America Says No To Reparations

Blaws cannot sue the federal government for damages or any apology for slavery and social injustice, a U.S. federal appeals court ruled.

Attorneys from the Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights had argued that the 13th Amendment, which abolished slavery, did not bar federal courts to intervene when congressional inaction perpetuates the effects of slavery.

The U.S. 9th Circuit Court of Appeals, in its 3-0 ruling, contradicted the same conclusion as dozen of lower-court judges who had considered similar reparations claims.

The seven plaintiffs cannot seek damages for the enslavement of their ancestors, cannot attribute a current allegedly discriminatory act by Congress, and failed to point to specific government actions that violated their rights, said the opinion by Judge Pamela Rymer.

Individuals who complain about historic or current societal discrimination lack the standing and legal authority "to portray claims in court arising out of the government's failure to do right as they see it," Rymer said.

She noted, one of a group of similar claims filed in the last three years, sought more than $100 million in damages, a figure along the lines of the millions of dollars awarded to Japanese-Americans interned during World War II.

Samuel Paterson, chairman of the Reparations Committee for African-Americans, who drafted the lawsuit, said he was "not surprised by the ruling. "You're not going to get anything from a pig but his tail.

AACAP To Honor Community Pioneers

The NAACP will be honoring the first anniversary of the Black History Month with an Awards Banquet at 6:00 p.m. on December 9, 1995, a court ruled in Oakland’s favor.

Several individuals have demonstrated outstanding commitments and contributions to making education more accessible to people of color, the court said.

"This year we felt an emphasis on civil rights was important because it’s not only hopeful for the future. All of our recipients have been selected for educational excellence and civil rights work," said Appendix Garrett, NAACP President.

Two of the award recipients, ten San Bernardino County, were ten San Bernardino County Community.

Pamela Rymer.

said the opinion by Judge Garrett. "I was not surprised by the ruling. "You’re not going to get anything from a pig but his tail."

Oberst From Black News

The NAACP will be honor...}
In a recent (November 23rd) article, the Black Voice News reported that Blake Eulogized From The Front Page of the Los Angeles Times on January 15, 1994. The article highlighted the importance of the Eulogized From The Front Page story and its significance to the community.

The article began by acknowledging the loss of Blake Eulogized From The Front Page of the Los Angeles Times on January 15, 1994, and how it affected the community. The article stated that Blake's death was a significant loss to the community and how it affected the families and friends of those who were affected by his passing.

The article then went on to discuss the impact of Blake's death on the community and how it affected the lives of those who knew him. The article stated that Blake was a well-liked and respected figure in the community and how his death had a ripple effect on those who knew him.

The article then acknowledged the importance of Blake's legacy and how it continued to impact the community. The article stated that Blake Eulogized From The Front Page of the Los Angeles Times on January 15, 1994, had a significant impact on the community and how it continued to be felt years after his passing.

In conclusion, the article stated that Blake Eulogized From The Front Page of the Los Angeles Times on January 15, 1994, was a significant loss to the community and how his death had a ripple effect on those who knew him. The article acknowledged the importance of Blake's legacy and how it continued to impact the community.

The article ended with a reflection on the impact of Blake's death on the community and how it continued to be felt years after his passing. The article stated that Blake Eulogized From The Front Page of the Los Angeles Times on January 15, 1994, had a significant impact on the community and how it continued to be felt years after his passing.

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Community

California Brings High Technology To The Fight Against Smog

The State of California is on the cutting edge in high technology to combat vehicle emissions. The newest high-tech weapon in the clean air arsenal is the Real Time Sensing Device (RTSD).

Regardless of how we describe them, new emissions standards require every state with pollution-sensitive areas to test vehicle emissions testing programs, and to become more effective in identifying and either repairing or removing from use those vehicles with the dirtiest exhausts.

Margaret Keller, Chief of the Department of Consumer Affairs/Bureau of Automotive Repair, said, "The largest amount of vehicle emissions in California are produced by only a small percentage of the cars. For the Smog Check II program to succeed, it is vital that we identify those cars as soon as they are driven, because the most harmful emissions are often invisible to the eye. RTSDs will help us to identify those cars."

A total of ten RTSDs will be deployed throughout California by the end of September 1995. RTSDs combine infrared technology with high-speed photography to identify the highest-emitting vehicles. RTSD units—housing infrared vans or trailers, and sometimes stationary—will be set up on major thoroughfares.

Veicles drive through an infrared beam projected across the roadway. The detector takes multiple measurements in less than a second, and sends the data to a computer inside the unit. The computer calculates levels of carbon monoxide, hydrocarbons and carbon dioxide in the exhaust. At the same time, a high-speed video camera takes pictures of the passing vehicle, including the license plate.

Keller said a vehicle will have to be identified more than once as a gross polluter before the state takes any action. "At that point," he noted, "we will mail a notice to the vehicle's owner that gives step-by-step instructions on actions that need to be taken to bring the car into compliance with vehicle emission standards."

RTSDs use Non-Dispersive Infrared (NDIR) technology, which has been used to monitor industrial exhaust stacks since the early 1960s. The first remote sensing device to use this technology was developed by Lockheed for the Air Resource Board, under a grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, in the late 1970s. Although the device showed potential, emissions readings from the equipment were inconsistent.

The first successful remote sensing device for automotive emissions was developed by University of Denver in 1987. Today, two firms manufacture the devices; Hughes Aircraft Company's Santa Barbara Research Conr, subsidiary of General Motors, and Remon Sensing Technologies, a division of Environ Inc.

The State of California plans to contract for approximately 30 RTSDs to be in operation by the end of 1996. Currently, about 500 units exist in the U.S. In addition to California, they are located in the Alaska, North Carolina, New Mexico, Arizona, Texas, Ohio, Colorado, and Canada.

In California, the units will be placed at sites determined through a complex formula that takes into account such factors as the amounts of vehicles, whether most vehicles passing the site tend to be cruising, accelerating or decelerating, and slope of the roadway.

Community's Support Gives Anderson Reason To Smile

Willis Garrett of Best Yet Promotions, a Moreno Valley resident, has been willing to help the people who worked so diligently to support the incoming council person, Betty Dean Anderson to the Sixth District of San Bernardino City. We are delighted to announce the very operation. As you probably know, computers utilize programs of subprograms called algorithms that are the computer's instructions.

These algorithms are based on mathematical relations. The computer utilizes and interesting branch of mathematics called Boolean algebra to compare algorithmic subprograms with logical instructions. Boolean algebra involves statements such as "true" and "false" as well as logical operators such as "and," "or," "not" and "exclusive or." This decade is an exciting time for Computer Science because a number of groundbreaking changes are happening. Many of these changes are due to advances in computer speed and storage capacity in this hardware area that is gaining tremendous momentum in the computer science and Artificial Intelligence. Yes, this decade is an exciting time for computers that actually think for us. Many of these reasoning based on "Neutral Networks" and much more of the human brain.

