

A musical staff with several notes, including a quarter note, a beamed eighth note pair, a quarter note, a dotted quarter note, and a quarter note, all on a yellow background with diagonal rays.

Black History Month 2024

The Gospel Roots of African Americans

Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall Gospel Service
Black History Month Keeper of the Community Award Service
Memorial Chapel, JBM-HH, Virginia
Chaplain (Colonel) Willie Mashack, U.S. Army, Pastor
Saturday, February 24, 2024, 1:00 p.m.



Chaplain (Colonel) Willie Mashack
Pastor, JBM-HH Gospel Service

Welcome

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall Gospel Congregation's 2024 Black History Service. I do so with the expectation that this will be a meaningful and memorable experience as we celebrate and recognize the achievements, sacrifice, and allegiance of those who have committed themselves to the various conditions of humanity. Through prayer and determined faith, we convene today for a few hallowed moments, creating a sacred space to recognize God's continuous work in and through the lives of others.

Our gathering will be a time of celebration as we commemorate significant achievements and successes that are marked by bold and visionary decisions grounded in a deep commitment to carrying out God's will/mission. I am mindful that there is nothing quite like the uplifting experience of having believers come together to worship and work in the context of faithful fellowship and spirit-filled celebration.

Our theme for this year's Black History service, *The Gospel Roots of African Americans*, aligns with that of the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH). It calls us from our present moments of creative genius back to that bold and visionary beginning of expressions conceived in our souls, birthed in song, music, dance, art, and poetic prose that enlivened fields, homes, churches, hopes, dreams, and the belief that there is a bright side somewhere.

What a joy and privilege to gather as a diverse population to celebrate, to be inspired, to be reminded, and to reconnect on things that matter. This year's service promises to be a tremendous blessing to give recognition to individuals who sought not fame, glory, or acclaim. They want to make a difference in the lives of others. May we, too, seek to make a difference in the lives of others and within our respective communities.

I want to repeat something I expressed in last year's note. The words are still appropriate. Not because I wrote them but because the message traverses time, cultures, ethnicities, and communities of faith. "Do not become the catalyst that perpetuates behavior that will breach "good trouble" and halt goodwill. The spiritual connection of the collective consciousness of humanity is stronger than any divide or deterrent of humanity. Conscious individuals are the "sine qua non" for the soul of a society. For we all are "keepers of the community."

Again, thank you for attending, and I am sure this event will be an wonderful demonstration and celebration of humanity's love for humanity.

Sincerely,

Willie Mashack

Chaplain (Colonel) Willie Mashack, Pastor
JBM-HH Gospel Service

The Gospel Roots of African Americans

Musical Prelude

Introduction of Taylor Thomas,
Radio and Television Journalist,
Guest Emcee

Anita Laury, JBM-HH Gospel Service

Welcome

Colonel Tasha N. Lowery, U.S. Army
Commander, Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall

Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing

Ms. Deidra Stubbs

Invocation

Reverend Elizabeth Daffin

Scripture Reading

Brian Michel, JBM-HH Gospel Service

Musical Selections

The Vintage Gospel Singers of Washington, DC

Award Ceremony

2024 Keeper of the Community Award Honorees

Reverend Dr. Tiffany Daniel, Desert Storm Veteran

LaTanya D. McDade, Ed.D., Superintendent, Prince William County Public Schools

Sergeant Major TaWonda L. Sanders, United States Army

Charlene Edwards, JBM-HH Gospel Service

Our Time is Now:
Perseverance Through Worship!

