL, CO-CHAIRMAN  
DONALD DURANT, SECRETARY



*From Simon.....*

*Entertainment News and More.....*



August.... this month brings us back to school, back to Football, and back to the Beach!!! I am so looking forward to all of those, except of course those school busses in the morning. Good thing I don't have to punch anyone's clock.

August also takes me back to our class reunion at home in Georgia. This reunion brings together all of us who graduated from our small-town high school. Our classmates from all over the country come home for this and we have a three day event kicking off with a Friday night fish fry to a Saturday afternoon banquet. We have delicious food at this banquet made by a small restaurant near Vidalia Georgia-home of the Vidalia onion. On Sunday morning we go to the Big Meeting at the Church right across the street from the home that my wife grew up in. The whole weekend is all so nostalgic and keeps us grounded in our roots. Going back and visiting all of those landmarks helps us to count our blessings and look back on how long and wonderful -most of the time- this journey has been.

Looking forward to the beach is also great. We are looking forward to a weekend of fun, games, good food and bonding. We hope to make this beach week end one that we will never forget.

Yeah, football. There has been some changes this year in the NFL but I hope that your team (s) will do well. Every year- for the past few- my Cowboys have let me down. I'm looking for them to do better this year. If not, I might have to look around for a replacement. I hate it that Seattle let Russell Wilson go. He was fun at Seattle. But, Denver seems to have put pieces in place to make him a winner again. We'll see. I like that Patrick Mahomes at the Kansas City Chiefs, too. He reminds me of the old quarterbacks who could win a game in the last five minutes. So, there is lots to look to look forward to. We'll save the Magic talk until next month. Lots there to talk about and look forward to.

I also want expound on back to school as this is my granddaughter's senior year. Yes, the granddaughter who grew up in the RAFMAN club. She is a senior at Apopka High this year and has started to get many offers from Universities for a full ride for academics as well as in Track and Field. She is a true sprinter and ranks in Florida as well as nationally. We'll share some of her pics- in the 4x 400M relay (her favorite) before her school year is over.

Wishing you all a Happy August as we head out of summer and head back to the traditional times of year.

Keep the faith and I'll see you soon.

*Peace..... Simon*



RAFMAN Joe Cockerl

## Norwood Fowler: U.S.Army Combat Soldier at 13 years old

On Sept 24, 1952, Norwood Fowler told his mother that he was joining the U.S.Army. His parents, teachers, and friends laughed at him when he told them that he was joining the Army. He recalled his mother saying, “Boy you’d better get out of here and go to school and stop playing.” He disobeyed her and enlisted in the U.S.Army. He raised his right hand and enlisted in the U.S.Army at an induction center in Columbia S.C.

Norwood Fowler was 12 years old. He was big for his age: he stood 5 feet and 7 inches tall and weighed 145 pounds. No birth certificate was required for military service at that time. He was able to pass the written and physical examinations. While in basic training at Fort Jackson, Fowler learned how to drink beer and smoke cigarettes. He was careful not to expose his age to anyone. He made \$77 a month, he would send \$40 home and spend the rest on big boxes of Baby Ruth candy bars.

Basic training lasted 16 weeks, his unit was sent to the front line in Korea. He was assigned to a machine gun unit. He would go off and began fighting—shooting to kill. He said, “He had no emotions when he saw someone drop from the impact of his bullets.” He saw his friends from basic training killed and maimed in battle. He realized that he too could die. This is when he changed from a 13 year old boy to a man: a combat infantryman, the same as the rest. He fought several battles. He participated in famous battle to capture Pork Chop Hill. He had the task of caring for the wounded and placing the dead in body bags.

Army records show that by the age of 13, Fowler had earned the United Nations Service Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Parachute Badge, and the Korean Service Medal with two bronze stars. Fowler is considered as one of the youngest persons to have served in the U.S.Army during combat.

Submitted by Joe Cockerl



## I AM HONORED

On Sunday, July 17, 2022, I was installed as the new Commander of Dorie Miller Memorial Post 331 of the American Legion. It is indeed an honor to be the Commander of this Post which was chartered in the 1970's. It is located at 4325 Fairmont Street in Orlando.



I want to thank my RAFMAN brothers for their support. I know that a few my RAFMAN brothers are members of Post 331. I would urge and request that others join. The cost of an annual membership is \$38.00. Again, thank you my fellow RAFMAN.



Congratulations on scripting another chapter of your success story. Keep writing bigger and brighter things. God's richest blessings to you as you serve and bless others.

Love,  
Your RAFMAN  
Brothers

Submitted by Larry Colleton  
<https://www.floridalegion.org/post331/>

# Senate confirms 1st Black 4-star Marine Corps general

By KENDALL ROSS via



*Lt. Gen. Michael Langley speaks during a Senate Armed Services hearing to examine the nominations on Capitol Hill, July 21, 2022, in Washington, D.C.*  
ABCNews

Lt. Gen. Michael E. Langley was confirmed by the Senate on Monday as a four-star general, making history as the first Black Marine to attain that rank.

The Senate's confirmation came after President Joe Biden nominated Langley in June to lead the U.S. Africa Command, responsible for military operations in Africa.

Born in Shreveport, Louisiana, Langley said at his July 21 confirmation hearing that his father, retired U.S. Air Force Master Sgt. Willie C. Langley, served in the military for 25 years, while his stepmother, Ola Langley, served the U.S. Post Office.

Langley has served for 37 years, including as the deputy commanding general of the II Marine Expeditionary Force, deputy commanding general of the Fleet Marine Force, and as the commanding general of the Marine Forces Europe and Africa. In November 2021, he assumed the duties of commanding general, Fleet Marine Force, Atlantic, and commander, Marine Forces Command and Marine Forces Northern Command.

"It is a great honor to be the president's nominee to lead USAFRICOM. I am grateful to the trust and confidence extended by him, the secretary of defense, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and the commandant of the Marine Corps," Langley said in the July Senate Armed Services Committee hearing.

Following its founding on Nov. 10, 1775, the U.S. Marine Corps barred Black Americans from enlisting until President Franklin D. Roosevelt issued Executive Order 8802 on June 25, 1941. While the order prohibited discriminatory recruitment practices in national defense departments, agencies and industries, civil rights concerns remained, according to the National Archives.

