

## VSC NAACP VETERANS NEWSLETTER Issue 9 August 2021

Editor: Everett A. Lewis, Captain, U. S. Air Force (Retired)  
Virginia State Conference (VSC) NAACP  
Chair, Armed Services and Veterans Affairs Committee  
NAACP Alexandria VA Chair, Armed Services and Veterans  
Affairs Committee  
703-360-0261 (h) 571-482-0870 (c)  
[everettlewis1@cox.net](mailto:everettlewis1@cox.net)



### [African American General Will Lead U.S. House Security](#)

Black History is in the making as House Speaker Nancy Pelosi announced her choice to lead House security, Major General William Walker. Upon the confirmation vote by the House, the commanding general of the District of Columbia National Guard will be the first African American sergeant-at-arms of the U.S. House of Representatives.

The changing of the guard was announced as the House and Senate continue their investigations into the January 6 attack on the U.S. Capitol. Speaker Pelosi demanded the resignation of previous sergeant-at-arms Paul Irving, immediately after the assault that took

place during the certification of the presidential electoral votes. Major General Walker was last heard during his testimony before Senate committees hearing about what happened January 6.

The Associated Press reported that Major General Walker gave the most detailed account of the delay in putting troops on the Capitol grounds. During testimony, he said he “hoped that his testimony would prevent such tragic events from ever occurring again and that he was “sickened by the violence and destruction I witnessed that fateful day.” He said he saw the physical and mental harm suffered by the police who were on the front lines.

Speaker Pelosi praised Walker’s 39 years of military experience which will be an important asset to the House, particularly in light of the January 6 insurrection.”

In a rare show of bipartisanship, the appointment of the Major General is one about which both sides can agree. House Republican leader Kevin McCarthy said the Chicago native “possesses the experience, the skill set and vision for the job.”



[AL.COM](#)

Former Birmingham police chief makes history as first Black US Army Reserve lieutenant general.

Maj. Gen. Roper’s upcoming promotion, announced May 2021, will put him as deputy commander of the United States Northern Command, United States Element, North American Aerospace Defense Command, Peterson Air Force Base in Colorado. [Read More](#)

## Racism kept a Black WWII vet from a Purple Heart, he says. At 99, he got the award.



Osceola “Ozzie” Fletcher was awarded the Purple Heart decades after his service in World War II. (NYPD)

Osceola “Ozzie” Fletcher was a 22-year-old Army private delivering supplies to the Allied forces as they arrived on the coast of France on D-Day when his vehicle was struck by a German missile. The vehicle overturned, killing the driver and wounding Fletcher during the Battle of Normandy in June 1944.

But for more than three-quarters of a century, Fletcher was never recognized for being wounded in action in World War II. Instead, Fletcher said, he and [about 2,000 other Black U.S. soldiers](#) who saw action on D-Day were overlooked or denied awards because of racism and the racial inequalities of the country, including in the U.S. armed forces, which were racially segregated at the time.

“Black soldiers didn’t get the Purple Heart. They got injured, damaged, hurt. But they never got wounded,” the Brooklyn native said to [local media](#) last year. “Only the White men who were wounded got Purple Hearts.” [Read More](#)



Retired Lt. Col. Louis Frazier and Sgt. Albert W. Cooks (Vietnam Veteran 69/70, UMES Alumnus, Class of 1967) salute during Martin’s 104 birthday celebration in Chesterfield, Va. on July 2, 2021. Also pictured is Martin’s daughter Sheila Martin Brown.

## **Black WWII veteran turns 104: Conquers tough life-changing obstacles**

CHESTERFIELD - Retired Lt. Col. Louis Frazier Martin's front lawn was packed with well-wishers to help him celebrate the centenarian's 104 birthday.

On July 3, Martin's surprise party kicked off with a car caravan assembly spearheaded by the University of Maryland Eastern Shore National

Alumni Association. The procession paraded past Martin's Roosevelt Avenue residence near Virginia State University in Chesterfield County.

'He's been a model citizen for all of us in this community to follow. If I keep doing what he's doing, maybe I can make it to 104' - Starrie Jordan [Read More](#)



## **Cotton nominated to run Air Force's nuclear enterprise at pivotal time**

If confirmed, Lt. Gen. Anthony Cotton would be the first Black man to run Air Force Global Strike Command. [Read More](#)

## **Attorney General Herring celebrates new law making Veterans and Active Duty servicemembers a protected class**

A bill that adds “military status” to the list of protected classes and amends several of Virginia’s anti-discrimination statutes has been signed into law, and Attorney General Mark R. Herring’s Office of Civil Rights will now be able to enforce these anti-discrimination protections. “Military status”

covers active-duty servicemembers, veterans, and the dependents of both. Attorney General Herring’s team worked with Delegate Kathy Tran (HB2161) and Senator John Bell (SB 1410) to help get this legislation passed during the most recent legislative session. Attorney General Herring joined Governor Northam and the patrons of the bill on June 30, 2021, in Richmond for the bill signing. [Read More](#)



## VETERANS LEGACY MEMORIAL

Veterans Legacy Memorial (VLM) is an online memorial website managed by the National Cemetery Administration (NCA). NCA manages more than 150 national cemeteries as shrine spaces to honor our Nation’s Veterans, and extends memorialization of the 3.7 million Veterans interred in those cemeteries to this digital memorial space by providing a VLM profile page for each Veteran. To find a Veteran’s memorial profile, go to [www.vlm.cem.va.gov](http://www.vlm.cem.va.gov) and enter the Veteran’s name. To search with additional information (branch of service, cemetery name, etc.), click on “Advanced Search”.