Dr. Jacqueline M. Pressey, ReCreations Ministries;
Merlon Devine, Saxophonist; Perfecting GRACE
Liturgical Senior Banner Flag Dancers; Mr. Marqui
Williams, Spoken Word Dramatization

2024 Living Legend

Colonel Paris D. Davis, U.S. Army (Retired)

Medal of Honor

Vietnam War

Musical Selections

Fort Belvoir Gospel Service Choir, Fort Belvoir, VA

The Message

Reverend Dr. Nevalon Mitchell, Jr.
President, Nevalon Mitchell, Jr. Ministries, Inc.,
and NWM Counseling LLC

Special Acknowledgements

Chaplain (Colonel) Willie Mashack, U.S. Army
Pastor, JBM-HH Gospel Service

Closing Remarks/Benediction

Chaplain (Colonel) Willie Mashack, U.S. Army

Dinner will be served in the Fellowship Hall



Keynote Speaker

REVEREND DR. NEVALON MITCHELL, JR.
PRESIDENT, NEVALON MITCHELL, JR. MINISTRIES
AND NWM COUNSELING LLC

Dr. Nevalon Mitchell, Jr. was born in Wilson, NC. He holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Sociology, a minor in Psychology, and a Basic Intensive in Philosophy from the University of Michigan-Flint. He also has a Master of Divinity Degree from Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary in Evanston, IL, where his particular emphasis was on “The Church and The Black Experience,” and a Doctor of Ministry Degree from the Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary in Louisville, KY, where his Doctoral Thesis was “Black Preaching and The Black Church: Tradition Viewed in the Context of Liberation Theology.” Dr. Mitchell holds a Ph.D. in Church History and Biblical Studies from the Newburg Theological Seminary in Newburg, IN.

Dr. Mitchell is licensed and ordained in The National Baptist Convention USA, Inc. In 1978, Dr. Mitchell entered the United States Army. He served in Vietnam from March 1967 until January 1968. After graduating from college and seminary, he re-entered active duty as a Chaplain in March 1978 and retired from the United States Army as a Lieutenant Colonel in July 2000. Dr. Mitchell holds a life membership with The Disabled American Veterans, The American Legion, and The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States. He retired from The Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Healthcare System on October 31, 2017, as a Senior Chaplain Clinician, and was credited with preventing eleven suicides.

Dr. Mitchell is married to Wessylne Kaye Mitchell, and they are the proud parents of four adult children, seven adorable grandchildren, and two Godchildren. Dr. Mitchell is a member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc.



Guest Emcee

TAYLOR THOMAS
RADIO & TELEVISION NEWS JOURNALIST

Taylor Thomas is a well-known and respected Radio and Television News Journalist. She has graced the DC Metropolitan airwaves as the Morning News Anchor for The Steve Harvey Morning Show and The Russ Parr Morning Show.

Taylor has spent two decades as a public figure partnering with community outreach efforts and covering stories that impact communities here in the DMV, from the DC Sniper, 911 to the election of the nations first Black President Barack Obama. Taylor is committed to working with our youth, which prompted her to create a 501c3 nonprofit organization, The Better Family, Inc., in 2012. The Better Family, Inc., connects children with educational and career resources. Thomas has dedicated her life to uplifting and educating others about health, money, and social issues.

Living Legend



Paris Davis was born in 1939, in Cleveland, Ohio. As a young man, he became interested in the military and sports, and he pursued both at Southern University, in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, where he studied political science on an ROTC scholarship.

Davis was commissioned as an Army reserve armor officer in 1959, graduated from Airborne and Ranger schools in 1960, and was selected for the 7th Special Forces Group (Airborne), 1st Special Forces, serving first in Korea and then Vietnam.

Davis first deployed to Vietnam in 1962 and again in 1965, where he was promoted to captain as a detachment commander with the 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne), 1st Special Forces making him one of the first African American Special Forces officers as the civil rights movement gained momentum at home.



Then-Capt. Paris D. Davis receives the Silver Star on Dec. 15, 1965. (U.S. Army photo) (U.S. Army)



Capt. Paris Davis, center, gave a tour of his camp in South Vietnam to the commander of U.S. forces there, Gen. William Westmoreland, left. Credit...via Ron Deis

Although Davis was known throughout the Army as a modern-day hero, his daughter shared that growing up, he never talked about the war, and she didn't find out the extent of his valor until 2019 when he was inducted into the Ranger Hall of Fame.

