



21st Century Warriors

A Newsletter By and For Veterans and Their Families Volume 1 Issue 1

WELCOME!

Greetings, and welcome to NABVETS Colorado special edition newsletter, named *21st Century Warriors*.

While we continue to honor veterans of all wars and conflicts, it is time to acknowledge a new breed of American soldiers. They are smart, dedicated, brave, and determined. They now have high tech weapons and communications systems. They readily accept the duties and challenges that they face. Each is the son or daughter of proud parents who support them and worry about them as they go about the work of the military.

Please take the time to read about and reflect on the accomplishments of all soldiers, and our 21st Century Warriors. Please visit our website www.nabvetcolorado.org.

Regards,

Franklin db Jackson, PhD



Cpt. Bradshaw Awarded Fellowship at Walter Reed by Sandra Bradshaw



Thanks for all of your prayers for my daughter, Captain Gwyneth R. Bradshaw, and her division.

I think the hardest thing for a parent in these days and times is to hear your child say "I've put myself on *Active Duty*." My family has

served this country for many years from uncles, cousins, and dad to now daughter.

Cpt. Bradshaw has two Masters Degrees. One degree is in Child Counseling, and the other as a Licensed Social Worker, which is what she was sent to Iraq to use. As we know, there is a lot for soldiers to cope with on active duty and then when they are sent back home. The adjustment for some of the soldiers is hard at times. The Army sent a group of counselors and others to help them cope. Gwyneth has told me quite a few stories. At this time I'm happy to report that she has returned safe and sound. She's reporting back to Fort Lewis, WA.

Continued on page 4



The Need To Preserve And Promote African American Military History

by

Steve Shepard

**Former Chairman, Board of Directors
Black American West Museum**

Although African American soldiers and sailors have fought in every U.S. war from the War of Independence to the War on Terrorism, their contributions are rarely and, at best, erratically recorded and promoted in literature and the media. Most Americans would be hard-pressed to name even a few of the many heroic black servicemen and women who have distinguished themselves in the annals of military history. While a public figure like Colin Powell is well known, and many people are now aware of the black regiment depicted in the movie “*Glory*,” fewer have heard of the Buffalo Soldiers and the Tuskegee Airmen, as well as the many unsung enlisted men and officers over the years.

This leads to two questions. Why is there a lack of understanding and knowledge of the historical contributions of the African American? And is there really a need to know? After years of being involved in historical preservation and nonprofit museums in the Denver area, and at a time when it is extremely important to have a teaching medium which exemplifies tenacity, perseverance, and commitment in a venue of adversity, my answer is a definite “yes.” Youngsters, as well

as the general public can be inspired and motivated by the stories of individual African Americans who have succeeded in an environment which often mirrored the overall social conditions of racism and bigotry.

Rather than cite specific facts and numbers which are available in a number of history publications as well as the internet, this article spotlights how a greater awareness of the African American military experience can be a positive and motivating factor for all of us – the participants as well as for American society as a whole. Positive forces accompanying African American military participation include the following:

1. Military service has always offered career training, as well as employment and income opportunities, even when those opportunities were almost non-existent in general society.
2. Even though recognition was often delayed and sometimes never administered, the outstanding performance of units such as the Buffalo Soldiers and Tuskegee Airmen made the difference between success and failure for many military efforts. This can be

said for much of the exemplary service performed under adverse and discriminatory conditions.

3. The military has always taken the lead in social advances. Even though it was not until 1862 that the Army officially allowed full participation by African Americans, the Navy recruited free blacks as early as the Revolutionary War. Military integration was mandated in 1948, but the Supreme Court did not rule to integrate our school systems until 1954. Fair housing rulings came about after the military used its leverage to declare discriminatory housing off limits to all military personnel in the late 1950s and early 1960s.
4. The military experience has helped to further cultural integration within America. The source of much of the social conflict in any country is the isolation of its many subcultures. Military service provides the interactive environment where these many subcultures can come to know other groups and other individuals. This reduces racism and discrimination which are the result of the fear of interaction.
5. Last, but not least, are the many lifetime personal relationships which are developed. These relationships have provided a system of camaraderie, and more importantly, a system of support. In my personal observations, these relationships are a very important and sustaining part of the lives of many retired military individuals.

With all of these positive factors, much good can be gained from educating the public about our African American involvement in military service. But why are we lacking in this area and what can be done to remedy this void? There definitely needs to be more input by those who know military history best – active and retired military careerists as well as those who have served limited terms.

I've been involved in nonprofit preservation of African American history for approximately 25 years. I am always surprised at the general lack of knowledge about what we take for granted, even in terms of what we assume to be well known history, i.e., black cowboys, black miners, black business owners, etc. So just imagine how very little we all know about what a well versed military person takes for granted about the history of African American military service.