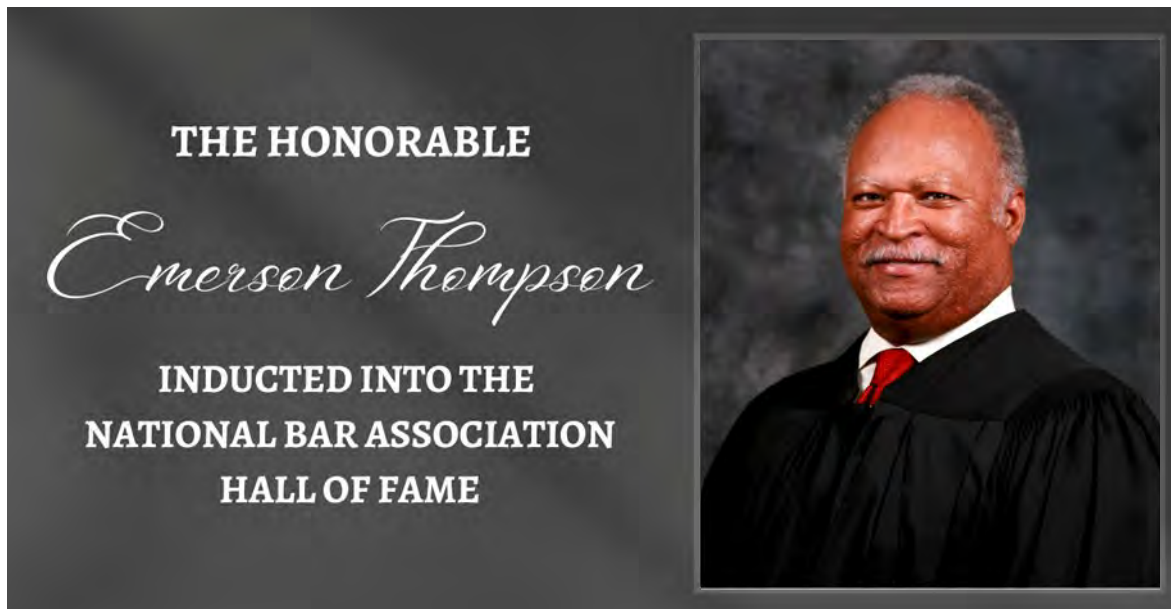
In 1948, President Harry S. Truman issued another executive order that banned segregation in the armed forces. Executive Order 9981 was initially met with resistance from military personnel, according to the National Archives, but all units were eventually desegregated by the end of the Korean War.

Despite significant progress since the Marine Corps' establishment, Black men and women are still underrepresented in the Marines Corps senior leadership, according to a 2020 Council on Foreign Relations report. In 2016, the Department of Defense reported there were six Black general-ranking officers serving in the Marine Corps out of a total 87 across all racial demographics.

"Now, the global security environment we are witnessing today is the most challenging I have seen throughout my 37 years," Langley said during the July hearing, referencing "global tensions" and other threats.

Nevertheless, he said, he is "enthusiastic to engage across the whole government to faithfully execute the policies and orders of the president and the secretary of defense."

## The Honorable Emerson Thompson Inducted into the National Bar Association Hall of Fame



During the National Bar Association's 97<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention, Judge Emerson Thompson [of Orlando, Florida] was inducted into the National Bar Association Hall of Fame.

Founded in 1925, the National Bar Association is the nation's oldest and largest national network of predominantly African-American attorneys and judges. And every year, they host their annual convention to bring together the community for a week of education, networking, and recognition. One of the special recognitions presented during the annual convention is the induction of new members to the National Bar Association's David Gray Hall of Fame. Members of the Hall of Fame are chosen for their significant contributions to the cause of justice throughout their careers.

Since joining the **Orange County Florida** bench in 1976, Judge Emerson Thompson has been a dedicated presence here in our circuit. From 1989 to 1992, he took the helm of Chief Judge for our circuit, and was appointed to the Fifth District Court of Appeals just a year later. And, despite retiring from his duties in 2008, Judge Thompson has continued his work on the bench as a Senior Judge for the last 14 years.

Throughout his 46 years on the bench, he has devoted his life to providing justice that is fair and accessible to all who enter his courtroom. But his work is not limited to the courts. Judge Thompson was both a founder and first president of the George C. Young American Inn of Court. He also started the State Courts Equal Employment Opportunity Committee and served on the **Florida Supreme Court Racial and Ethnic Bias Commission**. And he's a fellow of the Florida Bar Foundation, an organization dedicated to providing access to the courts for people making low-income.

Judge Thompson is a steadfast member of the legal community who has worked tirelessly to improve justice over the course of his lifetime, and we are thrilled to see him recognized for his work.

Congratulations, Judge Thompson!



## 102-Year-Old Black World War II Vet From Segregated Mail Unit Receives Congressional Gold Medal

Candace McDuffie - [www.msn.com/en-us/news/us/...](https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/us/...)

On Tuesday, Romay Davis, 102, was recognized for her service at an event at Montgomery City Hall. It comes on the heels of President Joe Biden's March decision to sign a bill authorizing the Congressional Gold Medal for the unit, which is referred to as the "Six Triple Eight."



©Photo: Jay Reeves (AP) Romay Davis, 102, holds flowers after a ceremony honoring her service in World War II during a ceremony in Montgomery, Ala., on Tuesday, July 26, 2022.

At the end of World War II, packages and letters sent to U.S. troops had built up in European warehouses by the time Allied troops were moving toward the heart of Hitler's Germany. However, this mail was vital as it served as the primary connection between home and the front in the days before modern communication. Organizing and monitoring this large backlog in a military that was racially segregated was a job left to the largest Black women group to serve in the war, known as the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion. Davis, who is the oldest living member of the unit, was finally honored for her work.

Related video: 102-year-old WWII veteran Romay Davis honored for breaking barriers

In June 1945, only a month after the end of the war in Europe, Davis' group sailed to France to

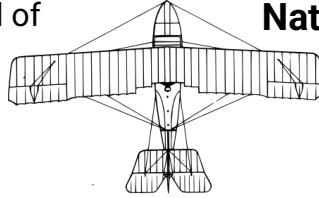
begin working on mounds of mail there. They worked through deplorable conditions, cutting down a six-month backlog to just three months.

The 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion are credited with ensuring aid got to the frontlines, easing the worries of mothers, and saving marriages, according to a press release. For their contributions, the 6888th received a monument that was dedicated in 2018 at Buffalo Soldier Military Park at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas.

After her service with the group, Davis worked in New York in the fashion industry, received her black belt when she was 80, and worked at a Winn Dixie in Montgomery until after she turned 100.

"The congressional medal is for all of us," said Davis during the ceremony. "For all of us. Those who've gone and those who remain."

**National Airborne Day** is a special day designated to honor the U.S. Airborne Forces and the first parachute jump of 48 volunteer members of the U.S. Army Parachute Test Platoon on **August 16, 1940**. This day is annually observed on August 16. The use of parachutes was an innovative method of warfare during World War II.



**National Aviation Day** for the year 2022 is celebrated/ observed on Friday, August 19th. National Aviation Day is held each year on August 19th. The day is to celebrate the **development and history of aviation**.

**National Aviation Week—Aug. 19-25**

## Meet Brenda Robinson: She was the Navy's first African American female pilot to earn her wings

"They were opening a door; I didn't know was closed."

Author: Ruby Durham / Published: 7:42 PM CST February 10, 2020  
Updated: 3:11 AM CST February 11, 2020

[www.wfaa.com/article/life/holidayablack-history-month/](http://www.wfaa.com/article/life/holidayablack-history-month/)

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — She was the Navy's first African American female pilot. Now in retirement after 45 years of flying, Brenda Robinson is teaching young adults of all backgrounds all things aviation in Charlotte.

When Robinson was growing up in the 1950s outside Philadelphia, physically flying a plane wasn't something that crossed her mind.



She thought that being a woman in Aeronautics meant being a flight attendant -- but thanks to a career study program at her high school, she was able to broaden her view of aviation.

