

# Quantico Chapter Newsletter



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### Upcoming Events

- 14 Mar—Adopt-A-School visit
- 15 Mar—James Farmer Event
- 29 Mar—Adopt-A-Highway @ 0800
- 09 Apr—GB meeting @ 1700  
\*Executive Board nominations\*
- 11 Apr—Adopt-A-School visit
- 19 Apr—James Farmer Event
- 23 Apr—AD booklet sales end
- 2-4 May—NASCAR Fundraiser

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## Message from the President...

Greetings to Mighty Quantico Chapter Members, Friends and Family,

As the weather starts to warm and the ground begins to thaw, the Quantico Chapter continues to support the Sea Services' missions and provide a group of professionals dedicated to maintaining operational readiness through education, scholarship and involvement. I'd like to recognize a few of the unsung heroes and heroines of the chapter. Our Membership Director, Capt Melissa Chestnut, has done a phenomenal job stimulating new member involvement and energizing current members about the meaning and significance of their NNOA contribution. Keep up the great work. Our

Chapter Public Affairs Officer, Capt NaTasha McEachin, her yeoman-like efforts continue to produce a comprehensive top-level newsletter that remains the standard for chapter newsletters throughout the national organization. Our super-trio of lieutenants, consisting of 2ndLts' Owens, Torres and Toure at TBS, are taking full advantage of the opportunity to engage in a professionally and personally enriching environment. The chapter's established programs remain healthy and productive. The James Farmer Mentorship Program Partnership under the auspices of Major Michael Williams and his team continues to cultivate a relationship with the University of Mary Washington that extends our influence with Virginia high students into five separate counties.



Lieutenant super-trio at lunch following December Church visit. From left to right: 2ndLts' Toure, Owens, and Torres.

Our Adopt-A-School Coordinator, CAPT Rupert Lindo, USN, reports the following regarding the chapter's most recent visit to Mary Williams Elementary School, "Major Taylor and I had a sit down mentoring session with the Boys and Girls in separate groups. It was an enlightening and wonderful experience for all. The

(Continued on next page)

## GREETINGS FROM JAPAN!

Dear Quantico NNOA Chapter,

I hope this note finds you well. I told myself before I left that I would write back and keep in touch with the chapter. I am sure you all have accomplished many great things under Maj Everly's leadership. As for me, I have not been able to attend a single NNOA meeting here in Yokosuka since arriving in Japan 4 months ago! Reason being that the majority of my time is spent at sea on the USS Kitty Hawk. I look forward to getting involved with the local chapter next year when the ship is in port for a few months before we head back to the states for decommissioning come summer '08. And to those of you who I didn't get the opportunity to meet prior to my PCS, welcome to the "finest" and "mightiest" NNOA chapter!

Sincerely,

### Battle Cat Dental USS Kitty Hawk (CV-63) 2007



LT Angela Miller (front row, far left) with dental crew on board the USS Kitty Hawk.

## Message from the President cont....



From left to right: Capt Reeves and Capt Ayres in Iraq. WELCOME HOME!!

students were very open in their dialogue with us. For the most part, all the students we spoke with last Friday want to stay in school and to be successful in life." CAPT Lindo would love to have any volunteers join him on the second Friday of every month ([rupert.lindo@usmc.mil](mailto:rupert.lindo@usmc.mil)).

Welcome back to LCDR Elizabeth Thomas and Capts Travis Reeves and Melissa Ayres from their deployments in support of the Global War on Terrorism. Congratulations to Major Rhonda Martin and Captain NaTasha McEachin for selections to their respective resident formal professional military education schools. Saving the best for last, congratulations to Capts Melissa Chestnut and Musa Samad for their selection to the rank of major and Lieutenant Colonel Clements for his selection to the rank of colonel.

LtCol Harrison and her scholarship committee have been working hard to plan the 2008 Scholarship Banquet on May 31, 2008 at The Clubs of Quantico. The chapter will be awarding scholarships to local high school students totaling \$10,000. Don't miss it. The national conference this year will be held at the Renaissance Portsmouth Hotel and Water Front Conference Center from 23 to 25 July 2008. Conference information should post to the national website by April 1 and estimated release of service messages on or around April 1.



From left to right: Maj Tamia Gordon and LtCol Dawn Harrison pose for a picture at the Holiday social.

The chapter remains strong, committed and postured to grow. Only your support and hard work has made that possible. Stand Ready.

Semper Fidelis,

*Major David R. Everly*  
President  
Quantico Chapter, NNOA

# Legacy Lives on Through Quiz Bowl

By: Major Ty Walls



Maj Walls kicks off the James Farmer Scholars History Bowl at Mary Washington University on Saturday, Feb 23rd at 1800.

And the winner of this year's History Bowl is a 7<sup>th</sup> grader! Yes friends, a seventh grader. The History Bowl is an annual event sponsored by the James Farmer Scholars Program. This event not only commemorates our illustrious heritage, it also tests our knowledge of it as well.

This year's History Bowl was held in the Mary Washington University auditorium. Almost 200 high school students from four different counties participated. The competition began with the quarterfinal round narrowing down the 48 students in each grade, 7<sup>th</sup> through 10<sup>th</sup>, giving them five questions with 10 seconds to respond to each question in order to find one winner. In the end, Benjamin Francis (7<sup>th</sup> grade), Dantwone Wilson (8<sup>th</sup> grade), John Walls (9<sup>th</sup> grade, no relation), and Denzel Blount (10<sup>th</sup> grade) emerged.

