

# Quantico Chapter Newsletter



**President:** [LtCol Robert Clements](#)  
**Chaplain:** [LT Christopher Cauble](#)  
**Treasurer:** [Capt Travis Reeves](#)  
**Membership:** [Capt Vernice Armour](#)  
**Master-At-Arms:** [Maj Jonathan Loney](#)  
**Parliamentarian:** [Vacant](#)

**Vice-President:** [Maj David Everly](#)  
**Public Affairs:** [Capt Melissa Ayres](#)  
**Secretary:** [LT Angela Simpson](#)  
**Webmaster:** [Maj Robert Guice](#)  
**Historian:** [Maj Gilbert Warner](#)

## Message from the President...

Members and Friends of the Mighty Quantico Chapter,

As we look forward to the New Year, we should reflect on the many successes we as an organization enjoyed in 2006 and plan on taking advantage of every opportunity that 2007 will bring. My sincere and heartfelt thanks for the personal commitment in the areas of Adopt-a-School, Adopt-a Family, Adopt-a-

Highway, TBS Mixers, PME sessions, Scholarships, Mentorship breakfasts and last but certainly not least the successful 34th Annual NNOA National Conference.

Let us always prayerfully remember our forward deployed comrades as they continue to serve magnificently and globally "in the air, on land and sea".

We have quite an aggressive agenda through the 35th Annual Conference. And I again respectfully request your continued support as we take aim, fire for effect, place rounds on target and turn all future challenges into accomplishments.

Semper Fidelis,

*LtCol R. C. Clements*  
President  
Quantico Chapter, NNOA

### Upcoming Events

- 9 Jan—Martin Luther King, Jr Observance, Quantico Chapel 1000-1300
- 10 Jan—General Body Meeting @1700
- 19 Feb—President's Day
- 24 Feb—Black History Month Banquet, Fredericksburg Expo
- 16-17 Mar Scholarship Weekend event; golf tournament and banquet

### Inside this issue:

CNO signs MOU	2
The life of Lt Emily Perez	3
LtGen Coleman makes history	4
Montford Point Marine reunion	6
Chaplain's Corner	10
Chapter Photo Gallery	11
Chapter Calendar	12

## Salinas achieves first in the Corps Lance Cpl. Travis J. Crewdson

Latinas who achieve firsts in their job fields were recognized at "Las Primeras," the 17th Annual Awards Gala, which was held at the National Museum of Women in the Arts in Washington, D.C., Oct. 5.

The evening was hosted by MANA, a national Latina organization dedicated to strengthening Latinas as community leaders, creating vital Hispanic com-

munities, advancing public policy for an equal and just society, and developing and maintaining a healthy organization.

Brigadier Gen. Angela Salinas was awarded as "La Primera" in a military field for becoming the first Latina in the Corps to earn the rank of brigadier general, Aug. 2. Two days later, she made history again by becoming the first woman to command Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego

and Western Recruiting Region.

Since enlisting in 1974, Salinas has been the first in many aspects of her career. She became the first female Marine to command a recruiting station in June of 1989. Three years later, she became the first woman ever to be assigned as a combat service support ground monitor. Salinas

*(Continued on page 2)*

## Salinas continued...

*(Continued from page 1)*

was also the first woman to serve as a recruiting district commanding officer in 2001. Before awarding the award to her, Merijoel Duran, mistress of the ceremony, spoke about how Salinas began her career, which led to so many accomplishments.

“Salinas began her military career when she enlisted into the Marine Corps in May of 1974,” Duran said. “It was then that her life changed forever during a chance encounter at a post office. The college sophomore had walked there to mail a letter when she met a Marine Corps recruiter. He asked her why she wasn’t a Marine, and she had no good answer.

“After listening to what he had to

say she began to think the Marines might give her a meaningful life,” Duran continued as the audience laughed at the circumstance. “She enlisted three days later. Within the week, she had traveled from Dominican College in San Rafael, Calif., to Parris Island, S.C., to begin boot camp.

Following recruit training, she served as a legal services clerk until 1977 when she was selected for the Enlisted Commissioning Program and was later commissioned a second lieutenant in December 1977.”

Salinas, blushing at her own story, came to the lectern and accepted her award explaining that the greatest part of being in the Marine Corps was the fact that her leadership was reflected in her command as well as each individual regardless of rank and

that no part of the Corps or particular pay grade could exist without the others.