It was there she decided to become an air traffic controller.

"When I got to go to an air traffic control tower I stepped onto the tower, looked around and said this is what I'm going to do for the rest of my life?" Robinson said.

After high school, Robinson enrolled at Dowling College in New York -- one of the best aviation schools on the East Coast.

She eventually became the first black woman in Dowling's history to graduate with a degree in Aeronautics, and also earned a pilot's license.

"I didn't know I would run up the stairs and turn left to do my job," Robinson said. "I just assumed I would turn right, left was always into the cockpit."

Robinson then went on to join the U.S. Navy in 1977, just one year after women were authorized to attend the Naval Academy.

"At the time they were selecting 10 women a year out of the nation and I was one of those 10," she said.

In 1980, she became the first African American female pilot in the U.S Navy to earn her wings.

"They were opening a door, I didn't know was closed," Robinson said.

But it wasn't easy.

No matter what she accomplished, Robinson always felt she had to prove she was qualified.

"Any kind of situation where I'm flying with someone new, they are always surprised that I can do exactly what everybody else did," she said.

She said she especially felt that way as an African American woman.

"Since I didn't look like the model in the norm, then the thought that I maybe already know wasn't given to me," Robinson said. "I had to earn it every time."

She did just that -- by keeping one thing in mind as she reached for the stars.

"A black woman can handle the same rigors that a guy that's in my exact same position can handle," she said.

It was that confidence that led her to achieve the rank of lieutenant commander as a Navy Pilot.

She successfully completed 155 aircraft carrier landings and flew seven types of aircraft, touching the skies from the East Coast to Guam, Germany, the Middle East, and Italy.

Robinson has flown Admirals, Senators, Congressmen, Generals and even a few celebrities.

She was a navy pilot before becoming one of the first African American female pilots for American Airlines, a position she held for 17 years until she retired in 2008.

Today, she calls Charlotte home and serves as an instructor at FlyRight in Concord.

She's also the founder of Aviation Camps of the Carolinas, where she teaches and offers teenagers hands-on opportunities to learn about aviation at airports around the nation.

"The world is as they see it and it's very finite until you press the button that gives them excitement," she said.

After 45 years of flying, Robinson is pushing the career path forward that was once deemed untradi-



# First Black Female Pilot in U.S. Military

## Armed Forces

In her hometown of Centralia, Mo., **Marcella Hayes Ng** was a tomboy, a tree-climber who played tackle football with her cousins and who liked to watch her grandfather work under the hood of automobiles. She was raised with the mindset that she was equal to everyone, but that God was superior to all. "I grew up as a kid with rose-color glasses. The sky was always the limit."

But even with the sky as the limit, as a youngster the thought of learning to fly never crossed her mind, let alone dreaming of making history in the U.S. Armed Forces. She did both simultaneously.



Photo Originally Printed In April 1980 Issue Of Ebony Magazine

In November 1979, Ng, who was 2nd Lt. Marcella A. Hayes at the time, became the first African American woman in the U.S. military to earn her aviator wings when she completed helicopter flight training at the U.S. Army Aviation Center, Fort Rucker, Alabama. She was 23 years old and had been in the Army about a year. Flight school to her was "another cool wicket to go through."

"I really didn't know I wanted to fly," Ng recalled.

Ng graduated high school in Columbia, Mo., where she moved as a young teen. She was a member of the National Honor Society, the pep squad and the marching band, and was accepted by three universities when she applied. She chose University of Wisconsin in Madison, attending on a ROTC scholarship. She did okay academically but she excelled in military training, and was one of only two women accepted for the Tri-Service ROTC Exhibition Drill Team. She excelled in leadership at ROTC Advanced Camp at Fort Riley, Kansas, in the summer of 1977. Because she'd been a member of the university's drill team, leading formations at camp came easy to her. She was recognized for those leadership skills early and made Cadet Company Commander for the Parent's Day parade. Following Advanced Camp, she went to Fort Benning, Georgia for U.S. Army Airborne training.

A key ROTC cadre member from the Advanced Camp was Lt. Col. Robert "Bobby" Pedigo, an Army aviator, who introduced her to the idea of applying for flight school upon her graduation and commissioning. For the first time the seed of flying was planted in Ng's thoughts. Thanks to the assistance of her college best friend, Steven Mattox, and other ROTC cadets and leadership who motivated her, she also attended and graduated jump school.

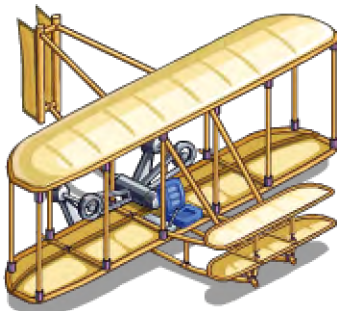
"God was allowing me, although I didn't realize it at the time, to become a shining star at the camp," Ng said.

## Marcella Hayes Ng

Women were new to Army aviation. By the time Ng arrived at Fort Rucker in 1979, it was only the fifth year women attended the school. She was paired up with many fair-minded instructors, but Robert Stamper, her instruments instructor, helped prepare her most for what would become an historic achievement. And when advanced instruments instruction wasn't clicking, fellow classmate Dave Boydstun stepped in and explained it in a way she understood.

Flight school was exciting. It also played a large role in her personal life. She met Dennis Ng there in the summer of 1979 and they were married in January 1980. The following summer Marcella was assigned to Germany with the 394th Transportation Battalion, its first African American and first woman. She wanted to continue to fly. Despite her efforts, however, she repeatedly was told she didn't meet the standards. She lost her flight status, and it hurt deeply.

But Ng took stock of her situation and reprioritized. She focused on her family and other opportunities the Army offered. At a new duty station at Fort Hood, Texas, she was evaluated by combat arms officers and selected for company command for two years. She followed with other command positions in Korea and in the U.S., including the 49th Transportation Battalion commander at Fort Hood.



## First Black Air Force Fighter Pilot



**Maj. Christina Hopper's** family is about as military as it gets. The legacy of service in her family made being a military brat a key part of her identity. Born in Norway while both her parents were stationed there with the Air Force, Hopper didn't move to the United States until she was 4 years old.

Her trajectory, following in her parents' footsteps to the military, was normal, expected almost. But Hopper's story deviates from the typical military brat-turned service member in that she didn't only join the Air Force, she became the first black female pilot to fly a fighter jet in combat. And although Hopper is considered a trailblazer, she told Task & Purpose that she felt like one of the crew from day one, and that the uniform always came before race and gender.

An Iraq War veteran, Hopper separated from the active-duty Air Force in 2008 with almost 1,000 hours in the F-16. Today, she is a mother of three, military spouse, and continues to serve in the Air Force Reserve as a T-38 instructor, where she trains the next generation of fighter and bomber pilots. Hopper continues to enhance her legacy through the "Vance Supergirls," a mentorship group for female aviators.

# Atlantan first black woman pilot in Georgia Air National Guard

## AJC LOCAL IN-DEPTH

By Raisa Habersham, The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

Feb 7, 2019

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution is providing this content as part of our public service mission. Please support real, local journalism by [subscribing today](#).