These quarterfinal winners now served as their grade representative for the semi-final round. The semi-final round pitted Benjamin Francis (7<sup>th</sup> grade) against Dantwone Wilson (8<sup>th</sup> grade) and John Walls (9<sup>th</sup> grade) against Denzel Blount (10<sup>th</sup> grade). The round consisted of three parts: speed questions, historical pictures, and "Who Am I?" questions.

First the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders. In the beginning it was close. However, Benjamin Francis took the lead by answering the question: "Who is Dana Owens?" During the historical pictures Benjamin Francis continued to be impressive by identifying Shirley Chisholm and Louis Armstrong. Since neither student answered the "Who Am I?" question correctly, Benjamin Francis came out the winner.

The 9<sup>th</sup> versus 10<sup>th</sup> grade competition was not as close. Denzel Blount raced out of the gate by answering the first five

questions correctly leaving John Walls almost speechless. Even though John Walls would eventually get going, he could not overcome Denzel Blount's commanding lead. Denzel Blount won the round with a score of 10 to 4. Thus, Benjamin Francis and Denzel Blount would advance to the championship round.

Did someone say "Championship Round"? The format for this round would again change and only include "Who Am I" questions, best-of-three format. With the room now quiet anticipating the next question, the round began with the first question: WHO AM I? Benjamin Francis quickly raised his hand and answered Crispus Attucks. There was a huge roar from the audience. With a one point lead and a chance to win, neither student could answer the next 2 questions. Just barely beating Denzel Blount in raising his hand by a split second, Benjamin Francis correctly answered, "Shirley Chisholm" to the third and final question.

At that moment all of the other seventh graders started cheering, jumping up and down, and dancing in the aisles. Benjamin Francis beat out Denzel Blount in the championship round to become the winner of this year's History Bowl. In the end, everyone had a great time and we ALL learned a little more about our history than we knew before.

## SAVE THE DATE

### 2008 QUANTICO CHAPTER SCHOLARSHIP BANQUET!!

MAY 31, 2008

1800 - 2200

THE CLUBS AT QUANICO

**Guest Speaker:**

**Mr. Jamie Harrison**

Director of Floor Operations and Counsel for Majority Whip, US House of Representatives

Tickets: \$40

For tickets and more information contact:

LtCol Patricia Johnson at (703) 432-0304/patricia.johnson4@usmc.mil, or  
Capt NaTasha McEachin at (703) 432-0141/natasha.mceachin@usmc.mil  
Information is also available at [www.quantico-nnoa.org](http://www.quantico-nnoa.org).



## Founding Member of NNOA Has Died By: Lt. Cmdr Kim Dixon

One of the founding members of the National Naval Officer Association (NNOA), an organization that actively supports the Navy in recruiting, retaining, and developing the careers of minority officers, who died Jan. 7, will be buried with full military honors at Arlington National Cemetery on Feb. 21.

Retired Capt. Ken Johnson helped stand-up NNOA in 1972 while stationed at the U.S. Naval Academy, where his assignment as a lieutenant in 1970 as the first minority affairs officer was instrumental in improving minority accessions at the Naval Academy.

A native of Hallandale, Fla., Johnson entered Officer Candidate School in Newport, R.I., in 1964 after graduating with a Bachelor's of Science degree in Forestry and Wood Technology from Iowa State University. Commissioned in June, he reported to his first ship aboard USS Plymouth Rock (LSD 29). From there, he was assigned as the operations officer on USS Venture (MSO 496).

*In 1972 the inaugural meeting of an organization called the "National Naval Officers Association" took place at the Hilton Inn in Annapolis, Md.*

Johnson went on to Destroyer School in Newport, R.I., after a brief period on the staff of the Commander, Cruiser Destroyer Force, U.S. Atlantic Fleet. Upon graduation, he served as Weapons Officer on USS Damato (DD 871). It was after this tour that Johnson found himself in the position to make significant change to the face of the Navy.

He reported to the U.S. Naval Academy in August of 1970 as the first minority affairs officer in the Recruitment and Candidate Guidance Office, given the task of identifying and assisting qualified members of minority groups interested in attending the Academy.

Naval historian, Dr. Bob Schneller, recounts the story of Johnson's time at the Academy in his book, "Blue & Gold and Black."

"When I first came here," Johnson told a re-

porter near the end of his tour, "there had been really no active recruitment of blacks. I figured there'd be about 150 black kids – and I would have considered that small." In fact, the 4,300-man brigade included only 52 black midshipmen at the time Johnson reported aboard.

Johnson perceived three obstacles standing in the way of increased black enrollment: the Navy's five-year service obligation for an Academy education; the Academy's lily-white image; and the negative publicity surrounding racial incidents in the armed services. He concluded the solution was increasing the dissemination of information. His two-pronged strategy to increase the Academy's outreach into the black community involved marketing and integrating the Blue and Gold organization.

His marketing efforts involved Johnson spending the fall and winter of 1970 and 1971 traveling to black communities around the country, speaking with high school students, principals, guidance counselors, and minority organizations, about the opportunities for minorities at the Naval Academy. He found students in the black high schools, even ones as close as the neighboring city of Baltimore, knew little about the Academy or had little interest. Through his efforts he was able to increase greatly the number of potential black candidates.

