



# Buffalo Soldiers



THE GREATER LOS ANGELES AREA CHAPTER  
NINTH & TENTH (HORSE) CAVALRY ASSOCIATION



## The GLAAC - Newsletter for April 2004

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## A Message From the Desk of Your Treasurer



By Trooper Ronald Jones

### Dedication

This newsletter is dedicated to my father who guided my thoughts by his example and inspired me to do the very best I could to honor his Legacy.

The GLAAC has not published a newsletter for some time. As I stare at a blank sheet of paper, with no knowledge of how to format a newsletter or even where to begin, I have nothing but respect and admiration for my father, our former Chapter President, for his ability to publish such a document so effortlessly. Or was it? I'm beginning to believe my father possessed the unique talent that made the difficult seem easy and the impossible, possible. And so it begins, as a father passes the torch onto his son, as one-generation hands off to another, ...it's all about "Keeping the Legacy Alive."

My father once said, "...keeping in touch with the constituents should be the prime requisite of any organization." So we will, with this short copy, let you know what is going on with **your** chapter.

In 1992, when Gen. Colin Powell spoke at the dedication of the Buffalo Soldier Monument at Fort Leavenworth, KS, he described the statue using these words. "Look at him. Soldier of the nation. Eagles on his buttons, crossed sabers on his canteen, a rifle in his hand, a pistol on his hip. Courageous, iron will... The Buffalo Soldier believed that hatred and bigotry and prejudice could not defeat him, that through his pain and sacrifice they would be destroyed for the evil things they are."

Why did Black men join the Army after the Civil War? In their own way each of them was "Keeping the Legacy Alive." Did the end justify the means? Simply stated, YES! Their Legacy was slavery and their goal was FREEDOM.

We've had a year to adjust, transition and grow. Now it's time to roll up our sleeves and join our fellow members who've been, "Keeping the Legacy Alive," by carrying on the task of educating the public about the contributions of Blacks in the military, with a strong focus on the Buffalo Soldier. Robert Frost wrote, "...two roads diverged in a wood, and I took the one less traveled by. And that has made all the difference." I challenge you to join your fellow troopers and me on that road less traveled, ...and together we will make a difference.

## FRED D. JONES YOUTH CENTER - DEDICATED



Photo by Ronald R. Jones – taken during groundbreaking ceremony December 5, 2002

### In Attendance

Family members in attendance included Fred's wife, Mrs. Maria Jones, Mr. Michael McGuire, Mr. and Mrs. Miguel Jones, Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Jones, and Fred's daughter Khadija Ammon-Downs. Granddaughters, Sharon Porter and Martina Jones and great-grandchildren: Tiffany, Rodney, Brittany, Bradley, Quincy and Martina Taylor along with great-grandchildren: Ashley and Marcus Porter, his niece and nephew, Sandra Bonds and Gus Smith and their spouses, and many many friends and associates.

On February 27, 2004, the doors officially opened to **The Fred D. Jones Youth Center** in Hesperia, California. The event was well attended by members of the Greater Los Angeles Area Chapter of the Ninth and Tenth (Horse) Cavalry Association. They're better known as "The Buffalo Soldiers," an organization of which Fred Jones was the Chapter President before his passing. Bob Burton, CEO of VisionQuest, Dave Simpson, President of the LodgeMakers of California and elected Officials all spoke of Trooper Jones' influence, inspiration and determination of seeing this facility come to fruition. The current Chapter President, Trooper Eugene Lewis spoke of his 59-year friendship with Trooper Jones. They both enlisted in the Army in 1943 and served together in the 28<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Regiment, Troop 'C' at Camp Lockett, CA on the California-Mexico border about 80 miles east of San Diego. Fred's great-grandchildren sang the National Anthem and an original composition titled "Buffalo Soldier" written by his great-grandson, Rodney Taylor Jr. The highlight of the dedication occurred when young VisionQuest soldiers, who started out from the VisionQuest camp in Tucson, AZ, timed their arrival to coincide with this event. They came marching onto the facilities' grounds on foot and horseback. It was a very impressive and moving sight to behold.

Ninth and Tenth (HORSE) Cavalry Association members in attendance included:

Trooper Charles Allen	Trooper Nathaniel Hosea	Trooper Robert McDaniel
Trooper Braxton Berkley	Trooper Gwen Jones	Trooper Bobby McDonald
Trooper Bruce Dennis	Trooper Miguel Jones (Houston Chapter)	Trooper Henry Phillips
Trooper Franklin Henderson	Trooper Jean Lewis	Trooper Lennister Williams

The Center is operated by a non-profit organization, LodgeMakers of California, Inc., utilizing the innovative VisionQuest Methods®. The Center's mission is to be "*a residential placement and assessment facility integrating extraordinary experiences with diagnostic services for success now and in the future.*"

At full capacity, the program will provide services for up to 144 boys from San Bernardino and other counties across the state. The high desert was chosen as an ideal location to site and develop this innovative program for at-risk youth. This unique facility and service delivery model will challenge kids and their families and provide them with valuable opportunities for success. The program will be heavily involved with the community, as an integral component for the youth is community service. Youth will also participate in an array of therapeutic and adventure based activities. For more information visit the VisionQuest website: [www.vq.com](http://www.vq.com)

# LOOK

At where we've been!