I would be less than a mathematician if I did not give you a puzzle to challenge and ease your mind. This word puzzle is very easy. If you have the numbers 0,1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9 and arrange them by using addition and subtraction only the sum has to be 1. (example)

Bishop Vinton Anderson Speaks At Allen Chapel

Bishop Vinton Anderson, President of the Fifth Episcopal District, was the guest speaker Sunday, for the dedication of Allen Chapel. A.M.E. Church in Riverside. He was also speaker at the Saturday evening at the celebration of the 55th Anniversary of New Kent Church in Long Beach, CA.

Bishop Anderson spoke from Luke 2:14. The Elusive Dream. "We are grieved who the dreamer. They are so much we say it is rhetoric. We talk about peace but peace remain static if we don't work together. Peace in each of us is an elusive dream. We think we can make it for ourselves. I'm here to say, everything that I have done gave it to me. Peace in the center of your life. God will"

Bishop Anderson congratulated pastor Shernetta Garrett for her accomplishments. "She is the first woman to serve as president of Southern California's Ministerial Association. One of her delegations to the Annual Quadrennial and Soybym for the Bishop, Southern California Conference. "She makes history," he said. "She is also to be commended for retiring the debt of the church." Allen Chapel, and all of her properties are now free and clear.

Moreno Valley Student Prepares For Her Future

Fonda Cooper and Cassandra Fields are new residents to Moreno Valley, Fonda is a United States Marine, moved his family to Moreno Valley after being stationed at Camp Pendleton Air Force Base.

The Fields have two children of their own and are foster parents to four children. All are stand-out students, but one in particular, LaToya Amos, has excelled in her academic life and now has hopes of excelling in a modeling career.

LaToya, 16-years-old, is a student at Valley View High School in Moreno Valley, with a 3.2 g.p.a. After graduation she plans to attend UCLA and eventually graduate from medical school.

LaToya is a very talented young woman. She is experienced in dancing for video, Hawaiian dance, cheerleading and flagging. She has been taking modeling classes at Nouveau in Moreno Valley. Through a successful modeling casting, they are saying LaToya hopes to be in a financial position to pay her own way through college. Said Cassandra Fields, "It feels good to know that she wants to help me pay for her education, and that she is taking the steps in preparation for her future.

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CBSBM Recognizes Former Superintendents At Annual Conference

By Cheryl Brown - Black Voice News

There are over 1000 school districts in the state of California, only 20 of them are headed by African-American Superintendents. They have formed an organization to address the critical issues in education through public policy as it relates to the status and performance of African-American students. The President of the California African-American Superintendents is Rex Fortune, Superintendent of Center Unified School District. The Superintendents and the Coalition of California Black School Board Members last week recognized former superintendents of public schools in California as a reception sponsored by Francis and Associates, held in Long Beach at the California School Board Association's annual conference. Some have retired others have left the state for other positions, many remain open to consult with school districts. Former Rialto Superintendent, Dr. Martin Fortworth, made introductions and spoke on the urgency of the issues in education. He is now Superintendent of Hayward USD.

All of them, they were former superintendents, each recipient was given time to respond. The grandaddy of them all was former State Superintendent, Wilson Riles. Riles was introduced by Dr. Charles Knight who said, "Wilson left a piece of history, a noble model and successful bust in this state. His concern at this time in his life is to see that everyone is treated fairly. He also told the story of how he became the top educational head in the state. He traveled into the smallest communities and talked to people about educating children, and not just any children. He made the message very clear. Because he has met with people all over the state, and he has kept in contact with many, he admonished, the crowd, to be careful of putting all Whites in the same bag. "We cannot categorize all Whites," he said. He pointed out that it is a Black man who is leading the fight to do away with Affirmative Action. The Intergroup Relations Office was set up to help districts to understand the (racial) problems we have. The whole office has been eliminated. He told the story of how the community where he lived would not let him feel sorry for himself when he lost both of his parents before he was 14 years old. He was in a segregated school system and no teacher ever told him he couldn't learn. "You, can learn, algebra, geometry, trigonometry, anything. I would say, I love the children. I must continue to show the way, to lead them," he said.

Ted Kimbrough, formerly of Compton and now the head of Chicago's Public Schools gave credit to the former superintendents in education. He said he was barely standing on their shoulders.

Dr. George McIlwaine, former of Inglewood District said, "we are awesome. We are helping children to be successful in a system that was never meant to be successful for our children.

Dr. Philip Lipson, Pasadena USD, John Minor, Chicago Public Schools as Dr. Paul Lawrence, Willowbrook Elementary School District in San Bernardino. More to come in the following weeks...

The following awardees would receive an award in the next school district: Dr. Charlie Max Knight and Dr. Wilson Riles were presented to by their respective schools. The incoming School Board Association's annual conference. Some have retired others have left the state for other positions, many remain open to consult with school districts. Former Rialto Superintendent, Dr. Martin Fortworth, made introductions and spoke on the urgency of the issues in education. He is now Superintendent of Hayward USD.
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(626) 241-0889
Phil And Brenda Nicholas In Full Concert

O

d December 10, 1995, Gospel recording artist,
Phil & Brenda Nicholas, will return to the
Island Empire in full concert. The concert, to be held at
Fortuna Christian Fellowship, 2124 Duc Street, San
Bernardino (off the 30 freeway
& Del Rosa exit), will

Quinn AME To Host Holiday Revival

The Ministerial Staff of
Quinn AME Church, is hosting a Holiday Revival,
"Jesus is Our Joy," to continue
Bethel AME Church, Fontana.

St. Paul AME Church, San
Bernardino, Allen Chapel AME Church, Riverside, and
Bethel AME Church, Fontana, The revival will feature
Rev. Frank Gay, and the ministerial staff of Quinn AME

family Christian Fellowship
946 E. Foothill Blvd.
(between Coen & Carlson)
Rialto, CA 92376
(909) 827-9732

ORDER OF SERVICES

Sunday Worship
Sunday School
11:00 a.m.

Evening Worship
6:00 p.m.

Family Night Worship
7:00 p.m.

Evening Worship
6:00 p.m.

Family Night
7:00 p.m.

Quinn AME CHURCH

Rev. Frank Gay, Pastor
22300-Arboleda Ave.
Moorpark, CA 92525
(805) 555-5550

Order Of Service

Sunday Service
Morning Worship
9:30 a.m.
Bishop Leon Martin
11:00 a.m.

Evening Worship
6:00 p.m.

Family Night
7:00 p.m.

ST. TIMOTHY COMMUNITY CHURCH
3100 N. State Street, San Bernardino,
92405
Rev. Dr. Johnnie W. Brown,
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(909) 887-3015

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

Sunday School
9:30 a.m.

Worship
11:00 a.m.

Family Night Servises
7:00 p.m.

Service
10:30 a.m.

No Denominational
Bertha Carolina Family Fellowship
Arthur J. Fields, Pastor

Magnolia St.
Riverside, CA 92507
(909) 684-9160

Vivacity Convention 10:00 a.m.

Sacred Baptist Church
2311 N. Magnolia
Riverside, CA 92507
(909) 684-7752

Sunday School
9:00 a.m.

Sunday Service
11:00 a.m.