Once potential applicants were identified, they were paired up with a Blue and Gold officer, a nationwide network of trained Naval Academy information officers who counsel applicants on all aspects of the school. When Johnson arrived at the Academy, there was only one black Blue and Gold officer. Johnson invited black teachers and youth program counselors to participate in the Blue and Gold program as affiliates, and he asked 442 minority Naval Reserve officers to help the recruiting effort. By April 1971, 68 of them, including 43 black officers, had agreed to become Blue and Gold officers.

As a result of his efforts, 3.5 percent of incoming plebes in the summer of 1971 were black. Never again would the proportion drop below that number. There were 46 black men who entered the Academy Class of 1975.

Successful in direct recruiting, Johnson also sought to mobilize black naval officers. In 1971, he and several other naval officers involved in minority recruiting discussed forming an organization to help them do their work. At that time, the Navy had fewer than 100 minority officers, and less than half of them were black. In 1972, the inaugural meeting of an organization called the "National Naval Officers Association" (NNOA) took place at the Hilton Inn in Annapolis, Md.

The members dedicated themselves to supporting the sea services in recruitment, retention, and career development of minority officers. NNOA soon gained support from the superintendent of the Naval Academy, the chief of the Bureau of Personnel, and the Secretary of the Navy.

*"Ken Johnson is the father of NNOA."*

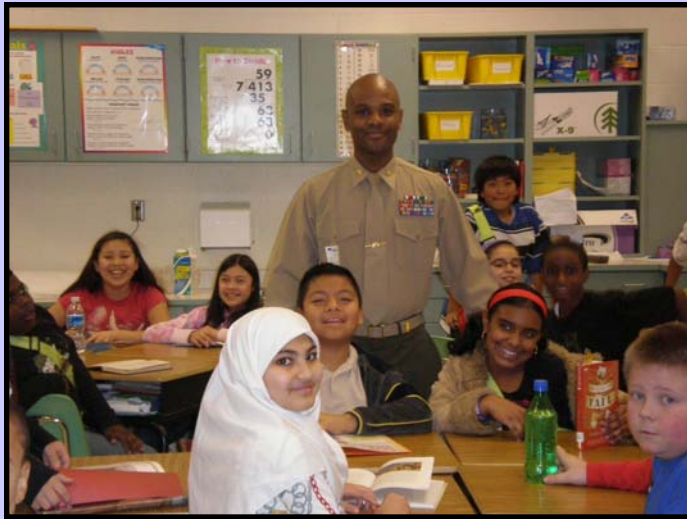
In its 36th year of existence, NNOA, now one of the number one recruiting and retention efforts the sea services actively support, boasts 43 chapters with more than 1,400 members carrying on the work of then LT Johnson. In 2007, a record 345 men and women, officers and civilians, from all the sea services attended the NNOA national conference in San Diego, Calif.

"Ken Johnson is the father of NNOA. While in the Candidate Guidance Office at the US Naval Academy, then LT Johnson conceived and implemented his plan...and NNOA was born. One of the primary goals of NNOA was to increase the recruitment of minority Officers into the Naval Academy / Naval Service - at the time we had less than 200 African-American Naval Officers and you could count the number of African-American USNA graduates on both hands. Today we have 4,299 African Americans serving the world's finest Navy. His dream has flourished 37 years and is a great tribute to Ken. Although I grieve this loss, there are far too many wonderful memories of him, including the founding of NNOA, to ever be forgotten." –BJ Penn

(Secretary Penn currently serves as the Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Installations and Environment. Additionally, Penn has served several terms as the NNOA national president.)

## ONE CHILD AT A TIME

By: CAPT Rupert Lindo, USN



Maj Taylor assists a 4th grade class with their social studies class work.

The Mary F. Williams Elementary School opened its doors in September 2004 and is named in honor of the late Mary F. Williams. Mrs. Williams was a Prince William County educator for 19 years and retired from a distinguished career in 1997. She served as a Member of the Board for the Neabsco School District from January 2000 until her passing in September 2002. Mrs. Williams was also very active in the community. She founded *Women in Community Action*, a non-profit organization that provides guidance and assistance to female minority students desiring to better themselves in all aspects of personal and professional development.

The Mary F. Williams Elementary School houses Kindergarten through 5th



CAPT Lindo works with the boys during the small group mentorship portion of the school visit.

Grade and the following programs: Special Education Preschool, Autism and Emotional Disturbances, Learning Disabled Resources, Speech, ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages), and an on-site Gifted Education Program. The school also participates in *Scholastic Reading Counts*, a computerized reading program similar to the Accelerated Reader. The elementary school integrates technology into the curriculum for Kindergarten through the 5th Grade. All students and

teachers use applications technology in authentic ways throughout the school day to improve their understanding of technology as a tool to solve problems, and increase educational achievement across all areas of the curriculum.

The Quantico Chapter of National Naval Officers Association (NNOA) formed a mentoring partnership with the Mary F. Williams Elementary School in the fall semester of 2006. The chapter's goal is to create a *Tradition of Excellence* that results in building a community of successful life-long learners and to motivate every student while preparing them for educational and personal success.

The NNOA team works collaboratively with the teachers to achieve each student's potential by facilitating and mentoring students in the 4th and 5th Grade in the areas of Language Arts, Mathematics, Science and Social Studies. The team members are not required to develop lesson plans, as they assist teachers in reviewing subject matter that is already been taught in class that week. On a typical school visit for example, an NNOA team member may be assigned to assist a 4th or 5th grade class in

Social Studies. The teacher would present an overview of the goals and objectives of the assignment to the NNOA team member prior to mentorship and then assign a small group of students to the officer for that instructional period. During this period, the officer reinforces the teacher's goals and objectives for the subject and then assists the students in a small group setting to increase their comprehension of the challenging areas the students may have with the subject. Mentoring sessions are also conducted in a small group setting where the NNOA team member will facilitate discussions with students to encourage them to stay in school, transition to high school and eventually to college. Often times the mentoring sessions are focused on the career goals and objectives for each student to help them achieve their fullest potential.

