

Quantico Chapter Newsletter

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Upcoming Events

- 15 Apr—Church Visit to Agape Fellowship Ministries
- 18 Apr—NNOA PME
- 05 May—Membership Family Bowling Night
- 09 May—General Body Meeting @1700
- 28 May—Memorial Day
- 09 June—Adopt-A-Highway @0800

Message from the President...

Members and Friends of the Mighty Quantico Chapter, I continue to stand in awe of your truly exceptional performances as we draw closer to the end of another banner year. We continue to meet and exceed the National level goals despite an ever increasing operational tempo. Because of your efforts, Quantico is quickly becoming the NNOA standard measure of success.

Kudos to LtCol Dawn Harrison, Captain Natasha Mceachin and the scholarship committee for planning and executing a superlative scholarship banquet. With only a few more events planned this year, the throttle is forward, afterburners are lit and with your support, the "Mighty Quantico Chapter" will once again put 'Rounds on Target'.

member our forward deployed comrades as they continue to serve magnificently and globally "in the air, on land and sea". Keep Chargin'.

Semper Fidelis,

LtCol R. C. Clements
President
Quantico Chapter, NNOA

Let us always prayerfully re-

Inside this issue:

35th Annual National NNOA Conference	2
Montford Point Marines Honored at DoD Observance	4
The Corps and The Capitol	5
Hundreds Gather for Black History Month Dinner	8
Marine in the Spotlight	10
Chaplain's Corner	12
Chapter Photo Gallery	13
Chapter Calendar	16

Scholarship Banquet Raises Fundraising Money for "Mighty" Quantico Chapter

By: [Lance Cpl. Justin P. Lago](#)

MCB QUANTICO, Va., March 9 -- The National Naval Officers Association "Mighty" Quantico Chapter held a scholarship fundraising banquet Friday at The Clubs At Quantico. The focus of the evening was to support the Dollars for Scholars program and to recognize the NNOA Quantico Chapter as the first chapter in the commonwealth of Virginia.

The Dollars for Scholars program is a nationwide network of more than 1,200 community and

volunteer based scholarship foundations in cities, towns and neighborhoods throughout the United States. Marine and Navy officers attended the banquet to support the program, make donations and aid the fundraiser through an art auction.

Special guest speaker Michael A. Mason, Federal Bureau of Investigation executive assistant director for criminal investigation, was invited by

(Continued on page 2)

Scholarship Banquet cont...



Guest speaker Michael A. Mason, (right), Federal Bureau of Investigation executive assistant director for criminal investigation, receives a token of thanks from Lt. Col. Robert Clements, Security Battalion executive officer and the president of the National Naval Officers Association “Mighty” Quantico Chapter, during a scholarship fundraising banquet Friday at The Clubs At Quantico.



Members of Head Table stand at attention for the march on of the colors and playing of the National Anthem. From left to right: Mrs. Clements, LtCol Robert Clements, Michael A. Mason, Lt General Coleman, Chaplain Cauble.

the chapter to speak at the banquet.

“It is a privilege to be here and speak on behalf of the chapter,” said Mason. “Tonight we are all here to support a great cause in the pursuit of educating our local communities. Just like you officers, you had someone who pointed you in the right direction, which helped you to get where you are today. We want to be the ones who will impact someone else’s life the way someone else had impacted ours.”

Last year, the Dollars for Scholars chapters raised more than \$58.3 million, awarded nearly \$29 million in scholarships to more than

35,000 students, and invested the rest of the money into gift funds for future scholarships.

The NNOA event at TCAQ here raised close to \$3,700 dollars from the art auction, donations and contributions from guests.

“We are committed to ensuring the future success of America’s youth” said Lt. Col. Robert Clements, Security Battalion executive officer and NNOA Quantico chapter president. “We are here to assist in the educational endeavors of our local high school students and the professional development of our junior officers.”

“..We are committed to ensuring the future success of America’s youth.”

35th Annual Professional Development Training Conference Naval Amphibious Base Coronado, California

The San Diego Chapter of NNOA in beautiful, sunny San Diego invites you to attend the 35th annual NNOA training conference. The conference chairman, CAPT Don Flowers, USN Retired, and the members of the San Diego Chapter have coordinated with Naval Amphibious Base Coronado to host the five-day conference. The conference date is 16-20 July 2007.

City of San Diego attractions include the world famous San Diego Zoo, Lego Land Park, Balboa Park, Coronado Island, Marine World, and of course the beautiful and majestic beaches and gaslight district of San Diego. This year’s conference will also sponsor a youth day and a spousal workshop that will surely make the conference enjoyable for the entire family.

More detailed information on conference cost, etc. will be located on the NNOA web page at <http://www.nnoa.org>

“National Naval Officers Association, Developing America’s Future Leaders.”