**Wounded Knee Massacre took place between unarmed Native Americans and soldiers on December 29, 1890.**

## **Black Veterans: Apology to the Native American Community**

The National Coalition of Black Veteran Organizations on behalf of our affiliate groups proclaim our unwavering support of our Native American brethren by supporting the passage of the **Remove the Stain Act**.

The Act pursues rescinding Medals of Honor awarded to those American soldiers who perpetrated the act of massacring 200 noncombatant young men, women, and children of the Lakota Tribe at Wounded Knee Creek. The Act would serve as a step in recognizing the tragedy of the era with truth serving as the foundation toward peace and justice. The Blacks interaction with Native American communities is the nine-hundred-pound elephant in the room. The Native American community suffered its own holocaust and the Black community contributed to their losses. [Read More](#)

### **NAACP NATIONAL RESOLUTION**

The following is a resolution included in “Resolutions Staff Action Report” provided to NAACP delegates and members “Resolutions Staff Action Report.” provide information to NAACP delegates and members at NAACP 112<sup>th</sup> Annual National Convention (Virtual), July 10, 2021 about the actions that have been taken during the course of the year, by the National NAACP staff based on the “resolves” of the resolution.

Paula Brown Edme, 'Governance Integration. NAACP

#### **CIVIL RIGHTS**

1. Stop the Infiltration of the U.S. Military by Violent Far-Right Extremist

#### **Organizations**

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the NAACP supports amending the U.S. Senate National Defense Authorization Act, to include a provision which disqualifies anyone seeking to serve in any branch of the United States military if they are proven “white nationalists.”

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, That the NAACP advocate for federal policy that dishonorably discharges any and all active members, to include reservists and National Guard, of the U.S. military if they are proven to be a member or active supporter of white supremacist organizations or associations.

#### STAFF ACTION:

The NAACP sent this resolution to both the last (2020) administration's Secretary of Defense, Mark Esper and Chris Miller, as well as the new Secretary of Defense for the Biden Administration, Mr. Lloyd Austin (2021). It was also shared with members of the Armed Service Committees of the House and Senate, the Congressional Black Caucus, the Asian Pacific Caucus, Hispanic Caucus, Native American Caucus, Black/Jewish Caucus, among others in the US House and US Senate. The NAACP also supported amendments to the Armed Services Appropriations Committee, calling for a more thorough and comprehensive screening process in the U.S. Senate National Defense Authorization Act.

## **Black female WWII unit hoping to get congressional honor**

The 6888th Central Directory Postal Battalion was credited with solving a growing mail crisis during its stint in England and, upon their return, serving as a role model to generations of Black women who joined the military.

The Senate passed legislation that would award members of the battalion, affectionately known as the Six Triple Eight, with the Congressional Gold Medal.

The [bill](#) is awaiting action in the **House**, but is already too late for most 6888 members. There are believed to be only seven surviving, including McClendon.

[Read More](#)

## **Veterans Struggle to Get Copies of Needed**

## **Service Records Due to Pandemic**

The federal agency responsible for providing military records to older veterans and their surviving spouses seeking pension, health care and other benefits is facing a backlog of approximately 500,000 requests after being forced to operate at a reduced capacity due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Since March 2020, the National Personnel Records Center (NPRC), an agency of the U.S. National Archives and Records Administration, has limited its in-person operations to fulfilling only emergency requests associated with life-threatening medical treatments, burials, homeless veterans and “comparable emergencies.” Those with non-emergency requests, such as medal replacements, administrative corrections or records research, have been asked to put those requests on hold. [Read More](#)

## **Pentagon orders return to masks for all inside DOD facilities at many locations**

The Pentagon on July 28 announced it would once again require all individuals to wear face coverings when indoors at Defense Department facilities in locations deemed high risk by federal health officials for the spread of coronavirus.

The Department of Veterans Affairs on July 26 announced it would require its medical workers to receive coronavirus vaccines. The department, the first federal agency to mandate vaccination for any of its personnel, gave employees until Sept. 20 to be fully vaccinated. [Read More](#)

### **CONTACTS**

NAACP Veterans Affairs Task Force: Chair Howard E. Jefferson, NAACP National Board member from Houston, TX [howardj3902@gmail.com](mailto:howardj3902@gmail.com)

Vice Chair: Alphonso Braggs, president of the Honolulu, Hawaii NAACP and National Board member [naacphawaii@gmail.com](mailto:naacphawaii@gmail.com)



Editor, NAACP Alexandria VA