The students look forward to our visits and are always excited and intrigued by the appearance of the NNOA team members in their military uniforms. As role models, we believe that by helping students achieve and identify themselves with success they will be able to further their own development and eventually be able to contribute back to their community and society. We hope the partnership we formed with the Mary F. Williams Elementary School, faculty, staff, and students will continue to grow as we establish and maintain a positive image of the Naval Services in communities and educational institutions through this outreach program. To all, a job well done!



Maj Taylor works with the girls during the small group mentorship portion of the school visit.

# MEMBERSHIP LOUNGE

By: Capt Melissa Chestnut

Greetings, NNOA members, family and friends. I know since the beginning of the New Year, you have received a number of requests from the NNOA Quantico Chapter for YOUR time and YOUR money. I would like to say on behalf of all the Executive Board members that we appreciate your time and any donations you have provided to the chapter in order to assist with the Adopt-A-Family Christmas Gift Card Drive and especially your huge contribution to the chapter's continued efforts to reach our \$10,000 Scholarship Fund goal.

I would like to take the time to point out a few members who have given their time on more than one occasion:

- CAPT Rupert Lindo (USN) and Major Stacey Taylor - for your continued and dedicated support of the Adopt-A-School Program
- Major Ty Walls, Major Michael Williams, and Major Jonathan Loney - for your tireless dedication to the James Farmer Mentorship Program
- 2ndLts' Torres, Toure, and Owens for your continued efforts in assisting in any (sometimes all) events you are able to attend as well as your help in providing information about the NNOA to your fellow TBS classmates
- CWO4 John Hawthorne - for handling the difficult task of developing, planning, and executing the ideas to raise funds for the chapter as well as planning all our social events.

We at the NNOA understand that this organization is completely voluntary and the majority of your contributions to the chapter occur after working hours and on the weekends. Just in case you were feeling a little under-appreciated I wanted you to know that you all are valued, needed, and a viable part of why the Quantico NNOA Chapter is one of the best (if not the best) NNOA chapters.

Let's give a warm welcome to two new members: 1stLt Cory Holiday from the San Diego Chapter and 2ndLt Orlando Higgins a new member. Capt Travis Reeves and Capt Melissa Ayers have returned back safely from Iraq. Lastly I would like to say farewell to Capt Ronella Taylor, the one time Chapter Historian (2005-2006 year). She is currently stationed in Okinawa, Japan.

the pursuit of happiness," Gates said.

During African Americans' struggle for equality, Gates said, King employed tactics "that showed how well he understood the nation he sought to change for the better."

Gates recalled the year 1958, when a non-violent "sit-in" led by African-American students in his hometown of Wichita, Kan., "helped end segregation at drug stores throughout Kansas."

The Defense Department has long promoted racial equality, Gates said. President Harry S. Truman ended segregation across the U.S. military in 1948.

Gates said he is honored to lead "an institution that began breaking down the barriers of race at the dawn of the modern civil rights revolution." African American service members, he said, "have represented the United States with honor and dis-

# Military Salutes Dr. King's Legacy

By: Gerry J. Gilmore



WASHINGTON, D.C. (Jan. 17) – Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates led the Pentagon's 23rd annual observance of the birth and accomplishments of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

"This is a day to remember a great American. It is also a day to reflect on what we can do to further the struggle for human freedom and dignity that Dr. King helped lead and for which he gave his life," Gates said.

King was a Baptist minister and renowned civil rights leader during the late 1950s and early 1960s. He successfully advocated non-violent protest as the best path for African Americans to take in achieving civil rights guaranteed to all Americans under the U.S. Constitution. King was assassinated at age 39 in Memphis, Tenn., on April 4, 1968. America honors King's memory each year on the third Monday of January.

"Dr. King pushed the country to adhere to the just and true idea on which it was founded: that all human beings are equal in their God-given right to life, liberty and

tion" throughout the history of the country.

And, as America wages war against terrorists that threaten the destruction of the homeland, African Americans "have participated in the defense of the nation well beyond their percentage of the population," Gates pointed out.

The observance's keynote speaker, Army Lt. Gen. Michael D. Rochelle, follows in the footsteps of such exemplary African American military leaders as former Secretary of State and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff retired Army Gen. Colin L. Powell; Army Gen. William E. "Kip" Ward, the present-day commander of U.S. Africa Command; and others, Gates said.

Rochelle, the Army's deputy chief of staff for personnel, will

oversee an increase of 30,000 active-duty soldiers over the next several years.

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## The “Mighty” Quantico Chapter Adopts-A-Family for Christmas



From left to right: Maj Everly, Capt Chestnut and LTC Elmore present over \$800 worth of gift cards to MCCS for their annual Adopt-A-Family Program.

The NNOA "Mighty" Quantico Chapter joined forces with the Personal Readiness and Community Support Center in their annual Adopt-A-Family Program. The program has given assistance to deserving Marine and Navy families aboard Marine Corps Base (MCB) Quantico during the holiday season for almost two full decades. Families of E-5 and below are given the opportunity to be involved in the program. The Personal Readiness and Community support Center is only a small fraction of the numerous services offered by the Marine Corps Community Service (MCCS).