PME Sheds Light on Corps’ Expansion

By: [2nd Lt. Patrick Boyce](#)

MCB QUANTICO, Va., Jan. 25 - The National Naval Officers Association held a period of military instruction in ballroom three at The Clubs At Quantico Jan. 25 about the Long War.

Lieutenant Gen. Ronald S. Coleman, deputy commandant, [Manpower](#) and [Reserve](#) Affairs, spoke to approximately 70 officers, ranging from lieutenant to general, concerning how the Marine Corps will adequately meet its growing manpower needs as the war continues.

The mandate that the Corps may increase in manpower was mentioned in President George W. Bush’s State of the Union Address Jan. 23, when he said he approved of Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates’ recommendation of 92,000 more troops to be added to both the Army and the Marine Corps.

“This PME is important for the Marines to get a feel for how we are going to expand from a manpower perspective,” said Maj. Mike Williams, finance officer and PME coordinator.

As soon as Coleman arrived, he immediately tackled the question on everyone’s mind; how will the Corps expand from its current strength of 180,000 Marines to 202,000 by the end of the fiscal year in 2011?

“It’s going to be extremely tough,” said Coleman. “But we have the will of Congress to increase. We believe we can do it.”

According to Coleman, about 30,000 Marines enter the Corps every year, while roughly the same number exit, keeping manpower at about an even level. However, in accordance with the guidance of Gen. James T. Conway, commandant of the Marine Corps, the Corps must grow by 5,000 new Marines each year in order to reach its desired level by 2011.

“We have to right-size the Corps,” Coleman said, adding that the more than 20,000 Marines needed to bolster the Corps will not just be needed for the duration of the Long War, but will stay as a

permanent addition.

This influx of Marines will greater assist the 1-to-2 deployment-to-dwell ratio outlined in Conway’s recent planning guidance, said Coleman .

While the effort to increase the overall size of the Corps will indeed be a challenge, Coleman offered his reassurance that there are certain measures Conway is not planning to take.

“The commandant has no desire to use the stop-loss program,” said Coleman. According to Coleman, the number of Marines in Iraq will have to increase, which means some Marines will arrive earlier than planned and some Marines will stay longer than planned, but only by a month or so.

“We’re going to increase the Marines in Iraq,” Coleman said. “We believe that no Marine will stay longer than 60 days more than they thought they would stay.”

Coleman also added that Conway will not alter recruiting standards the same way the Army has. Currently, about 95 percent of all Marines are high school graduates, compared to only a 90 percent Department of Defense standard. In accordance with Conway’s wishes, this higher than DoD standard will not change, Coleman said.

What the Corps will in fact do, said Coleman, is increase the number of recruiters, possibly doubling it as well as extending recruiting tours starting on a volunteer basis.

These thousands of additional Marines should not decrease promotion rates, Coleman said. Rates will either remain the same or increase, he added.

“We don’t see the promotion flow changing, if there is any change [promotions] will be sooner, not later,” Coleman said.

Lt. Gen. Ronald S. Coleman, deputy commandant, Manpower and Reserve Affairs, addresses officers at a period of military instruction held at The Clubs At Quantico Jan. 25, concerning manpower issues with the expectant 20,000 more Marines to be added to the Corps by 2011.



In addition to the need for more troops, Coleman also acknowledged the concerns of the more than 60,000 Marines who have not deployed yet to Iraq or Afghanistan, while many of their compatriots have deployed two or three times. Coleman explained that certain deployments will be military occupation specialty specific.

“Not every disperser needs to go forward,” Coleman said, but he also echoed Conway’s desire that every Marine who wants to deploy should get the opportunity to do so.

After his address, Coleman opened up the floor to questions from the Marines present. Questions from how to stay competitive with promotions against Marines who have had more deploying opportunities, to whether the number of Navy corpsmen will decrease as the Navy undergoes force-shaping, were asked.

“This is exactly the kind of information the Marines need and it’s always good hearing it straight from the source,” said Lt. Col. Robert C. Clements, executive officer of [Security](#) Battalion and chapter president of the NNOA.

“It was good information,” agreed 2nd Lt. Don Newberry Jr., budget deputy officer. “It’s good to know where the Marine Corps stands, especially with a new commandant.”

Making a Difference--The Adopt-a-School Mentor

By: Major Gilbert A. Warner

Adopt-a-School, an easy, no hassle way to mentor and help create a positive image of the Naval Services, but most importantly mentoring can help make a difference in a young person’s life. It is often asked, why one should take the time (2 hours) out of their busy work day to visit a school or participate in the Adopt-a-School program? The response is simple--to make a difference, to make a positive impact in the community and the youth. An Adopt-a-School volunteer accomplishes both goals by giving of their time to read or help read, assist with math problems, and generally help in and around the class environment, where teachers are faced with crowded classes. Through the program, mentors have the opportunity to show the students how important it is to be able to read, write, and perform basic math problems in any job or career field. During this exciting and often humorous exchange, mentors are able to communicate to the students in a one-on-one environment. This is the point where mentors can make the most impact by providing the young students with insight on “life’s lessons,” the type that can help young

adults avoid the pitfalls associated with growing up. These efforts and the time spent can certainly help young adults improve their success in school and help guide them in achieving their professional and personal goals. The Adopt-a-School program also boosts Naval Officers/Minority Officers presence in the community.

