

# Quantico Chapter Newsletter



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## Upcoming Events

- July 5th Executive Board Meeting
- July 12th General Meeting
- July 17-21 34th Annual National NNOA Conference
- July 27-29 Montford Point Marines Annual Convention
- August 12 Quantico Membership Picnic

## Message from the President...

Once again let me compliment the membership of the Quantico Chapter, NNOA for the superlative performance displayed over the past year. As a team, we continue to turn challenges in accomplishments. We are extremely fortunate to have had Senior Leadership willing to make time in their extremely busy schedules to support the chapter. Major Generals Gaskin, Wilson, Coleman, Brigadier Generals Bailey and Salinas, your

presence during TBS mixers, Church visits, Golf Tournaments, meetings is always inspirational and educational. Major Generals Stanley, Bolden and Fields; although not physically present, your wise and sterling examples continue to enrich our organization. It is equally important for me to thank everyone who made this year a success. As I have said previously, "We all bring a unique and special brand of expertise and experience to the

fight that we must share with each other." For those that will depart Quantico, I wish you the best as you continue to effectively lead our Marines and sailors.

Semper Fidelis,

*LtCol R. C. Clements*  
President  
Quantico Chapter, NNOA

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## Chapter Announces the 2006 Scholarship Award Winners

~ Maj Jonathan P Loney

Three local area high school students are all smiles after receiving notifications from the Quantico Chapter Scholarship Committee that they were selected from a group of twenty candidates as recipients of academic scholarships. Brianne Connolly of Stonewall Jackson High School in Manassas, Jonathan Sahlin of Courtland High School in Spotsylvania County, and Jessica Richers of Woodbridge Senior High School in Woodbridge, will receive \$1,000 each to assist with tuition and other

education-related expenses at the college or university of their choice.

At the on-set of the scholarship committee's determination and selection meeting, Brianne Connolly's package stood out among all the remaining 19 strong candidates. Touting a 4.53 cumulative GPA and an impressive listing of AP classes, her strong academic transcript spoke for itself. Her community service throughout high school with the student and Prince William County governments

alike, graceful personality, and favor as - in the words of both her school principal and guidance counselor - "the most likely young women to succeed and make a difference in the world," had equally set her above and beyond both the candidates that the selection board considered, as well as at her awards ceremony held on 1 June at Stonewall Jackson High School, where she received a total of six scholarships and grants. Brianne had been accepted at a number of schools

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## Royalty to Take Charge of Quantico’s Naval Health Clinic

On 14 July 2006 at 1030, Captain Janee Przybyl, Medical Service Corps, United States Navy will relinquish command to Captain Joan Queen, Medical Service Corps, United States Navy. The change of command

will take place at the ceremonial area in front of the Balch Clinic with a reception to follow.

A native of Baltimore, Maryland, Captain Queen graduated from the Institute of Notre Dame, Baltimore, Maryland and re-

ceived a Bachelor of Arts Degree from the University of Maryland Baltimore County in Health, Science and Policy concentrating in Health Care Administration. She received a

*(Continued on page 4)*

## Getting Involved with NNOA

~ Capt Travis T. Reeves, USMC

Initially, I did not understand the urgency of the suggestion: “Get involved. Join the National Naval Officers Association. You are the future of the Sea Services. Be a part of the future.” At the time, I had not been commissioned a whole year, and I felt like I was swimming as hard as I could to keep up with the present; the future would have to wait. I never questioned the significance of the organization and I certainly never doubted the importance of the future. I just felt like I would probably join the organization eventually, but not now. I was just getting started with my career; I had 20 years to “Get Involved”. Had I not been strong-armed, oops, I mean “strongly encouraged” by my Staff Platoon Commander, to attend one of the meetings, it would have taken a lot longer for me to understand the importance and value of being involved.