For **Lt. Andrea Lewis**, flying has always been her dream. After growing up in Stone Mountain, Lewis had long wanted to be a flight attendant like her mother, hoping to travel the world.

But she also had dreams of being a pilot, like her father. When she found a listing for a flight attendant with the Air Force Reserves, she applied, thinking it could combine both her interests. "At first I was a little hesitant, but (my dad) encouraged me and it was a great fit," Lewis told The Atlanta Journal-Constitution in a phone interview Wednesday.



Now Lewis is ready to become the first black woman pilot to deploy as part of the Georgia Air National Guard. Details on Lewis' deployment were not released as they are confidential. A graduate of Tucker High School and later a University of Georgia graduate, Lewis comes from a family of aviators. Her father served 14 years in the Marine Corps as a pilot. He would then go on to work for 22 years with American Airlines. Lewis' mom is a flight attendant with Delta Air Lines.

Following in her mother's footsteps, Lewis became a flight attendant with the Air Force Reserves in 2010, making her only the second civilian hired as an Air Force flight attendant. The position is usually reserved for airmen already in service with proven capabilities, but Lewis says a degree in French and time spent studying abroad gave her an edge.

The move was an emotional one, coming after the death of her father. Lewis said her coworkers and the Air Force Reserves encouraged her to continue to pursue her piloting dreams.

"Through them, I was able to start my initial involvement with flying airplanes," she said.

In 2011, Lewis was hired as a flight attendant for Delta Air Lines. Her schedule as a traditional guardsman allowed her the flexibility to continue pursuing that dream, too.

"I could fly as I wanted, which was really nice, and Delta has been very supportive," she said.

Lewis was accepted into the Georgia Air National Guard in 2014 and hired to be a pilot for the E-8C Joint STARS aircraft, a Boeing 707 frame outfitted with a radar and surveillance systems to take pictures of the ground and feed the images back to command centers.

\*Continue on Pg. 25



## One of nation's first Black female pilots breaks sound barriers, glass ceilings



By Kat Jeanne | CNHI Oklahoma  
Mar 10, 2022 Updated Mar 10, 2022



Lt. Col. Christina Hopper. (Photo provided) Lt. Col. Christina Hopper inspects the underside of her plane. (Photo provided)

ENID, Oklahoma — A fighter and instructor pilot in this north-central Oklahoma city says casting a vision as one of the first Black female pilots in the military has been a highlight of her career.

**Lt. Col. Christina Hopper** has been blazing a historic trail for women in aviation since she earned her pilot wings over 20 years ago at Vance Air Force Base, where she is now a reserve T-38C instructor pilot with the 5th Flying Training Squadron.

“You be the first. You be the one who gets out in front so that the next generation does see somebody who looks like them,” Hopper said.

Among her firsts is having been the first Black female fighter pilot in a major war.

“I think when we look at the lack of females and minorities in aviation, a lot of it is capturing their hearts and minds, and casting a vision for them when they are young,” Hopper said.

The military’s first-ever Black female pilot and first-ever Air Force lieutenant general was Stayce Harris, who retired a few years ago as a three-star general. Lt. Col. Rochelle Kimbrell, another Black female student pilot, also was going through training when Hopper got her wings in 2000.

“We are such a small community, we all know each other,” she said. “(Kimbrell) and I were peers, and we kind of went through it together. We were the first two Black female fighter pilots, not just in the Air Force, but really in the military.”

Hopper’s path started at the University of Texas at Austin, where she received a Bachelor of Arts in psychology and was commissioned through the Air Force Reserve Office’s Training Corp (ROTC). Her first assignment was at Cannon Air Force Base in New Mexico, where she deployed to Operation Iraqi Freedom for five and a half months and earned four air medals. Her second tour was out of Luke Air Force Base in Arizona, where she became an instructor.

Hopper left active duty after 10 years of service to be at home with her three children. She was a



From Pg. 23

## Lt. Andrea Lewis

While Lewis specializes in surveillance and reconnaissance, she had not been in anything military-related in high school or college, so “this is a very different path for me,” she said. Lewis is currently on military leave from Delta as she prepares for deployment.

Lewis is in a rare class. There are more than [42,600 commercial and non-commercial women pilots](#), according to Women in Aviation International, a nonprofit organization focused on advancing women in aviation. There are 609,306 pilots total.

Lewis stands alongside the first black woman to earn a pilot's license, [Bessie Coleman](#), and Delta's first black female captain, Stephanie Johnson. Both are pilots she's admired as history makers — and she doesn't take being in their company lightly.

“I'm just honored to be thought of in the same light,” Lewis said. “They were definitely trailblazers for me. So, I hope (people) see me in the same light.”



Stockbridge students celebrate First Lt. Andrea Lewis with assembly,... Feb. 15, 2019

Heather Middleton  
www.henryheerald.com

From Pg. 24 ... Lt. Col. Christina Hopper

Force Base in Del Rio, Texas. In 2014, Hopper moved back to Enid with her children and her husband, Lt. Col. Aaron Hopper, an active-duty instructor pilot at Vance who returned after retirement due to an instructor shortage.

Hopper describes her journey as a non-traditional pathway, though, having never dreamed about being a pilot.

She'd wanted to study psychology because she thought she would be a psychologist or doctor, but when she was a junior at UT, her ROTC commander called Hopper into his office and asked why she hadn't put in her application for pilot training. She told him she didn't think she was qualified, because she didn't have a technical degree and her aptitude scores weren't high enough, but the colonel encouraged Hopper to take the test again and think about applying.

Two weeks later, she had a vivid dream that told her to become a pilot. She took the test again and passed in the navigation and aviation category by just a few points.

“At that time, I wasn't sure I had what it took, if I had the capacity to think spatially, to become an aviator,” Hopper said. “But in the process of going through pilot training, I realized there are a lot of similarities and the athletic mentality and spatial thinking on the court and being able to translate that to the sky. There were a lot of things in aviation that were so similar to the way that I think and process, so I did really well.”

It had never occurred to her that she could be a pilot, Hopper said, while no one ever told her that she couldn't.

Both of Hopper's parents were enlisted, so she knew what Air Force life was like, growing up overseas, and throughout the U.S., but she would never see females flying when they'd go to airshows.

“I was exposed to aviation by going to airshows, but just not exposed in the sense that it captured my heart and my mind,” she said.

Though Hopper said representation is important, the lack of visibility should be seen as an opportunity instead of a barrier.

“I think that when you look at (Kimbrell), myself and Gen. Harris ... we didn't see somebody who looked like us and we still got out and did it,” she said. “I think that's how we begin to overcome barriers.”

PREPARE FOR TAKE OFF

# GRADUATION 2022

## US AIR FORCE ACADEMY



Graduation Week is traditionally comprised of many activities and events across the U.S. Air Force Academy. Cadets and their guests take part in receptions, awards ceremonies, baccalaureate services, concerts, parades, air demonstrations, and commissioning ceremonies. The week culminates at Falcon Stadium with the iconic graduation ceremony. Commencement speakers often include the President of the United States, Vice President, Secretary of Defense, Secretary of the Air Force and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. This year we are proud to have Secretary of Defense Lloyd James Austin III as our guest speaker. At the close of the ceremony, cadets are dismissed and ceremoniously toss their caps into the air. Cheers and celebration are quickly silenced by the roar of the legendary Thunderbirds flying overhead to honor the graduating class.



