



**Constance A. Burns**  
**President, Chief Executive Officer**  
**National Association of American Veterans, Inc.**

Washington, DC, March 13, 2015. Constance A. Burns, president, chief executive officer and founder of the National Association of American Veterans, Inc., has been recognized by Worldwide Who's Who for demonstrating dedication, leadership and excellence in veteran's advocacy and healthcare services.

Ms. Burns is an educator, historian, author, professional meeting planner, trainer, program analyst and manager, and veteran service officer, with more than 25 years of experience working for the private industries, federal government, nonprofit organizations, and as a consultant. Ms. Burns served as advisor for the National World War II Reunion, D-Day to France, and A Salute Parade to WWII Veterans in May 2004. Most recently, she served as advisor to the co-chairs for the President's Commission on Care of America's Returning Wounded Warriors and the Mental Health Task Force for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder in 2007 in support of our nation's service members and combat veterans. She managed, researched, and authored major parts of three books namely the 2d Ranger Infantry Company's history (2009), the Autobiography of Captain Evelyn Decker (2008), and the Quick Series Guide to Healthy Caregiving in 2008. She is also the sponsor of several documentaries about African Americans in military history.

Since 1990, she has also served as a volunteer researcher for the National Museum of Natural History and decent at the National Museum of American History at the Smithsonian Institution. At the national level, in 1994 she appeared in the Two Thousand Notable American Women in recognition of past achievement and outstanding service to the community, state and nation. In 1996, she was awarded the Certificate of Special Congressional Recognition for outstanding and invaluable services to the community. Since 1995, she also served on the Research Board of Advisors for the American Biographical Institute. Since 1980, she has published about history and women's issues. She is author of several articles in the "Encyclopedia of African-American Education" (Greenwood Press, 1996). NAAV is one of the founding partners of the Veterans History Project.

Ms. Burns attended the University of Alabama in Birmingham and received a Bachelor of Science. She holds a Master of Arts and post-master's degrees in secondary education and history. She attended Carnegie-Mellon University from 1975-1976 as a doctoral fellow in history, teaching, and curriculum development. She later enrolled in the Ph.D. program at the University of Pittsburgh in 1976 and completed course work leading to a Ph.D. in history in 1979.

Ms. Burns was honored by First Lady Michelle Obama, Dr. Jill Biden at the Vice President's Home on Veterans Day in 2015 in recognition of support for military families nationwide. In the same year Ms. Burns received a Congressional Award for her work through NAAV for the Homeless Veterans nationwide and in June 2016 she was honored by the Veterans for Foreign Wars with the "Commitment to Service Award" at their 83rd Convention held in Arlington, VA. In September 2016, she was presented with the "Certificate of Appreciation Award" by the Director of the DC VA Medical Center. Constance Burns values the honorable and selfless service of our nation's service members and disabled veterans. She aspires for NAAV to be a leader in advocating for the needs of U.S. soldiers, veterans and their families.

She established the National Association of American Veterans, Inc. (NAAV) and incorporated it in 2005 to provide emergency assistance and referrals, counseling, training, employment, and housing assistance and referrals to severely wounded service members, and veterans and their families.

NAAV is committed to this population, particularly severely injured single-parent service members, and veterans of the wars in Iraq, Afghanistan and prior wars, by helping them to access their benefits. Additionally, she is responsible for improving collaboration, communication and coordination with the VA, and other veterans' groups, health agencies, medical professional organizations, educational organizations, and the public, in support of veterans and their families. NAAV, Inc. is envisioned as a comprehensive nonprofit 501(c)(3) veterans' service organization that values the honorable and selfless service of current and former members of America's armed forces, that is committed to assisting with the re-accluturation of all veterans into the mainstream of American life.

