



THE Express

The Buffalo Soldiers Motorcycle Club
of Central Maryland

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PRESIDENT —Lloyd Russell, III



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BUFFALO SOLDIERS PATRIOTS WITHOUT CREDIT

Buffalo Soldiers were a group of military pioneers that helped paved the way for African Americans in the Armed Forces. Lets reflect on their challenges:

Despite their contributions to America's military successes in the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812, African Americans were unwelcome participants as far as the federal government was concerned. A 1792 law stated that only "free able-bodied white males" were to serve in the U.S. Armed Forces. In 1798, the Secretary of War ordered that "no Negro, mulatto [a person of mixed black and white heritage] or Indian is to be enlisted... The Emancipation Proclamation of 1862 called for an end of slavery and reversed the ban on Blacks in the Military... On July 28, 1866, the United States Congress approved the enlistment of Negro Soldiers in the peacetime U.S. Army. This led to the formation of the 9th and 10th Colored Cavalry (horseback) units and the 38th, 39th, 40th and 41st Infantry (foot soldiers)...Because whites believed that blacks could serve but not lead, the black troops were commanded by white officers. i



John Joseph Pershing, the son of John Fletcher and Anne Elizabeth Pershing would go on to lead the 10 Cavalry. John Fletcher Pershing, a storekeeper despised slavery after he viewed the atrocities while navigating lumber down the Mississippi River to New Orleans. He employed former slaves as servants. Anne Pershing was from a family of Confederate supporters, but supported the Union Army. She was known to have sewn a Union flag and raised it above their Laclede, Missouri home. When John J. Pershing was seventeen, he was called a "Nigger" for teaching black children in Laclede, Missouri. While assigned to the 10th Cavalry, he was nicknamed "Nigger Jack", and news-men substituted that name for "Black Jack". ii

During the years 1895-1896, he was assigned to the 10th Cavalry, a unit of the Buffalo Soldiers in Montana.... General Pershing's time spent leading black soldiers significantly affected him throughout his military career. He remained deeply concerned with their well being and was instrumental in getting the black organizations into combat rather than being relegated to support operations in the rear. iii

In 1898, when Spain refused to grant Cuba it's independence, the United States enacted blockades of the Cuban ports. Spain then declared war against the United States. This war, the Spanish-American War, again brought the Buffalo Soldiers to the forefront of distinguished military service for which they were not properly credited. iv

Many American were taught of the photograph of the Rough Riders atop San Juan Hill led by then Lieutenant Colonel Theodore Roosevelt, who were credited with storming San Juan Hill, in Cuba during the War, but little credit was given to the Buffalo Soldiers. An excerpt below gives more detail. v



The ships carrying American soldiers reached Cuba on June 22. Among them were four black regiments: the 9th and 10th Cavalries and the 24th and 25th Infantry units. Soldiers climbed through the portholes, dropped 15 feet to steam powered boats that took them ashore...One of the 10th Cavalry's first acts at Las Guasimas was to help save the Rough Riders... The

Buffalo Soldiers called upon their Indian War strategies to help their fellow Americans. Creeping past the Rough Riders on the right and left, the black troopers beat back the Spaniards. According to a white officer, "the Rough Riders would have been exterminated" without the assistance and skill of the Buffalo Soldiers." vi

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****CORRECTION****

In the February newsletter it was mistakenly noted that there will be a mandatory bike inspection on March 15, 2008. The mandatory bike inspection will be Saturday, April 19, 2008.



BUFFALO SOLDIER APPAREL

Buffalo Soldier apparel can be purchased by logging onto the Buffalo Soldier Store web site at :

<http://www.buffalosoldierstore.com/Main2.htm>

The Buffalo Soldier Store contact number is (540) 520-2518

Shortly after the encounter at Las Guasimas, the Buffalo Soldiers helped bring about two other important victories. On July 1, American forces were ordered to capture Spanish hilltop fortifications on Kettle Hill and San Juan Hill, both located on the outskirts of the city of Santiago Cuba. The attacking American forces charged the two hills without benefit of artillery fire, which would have weakened their Spanish foes. Soldiers literally had to crawl through the jungle while dodging Spanish Bullets. As the 9th Cavalry and Rough Riders moved toward Kettle Hill, the 10th Cavalry headed for San Juan Hill. At San Juan Hill, Sergeant Thomas Griffith of the 10th cleared a path for comrades, crawling ahead and removing barbed wires that the Spanish had woven through the trees and bushes...The sight of a racially integrated fighting force inspired Lieutenant John J. Pershing, a white officer with the 10th Cavalry. The Americans claimed victory before the sun went down that day, with the armies black regiments deserving much of the credit. "It was glorious," Pershing said..."We officers of the Tenth Cavalry could have taken our black heroes in our arms." One white officer declared.

Theodore Roosevelt, whose Rough Riders had fought side by side with the Buffalo Soldiers and had been saved by them on at least one occasion acknowledged in his farewell remarks the black soldiers' role in America's victory by saying, "They can drink out of our canteens" With segregation still a fact of American life, the comment implied the buffalo Soldiers were very much the equal of Roosevelt and his Rough Rider regiment.

Curiously, Roosevelt told an altogether different tale months later. He told white audiences that the African American were "peculiarly dependent upon their white officers." and said that in the heat of battle, some appeared cowardly, beginning "to get a little uneasy and drift to the rear." vii

- i. The Buffalo Soldiers, Stovall, TaRessa 1997 pages 9-12.
- ii. Source : Until the Last Trumpet Sounds, Smith, Gene 1998
- iii Source <http://www.nps.gov/pwso/honor/pershing.htm>, Photo Courtesy of the Library of Congress.
- iv Source The Buffalo Soldiers, Stovall, TaRessa 1997
- v Ibid, Photo Courtesy of <http://www.archives.gov/publications/prologue/1998/spring/roosevelt-and-medal-of-honor-2.html>
- vi The Buffalo Soldiers, Stovall, TaRessa 1997 pages 66-67.
- vii Ibid pages 67-70

CONSUMER ALERT

FTC: National Do Not Call Registry Accepts Both Cell Phone and Home Phone Numbers

The Federal Trade Commission reminds consumers that the National Do Not Call Registry has accepted personal cell phone and home phone number registrations since it opened for consumer registrations in June 2003. There is no deadline to register a home or cell phone number on the Registry.

To register a telephone number on the National Do Not Call Registry, or to file a complaint, consumers should visit www.donotcall.gov or call 1-888-382-1222 (TTY: 1-866-290-4236). Consumers registering a phone number online will be asked to provide a valid e-mail address to which a confirmation of the registration will be sent. A registration is not complete until the consumer clicks on the link in this e-mail. Consumers registering by phone must call from the phone number they wish to register.

CLASSIFIEDS



Reuben Lawson, MBA/JD
 Attorney - At -Law
 Equitable Bldg., Suite 204
 10 N. Calvert Street
 Baltimore, MD 21202
 410-685-6060

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

The club would like to extend a birthday wish to:

- "Bear" – March 3
- "Frosty" – March 11
- "Deuce" – March 27

Newsletter Coordinator:



To add an item to future newsletters, please submit your request.

****Next newsletter June 2008****