## U.S. Naval Academy Class of 2022 Graduation



MD, UNITED STATES

05.27.2022

Photo by Kenneth D Aston

United States Naval Academy

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (May 27, 2022) Officers and senior enlisted leaders who have been professional mentors to the six battalions and 30 companies of the Brigade of Midshipmen and have overseen the development of the Naval Academy Class of 2022 into U.S. Navy and Marine Corps officers take part in the graduation procession. The U.S. Naval Academy's Class of 2022 graduated 1,100 midshipmen in a ceremony at Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium where President Joseph R. Biden Jr. delivered graduation remarks as the guest speaker. (U.S. Navy photo by Kenneth D. Aston Jr.)

MILITARY TIMES  
**SERVICE MEMBERS**  
*of the YEAR*

**2022 WINNERS**

<https://www.servicemembersoftheyear.org/>



**Maj. Nicholas Dockery**



**Maj. Cory T. Jones**



**AWS1 Cale Foy**



**SSgt Duncan Copley**



**AST2 Joshua Carlson**



**David Y. Kim**



# FOUR WEST POINT CADETS NAMED RHODES SCHOLARS FOR 2022

By West Point Public Affairs –



Four West Point Cadets Named Rhodes Scholars Four West Point cadets are among the 32 U.S. Rhodes Scholarship awardees for 2022. Cadets Hannah Blakey, Holland Pratt, Veronica Lucian and Krista Flinkstrom will study at the University of Oxford next fall as recipients of this award.

## The History of the Rhodes Scholarship

Established through the Will of Cecil John Rhodes in 1902, the Rhodes Scholarship was a truly visionary project for its time. Over a hundred years later, the Rhodes Scholarships are the oldest and perhaps most prestigious international scholarship programme in the world, enabling outstanding young people from around the world to undertake full-time postgraduate study at the University of Oxford, (ranked first internationally in the Times Higher Education rankings for 2017 and 2018).

One of the founding aims of the Scholarship was to identify young leaders from around the world who, through the pursuit of education together at Oxford, would forge bonds of mutual understanding and fellowship for the betterment of mankind.

Our reputation as the world's most distinguished academic scholarship rests not on the controversial life of our founder Cecil Rhodes, but on the enormous contributions our Scholars have made to the world, and the qualities sought in a Rhodes Scholar - intellectual distinction combined with concern for others, energy to lead, and a focus on public service - remain as compelling as they were over a century ago.

<https://www.rhodeshouse.ox.ac.uk/scholarships/the-rhodes-scholarship/>

**The University of Oxford** is a collegiate research university in Oxford, England. There is evidence of teaching as early as 1096, making it the oldest university in the English-speaking world and the world's second-oldest university in continuous operation. [Wikipedia](#)

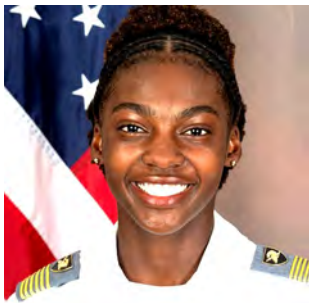


- Founded: 1096
- Slogan: "Psalm 27"
- Location: University Offices 1 Wellington Square, Oxford OX1 2JD England

## Eight Black students chosen as 2022 Rhodes Scholars

On Saturday, November 20, 2021, the American Rhodes Scholar Class of 2022 was announced. Of the 32 outstanding students chosen six of them are Black. They will commence their studies at Oxford in October 2022.

Congratulations to all of those chosen and especially to those Black students [featured in this newsletter].



**CDT Hannah Blakey** is a native of Detroit, Michigan, Blakey is a Persian and French major at West Point with an interest in marginalized and at risk communities. Dedicated to serving others, Hannah is a preschool and kindergarten Sunday School teacher and is one of three Cadets-in-Charge of the Elevation Initiative mentorship club which prepares minority underclass cadets for leadership roles at the Academy. Hannah has conducted several formal interviews and conversations with Persian speaking refugees in order to better understand the cultural and economic factors that influence forced migration and refugees in Persian speaking regions...After Oxford, she will continue into the Army as an Aviation officer...utilize her studies to enhance relations and inform military policy changes between the United States Army and Persian speaking nations.



**Sarah Skinner** is a senior at the United States Naval Academy, where she studies both Political Science and Mandarin Chinese. At the Naval Academy she serves as both Company Commander and captain of the women's rugby team. ...named a top 5 finalist for the Sorenson Award, an award given to the nation's top female collegiate rugby player and has participated in the USA Rugby Olympic Development program. Her research is aimed at evaluating "middle power" nations and institutions in their capacity to mitigate hegemonic competition and conflict between the US and China. At Oxford she hopes to complete an MPhil in International Relations.



**Sydni A. Scott**, Unionville, is a senior at Columbia University majoring in Political Science. She has done significant work on diversity, equity, and inclusion issues, including developing training for dozens of universities participating in The Women's Network. Sydni also founded The Amendment Project, an organization mobilizing high school students around the issue of reparations, and worked to help secure passage of a local reparations resolution in Tulsa, Oklahoma. She was a Division I track and field athlete at Columbia, competing in the long jump and triple jump. While at Oxford, she plans to pursue an MPhil in Politics (Comparative Government).



**Tawreak J. Gamble-Eddington**, Springfield, Massachusetts, graduated in 2021 from Union College with honors in both History and Political Science. He is currently completing an MPhil in Race, Ethnicity, Conflict at Trinity College Dublin, where he is a Mitchell Scholar. Ty was a campus leader at Union College, serving as President of both the Black Student Union and Union Pride and helping found a My Brother's Keeper program. He was also named to the steering committee for the Presidential Initiative on Race, Power, and Privilege and awarded the university's top prizes for service to the college, contributions to campus diversity, and accomplishments in political science. At Oxford, he proposes to complete the MPhil in Politics (Comparative Government).



**Samantha C.W. O'Sullivan**, Washington, DC, is a senior at Harvard College, where she majors in Physics and African-American Studies. Sam founded and led a student organization that promotes activism related to the legacy of slavery and has published articles on dress codes and bias against Black girls. She has done advanced research in plasma physics at Princeton and nanoscale systems at Harvard and the University of Maryland, and astrophysics at the Carnegie Institute of Astrophysics. She is fascinated by how different languages, including the language of the African diaspora, Gullah, provide insights into different perceptions of the physical universe. Sam will do the MSt in Philosophy of Physics and the MSc in Applied Linguistics at Oxford.



**Elvin N. Irihamye**, Sammamish, Washington, is a senior at Indiana University majoring in Neuroscience and where he is a Herman B. Wells Scholar. In Bloomington, he co-founded and is president of a charitable corporation using industry and academic partnerships to strengthen the pipeline of Black, Latinx and Native American talent into the workforce. He is also active in a start-up to assist nursing home residents during the pandemic. Elvin has been a student advisor to the Indiana University president and also to the Vice Provost for undergraduate education. He is a co-author of three scientific publications in peer-reviewed publications, including *Nature* and *Cells* relating to cancer chemotherapy treatments. Elvin plans to do the MSc in Translational Health Science and the MSc in Evidence-Based Social Intervention and Policy Evaluation at Oxford.