The Quantico Chapter adopted a 3-person family that consisted of a father, mother, and child. Members, family, and friends of the chapter, donated over \$800 in various gift cards from surrounding stores to the family.

The family as well as the Adopt-A-Family Program thank you for your generosity.

## “Member in the Spotlight” Captain Travis Reeves

A native of Atlanta, Georgia, Captain Travis T. Reeves graduated from Morehouse College in 2001 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Business Administration. While most midshipmen select their service option in their 3<sup>rd</sup> year of Naval ROTC, Capt Reeves decided, on Day 1, to take on the challenge of becoming a Marine Corps Officer. In August 2001, he was commissioned a second lieutenant out of the Morehouse NROTC Program. Prior to a recent deployment, Capt Reeves had been overwhelmingly active in the NNOA. He has served on the Executive Boards for the Quantico and Camp Lejeune Chapters for five consecutive years and has twice received recognition at the national level, receiving the Distinguished Service Award. Capt Reeves is excited about continuing his involvement with the Quantico Chapter. His current activities include assisting in fundraising and recruiting efforts as well as participating in various chapter functions.

Recently returning from deployment, Captain Reeves served as the Marine Corps Systems Command (MARCORSYSCOM) Liaison Officer to the Marine Corps Central Command (MARCENT) Staff. His duties included facilitating the fielding of Urgent Universal Needs Statements (UUNS) and newly fielded weapons systems. He was intimately involved with the fielding of Up-Armored HMMWV's and Mine-Resistant Ambush Protected (MRAP) vehicles to include coordinating maintenance efforts of battle damaged assets. For his accomplishments in this billet, he was awarded the Navy-Marine Corps Commendation Medal immediately following his return.

In addition to being a Morehouse graduate, Capt Reeves completed the requirements for a Master's degree in Business Administration from Boston University in 2004. This accomplishment uniquely qualified him to serve as the Budget Officer for Deputy Commander C4I Integration within MARCORSYSCOM. Capt Reeves has recently assumed duties in the Comptroller's office facilitating GWOT Supplemental Budget formulation for all MARCORSYSCOM programs.



Capt Travis Reeves escorts the Guest of Honor MajGen Clifford Stanley (ret.) at 2006 NNOA national conference.

## Last Original Iwo Jima Flag-raiser Dies at 82

By: Quantico Sentry Staff



REDDING, Calif. (Jan. 29) – Raymond Jacobs, believed to be the last surviving member of the group of Marines photographed during the original U.S. flag-raising on Iwo Jima during World War II, has died at age 82.

Jacobs died Jan. 29 of natural causes at a Redding hospital, his daughter, Nancy Jacobs, told The Associated Press.

Jacobs had spent his later years working to prove that he was the radio operator photographed looking up at an American flag as it was being raised by other Marines on Mount Suribachi on Feb. 23, 1945, on the island about 745 miles south of Tokyo.

Newspaper accounts from the time show he was on the mountain during the initial raising of a smaller American flag, though he had returned to his unit by the time the more famous AP photograph was taken of a second flag-raising later the same day.

The radioman's face isn't fully

visible in the first photograph taken of the first flag-raising by Lou Lowery, a photographer for Leatherneck magazine, leading some veterans to question Jacobs' claim. However, other negatives from the same roll of film show the radioman is Jacobs, said retired Col. Walt Ford, editor of Leatherneck.

"It's clearly a front-on face shot of Ray Jacobs," Ford said.

Annette Amerman, a historian with the Marine Corps History Division, said in an e-mailed statement "there are many that believe" Jacobs was the radioman.

"However, there are no official records produced at the time that can prove or refute Mr. Jacobs' location."

Jacobs was honorably discharged in 1946. He was called up during the Korean War in 1951 before retiring as a sergeant, his daughter said.

Jacobs retired in 1992 from KTVU-TV in Oakland, where he worked 34 years as a reporter, anchor and news director.

Make your plans now to attend the 36th NNOA National Conference July 23-25, 2008 at the Portsmouth Renaissance Hotel in Portsmouth, VA. This year's theme: "Developing America's Future Leaders to Enhance Mission Readiness and Cultural Awareness."

## Marine trio helped make history

By: Charlie Hall

Feb 23, 2008 New Bern, NC. These days Marines come in all colors and nationalities. That wasn't the case more than a half century ago when three black teenagers were growing up.

Joe Cobbs came from the cotton fields of South Carolina, Johnny Thompkins was a college student in Winston-Salem, and Robert Flowers was fresh out of high school in Chicago. Although their backgrounds were diverse, they moved along a path toward a point in history – being Montford Point Marines. Before 1942, the Marines did not take blacks. That changed with Montford Point, located in Onslow County, site of segregated training for more than 20,000 black Marines between 1942 and 1949. Today, Cobbs, Thompkins and Flowers are retired and living in New Bern. They have formed a brotherhood of sorts, and in recent weeks talked about their experiences at the Carter Woodson Black History Month exhibit at Twin Rivers Mall.

From the farm to Korea Joe Cobbs, now 82, grew up in Orangeburg, S.C., helping his father, Charlie, tend family land and hiring out at other farms. "I used to plow a mule for 40 cents a day, pick cotton for 50 cents for a hundred pounds," he said. "But I wanted some more money in my pocket." He dropped out of the ninth grade and went to Charleston, getting a warehouse job at the Navy yard. Then he got his draft notice, and rode a bus to Columbia, S.C., for his induction physical. A strapping 200-pounder, he was one of five recruits picked by the Marines. He credits working in the fields for his determination and resolve to make it as a Marine. When he was about 8, his two older sisters could combine to pick 500 pounds of cotton in a day. "It was my determination, I was going to pick 200 pounds myself," he recalled. Beginning at dawn each morning, he got to 200 pounds in a few days. "I finally got it, and I was laid up for two days," he said with a laugh. That memory was helpful when he arrived in Jacksonville amid rain and sleet in late November 1943. "I was wearing a suit and

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## Marine trio helped make history cont...