"That's when I looked through his book for the first time and saw what he did," she said. "His selflessness, putting others before himself, the struggle of going back once, twice, three times to save his men. Never thinking for a second that he would leave anyone behind."

Davis' Medal of Honor paperwork had been lost twice, resulting in this honor being postponed 56 years after his initial nomination. (ABC News)



Deputy Secretary of Defense Kathleen Hicks walks with retired Army Col. Paris Davis prior to his Medal of Honor Hall of Heroes Induction Ceremony at the Pentagon, March 6, 2023. Davis received the Medal of Honor for his acts of bravery as a commander during the Vietnam War.



Retired Green Beret Col. Paris Davis speaks with Brig. Gen. Will Beaupere of the Army's John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School at an event inducting him as a distinguished member of the Special Forces Regiment at the Army Navy Country Club in Arlington, Va., on May 12, 2023. (Bruce Pham/ Courtesy of Special Forces Association Chapter 11)



Gov. Glenn Youngkin stands between Medal of Honor recipient Col. Paris Davis (left) and former prisoner of war Capt. Eugene "Red" McDaniel (right), the two officers for which Roanoke's Davis & McDaniel Veterans Care Center was renamed. DAVID HUNGATE, The Roanoke Times, December 12, 2023

" ...nearly 20 hours later — after that bugle first rang, Captain Davis saved — had saved each one of his fellow Americans. Every single one. Just as the story of Paris Davis did not begin on June 18th, 1965, it does not end there either. Captain Davis went on to become Colonel Davis, serving more than 25 years in our military and earning a PhD on top of that. He received the Silver Star, the Bronze Star, the Air Medal, the Purple Heart. And even after he hung up his uniform, the Colonel continued to serve the community, founding the Metro-Herald, a newspaper that focused on his local community and civil rights issues. "

PRESIDENT JOSEPH R. BIDEN, JR.
White House Ceremony, March 3, 2023

IN RECOGNIZING THE HUMANITY OF OUR FELLOW BEINGS, WE PAY
OURSELVES THE HIGHEST TRIBUTE. THURGOOD MARSHALL

Keeper of the Community Award

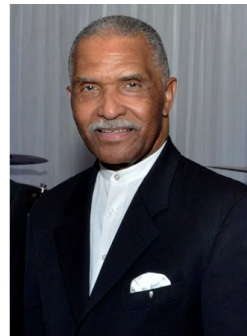


Chaplain (LTC) C. Wayne Brittian
United States Army
May 7, 1963 – May 3, 2016

The Keeper of the Community Award was established in 2006 under the pastorate of Chaplain (LTC) C. Wayne Brittian, United States Army. This award honors individuals and organizations that are devoted to making a positive change within their community and demonstrate exceptional leadership in their personal or professional spheres.

Chaplain Brittian's legacy has an eternal impact, and his memory will endure in the hearts of those who knew him.

Edgar A. Brookins, Jr. *Keeper of the Community Award*



Edgar Allen Brookins, Jr.
November 23, 1947 – December 1, 2021

The Edgar A. Brookins, Jr. Keeper of the Community Award is given in honor of Brother Edgar Brookins for serving as Chairman of the Black History Month Planning Committee for over two decades. This award recognizes a member or members of the Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall Gospel Service for outstanding service and support.

2024 Keeper of the Community Honorees



REVEREND DR. TIFFANY DANIEL

Dr. Tiffany Daniel is an Army Veteran of 26 years. Some of her most memorable duty stations were Germany and the Joint Chiefs of Staff. She is a Desert Storm and OIF combat Veteran, Sr Information Specialist, a Bestselling Author, and Hostess of Live To Day Health Talk Show.