Adopt-a-School participants are recognized by parents, staff, and teachers when they arrive at the partner school in the appropriate service uniform. The local community holds the Naval Services in high regards, but this regard is elevated ten-fold when service members are observed volunteering in the community. The respect and admiration received is obvious on the faces of the adults and most importantly the young students/adults, who look forward to the monthly visit of the “Marines.” Through the Adopt-a-School community outreach, mentors help to improve the quality of life of young people in the local community and that is reason enough to be an Adopt-a-School mentor.



Montford Point Marines Honored at DoD Observance

By: [Rudi Williams](#)

Silver Star medal recipient retired 1st Sgt. Barnett Person of Fort Worth, Texas, (left) chats with Horace P. Williams, president of Buffalo Soldiers/First Ladies of Texas, at an outdoor exhibit at Huston-Tillotson University in Austin, Texas. Person was in town to be honored along with four other Montford Point Marines - the first black Marines during World War II.

AUSTIN, Texas -- The Defense Department honored five black military pioneers during its observance of National African American History Month here at Huston-Tillotson University.

Among the five honorees were two battle-field heroes, Silver Star medal recipient Barnett Person of Fort Worth, Texas, and Bronze Star with V device for valor recipient Jack McDowell of Long Beach, Calif. Person, a retired first sergeant decorated with the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in Vietnam, also received two Purple Hearts in Vietnam. Person said he was hit by enemy fire on May 8, 1967, and again on Aug. 29.

The tank retriever driver and later tank gunner said he wasn’t wounded during the Korean War.

The Silver Star citation cited Person for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action while serving as a platoon sergeant with Company A, 3rd Tank Battalion, 3rd Marine Division, in Vietnam.

The decoration’s citation stated that during the early morning hours of May 8, 1967, the area in which Person’s and other units came under intense enemy mortar and artillery fire from a numerically superior North Vietnamese Army force.

When the enemy penetrated the perimeter

defenses in several place, “Person reacted instantly, calmly directed his 90 mm canister fire into the oncoming Viet Cong,” the citation read. “Disregarding enemy attempts to destroy his tank by exploding satchel charges against the turret, Person fearlessly increased his fire, employing both his main armament and his machine guns.

The citation said he “was responsible for killing more than 40 North Vietnamese soldiers, preventing the perimeter from being overrun and undoubtedly turned what could have been a potentially dangerous situation for friendly troops into a complete rout of a numerically superior enemy force.”

(Continued on page 5)

Montford Point Marines cont...

Retired 1st Sgt. Jack McDowell, 79, joined the Marines in April 1945, and served in the Korean and Vietnam Wars as well. He earned the Bronze Star with V device for valor and three Purple Hearts.

He suffered a gunshot wound to his left foot in North Korea in 1951. McDowell was wounded in his back by shrapnel from a rocket-propelled grenade in Vietnam in May 1967. He received gunshot wounds to his left leg by a .51-caliber machine gun on July 29. His leg was amputated on Navy hospital ship USS Sanctuary.

McDowell was decorated with the Bronze Star with V device for valor in Vietnam. The award citation stated that McDowell was cited “for heroic achievement in combat operations as first sergeant of Company G, 2nd Battalion, 9th Marines, on July 29, 1967.

“The battalion’s lead company triggered an ambush that soon engulfed the unit in a heavy barrage of small arms, automatic weapons fire and artillery,” the citation continued.

McDowell assisted in gathering casualties and directing the priorities of fire, the citation stated. “After being wounded by a gunshot in the foot, McDowell continued his actions and assisted in establishment of a secure defensive position,” the citation read. “Throughout the encounter, he bolstered morale and aided in re-establishing organization amidst the confusion generated by the attack.”

Retired Master Gunnery Sgt. Joe Geeter, national president of the Montford Point Marine Association, introduced the two veterans and told the audience about the contributions of five American military pioneers.

Geeter, who said he’s too young to be an original Montford Pointer, then introduced retired Lt. Col. Joseph Carpenter, a Montford Pointer who was later commissioned. He served as a data processing officer and later worked as a civil affairs officer. Carpenter, who retired on June 19, 1986, said he was assigned a chief clerk at Montford Point.

Geeter pointed out that Carpenter, who resides in Washington, is national historian for the Montford Point Marines Association and travels with presentation that tells the story of Montford Point.