**MacKenzie E. Isaac**, Indianapolis, received a BA in Sociology from the University of Notre Dame in 2020 and is currently completing a master's degree in Health Education at Columbia University's Teachers College. Kenzie has served in leadership roles both on campus and in her community, including as the University of Notre Dame's Student Body Director of Diversity and Inclusion. Following graduation from Notre Dame, Kenzie worked for a year as an AmeriCorps Public Ally in her hometown of Indianapolis, focusing on public health issues such as pedestrian safety and chronic disease prevention. She currently works for Health by Design, an Indianapolis-based non-profit organization, overseeing the organization and implementation of park remodeling projects in two historically African-American neighborhoods. At Oxford, she will pursue a DPhil in Population Health.



**Klarke J. Stricklen**, Chattanooga, is a senior at the University of the South, where she majors in American Studies and African American Studies. Klarke's undergraduate honors thesis concentrates on Black reparations by arguing for the moral responsibility of higher educational institutions with ties to the slave trade and slavery. She is also a research assistant for The Roberson Project on Slavery, Race, and Reconciliation. Klarke also serves as president of the local NAACP chapter in Sewanee. Previously, she interned in the office of the U.S. Attorney for the District of Columbia. Klarke is a Truman Scholar. At Oxford, she will pursue an MSc in Economic and Social History.



## 13-Year-Old Girl Gets Accepted to Medical School a Year After Graduating High School: 'Mama I Made It'

The world is her oyster.

Amanda Taylor



© Provided by Peoplethebrownstemgirl/Instagram Alena Analeigh Wicker

Alena Analeigh Wicker is just 13 and she was recently accepted into the University of Alabama's Heersink School of Medicine for 2024. According to *The Washington Post*, she was accepted as part of the school's Early Assurance Program, which partners with HBCU schools in Alabama to offer students early acceptance as they plan to enter medical school.

Shortly after getting the acceptance letter, she opened up on Instagram about the exciting news.

"I graduated High school LAST YEAR at 12 years old and here I am one year later I've been accepted into Med School at 13. I'm a junior in college," she wrote. "Statistics would have said I never would have made it. A little black girl adopted from Fontana California."

"I've worked so hard to reach my goals and live my dreams," she added, going on to credit her mother, Daphne McQuarter, for all her support.

"Mama I made it," Alena wrote. "I couldn't have done it without you. You gave me every opportunity possible to be successful."

"You are the best mother a kid could ever ask for," the teen added. "You always believed in me. You allowed me space to grow and become, make mistakes without making me feel bad. You allowed me the opportunity to experience the world."

Related video: 'I want to leave my mark on the world': 13-year-old ASU student heading to medical school.

Of course, like any other kid her age, Alena enjoys going to the movies, baking, and spending time with her friends.

"I'm still a normal 13-year-old," she told *The Washington Post*.

The teen is currently a student in two undergraduate programs studying biological sciences at both Arizona State University and Oakwood University.

"I just have extremely good time management skills and I'm very disciplined," she told the *Post*. Alena isn't only focused on the classroom when it comes to her education. In 2021 she became the youngest intern ever at NASA. In an interview with *The Baltimore Times*, Alena said the dream started early for her.



# US Military Academy West Point honors class of 2022 graduating cadets



**USA TODAY - May 21**

1 of 24 Photos in Gallery©John Meore/The Journal News

## US Military Academy West Point honors class of 2022 graduating cadets

Graduating cadets toss their covers in the air at the end of the 2022 graduation and commissioning ceremony at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point on Saturday, May 21, 2022.

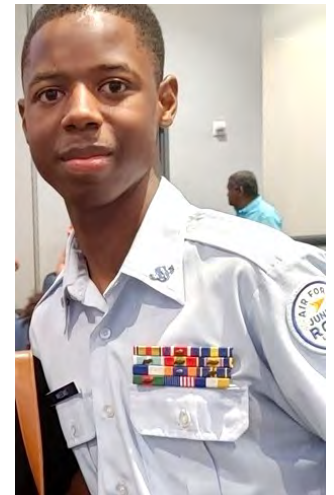
## Congratulations

to

Air Force JROTC Cadet Xavier Weems, Jr.

Xavier is a senior at Dacula GA High School where he was promoted to 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. in the JROTC.

He completed the Southeast Region Cadet Leadership Course at the University of West Georgia (Columbus, GA). He is the grandson of RAFMAN Club President Arthur Jarvis.



**Alena Analeigh Wicker** —"I was around three or four years old when I became fascinated with the stars and space and LEGOs," Alena said. "My mom began taking me to different astronomy nights and NASA Centers. I remember walking in saying 'I am going to work here one day, and I will be the youngest girl of color to work here.'"

She also told the outlet her ultimate goal is to become a flight surgeon and "work with astronauts." Alena's impressive achievements don't even stop there. She also founded the Brown STEM Girl, an organization for girls of color who are interested in exploring careers in STEM -- and was a finalist for this year's TIME's Top Kid of the Year.

"What is age?" she told *The Washington Post*. "You're not too young to do anything. I feel like I have proven to myself that I can do anything that I put my heart and mind to."

# SUPER SCHOLARS

## 2022 SUPER SCHOLARS

Each year, OCPS celebrates its "Super Scholars," those graduating seniors who were accepted into the nation's top 20 colleges and universities (as ranked by *U.S. News and World Report*) and U.S. service academies.

### RECOGNITION SHOW

**Watch the show hosted by WFTV's Nancy Alvarez, that aired on Tuesday, May 17.**

### 2022 RANKINGS

#### Top 20 National Universities

Princeton University, Columbia University, Harvard University, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Yale University, Stanford University, University of Chicago, University of Pennsylvania, California Institute of Technology, Duke University, Johns Hopkins University, Northwestern University, Dartmouth College, Brown University, Vanderbilt University, Washington University in St. Louis, Cornell University, Rice University, University of Notre Dame and University of California Los Angeles.

#### Top 20 Liberal Arts Colleges

Williams College, Amherst College, Swarthmore College, Pomona College, Wellesley College, Bowdoin College, Claremont McKenna College, Carleton College, Middlebury College, Washington and Lee University, Davidson College, Grinnell College,

Hamilton College, Haverford College, Barnard College, Colby College, Colgate University, Smith College, Wesleyan University and Vassar College

#### U.S. Service Academies

U.S. Air Force Academy, U.S. Coast Guard Academy, U.S. Merchant Marine Academy, U.S. Military Academy and U.S. Naval Academy.