Salinas said her career is still far from over and is excited to continue to make accomplishments no Latina has achieved before.

For more information on MANA and to learn about other “Las Primeras,” visit the organization’s Web site at [www.hermana.org](http://www.hermana.org).



## CNO Signs NNOA MOU

By Chief of Naval Operations Public Affairs

WASHINGTON (NNS) – In a ceremony at the U.S. Navy Memorial in late November, Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Mike Mullen presented a signed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to the National Naval Officers Association (NNOA).

The memorandum, signed by Mullen and then NNOA National President Rear Adm. Manson K. Brown on Sept. 30, 2006, reaffirmed a cooperative relationship between the NNOA and the Navy to achieve mutual goals for diversity in the workforce.

“What NNOA is at a high-level, and trying to get done, is representing and advocating for the most positive qualities of a di-

verse officer corps for all of the sea services,” Mullen said to members of the Washington, D.C. chapter. “I was proud and delighted to sign this memorandum.”

Specifically, the MOU calls for developing, implementing and improving strategies for the achievement and management of a diverse workforce of Navy officers and enlisted personnel; establishing and maintaining a positive image of the Navy in NNOA’s communities of influence; and providing personal and professional development, training opportunities and positive experiences.

“I have felt for a long time, as someone very committed to the diversity of our Navy, that it’s a compelling imperative for the

future,” said Mullen. “It is very much tied to how I view our responsibilities.”

The MOU commits NNOA to becoming more involved in Navy recruiting and retention efforts and in providing opportunities for Navy personnel to participate – in a private capacity – in outreach and community-based programs.

“This is not just about young people being mentored from the minority standpoint, this is about all of us pitching in,” Mullen said. “NNOA is a special group. Their outreach is important.”

“This presentation represents a significant chapter in the history of NNOA,” said current NNOA

*(Continued on page 3)*



CNO speaks before presenting Memorandum of Understanding

## MOU Continued...

*(Continued from page 2)*

National President Capt. Bernard Jackson. "The members of NNOA look forward to responding to the challenge before us and doing our part to bring about a more diverse workforce in the Sea Services."

The Navy, in turn, will identify regional and local recruiting offices to coordinate with NNOA chapters across the country; include NNOA members in Navy-sponsored training and career development programs when applicable; and designate the Chief of Naval Personnel's Diversity Directorate as the service's liaison with NNOA on major matters.

The CNO said he was eager to get started.

"I am anxious to do it at a very high pace and that

we make as much happen as quickly as we possibly can," he said. "It's not me, it's us. From the leadership, we are all very, very committed to that."

Established in 1970, NNOA is composed of active duty, reserve and retired officers and civilians who actively support the sea services in the development of a diverse workforce through recruitment, retention and career development. The organization is sanctioned by the Secretaries of the Navy and Transportation and is a member of the Navy and Marine Corps Council. NNOA has members of all ranks and ethnic groups.

For related news, visit the Chief of Naval Operations Navy NewsStand page at <http://www.news.navy.mil/local/cno/>.

## Top of Her Class

### The loss of Lt. Emily Perez is a grim reminder of the vital role

By Dan Ephron and Pat Wingert

Oct. 9, 2006 issue - As with so many other things she did, Emily Perez sang in the gospel choir at West Point with a bubbly enthusiasm that energized the people around her. A soprano from her first year at the military academy, Perez was given the additional role of tambourine shaker on the spirited numbers. And shake she did. "Sometimes it got to be so vigorous that we'd try to hide it from her," says Marjana Mair, one of Perez's many friends at West Point. On Wednesdays, a smaller group of singers, just altos and sopranos, would meet to rehearse their separate material. "We'd start to sing something and then dance around and get crazy," Mair, who now directs the choir, told NEWSWEEK last week at West Point's Grant Hall, surrounded by cadets and lunch trays.

Perez's death by a roadside bomb south of Baghdad last month came amid a succession

of sad milestones for women in the military. She was one of four women soldiers killed in the past month: three in Iraq and a 52-year-old in Afghanistan—the oldest U.S. servicewoman to die in either conflict. Perez was the first woman graduate of West Point killed in Iraq and the 64th woman soldier to die in the war on terrorism (compared with eight in a decade in Vietnam). Although in some circles the unprecedented role women are playing in combat zones is still contentious, the real surprise is how easily we've come to accept women's fighting and dying in war—and, with an overstretched military, how indispensable they've become. Fifteen percent of soldiers in Iraq are women. Department of Defense policy still bars them from serving in the main combat branch, the infantry, but because the front line in Iraq is everywhere all the time, they are just as exposed as most servicemen.

Perez is an example of how the military's greater openness to women helped bring in some of the best and brightest. A star scholar and a talented sprinter, Perez showed no interest in a military career until she was invited to an academic workshop at West Point in her junior year of high school. She went "because it would look good on her résumé," says her father, Daniel Perez, a longtime Army officer who never encouraged his daughter to follow his path.

On arriving, Emily was struck by the beauty of the campus along the Hudson River and the caliber of the graduates. "Most of all, she was drawn to the cadets' camaraderie, the sense that they were like one big family, that they all looked out for each other," her father says. When she came home and told her parents that she'd decided to apply to West Point, "our jaws

*(Continued on page 6)*



## M&RA general makes history

By: Cpl. Shaahn Williams

After only five months as a two-star general, Lt. Gen. Ronald Coleman, deputy commandant for Manpower Reserve Affairs, was pinned with a third star Friday in a promotion ceremony here at The Clubs At Quantico’s ballroom.

More than 400 family members, friends and colleagues filled the room to capacity to witness the monumental event of Coleman being only the second black Marine to reach the rank of lieutenant general in the Marine Corps; the first being retired Lt. Gen. Frank Petersen, who was on hand to help pin Coleman’s stars on along with Coleman’s wife, Jane.

With 32 years of service and three more to go until retirement, Coleman would have never guessed that he was going to make a career in the Corps when he was commissioned in 1974.

“I started out in the Navy during Vietnam, and after that enlistment I had planned on doing two and one-half years in the Marine Corps to become a captain just to get experience before going to the FBI,” he said.

Born in Philadelphia and raised in Darby, Pa., a small borough just outside the city, Coleman aspired to become a minister and even completed some coursework in that area of study, but decided to continue his military career.

“It was fun, so I decided to stay in longer,” he said. “I love Marines and being around them.”

Life in the Corps was good for Coleman, but it was somewhat disconcerting not to have many other black Marines to identify with.

“It was tough in the beginning not having senior black officers to look up to,” he said. “But that helped broaden my view about people.”

A broader view of people with diverse backgrounds, coupled with a lack of fear to ask questions or make mistakes, helped catapult Coleman through the ranks, but not without the help of mentors along the way.

“Gen. (Walter) Gaskin, Gen. (Clifford) Stanley as well as Staff Sgt. (Alford) McMichael, who later became Sgt. Maj. McMichael and Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps, helped me tremendously,” the 60-year old leader said.

One of Coleman’s mentors, Petersen, not only gave him advice over the years, but attended the promotion ceremony with a special purpose — pinning on the third star.

“I think everyone, white or black, looks up to him,” Coleman said. “One of the first things he ever did was ask me what he could do for me,” Coleman remembered.

“He’s been a giver all his life and I am humbled and honored that he would do this for me in his uniform. It makes me feel good.”

With all his success, the father of five daughters and three granddaughters said it is too early to feel any pressure about his status because the promotion is surreal.

“I don’t feel any real pressure, because it’s just sinking in,” Coleman said. “I feel honor



LtGen Ronald S. Coleman

and more awe than anything. I have been fortunate and blessed. That’s what this is all about; timing and people having faith and confidence in me.”

Coleman applies that philosophy to his everyday life and it shows in the way he treats the Marines who work for him.

“My grandmother, Mae E. Hill, told me to treat everyone with dignity and respect,” Coleman said. “And that is what I do. I try to give my Marines space to do what they have to do. I’d rather have to pull someone back then push them ahead.”

Capt. Rhonda Martin, aide de camp to Coleman, believes his philosophy makes him easy to work for.

“He is a compassionate leader and I love working for him,” she said. “I don’t mind working long hours and I feel blessed to work with him, because he makes me want to excel. He allows you to be yourself and believes every Marine is worth serving.”

During the promotion ceremony, before the actual pinning, retired Lt. Gen. Henry Os-

*(Continued on page 5)*

## General history cont...

(Continued from page 4)

man fondly spoke of Coleman’s accomplishments.

“(Coleman) is the kind of guy who does his job without a lot of fanfare,” Osman said.

“He did incredible work in Iraq. He built a facility to repair gear damaged in the war from scratch. I was amazed at what he’d done. You couldn’t find anyone better suited to be the deputy of Manpower and Reserve Affairs.” For Coleman, one other mission he considers to be a highlight of

his career was providing relief efforts in Haiti as the commanding general of the Combined Joint Task Force.

“Helping the people of a country in turmoil was one of the greatest satisfactions I have ever felt in my entire life,” he said.

Once Coleman was pinned on by both his wife and mentor, he made a short speech and expressed the gratitude he felt to his family for their support by giving his wife, daughters and granddaughters bouquets of fresh flowers.

“What I am most proud of is my wife and family,” he said as he presented his family with the flowers.

Coleman plans to retire in three years and has his sights set on working with young people.

“My ideal job would be a position that allows me to work with the youth,” he said. “If I can do that I’d be happy.”

*“Helping the people of a country in turmoil was one of the greatest satisfactions I have ever felt in my entire life,”*



Lt. Gen. Ronald Coleman, deputy commandant for Manpower and Reserve Affairs, is pinned on with his third star by his wife Jane, and his mentor, retired Lt. Gen. Frank Petersen, during Coleman’s promotion ceremony Friday at The Clubs At Quantico. Coleman is the second black Marine to become a three-star general.



LtGen Petersen says a few words during LtGen Coleman’s promotion.

## Perez Continued.....

(Continued from page 3)

dropped," he says.

At 5 feet 4 and 110 pounds, a female and a minority, she wasn't your typical West Pointer. But Perez was already displaying leadership skills that the institution—and later the Army's Medical Service Corps—would prize. "She had this air of responsibility and seriousness about her," says Scott Silverstone, who taught Perez in his international-relations seminar, where questions about the invasion of Iraq and the broader war on terror were debated. Silverstone remembers Perez "tearing into the issues with a

tremendous confidence and enthusiasm." Those qualities prompted her peers to elect her to the second highest position a cadet can hold, brigade sergeant major.

By her senior year, Perez knew she would soon be in Iraq. While waiting for her deployment overseas, Perez got a call from a bone-marrow group she'd registered with saying she was a match and asking her to donate before heading abroad. "I didn't want her to do it only a month before she was going to Iraq," says Perez's mother, Vicki. "But she had no hesitation. She told me, 'If I have a

chance to save someone's life, I'm going to do it!'"

Weeks ago, a bad feeling came over Vicki while she watched war news on TV. She woke up at 3 a.m. and e-mailed Emily: "Please respond ASAP. I need to know you're alright." The return e-mail popped up within hours. "Ma, stop listening to the news," Emily wrote. "The reality is, if anything happens to me, two officers will come to the door and one of them will be a chaplain." When the team arrived weeks later, Vicki Perez knew what it meant. "I think she was preparing me the best she could," she says.

---

*"She had this air of responsibility and seriousness about her,"*  
*Scott Silverstone*

## Celebrating aviation's women of color

By: Cpl. Shaahn Williams

CHICAGO, Ill. – Women of color from all over the world working in the field of aviation, aerospace technology and support gathered in Chicago for the Dorothy Jemison Foundation's Reality Leads Fantasy-Celebrating Women of Color in Flight conference Oct. 5-7.

The purpose of the conference was to highlight and salute the roles women of color worldwide play in pushing the envelope of altitude, human endurance, air transportation and space exploration in the past, present and future.

In attendance were pilots in the armed forces, educators and astronauts, such as Marine Corps Capt. Vernice Armour, one of the first women to pilot a Cobra helicopter, and Stephanie Wilson, the astronaut who flew aboard Space Shuttle Discovery July 4, as well as mechanics and aviation electricians, who do not fly planes, but

fix them.

Even actress Nichelle Nichols, famous for her role as Lt. Uhura in the original Star Trek series, was on-hand as she helped change the face of space exploration as a recruiter of minorities and women for NASA's space program.

During the first day of the conference, specially selected women in the fields of aviation and aviation support traveled to Chicago's Midway Airport to meet with 50 young girls from the Girls Leadership Academy of the Chicago Public Schools for a hands-on experience in aviation and aerospace careers and equipment.

The girls participated in four operations briefs: launch and entry equipment, search and rescue, health and safety, and ground support for an aviation or aerospace rescue mission

(Continued on page 7)



A group of female astronauts, pilots, aviation electricians and students of the Girls Leadership Academy of the Chicago Public Schools shout for joy in front of a Blackhawk helicopter marking the conclusion the Rising Up Deployment Girls' Day Out in a hangar at Chicago's Midway Airport Oct. 5.

## Aviation continued...

(Continued from page 6)

gone awry. After the briefs, the girls were required to use what they had learned to plan a way to fix the problems in the scenario.

“The purpose of these exercises is to give these young ladies an idea of the responsibilities and actions needed to accomplish this assignment,” said Dr. Mae Jemison, the first black female astronaut and founder of the Dorothy Jemison Foundation, which is named after her mother.

“They need to see that women can do these kinds of jobs,” she said.

“These kinds of jobs” not only include pilots, but astronauts, aircraft mechanics and other behind-the-scenes careers many women rarely think about pursuing.

At the end of the day, the junior high and high school girls had learned what the job of an Air Force loadmaster entails, how to suit up an astronaut and various other facets of the field of aviation. They had also learned that if something were to go wrong, how to potentially solve the problem.

One of the highlights of the day was when the girls were able to climb in and out of a Blackhawk helicopter, while aviation electricians Petty Officer 2nd Class Nichele Magee and Petty Officer 1st Class Regina Freeman showed the young women how they repaired airplanes while still maintaining their femininity.

“I get under the plane with my flashlight and wrenches to fix what needs to be fixed but look

...,” Magee said holding her hands up before her face so the girls could get a good look. “My nails are clean. I am still a lady.”

For many of the students, the day was more than the normal school trip.

During the roundtable discussion that followed the activities, a teary-eyed Whitney Smith, a senior who aspires to become a movie producer, said she was grateful for being made privy to careers she had never knew existed.

“For all of you to take out time to be here really touches my heart,” she said. “No one talks about this to us. Where we come from, we don’t get exposed to anything like this and it’s hard to believe there are people out there who care about what happens to us in the future.”

To top off what many of the girls said would be a day they would never forget, the girls gathered in a helicopter hangar to witness a CH-46 take off — a sight many of them had never seen.

During the second day of the conference, the groundbreaking aviators, astronauts, scientists and technicians were divided into teams to visit schools in downtown Chicago to speak to science students about their achievements.

“We do hope to inspire more young women to pursue careers in science and technology, but hopefully each and every person can learn from the stories we have to tell about the obstacles we have overcome to get where we are today,” Armour said. “We are women of color, but that doesn’t mean that everyone,

regardless of race or gender, can’t benefit from this.”

The third and final day of the conference included a gala at Chicago’s Navy Pier Grand Ballroom. The star-studded event included an awards ceremony sponsored by the Dorothy Jemison Foundation for Excellence to honor the achievements of women of color in flight.

Among the many recipients at the event was the recently retired Air Marshall, Dr. Padmavathy Bandhopadyay of the Indian Air Force. “Dr. Padma,” as she told everyone to call her, is the highest ranking woman in the Indian Air Force. During her acceptance speech, she encouraged the audience to dream and plan how to make their dreams become a reality.

“When you work hard for it, it will be done,” she said.

A fitting phrase to sum up the conference was given the achievements of the women who were honored at the gala.

This simple statement was a sentiment that could be felt throughout the three-day affair as the women who held the title of “the first” encouraged the next generation to continue in the legacy they left behind.

“Some of the young women in this audience may blaze new trails, and some of you may not,” Jemison said during a speech she gave at the gala. “But just because you can’t be first, doesn’t mean you can’t be excellent.”



**William J. Powell**

- In 1932, became the 1st black American pilot actually licensed in America
- Started the Bessie Coleman Aero Club to teach other black s how to fly
- Organized the 1st all-Black aviator air show, in 1931, which drew 15,000 visitors

---

*We do hope to inspire more young women to pursue careers in science and technology, ...”*

## National Reunion for Black Marines is scheduled for June 22 thru 24, 2007 in Las Vegas.

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 22nd to June 24, 2007 at the Santa Fe Station Hotel and Casino.

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

The first reunion was such a success that we decided to have another so that those who were unable to attend could be given another chance to see old friends and meet new brothers.

We were not allowed to serve in the Marine Corps until 1941 and did not begin to train to become marines until 1942. Then we were segregated or isolated to a base named Camp Montford Point in North Carolina! The goal for all that 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."

There are so many stories to be told by Black Marines that we decided to get together every other year and reacquaint and share stories of our Marine Corps experiences! After serving in the Corps we went in many directions and often we would only meet again when some one became ill or passed away! So 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.

The stories of Montford Point Marines have been told but those that succeeded the Montford Pointers have not had their stories told. Stories have been told by others but we know that the best story is told by the source, those who experienced it!

If you are a Contact Robert "Bobby" Wallace AKA "The Gator" by phone 352-259-2435 or thegator@thevillages.net by December 2006 for details.

## Retired-Admiral Is Named New Schools Chief By Joel Rubin and Howard Blume, Times Staff Writers October

The Los Angeles Board of Education unanimously selected retired Navy Vice Adm. David L. Brewer III to be the next superintendent Thursday amid a battle for control of the school system between the board and Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa.

Brewer, 60, who left the Navy in March, is a non-educator who, school board members say, impressed them with his intelligence, accomplishments and leadership skills. He recently headed the Military Sealift Command, where he oversaw the supply chain for equipment, fuel and ammunition for U.S. forces worldwide. He was in charge of more than 8,000 military and civilian personnel and about 120 ships.

"I'm honored and humbled to be selected as the next superintendent of L.A. Unified and look forward to working with all the stakeholders in the city for the children of Los Angeles," said

Brewer, who spoke briefly when reached by phone. The school board intends to introduce him at a morning news conference.

Despite broad management experience, Brewer has never run a school district, let alone one which is the scene of a rhetorical and legal war between Villaraigosa and the school board.

The mayor, who is in Asia on a trade mission, said he hoped that the new superintendent would be an advocate for change in the district but that he was disappointed with the board's selection process.

Members of the committee that turned over the names of five finalists for the job predicted that the admiral would have the skills and experience to take charge.

Running the Los Angeles Unified School District is about "managing a complex organization with limited resources. That's what it comes down to,"

said Scott Plotkin, executive director of the California School Boards Assn. "That and inspiring, leading people. Brewer will be a true leader for the district and a force in the community on behalf of the district, which is something they badly need."

After meeting all day in closed session, members of the school board unexpectedly announced their unanimous decision just before 7 p.m.

Thursday in a brief public session before a virtually empty boardroom.

Board President Marlene Canter called Brewer "a giant of a man" who has "education in his DNA" - his mother was a teacher for more than four decades. His wife is a middle school teacher with a doctorate. Canter predicted that Brewer, who will move from the Washington, D.C., area to take the job, would become a civic leader in Los Angeles.

"His leadership capabilities, his intellect, his experience led us to believe, without really any doubt, that this man will be able to take on the second-largest school district and represent every single kid,"Canter said.

She said Brewer could take control of the district in as quickly as a month. The length of Brewer's contract and his salary remain to be negotiated. Canter indicated, however, that she expected the board to offer Brewer a multiyear contract.

"Longevity is important," she said, adding that Brewer "made it very clear to us that he understood that this is not a short-term job."

Before he departed, Villaraigosa insisted that the board should await his return and include him in the selection process. He wanted to review the entire list of potential candidates.

But Villaraigosa and the school

(Continued on page 7)

## Admiral Brewer cont...

*(Continued from page 6)*

board were unable to agree on a role for the mayor. The school board's last and best offer was to let Villaraigosa interview finalists and provide input, much like a school board member - provided that he ultimately supported the board's choice.

The mayor declined, insisting on a role more consistent with new powers he would have as of Jan. 1, when a law giving him substantial authority over local schools is scheduled to take effect.

Under the Villaraigosa-backed legislation, the mayor would be able to veto the hiring and firing of superintendents through a council of local mayors that he would dominate. The fate of the law itself is in limbo because of a legal challenge filed Tuesday by the school district and others.

Canter said she notified the mayor's office immediately after the board's decision.

The reaction from City Hall and district critics was immediate.

"I am deeply disappointed that the school board would move ahead with selecting a superintendent without the participation of the council of mayors, parents and the Los Angeles community," Villaraigosa told *The Times*. "I'm hopeful that I will have the opportunity to meet with Mr.

Brewer and discuss his qualifications and philosophy about education reform. I'm looking forward to working with him, parents and teachers to improve our schools."

The response was less measured from state Senate Majority Leader Gloria Romero (D-Los Angeles), who co-sponsored the legislation that gave Villaraigosa his sought-after authority.

"Maybe they got it right choosing an admiral because this is like the Titanic, a sinking ship," Romero said. "I don't know the admiral, and I will meet the admiral. But this is a complete mockery, a complete snubbing of the mayor and the will of the Legislature. This is the school board thumbing their noses in the most horrendous way. They're going to get

their guy without giving a damn about anything that has occurred in Los Angeles or in California in the last year and a half."

The school board was in no mood to wait for the new rules to take effect or even for the mayor to return from abroad Oct. 22. It delivered its verdict less than two weeks after a search committee turned over five names.

"The timing of the mayor's trip had nothing to do with this," Canter said. "The mayor has his job; he has his calendar; he has his agenda.

He's doing his work. We have our work, our own schedule. We started this in February."

In choosing Brewer, with his commander's bearing and impressive resume, the school board hopes to insulate itself from complaints that it acted hastily.

The mayor, in turn, if he is perceived as unfairly critical of Brewer, who is African American, runs the risk of backlash, particularly in the black community. In the last mayoral election, large numbers of voters in South Los Angeles switched from incumbent James K. Hahn to Villaraigosa in part because Hahn fired African American Police Chief Bernard C. Parks. And support for Villaraigosa's move for control of the school district is mixed among members of the black community.

Brewer, a native of Farmville, Va., who was raised in Orlando, Fla., began his Navy career in 1970 after graduating from the historically black school Prairie View A&M University in Texas. At the time, only 250 of 72,000 total officers were African Americans.

"I had a tough time. I had to overcome a lot of what I considered to be inherent bias in the Navy toward African Americans. But I did have a lot of role models along the way, both African American and white, and they really sustained me throughout my career," Brewer said in an interview last year with *The Black Collegian* magazine.

His first assignment was as an electronic warfare officer aboard a guided missile cruiser. He moved up quickly through the ranks, holding a wide variety of positions including minority recruiting officer.

Vice Admiral Brewer, (Ret)



Late in his Navy career he earned a series of command roles, culminating with his sealift role in August 2001. He also served briefly as vice chief of naval education and training, which offers academic and naval training to sailors. In October, 2002, he was promoted to vice admiral.

Among board members, Brewer won the support of Monica Garcia, who is considered a staunch ally of the mayor.

"I would have liked to see a more transparent process and would have liked the mayor to have a role in the selection," Garcia said.

But Brewer "presented an attitude of inclusion and an understanding that the district isn't going to do this alone."

Non-educators, including former military leaders, have a mixed record running school districts. The most notable example of a military leader who ran a school system is Army Maj. Gen. John Stanford, who headed the Seattle public schools from 1995 until his death from leukemia in 1998.

"John Stanford did an outstanding job of changing the perception of the school district of the business community and even the community of parents from quite negative to quite positive," said Dick Clark of the Seattle-based Institute for Educational Inquiry.

Brewer will succeed another non-educator, former three-term Colorado Gov. Roy Romer, who had announced plans to retire from L.A. Unified as soon as a successor could be named.

Romer had some advantages - he had been considered a leader among governors on education issues and had substantial experience dealing with teacher unions in Colorado.

But Romer, for one, expressed no doubts about Brewer.

"Great decision," Romer said. "He'll be a great leader."

## Chaplain’s Corner

### An Unlikely Cast of Characters C.S. Cauble, LT Chaplain, Security Battalion

Most likely, everyone who would take the time to read this article is familiar with the Christmas story. Most of us know about the journey of Mary and Joseph from Nazareth to Bethlehem, the inhospitality of the inn keeper with his “no room in the inn”, and the harsh conditions of Jesus’ birth in the manger. However, there is more to the story for those who choose to look more carefully at the irony of the King born in a barn. For instance, have you noticed the cast of scandalous characters that make up Jesus’ family tree... or the fact that his parents were on the brink of divorce prior to his birth... or the unsavory folk who greeted him in the smelly, makeshift delivery room after his birth? Allow me to elaborate.

First, Jesus’ family tree records some rather obscure folk including four very notorious women from the Old Testament. It was very rare for women to be named in a family tree in the first century, but especially these four. The first named is Tamar... a young woman who prostituted herself with her father-in-law, Judah (read Genesis 38). Second is Rahab, the harlot who is known for her heroic deed of protecting the Hebrew spies when they came through Jericho (read Joshua 2). Third named is Ruth, the woman

of excellence whose story comes from the book that bares her name. Finally, the last named is Bathsheba (“the wife of Uriah”) who, of course, is known for her illicit affair with King David (read 2 Samuel 11). However, despite their less than ideal circumstances these women demonstrate genuine faith in the Lord God and are included in the people of faith, even as grandmothers of the long awaited Messiah.

Next, there is also the controversy surrounding the miraculous conception of Jesus by the Holy Spirit that nearly drove Mary and Joseph apart even before their marriage. Joseph, knowing he was not the father, was ready to call off the wedding after finding out about Mary’s pregnancy. Were it not for the intervention of the angel sent from God, Jesus was nearly the product of a broken home! However, Joseph put his faith in the Lord, trusting the message of the angel, and stayed with Mary throughout her pregnancy.

Finally, the shepherds close out this list of characters from the story of Jesus’ birth. Shepherds give definition to the term humble. Their work among the livestock made them smell bad and kept them from regular attendance among the worshipping commu-

nity. According to the scholars, because they roamed around the countryside they were often considered to be thieves and could not give evidence in the courts. YET, God chose this humble group of “outsiders” to be center stage at the birth of Jesus!

So what does this all mean for us? First, this group’s inclusion in the gospels demonstrates that the men and women who lived in biblical times were just ordinary people like you and me. They were less than perfect and made the same mistakes we often make. However, their *baggage* did not prevent God from using those who trust Him in a mighty way. As the Apostle Paul wrote, “God delights in using the weak things of this world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, so that no human being might boast in the presence of God.” He can overcome your baggage as well and give to you a new life. Trust Him.

So take comfort in this fact this Christmas – Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners... folks like you and me.

## Holiday warmth

### Thanksgiving Adopt a Family Program

The Quantico Chapter gave generously for the annual Thanksgiving Adopt a Family program. Nine families were provided with food baskets consisting of a turkey, dressing, vegetables, sparkling grape juice, and a pumpkin pie. Three of the nine families were spouses and children of Marines deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Additionally, the Quantico Chapter supported families for the Christmas season providing gifts and food baskets.



Pictured left: Chaplain Cauble (Chapter Chaplain, Capt Thomas and SgtMaj Watkins, MCB Quantico Base SgtMaj



Pictured right: SgtMaj Watkins and two Battalion Marines assisting him in delivering the baskets

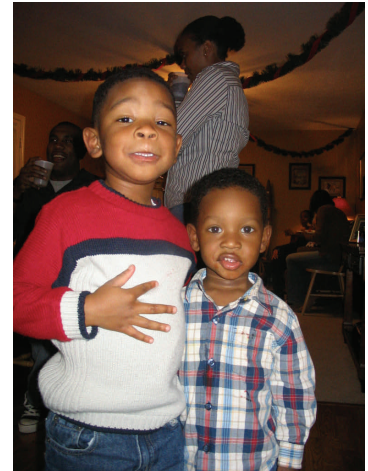
## Quantico Chapter Photo Gallery



Chapter Pres. Mentoring at TBS Mixer



CMC speaks at Nat'l conf



Turkey and stuffing and pie,  
Oh my!



MajGen Gaskin shares wisdom at Nat'l conf



Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. event  
support appreciation



Revelers at the Holiday Social.



Best Mid-Size Chapter  
The Mighty Quantico Chapter

## Calendar of Upcoming Events

### January Schedule of Events

- 3—Executive Board Meeting @1700
- 9—Martin Luther King, Jr. Observance 1000-1300; Quantico Chapel
- 10—General Body Meeting @1700
- 11—Audit Comm Mtg 1100-1300
- 21—Church Visit Mount Hope Baptist Church
- 26 Adopt-A-School
- 27—Lunch and Bingo at Armed Forces Retirement Home 1100-1500

### January 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			

### February Schedule of Events

- 2—Black History Month Prayer Breakfast
- 3—Adopt-A-Highway
- 14—General Body Meeting @1700
- 19—President’s Day
- 24—Black History Month Dinner; Fredericksburg Expo
- 28—Exec Board Meeting @1700

### February 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			

### March Schedule of Events

- 9—Adopt-A-School
- 14—General Body Meeting @1700
- 16—Scholarship Golf Tournament
- 17—Scholarship Banquet
- 28—Exec Board Meeting @1700
- 31—Adopt-A-Highway

### March 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



*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.**