“Retired Master Gunnery Sgt. Robert Reid served during the Korean and Vietnam wars and reached the highest enlisted rank and paved the way for the next generation of African-American Marines like myself,” said Geeter. Reid lives in Norco, Calif.

Charleston, S.C., resident Ellis Cunningham, a retired first sergeant, is an Iwo Jima survivor and Korean War Purple Heart recipient.

More than 2,000 African Americans participated in the World War II fight for Okinawa. American flag was raised on Mount Suribachi at Iwo Jima on Feb. 23, 1945.

Maj. Gen. James R. Myles, commander of

the Army Test and Evaluation Command, walked gave special recognition to Cunningham and his wife, Lucille, for being married for 52 years. The command co-hosted the reception with DoD.

Geeter said he joined the association because he was motivated when he first heard the story of these heroes. “I wanted to make sure their legacy was not forgotten,” said Geeter, a corporate employee relations manager for AmeriGas Propane. “I’ve been teaching younger Marines about their African American heritage since 1978.”

Geeter said, on June 25, 1941, President Franklin D. Roosevelt issued Executive Order No. 8802 establishing the fair employment practice that began to erase discrimination in the armed forces and paved the way for African Americans to enlist in the Marine Corps.

But it wasn’t until 1942 when Roosevelt established a presidential directive giving African Americans an opportunity to be recruited into the Marine Corps. But instead of training at the Parris Island, S.C., and San Diego boot camps, they trained separately at Montford Point Camp - a part of Camp Lejeune and New River, N.C.

African Americans who trained the nation’s first black Marines became known as the Montford Point Marines.

“It was a long time coming,” Geeter said. “These men had to fight to get into Montford Point.”

THE CORPS AND THE CAPITOL

By: Major Gerald A. Thomas

The Office of Legislative Affairs (OLA) is an assignment that provides Marines with a unique outlook on Capitol Hill and the Marine Corps. On the Hill, Marines are expected to be a *jack of all trades*. You have to understand the Marine Corps from an organizational and political point of view as well as understand who the major (and minor) players on the Hill. The OLA has two liaison offices, one in the House of Representatives and one in the Senate. It also has a correspondence section and action officers which support each headquarters department.

The Correspondence section (OLA-C) is responsible for answering Congressional Inquiries generated by Marines and their families. OLA-C responds to more than 4,000 written inquiries per year. Congressmen have an obligation to investigate issues on behalf of their constituents. The constituents make inquires about awards, pay issues, humanitarian transfers, and many other diverse issues. The goal of OLA-C is to provide a comprehensive and accurate response to the Member within 30 days.

THE CORPS AND THE CAPITOL cont.....

The Action Officers (AO) in OLA have a portfolio of issues that align with the HQMC departments. They are the link between the Marine Corps subject matter experts within HQMC and their counterparts on the House Armed Services Committee staffs. AO's arrange briefs to staffers and Members to increase understanding of Marine Corps programs, concepts, and issues. Additionally, AO's participate in the preparation of witnesses that testify before Congress. Last year alone, Marine's participated in over 50 hearings.

The Marines at the House of Representatives provide support to 435 Members of Congress, Leadership offices, committee and personal staff. The Senate office provides the same support to 100 U.S. Senators and their staff. Liaison offices facilitate and coordinate briefings, trips, and events that educate and improve the understanding of members of Congress and their staff about the Marine Corps.

Marines in the liaison offices also act as escorts on Congressional Delegation trips (CODEL), both CONUS and OCONUS. Recently, the House liaison supported CODEL's to China, Cuba, Africa, and Iraq. You will also find Marines in the liaison offices escorting Members or their staff to your base to observe training or see a particular piece of equipment in action.

Congress is responsible for providing the funding for the Marine Corps. These allocations are based in part on recommendations provided by the CMC. It is important for the Marine Corps to maintain a strong relationship with Congress. With their support, we can prepare and respond appropriately to the myriad missions that we carry out across the globe.



Congressman Neugebauer re-enlists a constituent in Fallujah



The Acropolis in Athens Greece. Visited during CODEL to Greece, Poland, Estonia, and Iceland.



Gen. Gaskin briefs Congressman Hunter on the up-armor package on the MTVR.



Maj Thomas with Congressman Bishop and Mr. Martin atop the US Capitol. Congressman Bishop represents MCLB Albany. Maj Thomas is a member of the NNOA Quantico Chapter.

Promoting Women in the Marine Aviation Career Fields

By: [Staff Sgt. Pauline L. Franklin](#)

ORLANDO, Fla., Feb. 15 (Marine Corps Recruiting Command) -- The Marine Corps gathered with aviation professionals and enthusiasts to help promote women in aviation career fields during a conference Feb. 15 to 17 at Walt Disney’s Coronado Springs Resort.

Women in Aviation, International, hosted the annual national conference to encourage women in all aspects of aviation, from pilots to airport managers, maintenance technicians and many other occupations. The Marine Corps Recruiting Command set up a pull-up challenge and information booth at this year’s conference to explain opportunities in Marine aviation.

