



EQUAL WRITES

FEBRUARY 2013

EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY NEWS FOR JACKSONVILLE DISTRICT EMPLOYEES

COMMANDER'S CORNER

African American/ Black History Month began as Negro History Week by historian Carter G. Woodson in 1926 in order to educate the American people about African-American history, focusing on African Americans' cultural backgrounds and reputable achievements. Since 1976, it is observed annually in the United States and Canada in the month of February.



The theme for 2013 is "At the Crossroads of Freedom and Equality: The Emancipation Proclamation and the March on Washington." The theme highlights two important anniversaries in the history of African Americans and the United States: 150 years ago, on January 1, 1863, the Emancipation Proclamation set the United States on the path of ending slavery. A century later, on August 27, 1963, hundreds of thousands of Americans, blacks and whites, joined the March on Washington to the memorial of Abraham Lincoln, the author of the Emancipation Proclamation, in pursuit of the ideal of equality of citizenship. It was also on this occasion that Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. gave his famous speech, "I Have a Dream".

In marking these events, the Emancipation Proclamation and the 50th anniversary of the March on Washington, the SAJ District will join the nation in studying and celebrating that impact that African Americans have had and continue to have on this great Nation.

I encourage all members of the District and their families to honor and celebrate this great event.

ALAN M. DODD
Colonel, Corps of Engineers
Commanding

2ND QUARTER OBSERVANCES

February

African-American/Black History Month
1-29 February 2012

"At the Crossroads of Freedom and Equality: The Emancipation Proclamation and the March on Washington"

March

Women's History Month
1-31 March 2013

"Women Inspiring Innovation Through Imagination: Celebrating Women in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics"

FEBRUARY EVENTS

African American/Black History Month Brain Brawl
Friday, 15 February 2013, 11:00 am - 12:30 pm
Executive Conference Room

2013 African American/Black History Month Program

Wednesday, 27 February 2013
10:00 am - 11:00 am

Second Floor Bridge
Keynote Speaker - Honorable Alvin Brown,
Mayor of the City of Jacksonville



For further information about these programs, please contact Murika Davis (x1604) or Adam Morrison (x3660)

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Little Known BLACK HISTORY FACTS

Pilot Bill Wilkerson of Pleasant Garden, North Carolina was among the first black pilots in the country. Wilkerson flew 15 years for Piedmont Airlines, which became a part of US Airways in 1989. In 1980, he became the second black person to earn the rank of captain with the company. The retired pilot still wears his captains' uniform while he gives tours at the North Carolina Transportation Museum.



Wilkerson grew up in the projects of Knoxville, Tennessee with his two other siblings and his single mother, who worked as a domestic. She gave her kids the books she received from her clients.

Wilkerson's mother purchased "The Library of Universal Knowledge" for her children and young Bill read the chapter called "How to Fly." The boy 'flew around the world' through the articles inside National Geographic and Reader's Digest. He was so intrigued, he engulfed himself in model airplanes and begged his mother for flying lessons. She initially refused, so Wilkerson and his friend paid \$5 for a flying lesson at the Knoxville airport. His mother eventually gave in, and by the time he was 16 years old, Wilkerson was in flight school. Five years later, he obtained his pilot's license. Wilkerson enlisted in the Air Force and served as a mechanic until 1971. Three years later he got the job at Piedmont. While Piedmont was jokingly called the "puddle jumper" airline, Wilkerson was proud to work as one of the first and few black pilots in the industry. He gained much attention as one of the few black men in uniform.



Wilkerson logged more than 17,000 hours as a pilot for Piedmont. He was finally able to take his family to the places he'd only seen in the National Geographic magazine as a child. In 2011, he was inducted into the Tennessee Aviation Hall of Fame.