Amherst College

- Sarah Ortiz-Polanco, University
- Henrique Rodrigues, Windermere

#### Barnard College

- Emily Sher, Edgewater

Barnard College

- Coby Yang, Ocoee

#### Brown University

- Christian Martinez, Apopka
- Jaydah Feliciano, Dr. Phillips
- Savannah Brown, Timber Creek
- Jayna Shah, Winter Park

#### California Institute of Technology

- Sean Lewis, West Orange

#### Colby College

- Alexis Wilkerson, Oak Ridge

#### Colgate University

- Kate Beerensson, Dr. Phillips
- Hunter Moss, West Orange
- Antonio Cardoso, Windermere
- Yasmin Martins Amar, Windermere
- Jayna Shah, Winter Park

#### Columbia University

- Jaydah Feliciano, Dr. Phillips
- Kameryn Metcalf, Dr. Phillips
- Sean Lewis, West Orange
- Shay Stulman, Winter Park

#### Cornell University

- Dylan Drongesen, Colonial
- Mateo Ramirez, Colonial

- Jaydah Feliciano, Dr. Phillips
- Jackson Hoffman, Dr. Phillips
- Carl Pierre, Evans
- Jonathan Carreras, Olympia
- Arielle Hanley, Olympia
- Savannah Brown, Timber Creek

#### Dartmouth College

- Thomas Barrett, Colonial
- Erik Siegel, East River
- Benico Banez, Olympia
- Amos Abdelkarim, Timber Creek

- John Burden, Boone

- Nicholas "Cole" Mooney, Winter Park

#### Duke University

- Cassidy Camera, Boone

Jonathan Carreras, Olympia

- Marharyta Krylova, Olympia
- Nalani Quintana, University
- Srika Gopal, Windermere
- Rishi Shah, Windermere
- Sebastian Arderius (Suarez), Winter Park

#### Harvard University

- Shawn Lalmoni, Dr. Phillips
- Ada Vazzana, Winter Park

#### Grinnell College

- Vince Shi, Oak Ridge
- Glorietta Arthoro, Ocoee
- Olivia Brooks, Ocoee
- Ademilola Aderibigbe, Olympia

#### Haverford College

- Sean Lewis, West Orange

#### Johns Hopkins University

- Alyssa Alston, Boone
- Eva Armao, Olympia
- Yusuf Farris, Timber Creek
- Hope Ugwuoke, Timber Creek
- Nalani Quintana, University
- Ashley Phillips, Wekiva
- Mariana Macias, West Orange

## 2022 SUPER SCHOLARS

### Massachusetts Institute of Technology

- Brendon Murphy, West Orange
- Michelle Wang, West Orange
- Jeryl Lewis, Windermere
- Sarah Park, Windermere

### Middlebury College

- Jamisha Ferrari, Evans
- Selina Alyousef, Freedom
- Miftahul Nabila, Freedom
- Glorietta Arthoro, Ocoee
- Olivia Brooks, Ocoee
- Anne Huynh, Ocoee
- Azariah Jones, Ocoee
- Benjamin Kraine, Ocoee
- Johnny Le, Ocoee
- Chelsea Liberte, Ocoee
- Michael Lim, Ocoee
- Ethan Smith, Ocoee
- Maria Soto, Ocoee
- Jacqueline Tran, Ocoee
- Aliyah Walker, Ocoee
- Emma Zahir, Ocoee
- Christopher Le, Timber Creek
- Justin Le, Timber Creek
- Johann Castellanos, Windermere

### Northwestern University

- Carl Pierre, Evans
- Glorietta Arthoro, Ocoee
- Lucas Dvorak, Olympia
- Brendan Flakes, West Orange
- Kent Wada, Windermere

### Pomona College

- Fidah Kabwita, Cypress Creek
- Werlie Cius, Evans
- Jack Walker, Lake Nona

### Princeton University

- Derek Edwards, Evans
- Sean Lewis, West Orange

### Rice University

- Katelanny Diaz, Boone
- Mateo Ramirez, Colonial
- Azeem Hakim, Dr. Phillips
- Glorietta Arthoro, Ocoee
- Jacob Crews, West Orange
- Rishi Shah, Windermere

### Stanford University

- Andrew Olivo, Dr. Phillips
- Madison Lee, Winter Park
- Susan Mallen, Winter Park

### Swarthmore College

- Gabrielle Nash, Timber Creek

### University of California – Los Angeles

- Brooke McCree, Boone

- Janapriya Vijayakumar, Cypress Creek

- Deven Roylance, Dr. Phillips
- Shayan Abbas, Lake Nona
- Ashley Ewalu, Olympia
- Christopher Le, Timber Creek
- Justin Le, Timber Creek
- Claudia Ortiz, Windermere
- Diya Rana, Windermere

### University of Chicago

- Dariel Cruz Rodriguez, Colonial
- Evan Mathura, Windermere
- Pedro Kawamura, Winter Park
- Diego Lindauer, Winter Park

### University of Notre Dame

- Jordan Basabanda, Colonial
- Frederick Hornberger, Dr. Phillips
- Cecilia Bodon, Freedom
- Nicole Briceno, Lake Nona
- Alexis Hill, Oak Ridge
- Glorietta Arthoro, Ocoee
- Thomas Kelly, Olympia
- Sean Kim, Olympia
- Lydia Chau, Timber Creek
- Yusuf Farris, Timber Creek
- Zoe Harris, Timber Creek
- Camila Perez, Windermere

### University of Pennsylvania

- Mateo Ramirez, Colonial
- Barathan Balachandran, Dr. Phillips
- Jiamin Chen, Dr. Phillips
- Jaydah Feliciano, Dr. Phillips
- Andrew Olivo, Dr. Phillips
- Coby Yang, Ocoee
- Omar Elsakhawy, Olympia
- Amara Abdoul Karim, Timber Creek
- Sarah Ortiz-Polanco, University
- Mackenzie Coultoff, West Orange
- Mariana Macias, West Orange

### U.S. Air Force Academy

- Adam Rouse, East River
- Thomas Kelly, Olympia
- Abraham Pezzutti, Timber Creek
- Cam Anstey, West Orange
- Jacob Freeman, Windermere

### U.S. Coast Guard Academy

- Gavin Serwe, Apopka
- Tristen Carbonell, Winter Park

### U.S. Merchant Marine Academy

- Verne Washington, Jr., Apopka

### U.S. Military Academy at West Point

- Verne Washington, Jr., Apopka
- Gianna Celeste, East River
- Alyssa Figueroa, East River
- Thomas Kelly, Olympia

### U.S. Naval Academy

- Caleb Hodges, Dr. Phillips
- Thomas Kelly, Olympia

### Vanderbilt University

- Leyton Nelson, Boone
- Greta Harth, Dr. Phillips
- Dexter Cerrone, Lake Nona
- Glorietta Arthoro, Ocoee
- Mackenzie Coultoff, West Orange
- Lucas Has, Windermere

### Vassar College

- Werlie Cius, Evans

### Washington and Lee University

- Joanne Lee, Olympia
- Jordan Rotz, Winter Park

### Washington University in St. Louis

- Mateo Ramirez, Colonial
- Andrew Olivo, Dr. Phillips
- Nicole Briceno, Lake Nona
- Amaris Ninah, Lake Nona
- Glorietta Arthoro, Ocoee
- Joanne Lee, Olympia
- Zoe Harris, Timber Creek
- Antonio Cardoso, Windermere