“This conference allows us to build relationships with people in the aviation industry, educate people and explain the opportunities we have in Marine aviation,” said KC-130 Hercules pilot Capt. Charlie A. Pickett, aviation assistant for officer procurement, 8th Marine Corps District.

Women in Aviation, International, which is open to men and women, draws together aerospace companies, manufacturers, individuals and colleges and universities to increase diversity in the aviation industry, according to Amy Laboda, press secretary for Women in Aviation, International.

The non-profit organization does this through scholarships, mentoring, networking

opportunities and education programs for young people at the national and local levels.

Female and male pilots represented the Corps at the Marine booth to share their experiences and answer questions.

“People know about the Marine uniforms, but they don’t know what aircraft we fly and what we do,” explained Maj. Sarah M. Deal, a reserve pilot with Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 769 in California.

“Aviation colleges need to know there’s more than just the Air Force. It’s a great venue to get that word out.”

The conference also allowed the Marines to highlight the Corps as a viable option for women in aviation. Less than 6 percent of the nation’s 700,000 active pilots are women, and women account for only 2.13 percent of the 540,000 non-pilot aviation jobs in the U.S., according to Federal Aviation [Administration](#) statistics quoted on the Women in Aviation, International Web site.

Major Jenifer E. Nothelfer, who flew CH-46E Sea Night helicopters on active duty and is now serving in the Individual Ready [Reserves](#), said the Marine Corps offers women the chance to have a career in aviation, as well as the opportunity to join the Marine Corps.

“The Marine Corps is the best; it’s an elite organization,” she explained. “We want good women who are qualified and want to do this.”



The conference provided attendees the opportunity to network, search for jobs and attend seminars to further their careers in Marine aviation.

The conference included seminars, discussion groups, FAA training and exhibits, such as the Marine Corps’ booth. Attendees such as Robin L. Mikols, a Kansas State University at Salina senior, said the conference was very useful.

“I came here to network and talk to people about jobs,” said 20-year-old Mikols. “You always hear about the airlines hiring, but I wanted to see what the military has to offer as well. I’ve done a lot of research on aviation in the military and for airlines. I’m keeping all my options open right now.”

In addition to reaching out to prospective applicants, the conference was important in overcoming perceptions some people have about the Marine Corps as well.

Pickett said people are often intimidated by Marines because of their serious nature and image, which prevents them from hearing about prospects the Corps has to offer.

The booth allowed the Marines to talk to potential applicants and those who influence and inform them in the aviation community without that feeling of intimidation, according to Pickett.

“The Marine Corps’ biggest enemy is a public lack of knowledge,” said Pickett. “Some people have preconceived notions about recruiters, which blocks the information we are trying to get out. Many people don’t even know we have Marine aviation or that we can guarantee aviation jobs. This conference allows us to interact with people on a “different level and provide that information to them.”

“The Marine Corps’ biggest enemy is a public lack of knowledge.”

Saying Farewell to the Last World War I Marine

By: [Associated Press](#)



Albert F. 'Jud' Wagner photographed upon his return from Europe following World War I.

MCCONNELL AIR FORCE BASE, Kan., Jan. 25 -- Albert F. "Jud" Wagner, enlisted in the Marine Corps at age 17. He served in France and Germany from 1918 to 1919.

Members of the Kansas City 24th Marine Regiment served as pallbearers Jan. 25, during the funeral of Albert "Jud" Wagner.

Wagner served as a Marine from 1918-1919 and was recognized as one of nine surviving World War I veterans. He was 107 years old when he died and was Kansas' oldest World War I veteran. He was the world's oldest Marine. Wagner was buried in Smith Center, Kansas.

Hundreds Gather for Black History Month Dinner

By: Cpl. Shaahn Williams

FREDERICKSBURG, Va., Feb. 24 -- More than 400 guests gathered at the Fredericksburg Exposition and Conference Center in Fredericksburg, Va., to attend the 7th Annual Quantico Black History Dinner sponsored by the Quantico Black History Committee Saturday.

Themed "From Slavery to Freedom" in honor of the 60th anniversary of the popular book written by John Hope Franklin and Alfred A. Moss, Jr., the dinner was just one of several events the committee coordinates every year and is usually held on base. But due to the rising number of guests this year, the venue had to be changed to accommodate its growing size.

"We are pleased that we have so many more people coming out to our dinner," said William Jones, Black History Committee chairman.

Maryland Rep. Elijah Cummings

was the featured guest speaker of the night and addressed his concerns about the advancement of Blacks in America, which should propel the advancement of the country as a whole.

Cummings said that in order to speed up the progress of minorities and women, all Americans would first have to take steps toward that goal.