Dr. Daniel is a member of the following organizations:

- National Active and Retired Federal Employee Association (NARFE), Co-President of Chapter 1260 in Southern MD
- Elks Lodge #2332, Camp Springs, MD Member
- Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), Department Chaplain and Chair of the Women Veterans Committee
- National Association of Black Veterans (NABVETS), Vice Commander of Chapter #96
- Azusa International Foursquare Gospel Church (AIFGC), Executive Pastor
- Catherine Foundation Pregnancy and Crisis Center, Case Advocate and Parenting Class Instructor
- Women Veterans United Committee, Inc. (WVUCI), Chair for the Board of Directors and Director of Health and Wellness
- Maryland Regional Chapter of the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, Advocate
- Baltimore/Chesapeake Region Blue Star Families Advisory Board Member
- Standards for Excellence Licensed Consultant, Maryland
- Ambassador for Veterans of Revelation Wellness, Fitness Instructor
- Veteran Yoga Project, Yoga Instructor and State Coordinator.

Dr. Daniel has two loving sons and four darling grandsons. She holds a Ed.D in Christian Education, MCE, B.Th, and BS in Psychology. She is also an Alumni of Institute of Integrative Nutrition (IIN), Crisis Intervention Stress Management (CISM) Chaplain, Mental Health First Aider, Cleveland Clinic Certified Behavioral Health, and Wellness Life Coach and has completed The Police Chaplain Basic Training Course.



LATANYA D. MCDADE, Ed.D.
SUPERINTENDENT, PRINCE WILLIAM
COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Dr. LaTanya D. McDade was appointed July 1, 2021, as the Superintendent for Prince William County Public Schools, which is the second-largest division in Virginia and serves more than 90,000 students. She is the first woman and first African American to serve as Superintendent of the school division. During her first seven months in office, she launched *Vision 2025 Launching Thriving Futures*. This ambitious four-year strategic plan

serves as a framework for ensuring every student in Prince William County graduates with the knowledge, skills, and habits of mind to create a thriving future for themselves and their community.

Dr. McDade joined the Prince William County learning community with 23 years of experience in Chicago Public Schools, the third largest district in the nation. She is a proven leader and passionate advocate for students. A lifelong educator, Dr. McDade is a former teacher, principal, chief schools' officer, and district leader.

Dr. McDade completed her doctorate in educational leadership and supervision from Lewis University. She holds a master's degree in leadership and administration from Loyola University and a bachelor's degree in elementary education from Chicago State University. She is an active member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

Dr. McDade deeply understands school communities and knows how to support their academic growth. Her mantra, *Education is not preparation for life; education is life itself.* - John Dewey.

Congratulations Region IV Superintendent of the Year!

Edgar A. Brockins, Jr. 2024 Keeper of the Community Honoree



CHARLENE EDWARDS
JBM-HH GOSPEL SERVICE

Charlene Edwards is a native of Greenport, Long Island, NY. After graduating from high school, she went to Delhi State University, Delhi, NY for 2 years, after which she decided to join the U.S. Navy, retiring at the rank of Yeoman Chief (Surface Warfare)-E7.

Her naval assignments and voyages have taken her to Italy, Guam, Hawaii, Panama, South Korea, Japan, Bahrain, United Arab Emirates, Singapore, Hong Kong, China, Australia, Philippines, Texas, Virginia and Washington, DC. While in the Navy she received her Bachelor of Science degree in Business Management/ Public Relations from the University of Maryland University.

Charlene has worked at four different companies since her retirement from the Navy, retiring for a second time on December 31, 2021.

Currently she is enjoying retirement, volunteering, and singing with the JBM-HH Gospel Service Praise Team. She currently volunteers at JBM-HH, USO.

SERGEANT MAJOR TAWONDA L. SANDERS
UNITED STATES ARMY



Sergeant Major (SGM) TaWonda L. Sanders joined the United States Army in Memphis, TN, where she is a native. She attended Basic Combat Training and Personnel Services Specialist Advanced Individual Training at Fort Jackson, SC.