Family Service
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7:00 p.m.
The Black Voice News
Page A-7

Valley Fellowship To Hold Christmas Variety Extravaganza

The Valley Fellowship Church of Seventh Day Adventist will hold its second annual rendition of The Messiah, on Saturday, December 25, 1993 at 11:00 a.m. The performance will take place at the Church, 1601 W. Street in San Bernardino.

There is no admission charge, but a free offering will be collected. All are welcome.

Further information may be obtained by calling (909) 881-0534.

Christina For Rea

An original play to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, will be presented on Saturday, December 17th, 6:00 p.m. at 583 W. 11th St., San Bernardino.

The theme of the play is "For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord." Luke 2:11.

For more information, please call Margaret Spencer at (909) 882-2038 or (909) 864-4490.

Chancel Choir To Prese the "Messiah"

The Chancel Choir of the 16th Street Seventh Day Adventist Church will provide a performance of the hit gospel comedy stage play "Talk Is Cheap" on December 21st, 7:30 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. at the Sunset Center for the Performing Arts, 780 N. E. 11th St., San Bernardino.

"Talk Is Cheap tells the old story of people who never do what they say they will," says Carol Cling, Review Journal.

Talk Is Cheap showcases a multitude of talented actors and actresses including Jackie Mills, Linda Bartoli, and Jeff Murray.

Tickets are $15 and $17 reserved for information, call (909) 825-1055.

First Baptist Church of Riverside

Rev. Marvin L. Brown
277 E. Street
Riverside, CA 92507
(909) 744-2310
(See all for services)

Gospel Comedy To Hold Encore Performance

Kandl Jane Proctor will hold an encore performance of the hit gospel comedy stage play "Talk Is Cheap" on December 21st, 7:30 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. at the Sunset Center for the Performing Arts, 780 N. E. 11th St., San Bernardino.

"Talk Is Cheap tells the old story of people who never do what they say they will," says Carol Cling, Review Journal.

Talk Is Cheap showcases a multitude of talented actors and actresses including Jackie Mills, Linda Bartoli, and Jeff Murray.

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First Baptist Church

Rev. Marvin L. Brown
277 E. Street
Riverside, CA 92507
(909) 744-2310
(See all for services)
Rubidoux downs Norco 27-14, Riverside-side North overcomes Corona Centennial 29-21, Title game set for Friday at Redlands.

By LELAND STEIN III BVN Sports Editor

CLIPPERS' LOY VAUGHN attempts to block Jordan's take-off to the basket. Photo by Paul Alvarez-BVN

The way they started I said, "Oh my God they are going to blow us off the floor," said Falcon Coach Wayne Cockshutt, about the surprise Cougars' start. "These kids really wanted it, and they've come a long way to get here." Falcons quarterback Daryll Knight's 1-yard second-quarter run led the Cougars to a 7-0 lead; but Norco's first possession of the third period, Riverside County's leading runner, Reggie Williams, broke loose for a 67-yard TD to make the score 14-7 and this was the lead the Cougars never relinquished.

Led by Knight's 118 yards rushing and two touchdowns, the Falcons scored three unanswered touchdowns to knock the Norco faithful.

"I just wanted to spark the crowd and team," said Knight, about his hard running effort. "I'm just trying to play the game as we always do, play those adjustments, and we maintained our composure to get it done.""Our coaches made some good adjustments, and we maintained our composure to get it done." said Knight.

But, the most important week of the year to Moreno Valley Canyon Rubidoux and now USC star Anthony Johnson (9-4) 29-21 at Corona North over Centennial, Chris Claiborne scored three touchdowns. "It's all about heart. I feel I have to be there for the kids and the team," said Johnson. "It's a dream come true," said Williams, who finished with 178 yards rushing and three touchdowns. "It's all about heart, I feel I have to be there for the kids and the team." Also making plays for the Falcons was quarterback Robert Farias (13 of 29 for 224 yards, 2 rushing TDs on 9 yards in 4 catches) and wide receiver Carlos Edwards, who scored on a beautiful first-quarter bomb from Farias that covered 63 yards. "We can pass to open it up for Chris," Brandon said. "Also, right now we are feeling a sense of history going on. We are going to be ready to finish our goal of a CIF title." Centennial stayed in the game on the strength of a solid running game behind Darvin Butler, who ran for 147 yards for nearly a 30-21 lead. On defense, Chris Claiborne scored three touchdowns. "It's all about heart. I feel I have to be there for the kids and the team," said Johnson. "It's a dream come true," said Williams, who finished with 178 yards rushing and three touchdowns. "It's all about heart, I feel I have to be there for the kids and the team." Also making plays for the Falcons was quarterback Robert Farias (13 of 29 for 224 yards, 2 rushing TDs on 9 yards in 4 catches) and wide receiver Carlos Edwards, who scored on a beautiful first-quarter bomb from Farias that covered 63 yards. "We can pass to open it up for Chris," Brandon said. "Also, right now we are feeling a sense of history going on. We are going to be ready to finish the game and this was the last lead the Falcons scored.

The coaches made some good adjustments, and we maintained our composure to get it done.""Our coaches made some good adjustments, and we maintained our composure to get it done." said Knight.

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Detroit, Michigan

The Underground Railroad Experience

Grenville Woods, a carpenter and entrepreneur, played an important role in the Underground Railroad. He was a key player in helping slaves escape to freedom. His work was critical in the expansion of this network.

Lewis Latimer, an African-American inventor, made significant contributions to the Underground Railroad. He helped many slaves escape to freedom through his work with the railroad companies.

President James Buchanan

The Civil War
Lincoln and Henry Ford

George Washington Carver, a scientist, developed new methods for making paint. His work contributed to the Underground Railroad by providing a means for slaves to escape.

A Visit to Historic
Motown

Motown, an American music label, played a crucial role in the Underground Railroad. It helped to document and honor the experiences of those who used the railroad.

The Black Voice News Page B-1 Thursday, December 7, 1995
The rights of a fictitious business name may be acquired by purchase, assignment, or otherwise from the record owner of the fictitious business name in violation of the rights of the record owner of the fictitious business name. (§ 14405 et. seq.)

Notwithstanding any other provisions hereof, no fictitious business name may be used in this state of a fictitious business name that has been abandoned by the owner thereof under the provisions of Section 14405 et. seq. or that has not been abandoned by the owner thereof and has been registered under the provisions of Section 14405 et. seq. or the provisions of Section 14405 et. seq.

A court may order a person to cease using a fictitious business name that has been registered under the provisions of Section 14405 et. seq. or the provisions of Section 14405 et. seq. and a person shall be liable for any damages caused by the use of a fictitious business name in violation of the provisions of Section 14405 et. seq. or the provisions of Section 14405 et. seq.

If any party to this action or proceeding is a resident of the state of California, any proceedings relating to this action or proceeding shall be heard in the county in which the residence of the resident party is located.

If any party to this action or proceeding is a non-resident of the state of California, any proceedings relating to this action or proceeding shall be heard in the county in which the residence of the non-resident party is located.