"Although I have outlined 30 steps this country needs to take in order to progress as a people, I will focus on three this evening," the congressman said. "We have to focus on education for our children. There is no bigger threat to this country than the failure to properly educate them. Not even terrorism could have the impact uneducated youth would have on our future.

"The second key to moving forward is diversity. This is about people being lifted up together, because we have more in com-

(Continued on page 9)



William Jones, chairman of the Quantico Black History Committee, presents Rep. Elijah Cummings with an Eagle, Globe and Anchor and a Quantico cap as gifts of appreciation for speaking at the Black History Dinner at the Fredericksburg Exposition and Conference Center Feb. 24.

Black History Month Dinner continued...

(Continued from page 8)

mon with each other than we have differences,” he said.

Cummings told the audience of acute listeners that mentorship was the last, if not the most important factor American people needed to focus on in order to better the nation.

“This is a big deal,” he shouted. “A mentor introduces youth to new people, they share experiences and even make recommendations to help their protégés get a job. A mentor can teach you to avoid making the same mistakes he or she made that may set you back five years.”

But the best part of mentorship, Cummings explained, was that the mentored would turn around and become the mentor, giving back to someone else. “We need to do something to make a difference,” he said. “Our children are the living messages we send into the future we will never see.”

In a grateful gesture of thanks, Jones presented Cummings with an Eagle Globe and Anchor, and a bright red Quantico

cap. “Now the congressman can go to Capitol Hill and say he’s been with some Marines,” Jones laughed as he placed the items in Cummings’ hands.

As the guests dined, they were entertained by Howard University’s Theater Arts department students.

The Roxie Roker Repertory Touring Company performed their rendition of “The Colored Museum,” a satirical play by black dramatist George C. Wolfe. Afterward, the school’s premier jazz ensemble, Afro Blue, sang a medley of songs that included old jazz favorites, as well as newer pieces written by some of the group’s members.

To end the evening, Bishop Joseph Henderson, of the Tower of Deliverance Church in Fredericksburg, performed a broom jumping ceremony. This is a ceremony dating back to the 1600s and derived from Africa. Dating back to slave days, jumping the broom together has been part of weddings for couples who want to honor that tradition.

“This event was wonderful,” said Veronica Gibson, a Pentagon police officer. “I attended the dinner last year and I must say that this was even better. And the crowd is full of so many different types of people. I really had a good time and learned a lot.”

“Our children are the living messages we send into the future we will never see.”



The United States Naval Academy Gospel Choir gets the program started at the Black History Month Dinner.

Harlem Rockets Take Over Barber

By: [Kris Connor](#)

MCB QUANTICO, Va., Jan. 23 - The Harlem Rockets rocked the house against the Quantico Men’s Varsity basketball team 78-56 in front of a packed gym at the Barber Physical Activity Center Jan. 23.

The Rockets’ stop at Quantico is one of 160 venues the team will visit this year to keep their 2,000 game winning streak going.

Tom Revoir, 12, of Stafford said he looks forward to the Harlem Rockets coming to Quantico each year, and enjoys watching the show that the team puts on.

The Rockets’ roster is composed of players who have played for teams around the world.

“We all play because we love the game of basketball,” the Rockets’ Jonny Dadzie said.

The Rockets are different from other comedy sports teams, because their opponents are made up of the local communities they visit, such as Quantico. Dadzie added that this advantage brings plenty of excitement to the audience.

As the game began, the fans were on their feet cheering the Quantico players on, as they grabbed an early lead.

Just 10 minutes into the first quarter, Kevin “Showboat” Jackson stopped the game, the first of many interruptions, and asked Quantico’s Rashad Parker, “Brother, are you on the wrong team?” jokingly, implying that Parker should be playing for the Rockets because he was African-American, as the roster of the Rockets is made up entirely of African-Americans.

The quarter ended with Quantico leading 25-18.

(Continued on page 10)

HARLEM ROCKETS cont...

The quarter ended with Quantico leading 25-18.

The Rockets started to get serious and came back in the second quarter ready to play basketball and get the crowd motivated.

The Rockets ran circles around Quantico, performing spins and tricks right in front of Quantico players as they tried to steal the ball.

Greg “The Finisher” Wells dribbled the ball and jumped from behind the free throw line for a slam-dunk, which got the crowd out of their seats and screaming.

“Both teams go out there and do this for the children,” Quantico player Craig Mercado said.

The Rockets gave Quantico’s Mel Brown a shot to make free throws in the final minutes of the quarter. As went he to take a shot, Jackson pulled down Brown’s shorts in front of the entire gym, which got a laugh out of everyone.

With their tricks and dunks, the Rockets ended the half leading 43-29. Quantico was only able to score four points in the second quarter.

Halftime for most games at Quantico is subdued because there is nothing to do as the team gets a chance to rest. However, as the players left the court, the floor was taken over by children, but not for long. Dadzie came back to pick children out of the crowd to play games on the court during halftime.

