

The 23rd

Empowerment Breakfast



Black History Month

Honoring African Americans In The Military

Hosted By Carole Copeland Thomas
Multicultural Symposium Series Founder
in Partnership with The Colonnade Hotel and
The Commonwealth Compact

www.mssconnect.com

Facebook Page: Multicultural Symposium Series (MSS)

Thursday March 3, 2016

At The Boston Colonnade Hotel
Boston, Massachusetts



Welcome!

The Empowerment Recognition Breakfast was created by social entrepreneur Carole Copeland Thomas in the year 2000 to pay tribute and recognition to those diverse individuals, businesses and organizations who significantly contribute to the community at large. Today's event represents the 23rd Breakfast held in the series. We salute our keynote speaker and those who will be honored in this endeavor.

What Is The Multicultural Symposium Series?

Founded in 2008 by social entrepreneur Carole Copeland Thomas, The Multicultural Symposium Series (MSS) creates new opportunities for academia, business, government, education, students and the community at large to build new strategic alliances that will forge stronger relationships across the global divisions of ethnicity, race, gender, economics, age, religion, sexual orientation, politics, class and ideological differences.

Lift Every Voice And Sing

Known As The Black National Anthem

Lyrics by James Weldon Johnson (1971 - 1938)

Music by John Rosamond Johnson (1873-1954)

Lift every voice and sing, till earth and Heaven ring,
Ring with the harmonies of liberty;
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 of our bright star is cast.

God of our weary years, God of our silent tears,
Thou Who hast 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 hearts, drunk with the wine of the world, we forget Thee.
Shadowed beneath Thy hand, may we forever stand,

Keynote Speaker and Honorees



Keynote Speaker: Ernest Washington, Jr was born and raised in Roxbury, MA. He is a proud product of the Boston Public Schools graduating in 1965. He served a combat tour of duty in Vietnam and is the recipient of the Purple Heart and the Vietnam Cross of Gallantry. He enrolled at Bentley College of Accounting & Finance where he graduated in 1973 with degrees in Accounting and Management.

George Giddings

George W. Giddings from Yonkers, N.Y attend ed Fisk University. He entered Aviation Cadet training in 1942 and was assigned to Class 43H at Tuskegee Army Air Field. Served until 1946. George was grounded due to an eye problem. He then attended Navigator training at Hondo AAF, Texas, Bombardier training at Roswell AAF, NM and Gunnery training at Yuma AAF, AZ and was discharged in 1946.



Harvey F. Sanford graduated from the Boston Trade High School in Airplane Engine mechanics in 1944. In 1945 Harvey entered the U.S. Army Air Corps and was stationed at Tuskegee Army Air Field as an Air Inspector (Airplane and Engine) until his discharge in 1946. While at Tuskegee Harvey often traveled with the Base Commander while being responsible for the maintenance of the commander's aircraft. From 1970 until retirement in 1983 he worked as a FAA Airworthiness Inspector assigned to Logan Airport Boston, MA.



Harold May, MD. from Poughkeepsie NY, completed two years of undergraduate study at Harvard University before joining the Army Air Corp in 1945. The war ended before Harold could complete his pilot training and upon discharge he returned to Harvard University to complete his undergraduate studies and completed the medical degree program and Harvard Medical School. Dr. May practiced medicine at Brigham and Women's Hospital until retirement.

Raymond Baker

Raymond Baker entered the U.S. Army in 1944. He went to Biloxi MS for basic training and then was assigned to Tuskegee Army Airfield. After several months Raymond began pilot training as a member of Class 451. The war ended before his completion of the flying program. Mr. Baker was discharged in July 5, 1946 and returned to Brockton, MA.