Military individuals tend to know military history and the achievements of other military individuals, but seem to share their knowledge among their peers only.

I've been told that many also feel that the general public does not have a great desire to know. However, there is currently a great



Cabinet card portrait of an African American buffalo soldier, probably a member of the Ninth U. S. Cavalry band, about 1890

need to pass on the accomplishments to our youth of those who have been involved in any honorable career field. Military service is no exception.

How can we help to preserve and pass on African American historical military achievements?

- Support history institutions such as a museum with an emphasis on African American history. Donations in the form of time, monetary funding, and other resources will help. Contact them to see how you can help.
- Become more aware of the location of monuments dedicated to furthering the legacy of African American military history such as the Buffalo Soldier monument at Fort Leavenworth, the exhibits at Fort Huachuca, Arizona museum, the Civil War monument in Washington, D.C., etc.
- Take advantage of any request from the general public such as schools, churches, or any organization which asks you to pass on to them the accomplishments of African Americans throughout military history.

Let's all get involved in the preservation of African American military achievements, not only for the benefit and inspiration for our youth, but for the education of the general public. ■



McMullen Sons Back From Afghanistan

by

Paul E. McMullen, Sr. USAF – Retired



Sergeant Richard K. McMullen, U.S. Army, and Lieutenant Commander Seth M. McMullen U.S. Navy

My son Richard, on the left, is with the 193rd M.P. Battalion. My son Seth, on the right, is with the Department of the Navy; his job is classified. I am glad to have both of them back temporarily from Afghanistan. ■

Cpt. Bradshaw Continued from Page 1

Cpt. Bradshaw has also been awarded a Fellowship at Walter Reed next July. I must say that we as a family are very proud of her accomplishments. I leave you with a quote she puts as a closing in all of her emails. I think it's a very fitting one for her:

God places us in unique circumstances where our abilities match the problem He wants to fix. – *Julie Ackerman Link*

Warrior Word Games

The puzzle below contains 40 words and phrases (at right) from articles in this newsletter. They may be horizontal (↔), vertical (⇕), or diagonal (↘), and they may be spelled forward or backward. Spaces between words have been eliminated. How many you can find? Answers on page 7.

T U S K E G E E R P C M N Y P H B Y A R
 G E N R U O B A Z L U A R I U A R H C I
 U W N A V C W G A E T O H A T U E I T C
 D A Y J C L O S S S T S C T T A E G I H
 R D H N I I S U I S W H A N W R T H V A
 A E O V E I M N I O U L E U A I N T E R
 P Y I R F T A H L C I C T B L Z U E D D
 E C M I I H H L A O T W U U T O L C U M
 H Q E R G E E B N S Z F A J E N O H T C
 S D O F A F M E R P F L H R R A V D Y M
 E H A R A F R I C A N A M E R I C A N U
 V B R A V E F M L I D E C D E I L E M L
 E Y L L G Y A O I L V S Y W E J O H D L
 T V V O T R S S B P E R H A D W M R J E
 S A G N I O T R A M S R E A F L E G S N
 O N E L L U M C M H T E S S W R Q Y Y E
 X W Y D C O L I N P O W E L L D D H T D
 T N I G D L D X D E N I M R E T E D Y L
 X E F R A N K L I N D B C O L O R A D O
 R D E T A C I D E D Y R A T I L I M K H

ACTIVE DUTY
 AFGHANISTAN
 AFRICAN AMERICAN
 ARIZONA
 ARMY
 BATTALION
 BOURNE
 BRAVE
 BUFFALO SOLDIER
 CIVIL WAR
 CLASSIFIED
 COLIN POWELL
 COLORADO
 DEDICATED
 DETERMINED
 DEWEY
 DORIE MILLER
 DR FAYE
 FELLOWSHIP
 FRANKLIN DB
 GWYNETH BRADSHAW
 HIGH TECH
 HISTORY
 HOLDEN
 HUACHUCA
 MARILYN
 MILITARY
 MUSEUM
 NAVY
 RICHARD MCMULLEN
 SERVICE
 SETH MCMULLEN
 SMART
 SOLDIER
 TUSKEGEE
 TWENTYFIRST CENTURY
 VOLUNTEER
 WALTER REED
 WARRIORS



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 Mondays 1:00-4:00 pm
 303-399-8020 Ext 3019

3 New VSOs

Veterans Service

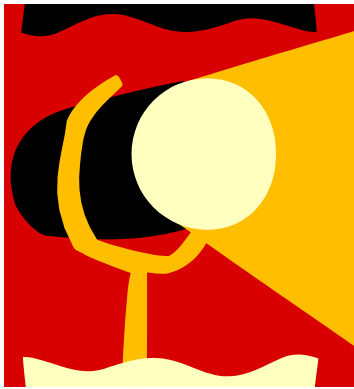
Officers assist vets in filing claims successfully. Congratulations to Major Gordon Bourne, retired, Dr. Faye Rison, and Sis. Sarah Harris who have completed the rigorous initial training by the VA and will be able to help our vets as VSOs.