In all actions or proceedings relating to the use of a fictitious business name under the provisions of Section 14405 et. seq. or the provisions of Section 14405 et. seq., any party to this action or proceeding may be required to file a copy of the complaint or notice of complaint in the county clerk's office in the county in which the action or proceeding is pending.

Any party to this action or proceeding may be required to file a copy of the answer or notice of answer in the county clerk's office in the county in which the action or proceeding is pending.

A party to this action or proceeding may be required to file a copy of the notice of appearance in the county clerk's office in the county in which the action or proceeding is pending.

Any party to this action or proceeding may be required to file a copy of the order of publication in the county clerk's office in the county in which the action or proceeding is pending.

Any party to this action or proceeding may be required to file a copy of the order of appointment in the county clerk's office in the county in which the action or proceeding is pending.

Any party to this action or proceeding may be required to file a copy of the order of settlement in the county clerk's office in the county in which the action or proceeding is pending.

Any party to this action or proceeding may be required to file a copy of the order of judgment in the county clerk's office in the county in which the action or proceeding is pending.

Any party to this action or proceeding may be required to file a copy of the order of levy in the county clerk's office in the county in which the action or proceeding is pending.

Any party to this action or proceeding may be required to file a copy of the order of service in the county clerk's office in the county in which the action or proceeding is pending.

Any party to this action or proceeding may be required to file a copy of the order of the trial court in the county clerk's office in the county in which the action or proceeding is pending.

Any party to this action or proceeding may be required to file a copy of the order of the appellate court in the county clerk's office in the county in which the action or proceeding is pending.

Any party to this action or proceeding may be required to file a copy of the order of the supreme court in the county clerk's office in the county in which the action or proceeding is pending.

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**Calendar**

*The Black Voice News Page 8-3*

**AHH To Present Roots: The Gift**

The African Heritage Movie Network (AHM), hosted by film legend, Ossie Davis and Ruby Dee, presents one of America's greatest family sagas, Roots: The Gift, an AHH Movie Theater Special Prime Time Presentation. The film will be on KTLA, 12/14 at 12:35 at 8:00 p.m. both showings. The Roots saga expanded into a day-time drama featuring characters Aloe and Heman, the title Prize-winning novel Roots. Roots: The Gift stars Laverne Joy, Ben Oyagi, and the Mandinka warrior, hoping to someday to return to Africa, and Louis Gossett Jr., who represents the resourceful slave, Kidd. Together on Christmas Eve, 1775, Kunta Kinte and Fiddler risk their lives to give other slaves the most precious gift of all: freedom. This story also stars Sean Combs and Avery Brooks as Moyer.

**ASSOCIATION OF BLACK TALENTED INSPIRED JUVENILE**

If you're interested in bringing roots: the gift into your school, please contact us at 818-300-7000 for more information.

**FRANCINE'S P B A**

The Francine's PBA is excited to announce that we will be holding our annual Holiday Gala on December 14th. The event will be held at the Loews Hotel in Los Angeles. For more information, please call (213) 386-7000.

**BRIAN DEPPEY**

BRIAN DEPPEY presents "The Black Voice News Page 8-3" to students. For more information, please call (404) 232-1234.

**DEBRA FERRENS INC.**

Debra Ferrens Inc. is proud to present its annual holiday celebration at the Hourglass Bar in Los Angeles. For more information, please call (323) 482-9000.

**DANGERS**

The DANGERS are looking forward to their annual holiday concert at the Hollywood Bowl. For more information, please call (323) 663-3000.

**DAYS OF THE FUTURE PAST**

The DAYS OF THE FUTURE PAST will be performing at the Hollywood Palladium on December 15th. For more information, please call (213) 487-1234.

**DISCOVERY CHANNEL**

The Discovery Channel is proud to present its annual holiday special "The Black Voice News Page 8-3." For more information, please call (323) 487-1234.

**DR. VIVIAN T. Baxter**

Dr. Vivian T. Baxter is proud to present its annual holiday concert at the Hollywood Bowl. For more information, please call (323) 663-3000.

**EMILY'S CAMPAIGN**

Emily's Campaign is proud to present its annual holiday concert at the Hollywood Bowl. For more information, please call (323) 663-3000.

**ERIKA'S HOUSE**

Erika's House is proud to present its annual holiday concert at the Hollywood Bowl. For more information, please call (323) 663-3000.

**FREDDIE'S FUND**

Freddie's Fund is proud to present its annual holiday concert at the Hollywood Bowl. For more information, please call (323) 663-3000.

**GABRIELLE'S CORNER**

Gabrielle's Corner is proud to present its annual holiday concert at the Hollywood Bowl. For more information, please call (323) 663-3000.

**GINA'S HOLIDAY CONCERT**

Gina's Holiday Concert is proud to present its annual holiday concert at the Hollywood Bowl. For more information, please call (323) 663-3000.

**GREGORY'S HOUSE**

Gregory's House is proud to present its annual holiday concert at the Hollywood Bowl. For more information, please call (323) 663-3000.

**HARRY'S HOUSE**

Harry's House is proud to present its annual holiday concert at the Hollywood Bowl. For more information, please call (323) 663-3000.

**HERBERT'S CHARITY**

Herbert's Charity is proud to present its annual holiday concert at the Hollywood Bowl. For more information, please call (323) 663-3000.

**HUMA'S HOUSE**

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**JUDITH'S HOUSE**

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**JULIA'S HOUSE**

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**KARLIE'S HOUSE**

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**KELLY'S HOUSE**

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**LADY HAMILTON'S MAJESTIC**

Lady Hamilton's Majestic is proud to present its annual holiday concert at the Hollywood Bowl. For more information, please call (323) 663-3000.

**LISA'S HOUSE**

Lisa's House is proud to present its annual holiday concert at the Hollywood Bowl. For more information, please call (323) 663-3000.

**LUCY'S HOUSE**

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**MARIANNE'S HOUSE**

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**MARCO'S HOUSE**

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**MARGARET'S HOUSE**

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**MARTHA'S HOUSE**

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**MELISSA'S HOUSE**

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**MEREDITH'S HOUSE**

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**NANCY'S HOUSE**

Nancy's House is proud to present its annual holiday concert at the Hollywood Bowl. For more information, please call (323) 663-3000.

**OLIVIA'S HOUSE**

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**PAMELA'S HOUSE**

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**RAQUEL'S HOUSE**

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**RHEA'S HOUSE**

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**SHAUN'S HOUSE**

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**SHELLEY'S HOUSE**

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**SUZANNE'S HOUSE**

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**TINA'S HOUSE**

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**TOMMI'S HOUSE**

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**VICKI'S HOUSE**

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**WILLIAM'S HOUSE**

William's House is proud to present its annual holiday concert at the Hollywood Bowl. For more information, please call (323) 663-3000.

**YVONNE'S HOUSE**

Yvonne's House is proud to present its annual holiday concert at the Hollywood Bowl. For more information, please call (323) 663-3000.

