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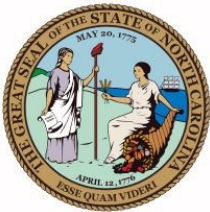
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Legislative Updates from the Office of Rep. Nasif Majeed
Representative Nasif Majeed [majeedla@ncleg.net]

Sent: Sunday, February 16, 2020 12:20 PM
To: [Steve Johnston](#)

February 15, 2020

Representative Nasif Majeed



**Representing District 99
Mecklenburg County**

**NCDMVA Celebrates
NC African American Veterans for
Black History Month**



North Carolina Department of Military and Veterans Affairs Secretary, Larry D. Hall presented me and others with the North Carolina Military and Veterans Affairs Department's highest

PEACE. I was a Veteran honoree this week at a program presented by the North Carolina Department of Military and Veterans Affairs. The event took place at the North Carolina Museum of History in Raleigh and the occasion was the 2nd Annual North Carolina African American Veteran Lineage Day.



service medal.

Three other Generals also received the award. I've never seen that many military stars in one place in my life. What a day!!!!



PRESS RELEASE:

FROM THE OFFICE OF SECRETARY LARRY D. HALL

NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

413 N. SALISBURY STREET, RALEIGH, NC 27699

RALEIGH, N.C. — It may have been a dreary, rainy day outside, but spirits were bright inside the N.C. Museum of History on Thursday, as veterans and public officials from across the state gathered to celebrate the **2nd Annual African American Veterans Lineage Day**. For active duty service members, their families, students, and every day North Carolinians, the occasion was both a chance to celebrate the dedication of the state's military community as well as learn about the important role black North Carolinians played in breaking color barriers in the service.

"We have a duty to preserve this history for future generations, so that sense of purpose and dedication is not lost on us as a state. These citizens have an important story to tell, and it matters just as much today as it did in those previous decades," said North Carolina Department of Military and Veterans Affairs Secretary, Larry D. Hall.

Originally organized in 2019 by the **N.C. Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (NCDMVA)**, African American Veteran Lineage Day was first conceived as a memorial event to honor black service members who helped to break the color barrier in the Armed Forces. The occasion has been recognized with an official proclamation by Governor Roy Cooper. This year, the scope of the event expanded to include a panel discussion with high ranking active and retired military officials, and a ceremonial presentation of awards to Black N.C. Veterans who served when the military was still segregated or very newly integrated.

The day's program began with a panel discussion featuring Secretary Hall, Lieutenant General (Retired) Walter Gaskin, Special Forces Command General Michael Garrett, Major General (Retired) Rodney Anderson, and Brigadier General (Retired) Gordon Bray. Together, the panel provided remarks and answered audience questions, with an emphasis on the importance of service. Much of the message centered on the fact that many of those being celebrated were willing to risk their lives at a time when they were denied many of the rights and freedoms they were fighting for.

"In the United States today, you can be anything you want to be. A general, a

cabinet secretary, a business owner. All you need for success is vision, hard work and a little bit of luck,” said General Garrett. “That’s why I am grateful for those who came before me, so that I can have the career I have today.”

Listening intently to the assembled panel, ROTC cadets and students from Elizabeth City State University, NC State, UNC-Chapel Hill, NC Central University, Duke University, Shaw University, and St. Augustine’s University heard about the value of integrity and hard work in the face of adversity. Significantly, the remarks were from those whose formative years were influenced strongly by the struggle for civil rights as well as military service.

“Integrity is the bedrock of our service,” said General Anderson. “The enemy doesn’t care about the color of your skin . . . we have to remember those who fought for the right for us to fight to defend rights,” added Lt. General Gaskin.

Following the panel discussion, the program moved into the Museum Auditorium, where a larger audience of citizens and military families were assembled for the presentation of awards. General Garrett and Secretary Hall provided brief remarks before honorees were individually recognized by master of ceremonies, Deborah Noel. After Secretary Hall presented General Garrett with the African American Veteran Lineage Day Proclamation, the two men awarded roughly two dozen African American veterans with the NCDMVA African American Lineage Medal of Distinction, a new award created by the Department for this years’ memorial.

Recipients included longtime legislator and civil rights hero Senator Mickey Michaux, Representative Nasif Majeed, Congressman G.K. Butterfield, former General Assembly Sergeant-at-Arms Toussaint Avent, and even one of the oldest living black females to serve, 99-year-old Private First Class (Retired) Elizabeth Baker.

Several awards, including the prestigious Order of The Long Leaf Pine Award, were presented from the Governor to veterans posthumously, including World War II veteran Millie Dunn Veasey, who became a civil rights figure in the Triangle area after her service in World War II, and Joseph Holt Jr., one of the first African American Air Force pilots.

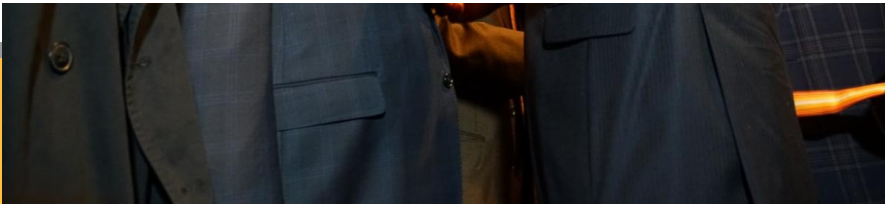
Many of the honorees were Montford Point Marines, the First Black Marine unit, who trained in Montford Point N.C. for WWII, even though Paris Island was less than 200 miles away. In attendance also was the NC Buffalo Soldiers, who were the All-Black Army regiments established by Congress after the Civil War,

Following the close of the official program, many of the guests joined Secretary Hall and NCDMVA staff for a meet and greet. Secretary Hall said the Department is looking forward to holding the event every February. “We want this to be a tradition, because these individuals have impacted the current

generation, and they have a story that really does need to be told. The State of North Carolina is proud of them; we are proud to call them our own.”

African American Veteran Lineage Day is, if nothing else, a day to celebrate the struggle to overcome adversity, and the idea that just one person can inspire others to rise to the occasion, whether that be through civic service or military duty. “No matter where you are in life, you have to focus on those things that help make you successful,” said General Bray. “You have to fight through the obstacles you can anticipate, you also have to assume success.”





PEACE,

Nasif



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