Visit us on the web at
www.nabvetcolorado.org

VA patients who need medical care while away from the Denver VA can telephone VA ASAP 1-888-795-0073 for help.

VA claim dissatisfaction? Contact the Inspector General, Stephan Larese, at 303-331-7673 or stephan.larese@va.gov.



SPOTLIGHT

Each issue we will shine the spotlight on outstanding accomplishment by African Americans in military service. This time we focus on World War II veteran, Dorie Miller, of the United States Navy.

CITATION

*“For distinguished devotion to duty, extraordinary courage and disregard for his own personal safety during the attack on the Fleet in Pearl Harbor, Territory of Hawaii, by Japanese forces on December 7, 1941. While at the side of his Captain on the bridge, **Dorie Miller**, despite enemy strafing and bombing and in the face of a serious fire, assisted in moving his Captain, who had been mortally wounded, to a place of greater safety, and later manned and operated a machine gun directed at enemy Japanese attacking aircraft until ordered to leave the bridge.”*

From the Editor

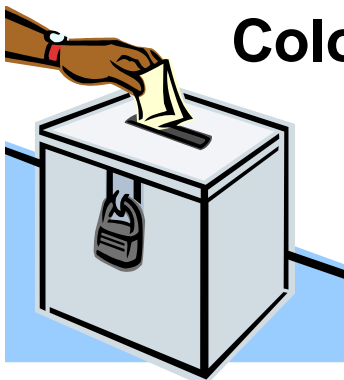
This newsletter is for you, the members and supporters of the Colorado Command of the National Association for Black Veterans. Look it over and let us know what you think!

It is a vehicle for sharing information and recognizing accomplishments. We need your help in making it the most relevant for you. Please let us know what kind of information you would like us to include. Feel free to submit pictures or write an article for us; and don't worry about spelling and such, we can edit it for you.

Thanks so much for your feedback, and I look forward to serving you.



Colorado NABVETs 2011 Officers Elected



Observed by a Denver VA Regional Office representative, we elected the officers at right on 1/20/11.

Commander	Dr. Franklin db Jackson Sr.
Vice Commander	Brother John E. Rose
Financial Officer	Brother Claude W. Gray
Adjutant	Brother Roderick Williams
Sergeant at Arms/Parliamentarian	Brother Webb A Tarrant



In This Special Moment In Life . . .



Think freely.
 Practice patience.
 Smile often.
 Savor special moments.
 Make new friends.
 Rediscover old ones.
 Tell those you love that you do.
 Feel deeply.
 Forget trouble.
 Forgive an enemy.
 Hope.
 Grow.
 Be crazy.
 Count your blessings.
 Observe miracles.
 Let them happen.
 Discard worry.

Give.
 Give in.
 Trust enough to take.
 Pick some flowers.
 Share them.
 Keep a promise.
 Look for rainbows.
 Gaze at stars.
 See beauty everywhere.
 Work hard.
 Be wise.
 Try to understand.
 Take time for people.
 Make time for yourself.
 Laugh heartily.
 Spread joy.
 Take a chance.
 Reach out.

Let someone in.
 Try something new.
 Slow down.
 Be soft sometimes.
 Believe in yourself.
 Trust others.
 See a sunrise.
 Listen to rain.
 Reminisce.
 Cry when you need to.
 Trust life.
 Have faith.
 Enjoy wonder.
 Comfort a friend.
 Have good ideas.
 Make some mistakes.
 Learn from them.
 Celebrate life.

Warrior Word Games Solution

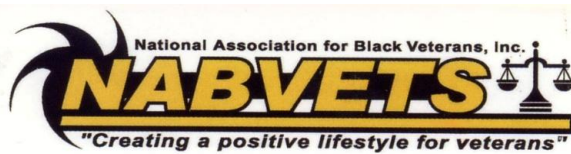
See puzzle on page 5.

T U S K E G E E R + C M N Y P H B Y A R
 G E N R U O B A + L U A R I U A R H C I
 + W + + + W + A E T O H A T U E I T C
 D + Y + + L + S S S T S C T T A E G I H
 R D + N I + S U I S W H A N W R T H V A
 A + O V E I M N I O U L E + A I N T E R
 P Y I R F T A H L C I C + B L Z U E D D
 E C M I I H H L A O T W U + T O L C U M
 H + E R G E E B N S + F A + E N O H T C
 S D + F A F M E R + F + + R R A V + Y M
 E + A + A F R I C A N A M E R I C A N U
 V B R A V E F M L I D E + D E I + + + L
 E Y + + + Y A O + L V S Y + E + O + + L
 T V + + T R S + + + E R H A D W + R + E
 S A + N I O T R A M S R E A F + E + S N
 + N E L L U M C M H T E S S W R + Y + E
 + W Y D C O L I N P O W E L L + D + + D
 T N I + + + + D E N I M R E T E D + L
 + E F R A N K L I N D B C O L O R A D O
 R D E T A C I D E D Y R A T I L I M + H

