THE CUYAMACA VETERANS CENTER CELEBRATES



BLACK HISTORY

FEBRUARY 2021

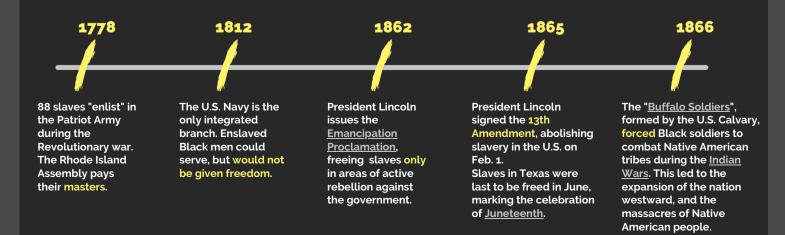


Photo: Members of the 369th Regiment known as thte Harlem Hellfighters of WWI

The Long Road to Today

The Veterans Center aims to be a safe and diverse space. One way we do this is by reflecting on the history of the military we served and the country we swore to protect. We look back on how we went from a segregated military to where we are today. And most importantly, we ask ourselves, "how far are we?"

The Veterans Center would like to recognize Black servicemembers and veterans, the heroes throughout history that have served and continue to serve, and the inequality that continues today. Please join us in the celebration of Black history. Oorah.



The Red Summer of 1919

RACE TROUBLES NEAR STAR CITY ARE NOT FEARED

Negro Who Insulted White Woman is Shot by Lincoln Countians,

Star City residents yesterday enied that there was any probabil-y of further trouble between whites nd blacks near Star City as a result f the lynching of Clinton Briggs, a lischarged negro soldier, shot to leath by a party of men Monday leath by a party of men Monday nfternoon when it became known hat the negro had made indecent proposals to Miss Ollie Bailey, 18-rear-old daughter of J. M. Bailey, a srominent planter of Lincoln county. Following the sooting, it was rum-red that negroes in the settlement of Yorktown had made threats of reprisals, but this rumor was evi-lently unfounded as there were no Many Black service members who served during WWI returned to the states not to thanks or appreciation but to riots and murder. White sailors. alongside of many civilian Americans, believed that the enlistment of Black service members threatened the racist caste system of the U.S. by promoting equality and the ability to work and live together. This fear of racial equality incited race riots across the country, and the lynching of hundreds of Black men, women and children, and Black veterans in uniform.

With riots surging in D.C., Ohio, Nebraska, and all across the South. President Wilson refused to act.

Known Black Veterans lynched returning home during WWI:

Private Charles Lewis. Kentuckv Sqt. Mai. John Green. Alabama Robert Truett, Mississippi Clinton Briggs, Arkansas L.B. Reed, Mississippi Robert Crosky, Alabama Miles Phifer, Alabama Frank Livingston, Arkansas Bud Johnson, Florida Lucius McCarty, Louisiana Powell Green, North Carolina Herman Arthur. Texas Wilbur Little, Georgia Leroy Johnston, Arkansas

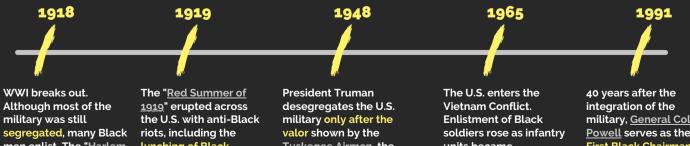
"We return. We return from fighting. We return fighting." W.E.B. DuBois

Tuskegee Airmen

In 1941, serving in the U.S. Army Air Corps (what would eventually become the U.S. Air Force) the Tuskegee Airmen were the first all-Black military pilot group. Prior to the integration of the Army Air Corps, it was assumed that Black people could not learn to fly or operate aircraft.

Following the U.S.'s entrance into WW2, the Tuskegee program trained over 1,000 Black pilots. Under the command of Benjamin O. Davis Jr., the Army's first Black General, the Tuskegee Airmen flew over 200 missions, destroyed over 260 German aircrafts, over 1,000 transport vehicles and one German destroyer. It wasn't until 62 years later in 2007 that over 300 Congressional Medals of Honor were distributed to the Airmen by President George W. Bush, for their exceptional contribution in defeating Nazi Germany.





men enlist. The "<u>Harlem</u> Hellfighters", a Black infantry unit, saw more combat than any other unit.

lynching of Black veterans returning from the war.

Tuskegee Airmen, the 761st Tank Battalion, and the <u>452nd Anti-Aircraft</u> Artillery Battalion during the Second World War.

units became integrated. During Vietnam, Black soldiers represented 25% of those killed in action.

military, <u>General Colin J.</u> Powell serves as the First Black Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff in the U.S. Army; the highest military position at the DoD.

Black Women in the U.S. Military

Black women have been serving in our nation's military since before the Civil War. Showing incredible valor and courage before racial integration and gender integration. Whether it was sorting millions of pieces of mail for our soldiers during World War II, or commanding naval ships in 1999, Black women have been paving the way for new generations of Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines for decades, here are just a few:

6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion

In 1945, under the command of <u>Captain Abbie N. Campbell</u> and <u>Major Charity Adams</u>, this all-Black, all female battalion would be the first ever to serve over seas in the Women's Army Corps. Tasked with months of backlogged and undelivered mail, the battalion kept track of 7 million identification cards and serial numbers to distinguish soldiers with the same name, This battalion saved the morale of soldiers as they sorted mail in two different countries, over the course of an entire year.



Brigadier General Hazel Johnson Brown



Presidential

Administration.

After first being rejected from her hometown school of nursing because she was Black, <u>Brig. Gen. Johnson</u> went on to graduate with a nursing degree at the Harlem School of Nursing in 1953. After joining the Army in 1955, she went on to serve an outstanding career, leading her to become the Director of the Walter Reed Army Institute of Nursing in 1976. In 1979, she would be nominated as the 16th Chief of the Army Nurses Corps, and the first ever Black Brigadier General. She oversaw 8 medical centers, 56 community hospitals, and 143 freestanding clinics in the U.S., Japan, Korea, Germany, Italy, and Panama.

Admiral Michelle Howard

In 1978, <u>Admiral Howard</u> was one of 7 Black women accepted into the U.S. Naval Academy, in a class of 1,363 officers-to-be. Twenty-one years later, in 1999, she would take command of the USS Rushmore (LSD), making her the first Black woman to ever command a ship in the U.S.Navy. 15 years later, in 2014, she would become the first woman to be promoted to a 4 star Admiral. That same day she was also appointed to the 38th Vice-Chief of Naval Operations, making her the second highest ranking officer in the Navy.

shot 21 times and still

saved a fellow soldier.



segregationists: the USS

Vinson and the USS Stennis.