Enoch Woodhouse II, Esq. graduated from English High School in Boston, MA. Joined the U. S. Army Air Corps and completed the Officers Candidate School in 1946, at the age of 19. Served as Finance Officer for the 477th Bombardment Group at Lockbourne AF, OH. He was discharged from active duty in 1949 and joined the Air Force Reserves. While in the Air Force Reserves, Enoch attended Yale University and Boston University Law School. Attorney Woodhouse practiced law in Boston and served as a Diplomatic Courier for the U.S. State Department in Europe, Africa and South America.

Jack Bryant Grew

Jack Bryant Grew up in Chicago, IL and followed his brother into pilot training in the Army Air Corp in 1945. The pilot training program at Tuskegee Army Air Field was discontinued before Jack's class completed training and Jack was discharged in 1946. Jack entered the University of Michigan and graduated with a degree in Civil Engineering. In 1961 Jack moved to Boston and started Bryant Engineering, a civil engineering firm specializing in major infrastructure projects.



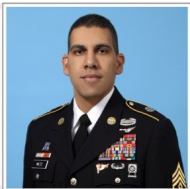
The Late William Vickers graduated from Boston Trade High School and entered the U. S. Army in 1944 qualifying for assignment in Pilot Training program. Mr. Vickers took basic training at Kessler Field in Biloxi, MS. Mr. Vickers was stationed in Sebring Florida as a member of the B-17 Ground Crew. Later William was sent to Bombay India and stationed in the Assam Valley in India as part of the Air Transport Command. Upon discharge in 1946, Mr. Vickers joined the National Guard and was recalled to active duty in 1950 and stationed at Camp McCoy in Wisconsin and later sent to Helicopter school before his release from active duty in 1952. Mr. Vickers continued to serve and retired from the National Guard after 22 years of service.

Read The Complete Speaker Biographical Profiles

At:

www.mssconnect.com

Distinguished Honorees



First Sergeant Michael Wiltz took over as Detachment Sergeant for Detachment 6, EUCOM JAC on February 21, 2013. 1SG Wiltz has held a variety of leadership positions throughout his career ranging from Team Sergeant to First Sergeant.

As First Sergeant for an Intelligence Unit, Wiltz serves as the personal adviser to the Commander on all enlisted-related matters, particularly in areas affecting Soldier training.

Wiltz was born in Los Angeles, California and also entered the Army there in January 1980. He attended initial training at Fort Dix, New Jersey and graduated as a Rotary Wing Repairman at Fort Eustis, Virginia.



Patricia Odom is a graduate of Washington Senior High School in Pensacola, Florida and a graduate of Washington Senior Vocational School of Cosmetology also in Pensacola.

From 1976 through 1987, Pat served her country in the United States Army and served in the Massachusetts Army National Guard. She becoming the first black female recruiter for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Pat also achieved the rank of Sergeant First Class (SFC - E-7) while serving in the army.



Fusing Compassion and Community, Learning and Literacy, **Haywood Fennell, Sr.** continues to add dimensions to his writings. Born in New York City, the now Boston resident recently self-published the first book from The Coota Experiences Trilogy, Coota and the Magic Quilt and has completed writing the second book, Coota and the Challenge.

As a Vietnam Era veteran, Haywood served nearly six years in the US Army as a clerk, photographer, and information specialist. He founded The Tri-Ad Veterans' League following his military service.



Mary-dith E. Tuitt, "Ms. Mary" served fourteen (14) years as a Navy Aviation Machinists Mate, first on active duty and then in the active & inactive Reserves. Her military career included positions in Orlando, Florida, San Diego, California, South Weymouth, Massachusetts, Rota, Spain and other Reserves stations. In 1991 she returned to Boston and became a student of East Coast Aero Technical School. Mary did some military archive research on women of color in the United States Navy and in 2010 she received information that as far as the archival research shows she was the first African American Aviation Machinist Mate (jet mechanic) in the Navy.