### Wellesley College

- Mackayla Ramdhanie, Dr. Phillips
- Olivia Brooks, Ocoee

### Wesleyan University

- Ricky Liu, Dr. Phillips
  - Preston Le, Ocoee
  - Johnny Le, Ocoee
  - Amara Abdoul Karim, Timber Creek
- ### Williams College
- Manuel Lemus, Freedom
  - Preston Le, Ocoee
  - Coby Yang, Ocoee
  - Henrique Rodrigues, Windermere

### Yale University

- Cassidy Camera, Boone
- Anum Haider, Cypress Creek
- Fidah Kabwita, Cypress Creek
- Taha Zulfiqar, Cypress Creek
- Coby Yang, Ocoee
- Joanne Lee, Olympia
- Savannah Brown, Timber Creek
- Vivian Doan, University
- Sean Lewis, West Orange
- Lucas Haas, Windermere
- Sophia Lahik, Windermere
- Rishi Shah, Windermere

[https://www.ocps.net/departments/public\\_relations/super\\_scholars](https://www.ocps.net/departments/public_relations/super_scholars)





## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



**RAFMAN Larry H. Colleton**  
**August 17**



**RAFMAN Melvin Henry**  
**August 18**

May your birthday and every day  
be filled with  
The warmth of sunshine,  
The happiness of smiles,  
The sounds of laughter,  
The feeling of love and  
The sharing of good cheer.



## WELCOME NEW RAFMAN CLUB MEMBERS



Charles Dorsey  
US Navy Retired



David Harrison  
US Air Force Retired



Robert Saunders  
US Navy Retired

**Congratulations!**  
**Simone McRae**  
**RAFMAN of the Quarter**  
**April-May-June 2022**





# RAFMAN CLUB, INC.

RETIREED AIR FORCE ★ MARINE ★ ARMY ★ NAVY

*The 48<sup>th</sup> Year of Serving the Lord  
In Our Service to Others"*

Sunday, October 30, 2022 / Time—TBA



Greetings!

We invite you to help the RAFMAN Club in our efforts to continue to support our communities by placing an ad in our celebration booklet.

Gold Sponsor .....	\$150.00
Silver Sponsor.....	100.00
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Half Page (8" x 5").....	50.00
Quarter Page (4"x 5").....	25.00
Business Card .....	15.00
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Picture in Ad .....	25.00

\*Please type or print your ad and pictures must be clear (in editable formats: Word, jpeg, or ping; no scans please.

\*Ad Deadline: Saturday, October 15, 2022

"And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance:

for ye serve the Lord Christ."

—Colossians 3:23, 24



Guest Speaker  
Rev. Charles Dorsey, Pastor  
True Word Ministries, Inc.



Host Church

## BETHLEHEM MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

Rev. Dr. C. Redding Taylor, Pastor  
55 Center Street, Winter Garden, FL 34787

The sponsor letter and Ad Contract will be available on August 18, 2022. Thank you in advance for your continued support.

Contact: President Arthur Jarvis  
(407) 493-1266

V. Pres. Melvin Henry, Anniversary Chairman  
(407) 431-6016

### RAFMAN CLUB, INC.

P.O. BOX 555883  
ORLANDO, FL 32855  
(407) 743-5794

A Non-profit 501(c)(3) Organization  
[www.rafmanclubfoundation.org](http://www.rafmanclubfoundation.org)



### Sick n' Shut-ins:

Thanking God for His keeping power.

### To Bereaved Families:

Our Prayers and Condolences to Families Everywhere.



## Untold Riches

*Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! Romans 11:33*

In an orbit between Mars and Jupiter zooms an asteroid worth trillions and trillions of dollars. Scientists say 16 Psyche consists of metals such as gold, iron, nickel, and platinum worth unfathomable amounts of money. For now, earthlings are not attempting to mine this rich resource, but the United States is planning to send a probe to study the valuable rock.

The promise of untold riches just out of reach can be both tantalizing and frustrating. Surely in time there will be people who will champion the cause of reaching 16 Psyche for its treasure.

But what about the prospect of riches that are within our reach? Wouldn't everyone go for that? Writing to the first-century church at Rome, the apostle Paul spoke of attainable riches—those we find in our relationship with God. He wrote, “Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God!” (Romans 11:33). Bible scholar James Denney described these riches as “the unsearchable wealth of love that enables God to . . . far more than meet the [great needs] of the world.”

Isn't that what we need—even more than gold nuggets from some far-off asteroid? We can mine the riches of God's wisdom and knowledge found in the Scriptures as the Holy Spirit helps us. May God lead us to dig into those riches and to know and treasure Him more.

By Dave Branon

### SCRIPTURE: Romans 11:33-36 KJV

33 O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out!

34 For who hath known the mind of the Lord? or who hath been his counsellor?

35 Or who hath first given to him, and it shall be recompensed unto him again?

36 For of him, and through him, and to him, are all things: to whom be glory for ever. Amen.

### REFLECT & PRAY

What does it mean for you to be rich in God's love? How can you dig more for riches that last?

Father God, help me to seek out Your wisdom and knowledge, Your judgments, and Your paths as I seek to follow You.



### SCRIPTURE INSIGHT

Paul isn't the first biblical writer to speak of God being unknowable (Romans 11:33–35). Two thousand years earlier, Job (who is believed to have lived around the time of Abraham) asked, “Can you fathom the mysteries of God?” (Job 11:7). The prophet Isaiah aptly summed up our incapacity to fully know God: “My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways” (Isaiah 55:8). But God desires us to know Him: “I will give them a heart to know me, that I am the Lord” (Jeremiah 24:7; see Hebrews 8:10–11). The apostle John tells us that “no one has ever seen God, but the one and only Son, who is himself God . . . has made him known” (John 1:18). Jesus Himself affirmed, “If you knew me, you would know my Father also” (8:19). Even though we can't comprehend everything about God, John says everyone who knows Jesus knows Him (17:3).

K. T. Sim

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

<https://odb.org/>

Dated August 11, 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



**AUGUST 2022**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4 US Coast Guard Birthday (USCG)	5	6 Hiroshima Day
7 Purple Heart Day	8	9	10	11	12	13
14 National Spirit of '45 Day TYRELL CARTER DAVID HARRISON	15 <b>V-J Day</b> surrendered on 14th Announced to World 15th	16 National Airborne Day	17 LARRY COLLETON	18 MELVIN HENRY	19 National Aviation Day	20 Patricia Henry
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29 Marine Corps Reserve Birthday	30 Harriet Moore Janese Dixon	31			

<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>
**SEPTEMBER 2022**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10 Michael Dixon Orita McRae	11 Patriot Day *09/11/2001	12	13
14	15	16 POW/MIA Recognition Day Joseph Cockerl	17	18 AIR FORCE BIRTHDAY	19	20
21	22	23	24	25 GOLD STAR MOTHER'S AND FAMILY'S	26 Jessie Austin	27 Marilyn Durant
28	29 Kimberly Harri- son	30	31			

RETIRED...

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



Motto:

"Men Striving Together to Make This A Better  
Community for All Concerned."

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.

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

P.O. Box 555883

Orlando, FL 32855-5883

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Website: [www.RAFMANclubfoundation.org](http://www.RAFMANclubfoundation.org)

Alternate/ President Arthur Jarvis: (407) 426-1266



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

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Orlando, FL 32855-5883

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Stamp  
Here

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