Currently serving as a Special Projects Sergeant Major for the Headquarters Battalion, US Army in Fort Myer, VA, she has held a variety of leadership and staff positions, most recently serving as the Headquarters Battalion's CSM. SGM Sanders' deployments include Jalalabad, Afghanistan; Taszar, Hungary; and Herzegovina, Bosnia.

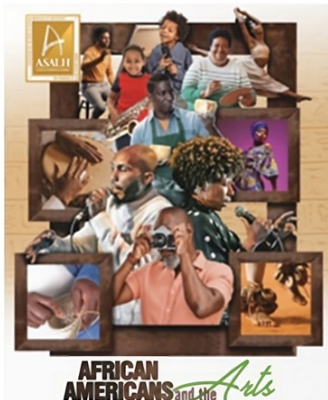
SGM Sanders' military education includes the Garrison Pre Command Course, United States Army Sergeants' Major Course, Personnel Security Adjudications Course, Sexual Harassment/Assault Response Prevention Course, Army Recruiter Course, Small Group Instructor Training Course, Total Army Instructor Training Course, and many others. She earned an Associates' Degree in Education from the University of Phoenix and a Bachelor's of Science in Leadership from Trident University, graduating Magna Cum Laude.

SGM Sanders' awards and decorations include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal (w/one OLC), Army Commendation Medal (w/one silver OLC and one bronze OLC), Army Achievement medal (w/ two OLC), Army Good Conduct Medal (w/one silver knot), National Defense Service Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Afghan Campaign Medal (w/one campaign star), Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Armed Forces Service Medal, Noncommissioned Officer Professional Development Ribbon (w/numeral four), Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Ribbon (w/numeral 2), National Atlantic Treaty Organization Medal (w/one bronze star), Silver Recruiter Badge (w/ three gold stars), Gold Recruiter Badge (w/three gold sapphires), and the Driver's Badge.

SGM Sanders is married to SGM Brian Sanders, HQs Command Battalion, Fort Meade, MD. Together, they have one daughter, Specialist Anaa Sanders, 8th Psychological Operations Group, Fort Liberty, NC.

2024 National Theme

African Americans and the Arts



African American art is infused with African, Caribbean, and the Black American lived experiences. In the fields of visual and performing arts, literature, fashion, folklore, language, film, music, architecture, culinary and other forms of cultural expression, the African American influence has been paramount. African American artists have used art to preserve history and community memory as well as for empowerment. Artistic and cultural movements such as the New Negro, Black Arts, Black Renaissance, hip-hop, and Afrofuturism, have been led by people of African descent and set the standard for popular trends around the world. In 2024, we examine the varied history and life of African American arts and artisans.

(Association for the Study of African American Life and History, www.asalh.org)

The Gospel Roots of African Americans



The Vintage Gospel Singers of
Washington, DC

It all started back in 1995 with an invitation to sing "Old Time Gospel Music" at a Black History Month Program. After twenty-eight years, The Vintage Gospel Singers of Washington, DC, is still on a mission to preserve the legacy of "Pioneer Gospel Music", and the many legendary artists that paved the way for young artists and musicians today. The Singers also have an Outreach Ministry that ministers at nursing homes and other convalescent facilities.



Fort Belvoir Gospel Service Adult Choir
Fort Belvoir, VA

The Fort Belvoir Gospel Service Adult Choir, an integral part of the Fort Belvoir Gospel Service community, is a dynamic and diverse group of individuals united by their passion for music and love for the Lord. Established in 1993, this choir not only uplifts congregants with soul-stirring performances but also serves as a harmonious reflection of the congregation.



Deidra Stubbs
Guest Soloist

A very proud Army Wife, Deidra Stubbs actively engages in volunteer activities, supporting civic and cultural organizations such as the American Red Cross, Army Officers Wives Club, Habitat for Humanity and her beloved sorority, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. A versatile talent, Deidra has a rich musical background, recording gospel albums and commercial jingles, and sings in the choir and praise teams at her church, Kingdom Fellowship, AME. Appearing with her choir on national television on AGT and performing at international events such as the Montreux Jazz Festival in Switzerland and the 1992 Olympics in Barcelona has kept her life full.

Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing

Lift ev'ry voice and sing,
Till earth and heaven ring,
Ring with the harmonies of liberties;
Let our rejoicing rise
High as the listening skies,
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.
Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us,
Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us;
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun,
Let us march on till victory is won.

Stony the road we trod,
Bitter the chastening rod,
Felt in the days when hope unborn had died;
Yet with a steady beat,
Have not our weary feet
Come to the place for which our fathers sighed?
We have come over a way that with tears has been watered.
We have come, treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered;
Out from the gloomy past, Till now we stand at last
Where the white gleam our bright star is cast.

God of our weary years,
God of our silent tears,
Thou who has brought us thus far on the way;
Thou who hast by Thy might,
Led us into the light,
Keep us forever in the path, we pray,
Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met Thee,
Lest our heart, drunk with the wine of the world, we forget Thee,
Shadowed beneath Thy hand, May we forever stand,
True to our God, True to our native land.

Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing - often called "The Black National Anthem" was written as a poem by James Weldon Johnson and then set to music by his brother John Rosamond Johnson in 1899. It was first performed in public in the Johnsons' hometown of Jacksonville, Florida, as part of a celebration of Lincoln's Birthday on February 12, 1900, by a choir of 500 schoolchildren at the segregated Stanton School, where James Weldon Johnson was principal.

Our Time is Now

Perseverance Through Worship!



Marqui Williams
Spoken Word Dramatization

Marqui Williams is a recent graduate of Bowie State University, earning his Bachelor's degree in English Language and Literature. He is working on various projects including an upcoming composition of poetry titled "The Fall" and an upcoming hip hop album. At F.A.M.E Church International, Washington D.C, Marqui serves as a Minister in Training and soon to be teacher of F.A.M.E Church's own literacy club.



Merlon Devine

Love and inspiration can come from many places, but Merlon Devine's love and inspiration to play music came from right inside his childhood home. Growing up in Little Rock, Arkansas with a singing mother and a guitar playing father, Merlon and his nine siblings lived in a home filled with gospel music.

Merlon's signature sound and soulful expression on the horn has set him apart and propelled him onto various stages. From mega churches to international jazz festival tours, concert halls and more, Merlon is a veteran performer known for his dynamic and mesmerizing stage presence. www.merlondevine.com

S.O.A.R. (SENIORS ON A ROLL)
Perfecting GRACE Liturgical Senior Banner Flag Dancers
Clark Senior Center, LaPlata, Maryland

S.O.A.R. is a healthy aging program created by Dr. Jacqueline M. Pressey, ReCreations Ministries, Inc., in January 2024. This program improves quality of life by encouraging community engagement thus alleviating depression and loneliness. Our Flag Dancers are 60 years young and beyond. The Perfecting GRACE Liturgical Dance Banner Flag Ministry is grateful to the JBM-HH Gospel Service for giving us the opportunity for our first public engagement. God is up to something so amazing!



Dr. Jacqueline M. Pressey
ReCreations Ministries, Inc.
Founding Apostle

Dr. Pressey is a passionate physician & facilitator of His inspiration for the soul! Her lifelong scholarly interest & passion are spiritual wellness foci: purpose/meaning in life, beliefs, and connectedness to each other, and this world. Dr. Pressey currently sings in the Southern Maryland Regional Choir in Waldorf, MD. Her previous singing groups have included the Baltimore Symphony and the National Philharmonic. www.recreationsministries.com

Black History Month Planning Committee

The 2024 Black History Month Planning Committee extends a heartfelt thanks and appreciation to our Pastor, Chaplain (Colonel) Willie Mashack, our congregation, the JBM-HH Community, the greater DMV and all in attendance. Thank you for your prayers, love and support of our Black History Month Celebration.

Anita Laury - Chair, Renee Anderson, Roy Croom, Pam Douglas, Machel Reynolds