Roger Harris, Ph.D. was born and raised in the Roxbury section of Boston, attended the Boston Public Schools, served three years of active duty with the United States Marine Corps, including a thirteen month tour of duty with a combat unit in Vietnam. He was a football standout at Boston University, where he earned "Most Valuable Back-field Player" and a Bachelors Degree. He received a Masters Degree from the University of Massachusetts (formerly Boston State College), a Doctor of Philosophy Degree from Boston College, and is a member of the LeadBoston class of '97.



Reverend Ken Whitley was born and raised in Philadelphia, PA. After high school he headed for the University of Pittsburgh but his time in Pittsburgh was cut short. While at Pitt he considered applying for a Congressional appointment to the United States Air Force Academy. He didn't expect to get the nomination but he knew there was zero chance if he didn't apply. To his surprise, he received an appointment from his US Congressman, which he quickly accepted. Four years later he graduated from the AF Academy in Colorado Springs CO with a Bachelors degree in one hand and an Air Force commission as a 2nd Lieutenant in the other hand. Later in 1990 Rev Whitley added a MS degree in business to his academic credentials.



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The Reverend Dr. Sandra Gatlin Whitley was appointed to Pastor the People's A.M.E. Church in Chelsea MA during the 156th Session of the New England Annual Conference in 2007. Prior to her calling to the ordained ministry, she served on active duty as a commissioned officer through the Air Force ROTC program. Dr. Whitley served our country for 22 dedicated years traveling to and serving around the US including Massachusetts where she retired as a Lieutenant Colonel.



Kenneth L. Turner, Director of Diversity & Inclusion/Compliance, joined the Authority in June 2013. A retired U.S. Navy Captain with 26-years of service, Mr. Turner began his military career as NR-TOC scholarship midshipman and received his B.S. degree in Liberal Arts and a commission in the Navy from Southern University and A&M College in Baton Rouge LA. Upon graduating college he completed the Submarine Officer Basic Course, the Torpedo Officer Course, and Tactical Weapons Officer Course at Naval Submarine Base New London; the C-3 Poseidon Missile Strategic Weapons Officer course at Naval Guided Missiles School Dam Neck; and the Trident C-4 Missile Strategic Weapons Officer course before reporting aboard USS Stonewall Jackson (SSBN 634 Blue Crew) as Assistant Weapons Officer.

**Read The Complete Speaker Biographical Profiles
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Programme

Welcome	Carole Copeland Thomas, MBA, CDMP, CITM Founder: Multicultural Symposium Series
Black National Anthem (Printed In The Program)	<i>“Lift Every Voice and Sing”</i> Led By Dr. Krystal Banfield Dean, Berklee City Music
Invocation	Mr. Maurice Wright The Historic Charles Street AME Church

Enjoy Your Breakfast

Solo	Dr. Krystal Banfield
Introduction Of Keynote Speaker	Carole Copeland Thomas
Guest Speaker	Ernest E. Washington, Jr. Vietnam Veteran & Purple Heart Recipient Entrepreneur and Cofounder: Concerned Black Men of Massachusetts
Empowerment Awards	Carole Copeland Thomas
Lucky Prize Winners	Patricia Spence and Denise Willis Turner
Close	We Shall Overcome
Benediction	Maurice Wright

Special Thanks To Our Volunteer Team & Business Partners:

- Michelle and Alberto (Junior) Monteiro
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- Michael Hailey Photography

Distinguished Honorees



Willie Shellman joined Tuskegee Airmen, Inc. as a civilian in 1985 and currently serves as President of the New England Chapter. He graduated from high school in Chicago, IL. and later graduated from Tuskegee University with a degree in Electrical Engineering. Willie was employed as an Auto Pilot Design Engineer on C-5 and F-14 aircrafts and as an Avionics Design Engineer in missile systems. Mr. Shellman majored in Business Administration at Northeastern University and was employed as a Sales Operations manager in the computer and internet industries. He is the longtime New England Chapter President of the Tuskegee Airmen, Inc.



