



Biographies of Honorees

Recognized Individuals

Staff Sergeant Evelyn C. Johnson, US Army – Staff Sergeant Evelyn C. Johnson is a Women’s Army Corps (WAC) World War II veteran who served with the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion, the only all-African American, all-female unit to serve overseas. As a mail clerk, Staff Sergeant Johnson and the 6888th kept mail flowing to nearly seven million soldiers in the European Theater of Operations.

First Lieutenant Emanuel M. W. Stewart, US Army – First Lieutenant Emanuel M. W. Stewart was a Communications Officer who served at Guadalcanal running communications wires through the jungle. Before returning home and completing his degree in education, he participated in General MacArthur’s island hopping campaign. He went on to become the Principal of Gibbs High School in St Petersburg, Florida.

Chief Warrant Officer Five Robert Wimberly, US Army – Chief Warrant Officer Five Robert Wimberly was the first African-American to be promoted to the rank of Chief Warrant Officer Five in the Army National Guard. He was also the first African-American to serve as Command Chief Warrant Officer in the Army National Guard as well as the United States Army. This 41-year veteran retired in 2001.

Recognized Organizations

National Association of Black Military Women – A national organization whose mission is to seek out, record, maintain and tell the history and heritage of African-American Military Women who served and are serving in the United States Armed Forces.

555th Parachute Infantry Association - The 555th Parachute Infantry Battalion was nicknamed the "Triple Nickles" because of its numerical designation. A fully qualified paratrooper battalion, they were sent to Pendleton, Oregon in 1945 to battle forest fires from Japanese Balloon bombs earning the designation as the nation’s first military smoke jumpers.

The Buffalo Soldiers – This organization honors the legacy of the 9th and 10th (Horse) Cavalry created after the Civil War as all black units. Today the Buffalo Soldiers are committed to fostering patriotism, courage, and self reliance in our youth.

The Tuskegee Airmen – This world-renowned organization is dedicated to honoring the accomplishments and perpetuating the history of African-Americans who participated in air crew, ground crew, and operations support in the Army Air Corps during World War II.