D-day Iwo Jima, February 19, 1945. On the beach at Iwo Jima, two African-American Marines work their way ashore past the smoldering carcass of a DUKW all the while under blistering Japanese machine gun, mortar, and artillery fire. They struggled in the volcanic sand to set up ammo and supply dumps.

a Stetson hat,” he said. The first Marine superior he greeted took the hat and stomped it.

Cobbs realized who was in charge. “We had rough training because they wanted us to fail,” he said. “The commandant said we (blacks) couldn’t take the training. They threw everything they had at us.” All but two recruits in his battalion completed training. After basic he worked as a warehouseman, completing his enlistment in July 1946. He was in the inactive reserves, working at Cherry Point in 1950 when a letter arrived late one Friday afternoon with orders and a bus ticket to Camp Lejeune. Soon he was aboard the carrier Roosevelt in the South Pacific, witnessing aerial dogfights. “Every time we launched our planes, here would come the Zeroes,” he said. “A lot of them would try to come crash down the smokestacks, and our guns would hit ’em. A couple crashed on the deck.” His supply duty took him to Korea for 13 months. He said Korea was “the coldest place I have ever been in my life. It was 35 below zero. I never wore long johns before Korea.” He doesn’t regret the hard times. “It was the experience of my life, but it was a good experience,” he said. He retired from the Marines in 1968 and worked another 15 years in civil service at Cherry Point. Robert Flowers wanted to join the Merchant Marines as a 17-year-old after high school in 1950 Chicago. He thought his father approved. “But when the time came and I had my physical, then he wouldn’t sign,” Flowers said. “I said, ‘I’ll take care of that.’” Two months later he turned 18 and joined the Marines. He told his parents two days before he left for Montford Point. Paris Island basic training remained for whites only. Again, times were changing. “They broke up the segregation and I was only at Montford Point four days,” he said. He was one of three blacks in his platoon who moved on to Paris Island. “That was holy hell,” he said, adding that was not in regard to race. [Breaking the segregation line](#)

“We got along with the white Marines. They caught hell, too,” he said. “The hard part was the Marines and the sand fleas.” His memories include living in a tent for 11

weeks, mostly in pouring rain, and running double-time to chow three times a day, which added up to 18 miles. But the tough training, he said, was equal. “The life then was when one Marine did something, everybody did that,” he said. After boot camp, he was assigned to a motor transport unit at Camp Geiger. “They found out I could type and I got into administration,” he said. His duty stations during the next four years included Quantico and Norfolk in Virginia, and Camp Pendleton in California. He said he was also the first black Marine recruiter in his hometown Chicago. After retiring from the military as a sergeant, he set about on a number of careers — Chicago policeman, Postal Service employee and funeral director. For fun, he raced stock and drag racers around the Chicago area. He has been active in the Montford Point association, which dates to the 1960s. He retired to New Bern three years ago. Dating to his days of helping break the color line at Paris Island, his philosophy on race is simple. “If I cut my finger and you cut your finger, what is going to come out? Red blood.” Johnny Thompkins graduated from high school at 16, and had finished two years at Winston-Salem State Teachers College by 1944. He was considering joining the Coast Guard, but when he went to the recruiter’s office, it had moved to Norfolk. A Marine recruiting office had taken its place. Thompkins had never thought of himself as Marine material. “All the Marines I had ever seen looked 7-foot-tall — big rugged guys,” he said. Thompkins, who was 5 feet 5 inches and 115 pounds at the time, shared those thoughts with the Marine recruiter — who laughed. Still, the recruiter wasn’t sure Thompkins was 18. [Documenting history](#)

“So, he took me home. We didn’t have a birth certificate, but my mother said there was my birth in the family Bible,” he recalled. He signed up, hopped a bus and thought he was on his way to some sun and fun training in Jacksonville, Fla. “I went to sleep on the bus and woke up and we were in Jacksonville, North Carolina,” he said. The recruits and drill instructors were black, but all the officers were white. He completed training in 1946 and was sent to Guam for three years as part of a post-World War II ammunition depot unit. “We had to take the ammo and pack it up and load ships and some of it we sent back to the states. And some of it, we took 10 miles out to sea and dumped it,” he said. The ammunition was left over from a planned invasion of Japan, which was called off after the use of atomic bombs ended the war. In 1950, the Korean War started and his enlistment was extended. He volunteered for duty in Korea and Vietnam, but each time, the Marines had other plans for him in Okinawa and later stateside. He decided to make the military a career and stayed for 23 years, retiring in 1969 as a master sergeant. He worked for the Postal Service in Durham, later moved to New Bern and worked as a contract security officer for 23 years at Weyerhaeuser. In 2007, Thompkins was featured in a PBS documentary, *Montford Point Marines, Loyalty and Service in the Face of Prejudice and Discrimination*. He is also interviewed in Melton McLaurin’s book, *The Marines of Montford Point — The First Black Marines*.