**ZAHARA'S HOUSE**

Zahara's House is proud to present its annual holiday concert at the Hollywood Bowl. For more information, please call (323) 663-3000.
'95 Mercury Tracer
MSRP: $14,075.00
FWY DISC: -700.00
FACTORY REBATE: -300.00
YOUR PRICE: 13,075.00
Vin# 64735
Chuck McVay, Owner

'95 Mercury Mystique
MSRP: $16,745.00
FWY DISC: -1,310.45
FACTORY REBATE: -500.00
YOUR PRICE: 14,934.55
Vin# 60288

'95 Mercury Villager GS
MSRP: $22,565.00
FWY DISC: -1,468.00
FACTORY REBATE: -300.00
YOUR PRICE: 21,097.00
Vin# J67220

'95 Lincoln Mark VIII
MSRP: $34,965.00
FWY DISC: -2,000.00
FACTORY REBATE: -1,000.00
YOUR PRICE: 32,950.00
Vin# 680741

'96 Lincoln Towncar Executive
MSRP: $38,830.00
FWY DISC: -1,000.00
FACTORY REBATE: -1,000.00
YOUR PRICE: 36,955.55
Vin# 647315

'95 Lincoln Continental
MSRP: $41,475.00
FWY DISC: -4,150.45
FACTORY REBATE: -1,000.00
YOUR PRICE: 36,955.55
Vin# 647315

'95 Mercury Tracer Sedan
MSRP: $12,865.00
FWY DISC: -500.00
FACTORY REBATE: -300.00
YOUR PRICE: 12,865.00
Vin# 6166871

'96 Mercury Grand Marquis
MSRP: $23,175.00
FWY DISC: -1000.00
FACTORY REBATE: -1,000.00
YOUR PRICE: 24,675.00
Vin# 600789

1600 Camino Real, San Bernardino
Lincoln - Mercury - Volkswagen
Tax rate based on 7.5%. All prices are after tax, license, destination fees on approved credit. Subject to prior sale. Both prices not apply to lease.

(909) 889-3514
First Time Buyers Welcome! We May Have A Plan That Can Get Your Credit Started With A New Car
Full Service, Parts & Body Shop
Hours: Monday - Friday 7:30 to 5:30
Sale ends 12/14/95
Chuck McVay, Owner

Lincoln Mercury Volkswagen
Salute To Black World War II Veterans
Over the past few years, Willie Porter of San Bernardino, noticed that the television broadcasts focused on the Buffalo Soldiers of the later 1800's. These "all Black" army units, were the soldiers that "won the west" and set the standards for the Buffalo Soldiers that followed. But little has been said about the Buffalo Soldiers of the 20th century, the last soldiers to carry on the proud tradition.

"My life as a Buffalo Soldier started at Camp Lockett in 1943," said Porter. Camp Lockett is located east of San Diego and was first established as a cavalry camp in 1878. The location was chosen because it had a variety of terrain that includes heavily wooded underbrush, one of the world's harshest deserts, and a variety of other geographic hazards that tested and developed a cavalry trooper's skills.

"It was at Camp Lockett that I had my first personal experience with a horse. Being from Detroit I was considered a "city slicker." I was issued a beautiful horse that I named Eve. The first day of training was hard, but today I am considered an expert rider," boasted Porter. The Buffalo Soldiers trained intensely on horseback in anticipation of charging into battle overseas. He recalled his orders clearly, "The 9th and 27th regiments, located in Arizona, along with our two regiments made up the 2nd Cavalry Division. The 2nd Cavalry Division was shipped to North Africa in 1943 by way of Camp Patrick Henry. We sailed on the U.S.S. Billy Mitchell on its maiden voyage. We were scared but ready and proud to fight as a division. Upon reaching North Africa we received the shock of our lives."

The Army Headquarters had decided to disband the 2nd Cavalry Division and it was divided. "In the cavalry we were called troopers. After the change we were called soldiers. I was assigned to a tank battalion," recalled Porter. He received several commendations for his service including a Purple Heart, Combat Infantry Badge, and several citations for his participation in numerous invasions.

With the exception of a few White officers, the Buffalo Soldiers were composed entirely of African Americans. The name Buffalo Soldiers was given to the 9th and 10th Cavalry units as a sign of respect by the Indians they fought. Buffalo, according to military historian, David Allen, were worshipped and revered by the Indians. To place the title onto humans was truly an act of respect and honor. These early regiments achieved an outstanding record on the frontier. They reportedly patrolled from the Mississippi to the Rockies, from the Canadian border to the Rio Grande and they occasionally crossed into Mexico in pursuit of outlaws.

However, Bill Porter, regrets that he was unable to fight under the colors of the Buffalo Soldiers, "My success in combat can be traced back to the fine training that I received as a tradition handed down by these brave men. My heart fills with pride as having served as a Buffalo Soldier. Fifty-two years later, I returned to the small town of Campo to visit Camp Lockett. I toured the historical landmark. As long as I live, I will be proud of the fact that I was one of the few...Buffalo Soldiers."

"In Memory Of Those Who Fought So That We Can Live"
Grant: WWII Heroes Were Black Too

By Cheryl Brown

Citizens of our nation watching the major media have come away with the impression Black men did not fight in World War II during this year of the 50th Anniversary of our country commemorating the 50th Anniversary of W.W.II.

Grant was one of the thousands and thousands of Black soldiers who fought valiantly in the War. He was born in Leavenworth, Kansas in 1921, and is a second generation Buffalo Soldier, his father was Master Sergeant John Grant, 10th Calvary (Retired).

The Buffalo Soldier, goes back to 1866, shortly after the Civil War, four new U.S. Army regiments began duty in the Western territories of America. These soldiers were sent to protect the settlers moving West. They were designated as the 24th and 25th Infantry and the Ninth and Tenth Calvary. They fought with distinction in the Cheyenne War from 1867-1869, the Red River War of 1874-1875, the Ute War of 1879, the Apache Wars of 1875-1876 and the Sioux War of 1890-1891. They received 13 Medals of Honor, achieved the best combat records and were given the title of Buffalo Soldiers by the Native Americans. There was much they did in the expansion of our nation and in 1952, 86 years after their beginning they were integrated with the Ninth and Tenth Calvary. They were the most highly decorated units in U.S. military history.

Grant, was a modern day Buffalo Soldier in the Ninth Calvary, who also served and retired from the U.S. Air Force. His duty began January 29, 1941, in Fort Riley, Kansas, soon he was transferred to Camp Funston, Kansas. “We began preparing for war. But we did not have the proper equipment. We practiced with wooden guns and used broom sticks to walk guard,” said Grant. In 1941 there were maneuvers in Louisiana, there they were not allowed to go near the White community. The area was very prejudice against the soldiers.

In 1942 He was sent on a cadre to form the 93rd Infantry Division at Fort Wachuka, Arizona. He was a platoon Sergeant in the 93rd Calvary Recon. Troop. Between 1942 -43 he was sent to Fort McClellan, Alabama to form the 92nd Recon. Troop, again he was Platoon Sergeant.

By 1944, the 92nd Division was sent into combat. Grant’s outfit was sent to Italy, where he received two Battle Stars, one from the battle in Povalley the other from the Arnold River battle.