The second half gave the audience as much entertainment as the first half with the Rockets putting on a good show for the audience with their hilarious arsenal of tricks. Jackson even shot a free throw from clear across the court.

“It was one of the best shows that I have seen in a long time and would love to see it again,” said Sherri Caldwell of Woodbridge. The Harlem Rockets are expected to be back next year around the same time, but no date is set as of yet.



Capt Chestnut receives diploma from Naval Post Graduate School.

“Marine in the Spotlight” Captain Melissa D. Chestnut

In her day-to-day duties she is the Learning Management System Officer for the Marine Corps’ Distance Learning System, MarineNet 3.0, and is intimately involved in ensuring the requirements for MarineNet 4.0 are being developed in order to meet the Marine Corps’ Distance Learning needs in an expeditionary environment.

As a recent graduate of the Naval Postgraduate School (NPS) Capt Chestnut received a Masters of Science in Information Technology Management and graduated with a cumulative GPA of 3.98. In addition to graduating with honors she was the recipient of the Rear Admiral Grace Hopper Information Management Award for her leadership, academic achievement, and thesis work. Prior to attending NPS, Capt Chestnut was PME (Professional Military Education) complete for her grade. In addition to her academic requirements she took on an additional challenge and completed the Non-Resident course for Command and Staff College, PME beyond her rank and grade. She also volunteered with one of the school’s community service programs, I-HELP. As a volunteer in the I-HELP program she and other students went to a local church one Saturday out of the month and prepared breakfast,

Capt Melissa Chestnut is a prior enlisted Marine who as a Corporal decided to take on the challenge to become a Marine Corps Officer. She was commissioned a Second Lieutenant December 1998 after receiving a Bachelor of Science of degree in Computer Information Systems from Clark Atlanta University. New to the Quantico area, Capt Chestnut immediately became interested in the Quantico, NNOA Chapter. Her current activities in the Chapter include being on the Membership Committee, assisting in maintaining the Chapter’s website, as well as participating in different Chapter functions.

(Continued on page 11)

Spotlight cont...

lunch, and dinner for the homeless men involved in the outreach program.

Although new to NNOA, Capt Chestnut has demonstrated her dedication to community service as well as self improvement. The Chapter is excited to have her as apart of our team.

“Mighty Quantico” Chapter Participates in James Farmer Scholars Program

By: Major Jonathan P. Loney

Among the realm of possible activities for a non-profit chapter to participate in, one of the hallmark community service activities that the Mighty Quantico Chapter of the National Naval Officers Association participates in is the James Farmer Scholars Program. The James Farmer Scholars Program began in 1987, inspired by University of Mary Washington administrators frustrated by the small number of African-American students applying for enrollment. The Program is named after the late Dr. James Farmer, a civil rights activist and former professor of History at the University of Mary Washington in Fredericksburg, VA, and its purpose is to assist students from 7th to 12th grades to prepare and encourage enrollment in a college of their choice upon graduation.

Mighty Quantico Chapter volunteers

have been attending the one-Saturday-a-month sessions since the formal partnership was established with the James Farmer Scholars program in November 2006. Monthly discussion topics and activities include academic enrichment, core course tutoring/ reinforcement, extra-curricular activities such as professional etiquette and standards of conduct, and academic/ professional counseling. Through stern mentorship and role modeling, and plain down-to-earth discussions about life choices, students are encouraged to fulfill their potential and to make informed decisions about their lives.

Most recently, Mighty Quantico Chapter volunteers participated in Black History Month education, having discussed the importance of remembering civil rights pioneers such as James Farmer and the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., as well as a “Career Day”

panel. During the career day session, chapter Naval and Marine Officers and non-military panelists representing a wide variety of professional careers and specialties, and equally impressive resume’s of scholarly achievements, discussed the importance of pursuing higher education as key to establishing foundations of success in life. The challenges and triumphs of perseverance, despite “the odds” and negative statistics, were well represented by this diverse group of panelists.

As the ancient Proverb continually teaches us, “It takes a village to raise a child,” and through mentorship opportunities like this, the Mighty Quantico Chapter continues to make a difference in our community’s youth through better understanding that education, determination and the love of family and friends will take them a long way in life.



Chaplain's Corner

Amazing Grace! C.S. Cauble, LT Chaplain, Security Battalion

Every so often a rare movie catches the eye of my family and we make the investment to watch it in the theatre. *Amazing Grace*, the captivating story of the life and impact of William Wilberforce, is the most recent movie to fall into this category. We trudged through the snow to see it a couple weeks ago and found it to be well worth the effort. It comes highly recommended to you as it emphasizes the conviction and moral courage of a man that God used greatly. The story takes place in eighteenth century England where Wilberforce is a 21 year old member of the House of Commons. As a recent convert to Evangelical Christianity, Wilberforce courageously dares to enact a bill that will outlaw the African slave trade. After getting encouragement from local advocates of abolition, Wilberforce garners the support of a few loyal friends in Parliament and goes about the task of overturning a morally reprehensible practice that had become commonplace in the land. In the face of great opposition, Wilberforce and others doggedly argued that the trade was

"contrary to the principles of justice, humanity and sound policy." After nearly twenty years of fighting, on March 25th, 1807, Parliament finally passed the law which forbade British vessels from the illegal transportation of enslaved Africans. The abolition of slavery was to take another quarter century, finally enacted in 1833.

While the powerful story of Wilberforce's life stands on its own, *Amazing Grace* touches on the life of another great man, the Reverend John Newton. Newton was the childhood pastor of Wilberforce and played a major role in his life by encouraging him to fight tirelessly to end the slave trade. The great irony, however, is that Reverend Newton had once been a notorious sinner and had made his living as the captain of a slave trading vessel! But God had intervened in his life and delivered him from a life of open rebellion into a man whom He would use to great effect. By the grace of God,

Newton became one of England's foremost preachers of the gospel, a writer of hymns, and a renowned letter writer. His life's message is best summed up in the closing lines of his final sermon: "I am an old man and remember only two things, 'I am a great sinner and Christ is a great savior.'" We remember him most by the hymn that tells his life story and celebrates the mercy of God that delivers sinners from sin's captivity and into a new and transformed life.

"Amazing grace! How sweet the sound!
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found;
Was blind, but now I see.

No matter how dismal a life you may be living at the present, God's grace is available to transform those who, like Newton, receive God's undeserved favor by trusting in the saving work of Jesus Christ.

NATIONAL REUNION FOR BLACK MARINES

Black Marines have a common bond that has staying power regardless of how much time passes. "Perseverance," states Robert "Bobby" Wallace aka "The Gator," a reunion coordinator. The National Reunion for Black Marines will be held in Las Vegas, June 22 to June 24, 2007 at the Santa Fe Station Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas, Nev.

All Black Marines, including active, retired and reserve are invited to attend the reunion which will be the second such event held. The first reunion was held last year.

"We were not allowed to serve in the Marine Corps until 1941 and did not begin to train to become Marines until 1942," said Wallace. "Then we were segregated or isolated to a base named Camp Montford Point North Carolina. The goal for all those who entered the training was to become U.S. Marines, the best fighting force ever assembled. "However, for those that were in charge the goal was to ensure that we did not succeed. But, with determination and perseverance we succeeded," concluded Wallace.

There are so many stories to be told by Black Marines that a decision was made to gather every other year and reacquaint and share stories of Marine Corps experiences. After serving in the Marine Corps, Marines go in many different directions and often only meet again when someone becomes ill or passes away.

"In 2002 we decided that we needed to meet under better circumstances and from that we began to network and the first Black Marine Reunion evolved," said Wallace.

For more information on the reunion, contact Robert Wallace by phone 352-259-2435 or email at thegator@thevillages.net.

Quantico Chapter Photo Gallery



The Mighty Quantico Chapter gathers for a picture with Regional VP, CDR Adolph Keyes, USCG, after a General Body Meeting



LtCol Harrison, Capt McEachin, and 2ndLt Torres at Scholarship Fundraiser Banquet



The Quantico Chapter sponsor's a family during the Holiday Season.



Maj Thomas, LtCol Clements, BGen John Thomas (ret), and Maj Everly at the Clubs at Quantico following LtGen Coleman's promotion ceremony.



Members of the Quantico Chapter enjoy the Black History Month Dinner

Quantico Chapter Photo Gallery cont....

LtGen Coleman's promotion Ceremony



Church Visit to Mount Hope Baptist Church



Quantico Chapter Photo Gallery cont....

FALL GATHERING 2006



Calendar of Upcoming Events

April Schedule of Events

- 8—Easter Sunday
- 11—General Body Meeting @1700
- 13—Adopt-A-School Visit @1330
- 15—Church Visit Agape Fellowship Ministries
- 18—NNOA PME (TBA)
- 21—James Farmer Mentorship/ Membership Basketball Shoot a round

April 2007

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

- 4–6 NASCAR Clean up Fundraiser (TBA)
- 5—Membership Family Bowling Night (TBA)
- 9—General Body Meeting @1700
- 13—Mother's Day
- 18—Adopt-A-School @1330
- 28—Memorial Day
- 30—Executive Board Meeting @1700

May 2007

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

- 8— Adopt-A-School @1330
- 9— Adopt-A-Highway @0800
- 13—General Body Meeting @1700
- 15—NNOA Awards Scholarship Submissions
- 17—Father's Day
- 23—Membership Basketball Shooter Round
- 27—Exec Board Meeting @1700

June 2007

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



National Naval Officers Association, Inc.

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Quantico, VA 22134

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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.