Nov - Dec '03



Artist Claire Hanzakos



**November 9<sup>th</sup>** - As part of a Veteran's Day Celebration a bust of Trooper Fred Jones was unveiled during the "Face to Face – ONE HUNDRED WWII VETERANS IN CLAY" exhibit. Trooper Jones was chosen to be one of 100 service men and women from diverse ethnicities and backgrounds who will represent all the men and women who served our country during WWII.

## ACTIVE AND READY TO SERVE

I would like to acknowledge and personally thank Trooper Lennister Williams for contributing the following entries to this newsletter.



Trooper Lennister Williams

## January '04

As had been the case over these many years, 2004's year of community service began as quickly as the shot from an old Sharps Carbine.

**January 17<sup>th</sup>** - We divided our troops and participated in the Gardena, Long Beach, and Inglewood Martin Luther King Day parades.

**January 19<sup>th</sup>** - We shared our experiences at the NAACP MLK presentation at Mission Hills College in Sylmar, CA.

## February '04

February, being the designated Black History Month, generally offers a multitude of events requesting our participation.

**February 7<sup>th</sup>** had the troopers proudly riding in the colorful Anaheim Historical and Cultural Diversity Parade, held in Anaheim, CA.

### Buffalo Soldiers-meet the Parkers



From left to right: Trooper Lennister Williams, Trooper Virgil Griffin, Grand Marshall Ken Lawson, from "The Parkers" with his son, Trooper Bruce Dennis, Trooper Robert McDaniel, Trooper Fred Cartha. Anaheim Historical and Cultural Diversity Parade.



**Thank you – Members of the 40<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division** for your support and your dedication.

**LA City Council Member Bernard Parks with  
GLAAC – Troopers.**



From left to right: Trooper Ronald Jones, Trooper Robert Perry, Trooper Bruce Dennis, Councilman Bernard Parks, Trooper Eugene Lewis, Trooper Braxton Berkley, Trooper Lennister Williams, Trooper Charles Allen.

**February 20<sup>th</sup>** - Councilman and former Los Angeles Police Chief Bernard Parks, presented members of the GLAAC – 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> (Horse) Cavalry Association to the citizenry and council in the Los Angeles City Hall Chambers as part of a daylong program honoring Black Service Representatives.

**February 27<sup>th</sup>** - The highlight of the month occurred with the dedication of the Fred D. Jones Youth Center (see page 2), in Hesperia, CA. Many dignitaries and guest were present, offering a myriad of comments seemingly touching the heart of everyone attending.

Another contingency of troopers attended the City of Torrance Black History Month luncheon and celebration, which was also held on **February 27<sup>th</sup>**.

**February 29<sup>th</sup>** – We closed the month with the African American Heritage Program held at the facility of pastor Bertha Wesley Sanders. Troopers representing our GLAAC provided both military and Association History.

**March '04**

**March 5<sup>th</sup>** – Troopers presented their experiences, displayed their skills, and offered guidance to Normandie Avenue Christian School's Career Day participants. Students were encouraged to ask questions and to present their ideas.

**March 6<sup>th</sup>** – Trooper Robert Perry gave a presentation, on the Buffalo Soldiers to the Knights of Columbus.

**March 24<sup>th</sup>** - Trooper Robert Perry gave a presentation to a Playa Del Rey assembly, about the Buffalo Soldiers association. He spoke about the history of the organization and the mission of the association.

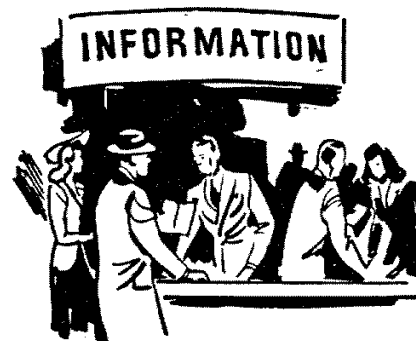
**March 31<sup>st</sup>** – Troopers participated in a program at Kennedy High School in the San Fernando Valley. The name of the program was Blacks in the Military.

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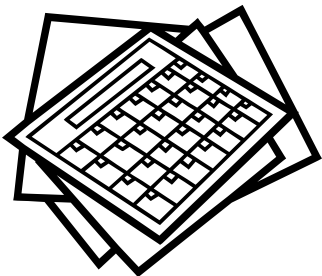
**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

In an effort not to omit the names of any troopers participating in a particular chapter event this year, the following list represents those troopers known to have served.