It was in Italy that Grant’s life was saved by a stranger. An Italian woman, to whom he owes his life. He was in an area and the enemy began shelling their retreat. “She threw me down and laid on top of me protecting me from a shell that landed 10 to 12 feet away, he said. Neither of them were hurt but the idea that the Italian woman saved his life and he never knew who she was makes him think about it even today. “I am so grateful to a person I didn’t know and who I never saw again,” said Grant.

When Grant received orders to go to Alaska, not wanting to be in such a cold isolated place he left of the Army and joined the Air Force. This proved to be one of the best moves in his life. His first assignment in the Air Force was sunny California March A.F.B., “we (Blacks) were all assigned to Squadron C or F, they did housekeeping duties (cooking and cleaning) all except three had Air Force assignments. Grant was assigned to the Skies Range because of his experience in weapons, this was 1946.

Between the years of 1946-1949, all Colored troopers were sent to Lockburn, Ohio, near Columbus, under the leadership of Col. B. O. Davis, Jr. in the 617 Bombardment Squadron Light which was a support group of the Tuskegee Airmen. Grant was relocated and worked as an armament man, working on the guns. “We were the firstbase to integrate the Air Force,” he said.

The Korean War broke out in 1950 -1951 and Grant was sent to Norton A.F.B. in San Bernardino. The Korean War took him overseas to France for three years, when he returned in 1954 he was sent to George A.F.B. In 1958, Grant volunteered to go back to France. His career ended in 1961, when he retired from Glasco AFB, Montana.

Being in love with the weather in So. California, he returned and still resides in San Bernardino.

In 1970 he married for a second time, Alice Taylor, he has a son and daughter, Nathaniel Jr. and Linda.
Salute To Black Word War II Vets

By Cheryl Brown- Black Voice News

Rev. B.W. Inghram was drafted in 1942 out of San Bernardino and sent to Fort Wachuka, Arizona where he and a battalion of men trained for the World War II effort. During the news coverage of the war through the years he never heard about the 780th Police Battalion who were located there. Inghram, feeling that he wasn’t included decided to do something about it. “It seemed like my history and the history of the 800 men was being forgotten or ignored,” he said. 

“I don’t feel I was included in the war with the coverage during the 50th Commemoration. They at least recognized the 99th and 93rd Regiment, but even Washington D.C. didn’t have the information that we ever existed.”

Inghram started a letter writing campaign to find out what happened to the history of the 780th. His quest and interest took him first to Fort Wachuka, the historical society said they never heard the claim. There was no record of them ever being there. “I was there, we all were and we knew it,” said Inghram. He didn’t give up the next stop was Washington D.C., surely they would know about the 780th Police Battalion. They didn’t know either. The quest continued as he would not rest until he found the records. He did! Following contact with the McClellan base in Georgia he found out they had the information.

Inghram wants the record to reflect the contributions of the 780th to the war effort.

When Inghram left Fort Wachuka, he was sent to Fort Devens, Massachusetts and shipped out of Newport News, Virginia, from there a nine day boat trip to Morroco. He arrived on Easter Sunday, a special time for him as a Christian and minister.

The troops were then deployed to Marseilles, France, where he and others in his company, moved the traffic of military vehicles going to the front line. “We were as essential as any of the support troops, without the 780th the troops could not be serviced and the war would have suffered. General Patton advanced so fast he out ran his supply support.

Inghram was shipped back to Fort McArthur in Long Beach and was honorably discharged. He said, “ I felt, I did my duty. I got out of the service. I came home. WE WON THE WAR.”

The Minor Post Helped Locate Hospital And Cemetery In Inland Empire

By Cheryl Brown- Black Voice News

The Riverside American Legion Post 418 named for Edward J. Minor and was formed in 1962. Minor lost his life in an unfortunate drowning accident in Lincoln Park on Park Ave. in Riverside. Minor was a clean living, an upright service man, from Atlanta, Georgia. He was head cook at Camp Anza, located where Rohr is located in Riverside. He died in 1944 and was the first to die in the Army group that formed the Post. When the men who were organizing the Post found out it had to be named for someone who was not living Minor was chosen. “Mr. Minor was known by many as a clean living, decent man and we name the Post after him,” said Christopher George “C.G.” Sanders, the Founding Commander who served the first 4 years and is still involved.

The Minor Post is a working Post they have been involved in the UNCF (United Negro College Fund) Walk-A-Thon helping provide money for the education of students, the Veteran Employment Committee where they help Veterans to find jobs as well as other non-profit organizations and activities.

The Minor Post is responsible for the Pettis Memorial Veteran’s Hospital in Loma Linda, they cast the three deciding votes. During the debate of where the next hospital would be placed Post members faithfully attended meeting and supported the Loma Linda site. There were many detractors vying for the hospital. “It was a hot political thing. Every politician wanted it in their area. (Congressman Jerry) Pettis, (for whom the hospital is named), fought very hard for the Loma Linda site. In the end, with the help from the Post Loma Linda was selected.” Two things solidified the site, one there were more vet-
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Ollie Jackson A Proud Soldier

By Cheryl Brown

In 1943 while still in high school Ollie Jackson, 18, was drafted. The war effort was calling every young man who was in physical shape to fight. The war was in full gear and this Oklahoma City native who was born in 1925 was still a youngster. Jackson was a good student and his principal petitioned and was granted a deferment for him.

As Jackson reminisces about that time he says he’ll never forget. “It hurts to this day, I could not graduate with my class,” he said. But what hurts more is the way he was treated in those days but compounded by the way he has been treated 50 years later. He too is insulted, by the way the celebrations left out the Black soldiers.

“Even the VFW (Veterans of Foreign Wars) calendar came out to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of W.W.II and of all 12 months not one Black was recognized,” Jackson said. They have written the Buffalo Soldiers out of history. “How can they continue to do this and not tell the truth about what happened,” he said. Black soldiers were among the best most decorated soldiers in the Armed Forces,” he said.

Jackson didn’t know what to expect. He was the first in his family to serve in the military.

Upon his induction into the Tenth Calvary (Buffalo Soldiers) Jackson went to Fort Seal, OK but quickly was sent out. He tells the story about the rumor that they were going to be shipped out to Mississippi. “When we found out we were going to Camp Locket in El Centro, California, we were ecstatic.” We were training with horses and training because we expected Japan to come (invade) in from the West.” They didn’t and we were shipped to Newport News, Virginia before going to Oran in North Africa. From there we went to Tunisia on to Toronto, Italy to Foggia, Italy. Jackson’s job was to prepare the landing fields and build a new runway for the B-17 and B-29 bombers to land. Jackson did not see combat but he was part of the glue that held the war effort together. He was the unsung hero in the background supporting the troops.

As the war was ending he was sent to the Philippines, his last stop before returning back to Oklahoma City. He holds the distinction of riding the Billy Mitchell troop transport ship on three occasions. His last time was to return to Oklahoma City where he started three years later.

He went to work as a civil service worker at Tinker AFB. He was a sheet metal worker. One day, he saw an opportunity on the bulletin board for a tour of duty in Japan. “When I found out my family probably could not follow, and the recruiter explained how the facilities were not really set up for “Coloreds”, I abandoned the idea. She quickly added, "but there is Norton AFB, in San Bernardino, CA, that was just what the Doctor ordered. My sister lived here.” he said. “So like the

Beverly Hill Billies or the movie The Grapes of Wrath, my wife Bernice and five sons came to San Bernardino, CA in 1956.”

As he reflected back on the war effort he said it was a time when Black people were truly equal. “In combat all men are equal. White men who were wounded didn’t care whose blood they used they just wanted it if they needed a blood transfusion. A bullet knows no color,” he said. Jackson recounted sadly, “after the war it was a different story, things were bad for Blacks here at home. Then we were ignored this entire 50th Anniversary Commemoration. There are Blacks who should have been recognized!”

However, just in case someone asks, he has saved items from the war. Just recently he found his Enlisted Pass. Jackson has kept his treasures because in the next 50 year Commemoration the information and items will be there. The history will be here no one will succeed in erasing it.

Tuskegee Airmen Featured

RECENTLY, TUSKEGEE AIRMEN WERE FEATURED AT THE LONG BEACH CARNAVAL - Pictured above (left to right): Oliver Goodall, Louis Young, James Crowder, Andrew Wallace, Samuel Hughes, and L.A. Chapter President - Rusty Burns.
Local Vets Remember WWII After 50 Years

By Cheryl Brown
Black Voice

The World War II, global military conflict, in terms of lives lost and material destruction, was the most devastating war in human history. It began in 1939 as a European conflict between Germany and an Anglo-French coalition, but eventually widened to include most of the nations of the world. It ended in 1945, leaving a new world order dominated by the United States and the USSR.

More than any previous war, World War II involved the commitment of nations’ entire human and economic resources, the blurring of the distinction between combatant and noncombatant, and the expansion of the battlefield to include all of the enemy’s territory. The most important determinants of its outcome were industrial capacity and personnel. In the last stages of the war, two radically new weapons were introduced: the long-range rocket and the atomic bomb. In the main, however, the war was fought with the same or improved weapons of the types used in World War I. The greatest advances were in aircraft and tanks.

Causes of the War

Three major powers had been dissatisfied with the outcome of World War I. Germany, the principled defeated nation, bitterly resented the territorial losses and reparation payments imposed on it by the Treaty of Versailles. Italy, one of the victors, found its territorial gains far from enough either to offset the cost of the war or to satisfy its ambitions. Japan, also a victor, was unhappy about its failure to gain control of China.

France, Great Britain, and the U.S. had attained their wartime objectives. They had reduced Germany to a military cipher and had reorganized Europe and the world as they saw fit. The French and the British frequently disagreed on policy in the postwar period however, and were unsure of their ability to defend the peace settlement.

The U.S., disillusioned by the Europeans’ failure to repay their war debts, retreated into isolationism.

African-American soldiers fought with valor in this war as they had in every war since the Revolutionary War. But it wasn’t until World War II, that gave the segregated colored soldiers proof they were many times the best soldiers in the armed services. The fighting was not only by the Tuskegee Airmen but in the Army, Navy and Marines as well. They were in a foreign land fighting for freedom when they were not free back home.

Local retired soldiers recently reflected on the war, their thoughts of success, and their treatment by people they were defending and the people as they returned home. They expressed concern over the erasure of the important heroic role they played to keep America, and the world free. They were also blatantly ignored by the television coverage of the 50th Anniversary of V-E Day, commemorating the end of the war, and subsequent programs.

Dr. Will Roberts, President of Company B, 1402nd Engineer (Combat) Battalion, feels that history has done an injustice by not publishing the role Blacks played. His unit supplied more ammunition to the front line infantry than anyone else, but when the citation came out in the “Stars and Stripes” it was barely mentioned. “They merely printed that large amounts of ammunition had been supplied,” said Roberts.

“If the Infantry couldn’t get the ammunition they couldn’t fight,” he continued, “We did a good job, everyone played their part.” But when they returned home from the war, Roberts said, he felt betrayed. Roberts told the story of the lies White soldiers told the European people, especially women, about Black soldiers. “They would tell them we were trained monkeys and that we had tails. One day as I was walking down the street two women walking by felt my behind and said in Italian, he doesn’t have one.” The things our soldiers had to endure!

Clemens indicates that the thing that stuck them was that they fought for freedom for the military I endured the hardships,” he said. “We served freedom for other countries. I hope and pray one day this will be resolved and understood.

Why did Blacks become soldiers? “I lived at a good time. I was in Europe when they mixed the troops years later, it was hard on everyone. Some White guys said it was the first time they’d ever slept next to a Black. Because of my love for the military I endured the hardships,” he said.

Benton PK. Blakely retired, as a major after serving 23 years in both WWII and Korea. “Blacks were a major part of the war, the coverage in the news does not tell to the fullest extent what we did.” Blakely was a Corporal in the Army corps of Engineers. He built roads, bridges and dams.

Jack Hill was also concerned that the time he spent is ignored. With all of the outstanding contributions we made, very little is written. “When I was in the service the governor of Mississippi had the guns taken away from the Black soldiers, they couldn’t bear arms. In the local town of Centerville a Black soldier was killed by some Whites. The soldiers were very angry and for three months we couldn’t come out of the camp,” he said.

Roberts recounts a story he heard from Captain Ernest Dunn, organizer and First Company Commander of Company B 1402nd Engineer (Combat) Battalion. According to Dunn, “At March Air Force Field, soldiers broke out fighting. The Black Airmen rebelled when they set-up a segregated theatre. The account was glossed over in the newspaper.

The greatest advances were in aircraft and tanks. The U.S., disillusioned by the Europeans’ failure to repay their war debts, retreated into isolationism.
Minter Tells His WWII Story

By Cheryl Minter-Brown - Black Voice News

This year marks the 50th of the Word War II. From the television coverage, you’d think none of the troops were Black.

Marvin N. Minter, after 50 years of silence, spoke with Black Voice about the days following the assault on Normandy, located on the beach of France.

Minter said two million troops were still in England on D-Day. They were waiting for to go into Normandy as a part of the second wave.

He was in the Third Army, commanded by General Patton, supporting Field Artillery.

Minter said everyone was scared. “It was the most frightening experience of my life. But I remember thinking, as I was trapped by live fire, in 50 years none of this will matter.” Little did he know that 50 years later he would still be alive to talk about it.

Minter then recalled something that some people want to say never happened, the concentration camps.

“We were marched into the concentration camp at Dachau, there were thousands of bodies, left like sacks of flour. The smell was horrible,” he said.

“Hitler was an absolute lunatic, an animal. He not only killed Jews, he killed Russians, gypsies, gays, cripples, and the mentally impaired,” he said.

Minter recalls “When we arrived everyone was not dead, some of the people were dying from starvation. The Germans in Hitler’s Army ran away before we met.

James Mitchell was a member of the Army 953 Quarter Master Service Corps during W.W.II. “We landed in Scotland in the bombing area, before going to Cherbourg and Paris, France.” His unit was under General Patton and they handled supplies in the segregated army. When he went to England, he went to school to learn how to be a cook and that was his job for the duration of the War. As a result of his duty in the Army he has a Northern France campaign ribbon, a ribbon with a Bronze Star, a service stripe, four overseas service bars and sharp shooter recognition.