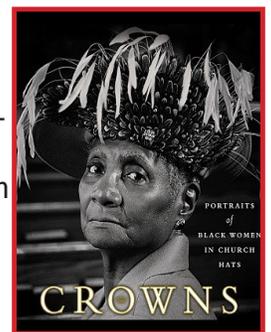
Britt Faulkner has become the first African American student to receive a Masters Degree in Bioengineering at the University of Louisville in Kentucky.



At a recent winter ceremony, Faulkner walked among 875 other graduates. Bioengineering applies engineering technology to biology or human health. Faulkner's motivation was sparked by her cousin's diagnosis of cystic fibrosis. She was raised by a single parent in an environment that made the pursuit of higher education challenging. She would often try to fix electronics around the house, developing her love of technology.

Britt Faulkner's success is no surprise; she was her high school's valedictorian. Faulkner is a graduate of Rose Hill Christian High School in Ashland, KY.

The earliest known traditional hats in history were worn in Thebes and seen on ancient Egyptian murals. Next there were Phrygian caps that were worn by the freed slaves in Rome, signifying their independence. As the centuries went by, the traditional use of hats worn by women in public, such as in church and during assemblies, is said to originate from a passage that says women should not provide public service without their heads covered. Black women have embraced those words with elaborate traditional hats.



Since then, traditional hats have gotten bigger and bolder. One of America's most famous milliners is remembered in a new permanent collection by the Smithsonian National Museum of African American Culture. The work of Mae Reeves will have her shop re-created in the museum. During the 1940's and 50's, Mae Reeves supplied original hat creations to Lena Horne, Ella Fitzgerald, Eartha Kitt and Marian Anderson. Reeves is now 99 years old and her granddaughter, Donna Limerick, carries on the memory of her grandmother's legacy by putting Reeve's hats on display. ■

MAKING A CONNECTION



EEO VISITS OPERATIONS' LOCKS AND DAMS

Jacksonville District's EEO Officer, Gonzellas Williams, and EEO Specialist, Adam Morrison, sought the opportunity to meet Operations Division's lock and dam personnel. Noting limited access of EEO services to field personnel due to distance, the EEO office took the initiative to reach out to our Operations Division's lock and dam personnel. This initiative allowed the opportunity for the EEO office to listen and establish a one-on-one dialogue with the lock and dam personnel. The site visit included Canaveral Lock and St. Lucie, Port Mayaca, Moore Haven, Ortona and W.P. Franklin locks and dams.

Excellent feedback was received and a successful dialogue was established. All lock and dam personnel displayed pride of what they do to support the district and took time to show us what they do and let us know why.

This visit highlighted the importance of establishing "equal access" to all personnel, particularly our field personnel within the SAJ area of responsibility, who do not have routine 'one-on-one' contact with Jacksonville District office personnel.

The value that our field personnel bring cannot be emphasized enough. Our field personnel are the face of SAJ, who execute the mission. Without them and their dedication, the mission would be incomplete. Often times, we may not realize this but we must consider our field personnel in everything we do and value their efforts. It is also equally important to support them. ■

--Luis Alejandro

Visiting the lock and dam locations. *Above:* Jon Fields, Port Mayaca Lock and Dam Operator, left, Adam Morrison, EEO Specialist, Matt Kirschner, Port Mayaca Lock Leader, and Gonzellas Williams, EEO Officer; *Center:* Adam Morrison, left, Robert Holmes, Moore Haven Lock and Dam Operator, and Pamela Peralta, Moore Haven Lock and Dam Leader; *Bottom:* Floyd Palmer, Canaveral Lock Operator, left, with Adam Morrison and Gonzellas Williams.



Answers – Who Am I?

1=B, 2=J, 3=D, 5=A, 4=H, 6=F, 7=I, 8=C, 9=E, 10=G

AwardSPOTLIGHT

Timothy R. Brown, a senior project manager with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District, responsible for leading interdisciplinary project delivery teams in the execution of large scale civil works projects, is the recipient of this year's Special Recognition award for the 2013 Black Engineer of the Year Award (BEYA) STEM Conference.