## 2008 Women Veterans Summit

The 2008 National Summit on Women Veterans' Issues will be held at the Westin Washington DC City Center, 1400 M Street, NW, Washington, D.C., 20005-2750, from June 20-22, 2008. There is no fee for the summit but registration is limited. For registration and hotel information, visit the [National Summit on Women Veterans' Issues](#) webpage.

## Chaplain's Corner

### FRIENDSHIP LTC Hugh Elmore, USA



"Philippians 2 vs. 3 - 4" Don't be selfish; Don't live to make a good impression on others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourself. Don't just think about your own affairs, but be interested in others too and in what they are doing.

I was speaking a few weeks ago with one of my daughters in reference to her and her college friends and classmates. She was complaining about how some of her fellow students were conducting themselves while away from home. I was telling her what's true friendship and what is required to make it work. We all use the term friend but do we really understand the meaning. Here's a reading that I found that can help all of us out when it comes to friendship:

"What does friendship mean to you? Do you know what characteristics make you a good friend? Are you choosing friends that are just like you or are you choosing friends for what they can do for you? Do you consider yourself a good friend? Well, true friendship requires loyalty. Choose friends who love the Lord, are pure at heart and are unselfish. Beware of the so called friends that are wolves disguised in sheep's clothing.

These types of individuals are a hindrance to you, they come to sabotage you. If they criticize everything that you say and do or make you feel bad or ashamed and won't share in your happiness you need to reevaluate that relationship.



Members of the NNOA Quantico Chapter fellowship with Emanuel Bible Fellowship church members after the church visit on March 9th.

Don't confuse acquaint-ship. There is a big dif-ference. God puts people in our lives for a reason and some only for a season. When they are not happy when God chooses to bless you then let them go, that season has past. A good friend should care enough to give honest opinions even if it hurts, but if they are constantly trying to tear you down and can't share a kind word that is not friendship. The same goes for you, friendship is a two way street. If you are jealous or envious of how God is blessing your friends then you are not being a friend.

A friend is there through the good and the bad times. It doesn't matter if you are sick or going through marital difficulties or even having financial difficulties, a real friend rejoices with you through the good and shares your pain through the bad times.

Do they visit you and call you when you are going through or do they just come around when you can do something with or for them? Friends are worth keeping when they are sent from God because they will be on your level. He won't send anyone in your life that will envy you or try to make you feel bad.

He will send you friends that will encourage you, pray with you and for you and check on you; they will place your needs ahead of their own. He will not hook you up with people that will gossip about you, stand in judgment of you or those that set you up for failure. Be the friend that God has called you to be and choose your friends wisely. Think about it, are the people that you call friends dead weight or are they always there to help you through. Are you a friend or an acquaintance?"

So the next time you use the word friend make sure you are really a friend as God would have us to be. Are you a friend? "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friend" (John 15:13). May God bless you and your families today and always.

Blessings,

Rev H. L Elmore, Jr

# BLACK HISTORY PERFORMANCE HELD AT BASE THEATER

By: Lance Cpl. Andrew S. Keirn, Combat Correspondant

## Quantico remembers, celebrates, acts



Left: Soloist Maj Nadrian McGill (NNOA member) performs with the Black History Month Choir during their stirring performance at Quantico's Little Hall Theatre Feb 21st.



Right: Lavonne Robinson leads the Black History Month Choir during a presentation at Little Hall.

was that Blacks should be proud of their heritage and that other Americans should also understand it.

"We take this opportunity to salute the achievements of the members of the black community," kicked off Col. Charles A. Dallachie, base commander.

"The Voices of Quantico," grabbed the crowd's attention as they took the stage and sang a beautiful song to begin the performance. As "The Voices of Quantico" drifted silent the highlight of the performance made their entrance with an attention gaining stomp!

*"We must be mindful that America has had a diverse racial and ethnic history."*

The Potomac Middle School Steppers had the crowd standing and cheering as they performed a step dance while at the same time reciting black history information.

Stepping has been popularized by the

National Pan-Hellenic Council. Stepping has African roots and is an African-American tradition as well as part of black history. Step shows incorporate cheerleading, military, drill-team moves, and the call-and-response element.

Gerald R. Reed, the National Blacks in Government former president, was the event's guest speaker. He spoke of his own involvement in furthering the effort to secure a place in government for blacks and what black history meant to him.

"We must be mindful that America has had a diverse racial and ethnic history," Reed said. "The multiculturalism of our time is built on Carter Woodson's dreams."

After Reed's speech, Lavonne Robinson led the choir back on stage to perform a few final songs. The event ended with the help of young Khalil Campbell who stunned the crowd with his enthusiastic

MCB QUANTICO, Va. (Feb. 21) – During the month of February, Quantico celebrated Black History Month with several events intended to familiarize and teach the importance of what members of the black community have contributed throughout history.

The Black History Month choir made up of Marines, sailors and civilians performed during a theater presentation Feb. 21 at Little Hall. The presentation was full of song, story and dance to educate and celebrate black history and honor one of black history's most prominent figures, Carter Godwin Woodson, "the father of black history."

Woodson is called "the father of black history," because early in the 20th century he reached out to schools and the general public through the establishment of several key organizations and founded Negro History Week, a precursor to Black History Month. His message

(continued on next page)



## MILITARY SALUTES DR. KING cont...

"It is a tall order — to grow the force in a way that relieves the stress from current military operations, enables the United States to meet its commitments at home and abroad, and achieves the goals without sacrificing the quality we have come to expect in our all-volunteer force," Gates said. He added that he has "every confidence" in Rochelle's ability.

"The Army and the nation are depending on General Rochelle, and my hope and expectation is that, in the years ahead, more African Americans will staff the Army and other branches at the highest levels following the examples set by generals Colin Powell, Kip Ward, and many others," Gates said.

The U.S. military has come a long way since the days of segregation, Rochelle said. He related the story of World War II soldier Vincent R. Malveaux, who — along with more than 2,200 other U.S. African American troops — volunteered to transfer from support service to front-line infantry duty in early 1945 following the Battle of the Bulge in Europe. Malveaux

and the other volunteers, he said, were required to drop in rank in order to fight against the German forces.

Malveaux had been a first sergeant and became a private. He and other African American volunteers fought with distinction with 309th Infantry Battalion, 78th Infantry Division. Malveaux earned the Combat Infantryman's Badge, Bronze Star Medal and multiple campaign medals.

However, the U.S. Army of that time was still segregated, Rochelle said, noting Malveaux's and others' awards were denied. Malveaux's and some other soldiers' medals were restored and presented in 1998 at a Pentagon ceremony.

Rochelle said he'd spoken recently with Malveaux, now nearly 90, and asked the World War II veteran why he and his fellow soldiers volunteered for front-line service all those years ago.

Malveaux's answer, the three-star general said, was simply: "To whom much is given, much is expected."

## BLACK HISTORY PERFORMANCE HELD AT BASE THEATER CONT...

dance moves and facial expressions. He danced across the stage while working his hat and cane perfectly as dance props. The crowd roared with laughter and applauded loudly for the small boy.

When the presentation was over the audience left with an understanding of the achievements of the black people that

came before them, and it is up to each individual to continue what they began to make the future a brighter one.

"This is a time to remember, celebrate, and act," Reed said. "It is a day on, not a day off."

*For more information or to volunteer for future events, contact Lavonne Robinson at (703) 432-5146.*



The Potomac Middle School Steppers perform a step routine while at the same time reciting black history information during a Black History Month theater presentation Feb. 21 at Quantico's Little Hall. Stepping has African roots and is an African-American tradition.

# Quantico Chapter Photo Gallery

## Eat, Socialize, Be Merry!!



## Holiday Social





# Quantico Chapter Photo Gallery cont.... James Farmer Scholars Program



Maj Loney questions his class on readings assigned for homework from the previous class.



Maj Walls makes final preparations for the JFS Black History Month Quiz Bowl.



Maj Taylor takes roll before starting his class.

# Church Visit to Emanuel Bible Fellowship Church

From Left to right below: Capt McEachin, Maj Neely, Maj McGill, Pastor Wright, Mrs. Wright, Capt Chestnut, LtCol Johnson, Maj Everly, CAPT Lindo





# Quantico Chapter Photo Gallery

## Quantico Black History Month Banquet



Guest Speaker, **Mrs. Daphnee Maxwell Reid** (center), with CW03 Diedra Ware (left), member of the DC NNOA chapter, and Capt Melissa Chestnut (right)



## Calendar of Upcoming Events

### *April Schedule of Events*

- 9—General Body Meeting @1700
- 9—Chapter Officer Election Nominations
- 11—Adopt-A-School
- 23—AD booklet sales end
- 19—James Farmer Event
- 30—Executive Board Meeting

### *April 2008*

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

### *May Schedule of Events*

- 2-4—NASCAR Fundraiser
- 7—Quarterly PME
- 9—Adopt-A-School
- 14—General Body Meeting@1700
- 14—Chapter Elections
- 17—James Farmer Event
- 27—Executive Board Meeting\
- 31—Scholarship Banquet

### *May 2008*

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

### *June Schedule of Events*

- 6—Adopt-A-School
- 8—Quarterly Church Visit
- 11—General Body Meeting @1700
- 25—New/Old Executive Board Turnover Meeting
- 28—Adopt-A-Highway

### *June 2008*

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22/29	23/30	24	25	26	27	28





*National Naval Officers Association, Inc.*

P.O. Box 812

Quantico, VA 22134

Website: <http://www.quantico-nnoa.org>



## About NNOA

National Naval Officers Association (NNOA) actively supports the Sea Services in the recruitment, retention, and career development of minority officers.

We are an essential element in maintaining operational readiness. We provide professional development and mentoring and support cultural diversity. We establish and maintain a positive image of the Sea Services in communities and educational institutions. National Naval Officers Association (NNOA) is the "Gateway to Success" in the Sea Services. We are innovative thinkers committed to a shared vision of leadership, professional exchange, and networking. We are dedicated to achieving a diversified workforce. We are the premier professional development organization in the Sea Services. Our members are empowered with the skills necessary to achieve their full potential. We are an invaluable partner of the Sea Services in the achievement of their recruitment, retention and readiness goals. We recognize our responsibility to our community as we promote and foster American ideals.

We are an inclusive organization that seeks diversity in our membership. We value all members and are committed to treating everyone with dignity, respecting individual differences, and affirming organizational and personal strengths. We are "TEAM NNOA" composed of active duty, reserve and retired officers and civilians. We achieve our mission and vision through enthusiastic support and dedicated service at the national and local levels. We are an organization of professionals whose accomplishments are attained through teamwork and accountability. We are dedicated to the professional development of our members. We promote an atmosphere conducive to self improvement and forward thinking. We promote honest, effective, and open communications. We communicate and process information using the best resources and technology available. We recognize achievements and maintain our valued reputation.

**General Body meetings are held at 1700 on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at the Officer's Club.**