When I came back to Texas to be discharged, Fort Sam Houston, had not changed it was still segregated. We didn’t just fight for ourselves (in Europe) we were fighting for everybody.”

Mitchell, saw first hand the devastation of the war. After the war he saw the remains of all those Jews, who were starved to death. He saw the gas chambers and the furnaces. It had a bad affect on him but he knew the magnitude of the devastation caused by Hitler. It was so devastating he does not want to talk about it to this day.

Thinking California was a better place he left Texas. Soon he found out “it was better but there were still places we couldn’t go or (restaurants) that were slow serving you. One place was located on Fourth and E in downtown San Bernardino. However, the city of Tustin was strictly like down south,” he said.

Mitchell is concerned about how the Black service men were treated then and now. “The Red Ball Express, hauled gasoline and supplies, they would get through when the Whites couldn’t. The Stars and Strips, (a military publication) would report on it but would never give the details,” he said.

In MEMORY OF:

Commemorating the 50th Anniversary of World War II

They Died So That We Could Live!

- Dave And Maude Clurbach remembers James Billue

- Jack Hill remembers Thomas Bondurant

To my Army Comrades of Co. B 1402nd Engr. Battalion
- Dr. Will Roberts

Saluting The Living Legends

- Thanks to Jack Hill For My Army Career
- Leonard Davenport
Charles Ledbetter: A Testimony Of Perseverance

By Melvin Tapp

War is hell, war is glory. As history has shown, so the present is shaped. Many have seen the horrors of life and survived to see better days.

Charles William Ledbetter has seen and lived through the horrors of war, and has gloried in the life’s endeavors. His is a testimony of perseverance. From the endeavors of the Tuskegee Flyers to the compassionate teacher of the handi-capped, to a civic leader championing the cause of a better education for our children. Ironically, he has seen and lived life on life’s terms, but is constantly fighting to have our children to realize a brighter future by refusing to repeat mistakes of the past.

Black Voice News contacted Mr. Ledbetter who related that we Americans must look back sometimes to see where we are heading. “In 1941, I went to the army, which was segregated. In 1944 I was sent to gunnery school and aircraft engineer school at Fort Myers, Florida. I was an enlisted man shortly thereafter at Selfridge Field, MI, which is just outside Detroit,” related Ledbetter. After a few weeks the Flyers, including Ledbetter, were moved to Kentucky for further training and onto Lockburn, OH.

“In those days, we had White commanders and the rest of the enlisted ranks, from the First Sergeant on down were Blacks. Our commander was B. O. Davis who was quite liberal in his thinking and very fair with us. Actually, we generally disciplined ourselves as we had pride in ourselves and would not allow anyone inside the group to mess us, and we protected ourselves from outside disrupters,” related Ledbetter.

Ledbetter was a gunner engineer for eight years with the Tuskegee Flyers and was a part of several missions during World War II. “The most notable of the Flyers was Chappie James who went on to become a General, but nearly all of the guys in the Flyers were great fellows and all were extremely competent,” stated Ledbetter.

Even though the military services were segregated at the time, all enlisted men and officers were encouraged to further their education. “It was a way to keep us out of the bars and honky-tonk seven days a week, and the classes were integrated. I started in an Ohio State University extension and went on to a University of California Berkeley extension at the various military bases that I was assigned to,” continued Ledbetter, “and most of the Flyers also continued with their educations.”

Additionally, Ledbetter was a boxer and fought his way to the a middleweight championship.

“I was pretty good,” he stated, “and I admired Sugar Ray Robinson, but I never met him inside the ring.”

Ledbetter related that when he and his compatriots did have time to party that he was one of the disciplinarians. “If somebody got out of line, White or Black often times we’d have to knock them out. And I had no problem handling that, but most times we just would break up any encounters,” said Ledbetter. “Actually we had very few problems, especially in racial matters. From my perspective being from the South (Tennessee) I was used to segregated policies, but for many of the guys from up north there were some adjustments that they weren’t too comfortable with,” stated Ledbetter.

“Actually, we Blacks seemed to enjoy our military experiences especially our flying missions, and when we would return we’d get entertained by such stars as Lena Horne or meet Joe Louis, and sometimes we would have integrated audiences,” continued Ledbetter.

After an eight year stint with the Tuskegee Flyers, Ledbetter was assigned to the 13th Bomb Group known as the “Grim Reapers” which was an integrated unit at Langley Field, VA. “The Korean War had just begun and we flew 29 missions during the Korean War,” said Ledbetter. While in the Orient Ledbetter learned Judo while stationed in Korea & Japan. “I was good enough eventually to teach martial arts (Judo) to kids and some adults,” stated Ledbetter.

The Army Aircorps which included the Tuskegee Flyers had been converted to the U.S. Air Force by that time, and Ledbetter was now a sergeant in the Air Force where he completed his education and received a secondary teaching credential from Chapman College where he specialized in teaching the handicapped.

“I had taught boxing and judo and I guess that wet my appetite to continue in teaching. I was especially interested in teaching handicapped children, both physically & psychologically. I have always been for the underdog, and I guess that the handicapped usually get the short end of the stick,” said Ledbetter.

Ledbetter retired from the Air Force at March Air Force Base in Riverside, and as a resident in Moreno Valley (then Sunnymead), began teaching in the Perris School District. “I loved teaching. It was so fulfilling to see students respond. I always gave my best, and I expected my students to do well. The biggest problem I met with was in motivating them to do their best. I believe that if a person is confident he will succeed, and with the handicapped, I found most were lacking confidence due to their treatment by families, teachers, and others in their past. I had to first of all get them confident in their abilities,” continued Ledbetter.

Ledbetter related that at an early age he learned fairness from a White man. “I had no father, so this White man, Mr. Chipp who helped raise me in Tennessee taught me to be fair, but kick butt if someone got out of line or I was bothered,” stated Ledbetter. “So I have had that philosophy which I related to my students. If you aren’t treated fairly, kick butt in the classroom with your studies. Always do your best, and even though you might be mistreated do your best to be fair with others,” said Ledbetter.

When asked about his accomplishments, Ledbetter responded, “My military career that included my time with Tuskegee Flyers and awards for flying including the Bronze Star & Air Medal w/clusters stands out but the teaching of some of my past students who have become successful business people, college grads, and one became a missionary, are of great importance to me. The activities of the school board that I’m a member of is very special to me. And I also give lectures on motivational topics and behavior modification, and to see the response in a positive way is quite satisfying. But most noteworthy is my family. I’ve been married over 40 years and I have five grown children (one son, four daughters) of whom I am very proud. My basic philosophy is to be loyal, appreciate God and why we are put on earth, to help each other especially the kids. Keeping an open line of communication to solve differences, and having good friends at Warner Ranch ‘Where I Live,are important to me,” said Ledbetter.

To live a full and rich life is the dream of everyone. A model of that kind of life is that of Charles William Ledbetter, fighter, educator, philosopher, husband, father, civic leader and gentleman.