Rev. Dr. Carlita Baldwin Cotton has combined her love of ministry and the military to serve others throughout her career path of achievement and excellence. An only child, Carlita was born to Rev. Carl L. (deceased) and Dr. Alexinia Y. Baldwin in Birmingham, Alabama. She was baptized, converted and joined St. John AME Church while living in Birmingham. Carlita first heard the call to the military, joined the United States Air Force in 1980 and served a variety of positions until her retirement in 2000. She was a manager, supervisor and educator and served as a Russian linguist, a strategic debriefer and a combat interrogator during her years of service.



Elaine Harris is a retired Special Needs Teacher from the Boston Public Schools. Elaine earned her Bachelor of Science from Boston University School of Education, Boston, MA., and a Master of Education from Cambridge, College, Cambridge, MA. Her career spanned 32 years of teaching Special Needs Students at the Grover Cleveland Middle School and The Curley K-8 School. Elaine has been a member of Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Jamaica Plain, MA for the past 27 years. She has served as Co-Leader of the Elders Ministry, a Trustee for more than 5 years, Church School Superintendent, New Members Coordinator for Capital Campaign, Co-Leader for Small Groups and presently serving as the President of the Christiana R. Gray Women's Missionary Society.



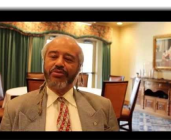
The Late Dr. James Franklin Fitzgerald was born in February, 1919 to James and Lillian Fitzgerald and lived in Wilmington, Delaware from his birth through high school graduation. His undergraduate life was spent at Pennsylvania's Lincoln University, where he became a member of the Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, followed by what proved to be his inadvertent path to a most memorable military experience, matriculation at Meharry Medical College in Nashville, Tennessee, where he received his M.D. degree. Captain James Franklin Fitzgerald, M.D. was an original "MASH" unit doctor in Korea, where he served with distinction from 1952 to 1954.



Doreen Harris has been an educator for the past 28 years and holds a Master of Education from Boston University, a Bachelor of Science from Suffolk University, Cum Laude Honors; and is a certified trainer in "7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens". Doreen is a founding and active member of Bethel AME Church, Jamaica Plain, former member of the Steward Board and the Pastor's Steward Emeritus. She previously served as Advisory Board Member of Generation Excel (an inner city youth organization); and former Board of Director of Urban Home Makers.



A master barber, **The Late James E. Guilford Jr.** was a stylist to stars of a storied era in Boston jazz, when a shave and a trim cost barely a buck at his Tremont Street shop. He could also spin stories as elegant as the fine lines that filled his sketchpads after he traded scissors and razor for the pen and a paintbrush of an artist later in life. He began barbering at age 12, cutting hair from 1923 to 1979, and he was awarded the Purple Heart after being injured while serving as an Army sergeant during World War II. When the war ended, he returned to his Roxbury barbershop. Mr. Guilford, died in December 2015 at 104.



Ron E. Armstead, is the Executive Director for the Congressional Black Caucus Veterans BraIntrust (CBCVB) located in Washington, DC, and a past consultant to the late Secretary Jesse Brown's Veterans Administration's Advisory Committee on Minority Veterans. He has served as Executive Director of the CBCVB since its inception in 1988. Ron holds a Master Degree in City Planning (MCP) with a concentration in Affordable Housing and Community Development from Massachusetts Institute of Technology



The Late Wilson Albert Copeland, father of Carole Copeland Thomas and Wilson A. Copeland II, was born in 1917 in Clinton, South Carolina to Carrie and Bradley Copeland. After moving to Maryland with his mother and brother, he graduated from high school and won a scholarship to Virginia State College for Negroes, graduating in 1941. Mr. Copeland trained at Tuskegee Army Air Field as a Second Lieutenant in the Army Air Corps during World War II. Later he was the Adjutant Officer assigned to the B25 Bombers at Selfridge Air Force Base in Michigan. He later served for 20 years for the US State Department and was posted throughout Africa.

Save The Date

The 10th

Multicultural Conference

Thursday November 3, 2016

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