- Trooper Charles Allen
- Trooper Braxton Berkley
- Trooper Fred Cartha
- Trooper Loretta Cartha
- Trooper Royal Carter
- Trooper Bruce Dennis
- Trooper Franklin Henderson
- Trooper Eric Hicks
- Trooper Nathaniel Hosea
- Trooper Curtis James
- Trooper Marie Jones
- Trooper Gwen Jones
- Trooper Eugene Lewis
- Trooper Jean Lewis
- Trooper Robert McDaniel
- Trooper Robert McDonald
- Trooper Robert Perry
- Trooper Henry Phillips
- Trooper Lonnie Pittmon
- Trooper George Poston
- Trooper Lennister Williams



## Calendar of Events



### April

**April 24<sup>th</sup>** – **Attention all members.** Come out for food and fellowship at the *Hometown Buffet* restaurant on Hawthorne Blvd in Hawthorne, after our monthly meeting.



*If your dues are current for 2004 the Chapter will pay for you and one other person.* You can invite other family members and guests but they will have to pay for their own meal.

**Time:** 3:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.  
**Address:** 12139 S. Hawthorne Blvd  
**Phone:** 310-679-1373

Adult price is \$7.35 before 3:30 p.m. and \$9.95 after. Children ages 2 - 11 pay \$.60 multiplied by their age. Children age 12 and up pay the adult price.

*We hope we'll see you there!*



### May

**May 1<sup>st</sup>** – **City of Gardena** – Cinco de Mayo Parade. We are still looking for members who would like to participate in this annual event. Arrangements are being made with the California National Guard to provide parade transportation. Meet at 15800 S. Brighton Ave, in Gardena, at 9:00 a.m. The parade will begin at 10:00 a.m. Dianne Scott 310-217-9537 is the parade organizer.

**May 6<sup>th</sup>** – **Rita Walters Community Center** – Cinco de Mayo Celebration. You should arrive around 9:15 a.m., the program will go from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. For more information call 323-789-4717. The address is: 915 W. Manchester Ave.

**May 31<sup>st</sup>** – **Green Hills Memorial Park's** 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Memorial Day Observance. We have been asked to provide a Color Guard for this event. Those interested in serving in the Guard, please contact Trooper Len Williams – 323-733-8438. GHMP is located at 27501 S. Western Ave., Rancho Palos Verdes. For info call Jennifer Frew 310-521-4418.

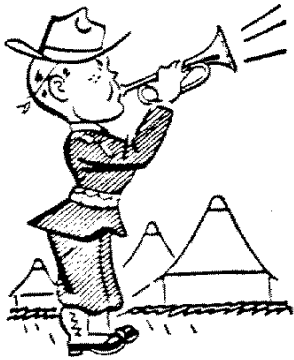
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Trooper Bobby McDonald and Judge Karen Robinson

### Congratulations Bobby!!!

Judge Karen Robinson with the Superior Court of Orange County swears in Trooper Bobby McDonald. Trooper McDonald was appointed by Governor Schwarzenegger to the California Cultural and Historical Endowment Board. The board will be responsible for administering \$128 million through a competitive grant application process.



## SICK CALL

As you may know, a number of our members have not been able to participate at past events or attend monthly meetings due to a variety of medical conditions. The following list comprises the names of the members we know to be under the weather. If the list is not complete please let me know as-soon-as-possible.

Trooper Ernest H. Collier	619-252-8468
Trooper Orlanders Elliot	323-292-4194
Trooper Alfred Evans	323-759-4788
Trooper Virgil Griffin	323-296-2168
Trooper Eugene Lewis	818-361-0533
Trooper Curtis L. James	323-234-6683
Trooper Andrew Isaacs	310-671-7805 (home) 310-937-1946 (hospital) Ext: - 2914

The Chapter recommends that each of us make a habit of contacting some of our members between meetings. Many things can happen in a 30-day period. Don't leave it to the Calling Tree Committee, or the Hospitality Committee to maintain member contact.

## Your Chapter Needs You!



Dear Trooper,

Your membership in the Association is important to us. We hope you will renew your membership and continue to help us, "Keep the Legacy Alive."

## Keeping the Legacy Alive

On July 28<sup>th</sup> 1866 while the Thirty-Ninth Congress was in session an Act was presented to the assembled body. The document can be found in Sess. I Chapter 299 and is titled "An Act to increase and fix the Military Peace Establishment of the United States." It goes on to say, "Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the military peace establishment of the United States shall hereafter consist of five regiments of artillery, ten regiments of cavalry, forty-five regiments of infantry, the professors and corps of cadets of the United States Military Academy, and such other forces as shall be provided for by this act, to be known as the Army of the United States."

And so it began, what I refer to as an experiment included in an Act to establish what we now know as the United States Army, has succeeded beyond all expectations. As Gen. Powell said, "...the Buffalo Soldier believed that hatred and bigotry and prejudice could not defeat him, that through his pain and sacrifice they would be destroyed for the evil things they are." All the Buffalo Soldier wanted was a chance, however slight, to prove he was just as good and in many cases better than the average soldier. And once that door of opportunity was opened it is our Legacy to see to it that it never shuts again.

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*Our Next Meeting*  
OUR NEXT MEETING

April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2004  
Rogers Park in Inglewood  
Start: 10:00 a.m.  
End: 12:00 p.m.

We hope to see you there!