The BEYA is one of the most prestigious and competitive honors in science, engineering and technology management. In the BEYA 27-year history, thousands of America's most creative and innovative professionals have been nominated for this nationally recognized honor, yet fewer than 700 have achieved the distinction of being a Black Engineer of the Year honoree.

"A STEM scholarship helped me through college," said Brown. "If it wasn't for me accidentally finding out about this scholarship, I probably wouldn't be here today."

Brown said that when he was attending Florida A&M in 1998 he almost had to drop out because of a lack of funds. Luckily, he overheard a fellow student in the hallway talking about losing his scholarship due to bad grades.

"Since I had good grades, but no money, I ran over to the admissions office and asked about the scholarship the other guy lost, and I applied for it and received it! It saved me," he said.

Other honors Brown has earned include the BEYA STEM Modern Day Technology Leader award, NATO International Security Assistance Force Service Medal, two Commanders Awards for Civilian Service, and a Global War on Terrorism Service Medal. ■

—excerpt from original article titled "Jacksonville engineer tim brown honored at National Conference"; to read the entire piece, go to the February 2013 issue of JaxStrong

AFRICAN-AMERICAN QUIZ WHO AM I?



Match the correct name with their accomplishment.

- | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
| (A) Rebecca Lee-Crumpler | (F) Mae C. Jemison |
| (B) Louis T. Wright | (G) Sarah Goode |
| (C) Hezekiah | (H) Tuskegee Syphilis Study |
| (D) Onesimus | (I) Willie Hobbs Moore |
| (E) Benjamin Banneker | (J) CPT Edward Dwight |

- ____(1) He did extensive research into the use of antibiotic drugs and was the first black doctor on the staff of Harlem Hospital.
- ____(2) The first African-American to train as an astronaut.
- ____(3) In 1721 this Massachusetts slave encouraged inoculation against smallpox by injecting the disease itself, a method of vaccination that would later become standard practice.
- ____(4) The study where researchers did experimental diagnostic research on 400 African-American men with syphilis, never treating the disease or informing the men that they were infected.
- ____(5) The first African-American woman to be educated as a doctor in the United States.
- ____(6) She holds a doctorate in medicine and was the first African-American woman in space.
- ____(7) The first African-American woman to receive a doctorate in Physics.
- ____(8) This Alabama slave invented a cotton-cleaning machine around 1825.
- ____(9) The mathematician, astronomer, and inventor who is best known as a surveyor of Washington DC.
- ____(10) She received a patent in 1886 for inventing a folding cabinet bed. ■

--answers on page 3

ROSA PARKS HONORED WITH STATUE AND STAMP

The late Rosa Parks continues to make history. Her likeness will be depicted in a statue later this year at Capitol Hill's Statuary Hall, making her the first African-American woman to achieve the mark.

Each of the 50 states donates two statues of their most prominent citizens to Statuary Hall. Rosa Parks will be representative of the state of Alabama where she refused to give up her seat on a Montgomery bus and became the "mother of the civil rights movement."

Sen. Charles Schumer (D-NY) announced the statue would be revealed in late 2013. As chairman of the Senate Rules Committee, he is also in charge of artwork in the Capitol.

The U.S. Postal Service is also commemorating the life of Rosa Parks. On Feb. 4, the postal service issued a special "Historic Forever" stamp in honor of Parks' 100th birthday. ■



Above: The famous arrest of Rosa Parks on December 1, 1955. Center: Official issuing event for the "historic forever" Rosa Parks stamp. Left: In 1996, Parks was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom from then President Clinton.



BLACK HISTORY MONTH

At the

CROSSROADS

of

FREEDOM

and

EQUALITY LN

The

Emancipation Proclamation 1863

and the

MARCH ON WASHINGTON 1963

Now is the time to rise from the dark and desolate valley of segregation to the

sunlit path of racial justice.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH 2013 THEME

EQUAL WRITES
EEO JACKSONVILLE
DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

welcomes your contributions...

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