# BLACK HISTORY MONTH

## THE BLACK FAMILY

Representation, Identity, and  
Diversity



Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall Gospel Service  
 2021 Black History Month Celebration  
 Chaplain (Major) Bryant Casteel, U.S. Army, Pastor  
 Sunday, February 14, 2021, 12:30 p.m.  
 Fort Myer, Virginia



# JBM-HH GOSPEL SERVICE BLACK HISTORY MONTH 2021

CELEBRATING, LAMENTING, REMEMBERING, HONORING

## OPENING REMARKS

### WELCOME

2021 KEEPER OF THE COMMUNITY AWARD RECIPIENT  
CONSTANCE A. BURNS  
PRESIDENT, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER  
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN VETERANS, INC.  
PRAISE AND WORSHIP

### PRAYER

### SCRIPTURE

### SERMONIC SONG

### SERMON

CHAPLAIN (COLONEL) MYRTLE BOWEN, AIR NATIONAL GUARD  
ASSISTANT TO THE COMMAND CHAPLAIN-AFRICA COMMAND

### BENEDICTION

CHAPLAIN (MAJOR) BRYANT CASTEEL, USA, PASTOR  
JBM-HH GOSPEL SERVICE



Chaplain (Colonel) Myrtle Bowen  
Air National Guard

Chaplain, Colonel Myrtle Bowen is the Air National Guard Assistant to the Command Chaplain, Africa Command, Kelley Barracks, Stuttgart, Germany effective May 1, 2018. In this role, she advises the Command Chaplain and the Command Chaplain's staff on all National Guard matters.

Moreover, she advises and assists the Director of the National Guard Bureau (NGB) Chaplain Corps on all matters of policy, programs operations and utilization of the National Guard's chaplain community, this community interface with United States Air Force and United States Army Reserve programs. In addition, she serves as the State Partnership Program Coordinator on behalf of the Command Chaplain as a subject matter expert supporting DOD, NGB, HQ US AFRICOM and USAF. As the acting Command Chaplain, she conducts research to aid the mission of the Chaplain Directorate, to form enduring linkages with HQ US AFRICOM.

As an ordained Elder, Chaplain Bowen was elevated to the position of "Presiding Elder" and presently serves in her civilian capacity as senior spiritual leader for thirteen churches of the Harrisburg District, spanning approximately 700 miles in Pennsylvania for the Philadelphia and Baltimore Annual Conference of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church. Chaplain Bowen formally served as the Pastor of Contee AME Zion Church, Galbraith AME Zion Church, Clinton AME Zion Church, Gibson Grove AME Zion Church and Unity AME Zion Church since 1992.

### EDUCATION

1985 Bachelor of Science, Architectural Engineering, North Carolina State University, NC  
1995 Masters of Divinity, Theology, Howard University School of Divinity, Washington, DC  
1997 Doctorate of Ministry, Howard University School of Divinity, Washington, DC  
1998 Commissioned Officer Training (residence), Maxwell Air Force Base, Montgomery, AL  
1999 Basic Chaplain Course (residence), Maxwell Air Force Base, Montgomery, Alabama  
2004 Intermediate Chaplain Course (residence), Maxwell Air Force Base, Montgomery, AL  
2005 Squadron Officer School (residence), Fort Jackson, SC  
2012 Wing Chaplain Course (residence), Fort Jackson, SC  
2015 Air War College (correspondence), McGhee Tyson Air Force Base, Knoxville, TN

### ASSIGNMENTS

August 1998 - March 2003, Air Force Reserve Protestant Chaplain, Dover Air Force Base, DE  
March 2003 - September 2009 Protestant Chaplain, 166th Airlift Wing, Delaware ANG  
September 2009 - May 2018, Wing Chaplain, 113th Airlift Wing, District of Columbia National Guard  
May 2018 - Present, Air National Guard Assistant to the Command Chaplain - African Command, Kelley Barracks, Stuttgart, Germany

### AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

Meritorious Service Medal (with 2 Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster)  
Air Force Commendation Medal (with 1 Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster)  
Joint Service Achievement Medal  
Air Force Achievement Medal (with 1 Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster)  
Army Achievement Medal  
National Defense Service Medal  
Global War Terrorism Service Medal (with 3 Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster)  
Armed Forces Reserve Medal with 1 "M" Device  
Air Force Training Ribbon