

332nd Fighter Group "The Tuskegee Airmen"

The Tuskegee Airmen were an Army fighter group that flew and fought with distinction during World War II. Led by then Colonel Benjamin O. Davis, Jr., the primary mission of the 332nd was bomber escort. While the group itself had losses among the pilots, they lost no more than 25 bombers in over 200 escort missions.



Buffalo Soldiers

The men of the 9th, 10th, 27th, and 28th Cavalry and 24th and 25th Infantry were known as "Buffalo Soldiers." These all African-American units fought with distinction in every major war from the Civil War through the Korean Conflict.



Henry Flipper, First African American to Graduate from USMA

Born a slave in Thomasville, GA March 21, 1856, Henry Flipper became the first African American to graduate from the United States Military Academy (West Point). After his Army career, he went on to work for the U.S. Justice Department and the Department of the Interior.



Brigadier General Hazel W. Johnson, U.S.A. (retired)

Hazel W. Johnson became the first African-American woman to attain the rank of General Officer in American military history. She served as the Commanding General on the Army Nurse Corps.



Rear Admiral Michelle Janine Howard

A graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy, Ms. Howard was not only the first female Annapolis graduate to earn the rank of Admiral, but she was the first woman to assume full command of a naval ship (The USS Rushmore March 12, 1999).



Petty Officer 3rd Class Doris "Dorie" Miller

December 7, 1941 a true American hero was born. Under heavy aircraft fire, a cook, Petty Officer 3rd class Dorie Miller took his position aboard the USS West Virginia at a .50 caliber anti-aircraft gun. Never having been trained on this artillery, he fired until receiving the order to abandon ship. For his bravery under intense fire, Dorie Miller was awarded the Navy Cross.



Benjamin O Davis, Sr.

Benjamin O Davis was the first African American to earn the rank of General in the U.S. Army. His service started in the U.S. War with Spain in 1898 and continued through World War II, when he reached the rank of Brigadier General.



Benjamin O Davis, Jr.

Benjamin O. Davis, Jr. was only the 4th African American to graduate from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. He distinguished himself as the commanding officer of the 99th Pursuit Squadron of the 332nd fighter group, "The Tuskegee Airmen." He was the first African American to earn the rank of General in the U.S. Air Force. Davis also served as Assistant Secretary of Transportation in 1970.



Sergeant Major Alford McMichael

July 1, 1999 Alford McMichael was named the 14th Sergeant Major of the U.S. Marine Corps. He was the 1st African American to earn the post which is the highest ranking non-commissioned offer in the Marine Corps. His next two successors, John Estrada and the present Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps, are both African Americans.



General Colin Powell

Under President George H.W. Bush, Colin Powell became not only the first and, to date only, African American to serve on the Joint Chiefs of Staff; he was also the Chairman. General Powell presided over the Joint Chiefs during the 1st Persian Gulf War.