(Over, Down, Direction)

ACTIVEDUTY (19, 1, S)
 AFGHANISTAN (3, 11, NE)
 AFRICANAMERICAN (5, 11, E)
 ARIZONA (16, 4, S)
 ARMY (5, 10, NW)
 BATTALION (17, 1, SW)
 BOURNE (7, 2, W)
 BRAVE (2, 12, E)
 BUFFALOSOLDIER (14, 7, SW)
 CIVILWAR (2, 8, NE)
 CLASSIFIED (11, 1, SW)
 COLINPOWELL (5, 17, E)
 COLORADO (13, 19, E)
 DEDICATED (10, 20, W)
 DETERMINED (18, 18, W)
 DEWEY (14, 12, SE)
 DORIEMILLER (2, 5, SE)
 DRFAYE (17, 17, NW)
 FELLOWSHIP (6, 10, NE)
 FRANKLINDB (3, 19, E)

GWYNETHBRADSHAW (1, 2, SE)
 HIGHTECH (18, 2, S)
 HISTORY (8, 7, NE)
 HOLDEN (20, 20, N)
 HUACHUCA (16, 1, SW)
 MARILYN (8, 12, SW)
 MILITARY (18, 20, W)
 MUSEUM (7, 6, NE)
 NAVY (2, 16, N)
 RICHARDMCMULLEN (20, 1, S)
 SERVICE (14, 16, NW)
 SETHMCMULLEN (13, 16, W)
 SMART (11, 15, W)
 SOLDIER (7, 14, SW)
 STEVESHEPARD (1, 15, N)
 TUSKEGEE (1, 1, E)
 TWENTYFIRSTCENTURY
 (1, 18, NE)
 VOLUNTEER (17, 10, N)
 WALTERREED (15, 5, S)
 WARRIORS (12, 8, SE)



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MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Please complete the following information. For prompt processing, complete all areas before submitting this application. Please visit us online at www.nabvetcolorado.org. (501c3 nonprofit)

Prefix:	First Name:	Middle Initial:	Last Name:
Address 1:		Address 2:	
City:		State:	Zip: Country:
Email:		Cell:	
Home Tel:		Work Tel:	Fax:
Date of Birth:		Age:	Gender: <input type="radio"/> Male <input type="radio"/> Female
Present Status: <input type="radio"/> Active Duty <input type="radio"/> Reservist <input type="radio"/> Veteran (served 180 days with honorable discharge) <input type="radio"/> National Guard <input type="radio"/> Retired <input type="radio"/> Non-Veteran (non-veterans are Associate Members)			
Social Security:		Branch of Service:	Service Dates: _____ to _____
<input type="radio"/> Membership Renewal		<input type="radio"/> New Member NABVETS Chapter (if applicable)	
Referred by: <input type="radio"/> Eclipse Magazine <input type="radio"/> Website <input type="radio"/> Community Event <input type="radio"/> Veterans Administration <input type="radio"/> Friend <input type="radio"/> Other _____			
Currently Employed? <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Yes Occupation: _____ Company: _____			
Retired? <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Yes		Other Memberships (optional):	
Race/Ethnicity: (optional) <input type="radio"/> African American <input type="radio"/> Asian <input type="radio"/> Caucasian <input type="radio"/> Hispanic <input type="radio"/> Native American <input type="radio"/> Pacific Islander <input type="radio"/> Latino <input type="radio"/> Other <input type="radio"/> Alaskan Native <input type="radio"/> Native Hawaiian			
Membership Type: <i>All memberships include a subscription to the <u>Eclipse Magazine</u>, for the length of the membership and Chapter Dues for the length of the membership.</i> <input type="radio"/> \$40 Annual Membership <input type="radio"/> \$70 Two year Membership <input type="radio"/> \$80 Three year Membership <input type="radio"/> \$300 Life Membership <input type="radio"/> \$600 Gold Life Membership <input type="radio"/> \$1,200 Diamond Life Membership <input type="checkbox"/> Additional Tax Deductible Contribution of \$ _____			If you are paying by check or money order, check here <input type="checkbox"/> and make payable to NABVETS. Mail payment and completed application to: National Association for Black Veterans PO Box 7096 Denver, CO 80207
I hereby attest that I will abide by the principles and policies of the National Association for black Veterans, Inc., and to the utmost of my abilities, assist in the promotion of positive lifestyles for veterans, their families, and the entire community, with a special emphasis on the unmet needs of minority veterans and youth development.			
Signature:			Date: