

DID YOU KNOW

Volume 1, Edition 1

League of Military Veterans Newsletter

Second Baptist Church & St. James AME Church, Elgin

WE SERVE PROUDLY

11/11/2014



Did You Know

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- General: The Second Baptist Church & St. James League of Military Veteran's Newsletter is published periodically throughout the year. The managing editor is Deacon Ruberl Carr. This newsletter is a collective volunteer effort comprised of articles and items sharing veterans-related news, experiences, and resources amongst veterans, family members and our Church Community.
- The mission of the League of Military Veterans is to function as an in-reach and outreach service body of military veterans dedicated to providing a unifying advocacy for veterans, their families, service organizations and those currently serving in the armed forces to ignite a passion to follow Jesus on the home front and on the battlefield throughout the year.



MAJOR GENERAL MARCIA ANDERSON 1ST AFRICAN-AMERICAN FEMALE TO ACHIEVE RANK OF MG, USAR

Maj. Gen. Marcia Anderson knows a thing or two about leadership and diversity in the Army. And so she should, as the most senior-ranking black woman—a badge she has worn since 2011, when she became the first black, female two-star general. Being in the position that she is in, and knowing what she knows, Anderson is determined to see the military become more reflective of American society—rich, diverse and inclusive in a healthy way—starting with bumping up the representation of women, who account for only about 15 percent of the whole Army.

"If you're not seated at the table, you are on the menu," Anderson—most recently honored this year at Spelman College's Leadership and Women of Color Conference—told a group of reporters Tuesday on a conference call during which she spoke about the importance of a diverse military and overall culture. "You have to have a lot of different people involved in discussions if we want to improve our organizations."

One example she pointed to is the Army's most recent conundrum regarding Army Regulation 670-1, the grooming standards that came under intense scrutiny from the community. They were said to be unaccommodating to black women with natural hair because they banned certain hairstyles, such as twists, dreadlocks, Afros and braids more than a quarter-inch thick, calling them "unauthorized."

Anderson had a personal claim to this issue. Her own hair had begun to fall out years before because of her penchant for relaxers, and she had to go through steroid treatment to help resolve it.

"I decided to personally involve myself in this particular issue," she said. She went to a senior personnel officer with her own story, recommending that the Army consult hair-and-scalp specialists.

"He took that to heart, a group was convened, they met with a hair-and-scalp specialist who explained some things, and there were some changes in the works—as a consequence of all of this—to update the regulations to reflect a more inclusive approach to grooming while still making sure that soldiers-



MAJ GEN MARCIA AN-

presented the American people [with] a very professional appearance," Anderson added.

It was incredible awareness of how important she was as a black soldier and a female soldier that turned an inadvertent Army Reserve career into a 35-year legacy.

About eight or nine years after "accidentally" joining the military through the Reserve Officers' Training Corps while trying to fulfill a science-credit requirement for Creighton University, Anderson was grappling with whether or not she wanted to stay. One day, while walking with two senior male officers, about six female soldiers marched by in a formation, going about their duties.

"They caught sight of me and their faces just lit up. And they saluted me as if those two guys were not there, and so I saluted them and they moved on," Anderson recalled, chuckling. "As we walked a few more steps further, one of the officers said, 'Well, I guess we're just chopped liver.' I said, 'Yes, sir, I guess you are.'"

"They were excited to see me, and I realized then that I needed to stay because I needed to motivate more young women to follow the same course," she added. "It ... made me more determined to stay, to do a good job, to make sure that my ethics were above reproach. Because in being the first, there's always a danger that you could be the last."



ADMIRAL MICHELLE HOWARD, FIRST FOUR-STAR WOMAN IN US NAVAL HISTORY

Promoted in July, 2014, the ceremony included a bit of comedy, but there was no denying the significance: For the first time in its history, the Navy promoted a woman on Tuesday to become a four-star admiral.

Surrounded by friends, family and peers, Adm. Michelle J. Howard was promoted to her new rank at the Women in Military Service for America Memorial at Arlington National Cemetery. She'll take over as the vice chief of naval operations, the No. 2 officer in the service. She is not only the first woman to hold the job, but the first African-American.

It's the latest achievement for Howard, who previously was the first African-American woman to serve as a three-star officer in the U.S. military and command a U.S. Navy ship. Navy Secretary Ray Mabus said her promotion is a "representation of how far we have come, and how far she has helped bring us."

"She is also a great example of how much we as a nation and a Navy lose if we put artificial barriers in," Mabus told a crowd of about 150 people. "If we don't judge people based on their ability, based on their capability. I hope I have always been passionate about that, but I know the intensity has increased since I am the father of three daughters, and I refuse to believe that there are any ceilings for them, glass or otherwise. That they can get to wherever their abilities can take them. And with that, they and countless others in the Navy now have a wonderful role model in Michelle Howard."

With that said, Mabus added that "there is no news here today," because the Navy picked the best officer, Howard, for her new job

Howard is perhaps best known for leading Task Force 151, which oversaw counter-piracy operations in the Gulf of Aden. After Somali pirates attacked the cargo ship MV Maersk Alabama and captured its top officer, Capt. Richard Phillips, in April 2009, she devised a plan with others to get him back, dispatching the USS Bainbridge, a destroyer, to help Navy SEAL snipers eventually opened fire on a small lifeboat carrying Phillips and three pirates, killing the bandits and freeing him.

Navy SEAL snipers eventually opened fire on a small lifeboat carrying Phillips and three pirates, killing the bandits and freeing him.

After being promoted, Howard told those assembled that when she called to order her new four-star shoulder boards, she was told they did not exist. A special contract was devised to buy some, "and you folks are seeing the first set," she said to cheers.



ADMIRAL MICHELLE HOWARD

The Army and Air Force each have named four-star female officers in the past. The first one in the military, Army Gen. Ann Dunwoody, retired in 2012, after serving as a four-star general for nearly four years.

Howard said after the ceremony that the 1993 decision to allow women to serve on combatant ships and fly fighter jets remains one of the biggest for the Navy.

"I'm just very proud of our service," she said. She acknowledged the ongoing debate about where women should serve in the military's ground combat units, but said that each of the services is "their own breed." She did not take a position on where female sailors should serve in those ground units.

At one point Tuesday, Mabus struggled to put Howard's new four-star shoulder boards on her uniform. With good nature, however, he refused to give up, drawing laughter from the crowd. In her remarks on stage, Howard joked about it.

"It is a remarkable sign of leadership," she said, "to be persistent in your goals and to achieve them."



THOMAS N. BARNES, FIRST AFRICA- AMERICAN CHIEF MASTER SERGEANT OF THE AIR FORCE

Chief Master Sgt. Thomas N. Barnes, appointed to the position of Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force in 1973, was the first and, to -date, only African-American to serve in the highest enlisted position within the U.S. Air Force.

While serving in this position, Chief Barnes provided advice on matters concerning welfare, effective utilization and progress of the enlisted members of the Air Force to two secretaries of the Air Force and two chiefs of staff of the Air Force during his tenure.

One particular health-related issue he was instrumental in bring to the attention of senior military leaders was Pseudo Folliculitis Barbae, a skin condition caused by shaving that highly affected African-American males.

Chief Barnes attended elementary and secondary schools in Chester, Pa., where he was born in 1930. In 1949, Chief Barnes entered the Air Force and received his technical training from the Aircraft and Engine School and Hydraulic Specialist School at Chanute Technical Training Center in Illinois after completing basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas.

Chief Barnes received assignments to various locations to include Massachusetts, Texas, Hawaii, Japan, and the Northeast Air Command, before arriving to George AFB, Calif., in October 1966.

In December of that same year, he was sent to Southeast Asia. There he served in various positions with the 8th Tactical Fighter Wing including, NCO in charge of the reparable processing center; senior controller; NCO in charge of maintenance control.

In December 1967, he returned from Southeast Asia to Laughlin AFB, Texas. He was promoted to the grade of chief master sergeant Dec. 1, 1969, receiving an assignment to Headquarters Air Training Command in October 1971 to assume the duties of command senior enlisted adviser. Chief Barnes also held the distinct honor of being a graduate of the U.S. Air Force Senior NCO Academy pilot class in March 1973.

He was appointed CMSAF Oct. 1, 1973. At the expiration of the initial two-year tenure, he was extended for an additional year by



CMSAF THOMAS BARNES

the chief of staff. In February 1976, he was again selected by the chief of staff to serve an unprecedented second year extension. At the end of the second extension, Chief Barnes retired July 31, 1977.

During his tenure as CMSAF, the chief worked for equal opportunities for minorities, including blacks and women, and also worked to solidify the enlisted professional military education system. The major award and decorations he received included during his time of service included: Legion of Merit, the Meritorious Service Medal with oak leaf cluster, Air Medal, Air Force Commendation Medal, and Outstanding Airman of the Year.

During an interview, Chief Barnes was once asked how he would like to be remembered.

"I'd like to be remembered as a role model for people who believe they can't get there," he said. "It was an honor to have been chosen (as the CMSAF) on the basis of my qualifications, as opposed to my race or my gender."

Chief Thomas N. Barnes succumbed to cancer in Sherman, Texas, on March 17, 2003, where he was receiving treatment. He was 72.or complicated terms.



LIEUTENANT GENERAL RONALD BAI- LEY, UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

Lieutenant General Ronald L. Bailey currently serves as the Deputy Commandant Plans, Policies, and Operations.

Lieutenant General Bailey was born in St. Augustine, Florida and graduated from Austin Peay State University, Clarksville, TN in 1977 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology. On 1 July 1977, he was commissioned a Second Lieutenant.

After graduation from The Basic School, Infantry Officers Course and the Basic Communication Officers Course in August 1978, he was ordered to the 3d Marine Division in Okinawa, Japan to serve with 2d Battalion, 4th Marines as a Rifle Platoon Commander and 81mm Mortar Platoon Commander.

In October 1979, Lieutenant General Bailey was assigned to Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island, SC as a Series Commander, Battalion S-3 and Commanding Officer of Company F, 2d Recruit Training Battalion. During this tour, he earned a Master's Degree in Business Management and Administration from Webster University.

In August 1983, Lieutenant General Bailey returned to Quantico to attend the Amphibious Warfare School. After graduation in 1984, he joined 1st Battalion, 6th Marines at Camp Lejeune where he served as the Commanding Officer of Company C and Weapons Company Commander.

In 1987, Lieutenant General Bailey transferred to Kings Bay, GA where he activated the Security Forces Company, and served as the Guard Company Commander.

From August 1989 to June 1992, he served at Marine Barracks, 8th and I, Washington, DC as Department Chief, Professional Military Education and marched as the Parade Commander. In June 1992, he attended Army Command and General Staff College. Graduating in 1993, he joined 2d Light Armored Infantry Battalion as the Executive Officer. From 1995 to 1997, he assumed command of the 2d Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion.

From 2002 to 2004, Lieutenant General Bailey commanded the 2d Marine Regiment. From 2004 to 2005, he was assigned as the CMC National Fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations.



LTG RONALD BAILEY, USMC

In July 2005, he was assigned as the Director, Expeditionary Warfare School in Quantico, Virginia. In May 2006, he assumed duties as Deputy Director for Operations, J-3 Joint Staff. In July 2007, he assumed command of the 3d Marine Expeditionary Brigade, and concurrently began duties as the Deputy Commanding General, III MEF.

In August 2009, he transferred to San Diego, California and assumed command of Marine Corps Recruit Depot/Western Recruiting Region. Lieutenant General Bailey assumed command of Marine Corps Recruiting Command in January 2011.

In June 2011, Lieutenant General Bailey was assigned to Camp Pendleton, California and assumed command as the Commanding General 1st Marine Division, the first African-American to hold that position.

In June 2013, Lieutenant General Bailey was promoted to his current rank and assigned to Headquarters Marine Corps as the Deputy Commandant for Plans, Policies, and Operations.

Lieutenant General Bailey's awards include the Defense Superior Service Medal with bronze oak leaf, Legion of Merit with combat V, Meritorious Service Medal with 2 gold stars, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal with gold star, the Navy Marine Corps Achievement Medal, Presidential Unit Citation, and the Combat Action Ribbon.



LT JG LA' SHANDA HOLMES-FIRST AF- RICAN-AMERICAN FEMALE US COAST GUARD HELICOPTER PILOT

.Lt. JG La'Shanda Holmes' claim that she "didn't grow up with a silver spoon" is an incredible understatement. Raised in foster care with more than 12 siblings after her mother's suicide, the ambitious aviator is rising above all expectations as the pilot of MH-65 Dolphins, making Holmes the first black female helicopter pilot in U.S. Coast Guard history.

La'Shanda Holmes is making history ... soaring through glass ceilings, out over open oceans. Of the 1,200 pilots in the U.S. Coast Guard, only 85 are female, but these odds didn't slow Holmes's ascension to her wings. After two years of aviation, La'Shanda Holmes was pinned with her set of aviator wings, on April 9, 2010, by her mentor Lt. Jeanine Menze, who holds the distinction of being the U.S. Coast Guard's first African-American female aviator.

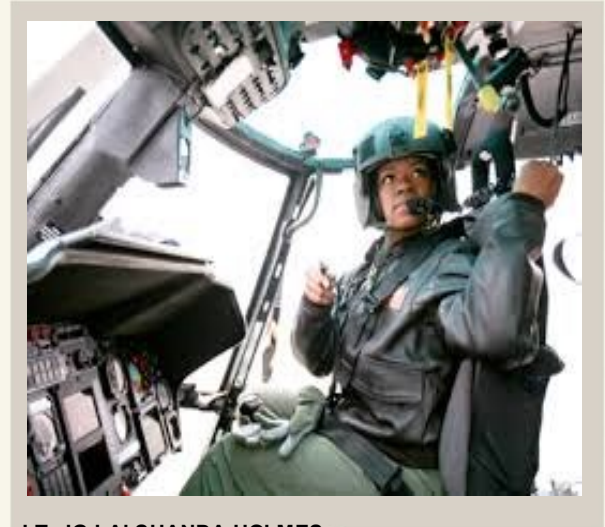
Although Holmes is quick to downplay the significance of her achievements, emphasizing that she is still a junior pilot with much to learn, she's already gained national attention with profiles in Jet Magazine and the Griot. Her position with USCG Search and Rescue may inspire the next generation of women to follow in her flight pattern.

What's next for La'Shanda?

Holmes recently transferred to Coast Guard Air Station Los Angeles, where she will pilot missions to protect the maritime economy, environment and national borders, while responding to emergency situations where boaters' and other individuals' lives are in peril.

What inspires La'Shanda?

When I think of my sisters (and young women) and the journey that they are about to begin, I know that I have to live to a higher standard for them. Young people are constantly watching and listening even when we think they aren't. I don't ever want them to stop looking at me with those wide eyes burning with inspiration and hope," "When you



LT. JG LA' SHANDA HOLMES

have people "in your life that love you so much and give you all the support you've ever dreamed of, a sense of responsibility is created toward them as well. Collectively, it all keeps me grounded, motivated, and inspired."

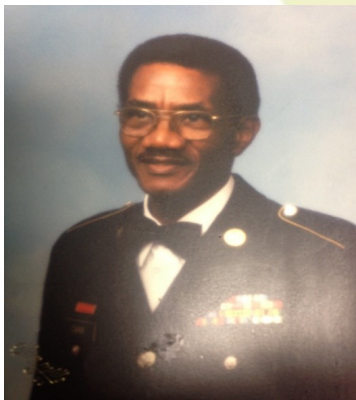
In her own words ...

"I don't get wrapped around it too much," Holmes says of her accomplishments, "because I have a bigger responsibility here at the air station. I'm the most junior pilot here; I have a lot to learn. I still study every day. I still ask a lot of questions."

A little-known fact ...

A 23-year-old Bessie Coleman decided to get her wings in 1920 after hearing about French female pilots flying in World War I. Through her work as a manicurist in Chicago's White Sox Barbershop, Coleman met Robert Abbott, the founder of the Chicago Defender, and Jesse Binga, a real estate investor, who she convinced to fund her ambition, even though she wasn't allowed to study in American flight schools. Before her aviation-related death in 1926, Coleman became the first African-American woman to hold an international pilot's license.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



Sergeant Major (SGM) Ruberl Carr began his military service when he was drafted into the US Army in January 1959. He served a two-year tour on active duty and was honorably discharged in January, 1961. To fulfill a military service mandate he joined a Chicago Area US Army Reserves Unit. The reserve unit was activated on October 1, 1961 and then deployed to Ft. McClellan, Alabama.

During this unit activation and deployment, he decided to return to active duty. As a career soldier he rose up through the ranks and was ultimately promoted to the highest enlisted rank of Sergeant Major.

SGM Carr served in a variety of units and positions including an opportunity to manage the Base Exchange at Marble Mountain Army Airfield in Di Nang, Vietnam. SGM Carr retired from Active Duty in 1982.

SGM (Deacon) Carr married Miss Carrie D. Turner on August 6, 1960 in a military wedding ceremony in the base chapel at Aberdeen Proving Grounds, MD where he was stationed at that time. The Carr's currently reside in Hanover Park, IL and are faithful members of Second Baptist Church in Elgin, IL.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

CSM John Edward Dill



CSM (R) John Dill served in the US Army in a variety of positions from 1975 until his recent retirement in 2014. CSM Dill is a graduate of the Sergeants Major Academy, the Army Photojournalism School, the Senior Leadership Academy, the Physical Fitness Trainers course and Warfighter Leadership Course. He is a member of St James AME Church in Elgin where he serves as the President of the Usher Board. He lives in Schaumburg, IL with his wife Jarnett who is also a retired veteran from the US Army.

ROLL CALL

Second Baptist Church-St, James AME Church, Elgin
League of Military Veterans

Rev Johnny Jackson

Rev. Albert Fontenot

Kym Fowler

Deacon Ruberl Carr

Rev. Carlos Mullins

Kaila Daniel

Deacon Terry Jones

Deacon Dan Brown

Curtis Sartor

Deacon Calvin Giddens

Leon Montgomery

Darnell Alston

Bill Harlan (Taps 20 Sep 2014)

Divine Jackson

Xanthia Hicks

Valerie Richards

John Bell

Bruce Wilkins

Michelle King

Howard Taylor

Phyliss Higgins

CSM John E. Dill

John Harper

Nakia Ford

James Bennett

Peter Shannon

Sonya Ebhotemen

Sean Brewer

Bryan Turner

Issac Howard

Bennie Chapman

Keith Barnes

Kenneth Scruggs

Torrance Clark

Joshua Williams

Col. W.E. Scott

Freddie Crowell

Kevin Williams

Otis Matthews

Jerome Cunningham

James Williams

Curtis Rice

Tyrone St. John

Nathan Thomas

Tonia Moore

Leon Dixon

Donnell Daniel

Pamela Gibson

James Davis

Rich Emanuel

Ray Holt

Alvin Gregory McCray

Edward Folds

Latresha Hazelwood

Roberta Shockley

James Harvey



Veterans Day is an official United States holiday that honors people who have served in the U.S. Armed Forces, also known as veterans. It is a federal holiday that is observed on November 11. It coincides with other holidays such as Armistice Day and Remembrance Day, which are celebrated in other parts of the world and also mark the anniversary of the end of World War I. (Major hostilities of World War I were formally ended at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month of 1918, when the Armistice with Germany went into effect.)

Veterans Day is not to be confused with Memorial Day; Veterans Day celebrates the service of all U.S. military veterans, while Memorial Day is a day of remembering the men and women who *died* while serving.

U.S. President Woodrow Wilson first proclaimed Armistice Day for November 11, 1919. In proclaiming the holiday, he said "To us in America, the reflections of Armistice Day will be filled with solemn pride in the heroism of those who died in the country's service and with gratitude for the victory, both because of the thing from which it has freed us and because of the opportunity it has given America to show her sympathy with peace and justice in the councils of the nations."

The United States Congress passed a concurrent resolution seven years later on June 4, 1926, requesting that President Calvin Coolidge issue another proclamation to observe November 11 with appropriate ceremonies. A Congressional Act approved May 13, 1938, made the 11th of November in each year a legal holiday: "a day to be dedicated to the cause of world peace and to be thereafter celebrated and known as 'Armistice Day'."

In 1945, World War II veteran Raymond Weeks from Birmingham, Alabama, had the idea to expand Armistice Day to celebrate all veterans, not just those who died in World War I. Weeks led a delegation to Gen. Dwight Eisenhower, who supported the idea of National Veterans Day. Weeks led the first national celebration in 1947 in Alabama and annually until his death in 1985. President Reagan honored Weeks at the White House with the Presidential Citizenship Medal in 1982 as the driving force for the national holiday.

U.S. Representative Ed Rees from Emporia, Kansas, presented a bill establishing the holiday through Congress. President Dwight D. Eisenhower, also from Kansas, signed the bill into law on May 26, 1954.

Congress amended this act on June 1, 1954, replacing "Armistice" with "Veterans," and it has been known as Veterans Day since.

In Memoriam

Petty Officer William Louis Harlan

1941-2014



Gone but Not Forgotten