[Fast forward to my promotion ceremony on May 1st]

It was an incredible day for me, at the very least. I could not have been more excited, or any happier with the support I received from fellow officers, junior and senior alike. Had someone told me (4) years earlier that there would be (2) General Officers, an SES, and a General Officer (select) there applauding my promotion to Captain, I may

have told them that it was a kind thought, but wishful thinking at best. Not only did they show up, but they carved time out of their busy schedules to take pictures, interacted with other officers that showed up to support, and squeezed a few last mentorship lessons in before I started my journey as a Captain. It took a day as remarkable as that one, for me to realize how much of an impact that being involved in the NNOA has had on my socialization into the Marine Corps. And while these officers were here to support me getting promoted, they were simultaneously supporting the core mission of the organization, which is the recruitment and retention of minority officers. Had it not been for the majority of the officers in the audience, who had mentored me at one point or another, I doubt that I would have stayed beyond my first tour. I am grateful that there were more experienced officers around that could help me see the big picture.

There are several advantages to participating in this organization, but there were three, in particular, that made a huge difference to me. Meetings and other NNOA sponsored events served as a great introduction to junior and senior officers without the pressure and for-

mality of the normal work environment. Working diligently and closely toward the shared goals and objectives of the organization often created a relaxed atmosphere that fostered camaraderie amongst peers and an environment that was conducive to posing complex questions to senior officers. Secondly, it is great being a junior officer in the organization. My experience has been one of senior officers going out of their way to get junior officers involved and welcomed into the organization; and questions are not only answered, but encouraged. Thirdly, conversations

*(Continued on page 4)*

*“My experience has been one of senior officers going out of their way to get junior officers involved and welcomed into the organization; and questions are not only answered, but encouraged.” Capt Reeves*



Maj Everly, BGen Bailey, Capt Reeves, MajGen Coleman, and MajGen Gaskin at Capt Reeve’s promotion ceremony

### Scholarship Continued...

and elected to attend Duke University, where she plans to major in engineering.

Jonathan Sahlin was selected by virtue of his excellent academic achievement in that he concurrently qualified to receive an associate's degree along with his high school diploma. When asked how he accomplished such an achievement, his reply was "during the tenth grade, I realized that high school AP (advanced placement) classes just were not going to give me the challenge that I needed, so I decided to take college level courses instead of AP." Jonathan was the recipient of two scholarship awards during his awards ceremony held on 8 May at Courtland High School. Jonathan plans to attend Virginia Commonwealth University where he

intends to major in mathematics.

Jessica Richers knows whence cometh her help, and that fact of her life she is not at all ashamed or hesitant to tell you comes from the Lord. A devoted Christian, athlete, and musician, Jessica made the decision early on in her life that she would dedicate her life to her religion while honing her creativity and musical talents on creating music that will touch as much of the world as possible. From her church in Woodbridge to overseas missions to Honduras and future overseas missions that she is planning in the near term, Jessica had already begun to follow through on her vision. Jessica was the recipient of five scholarships and awards at her awards ceremony held on 7 June at Woodbridge Senior High

School. She has elected to attend Indiana University, where she plans to follow through on her music education in hopes of one day being a university music professor and join the Metropolitan Orchestra.

The scholarship committee joins our chapter president in thanking retired Major General's Stanley, Bolden, Fields, and Lincoln Military Properties-Quantico, for their contributions that have enabled this year's scholarship awards to rank among the largest that the Quantico Chapter has been able to award in recent years.



Jonathan Sahlin, graduate of Courtland High School, receives his scholarship award from Maj Loney

## SILVER HAWK: Frank Petersen, a man of firsts

~Written by Fred Carr Jr.

Frank Petersen stood outside his home on the banks of the Chesapeake Bay on Maryland's Eastern Shore in early February. Gazing upward, he pointed out one of the local landmarks to his visitors. There, high atop a tree, was a bald eagle's nest built strongly enough to defy the winds that sometimes close the nearby Chesapeake Bay Bridge. His eyes were a reflection of awe and respect – even kinship, for Frank Petersen is an "eagle" in his own right.

The bleached homes and wind-thinned pines that line this area of the Chesapeake Bay are a long ways from Topeka, Kansas, where Petersen was born in 1932. But it is the place he has chosen to quietly enjoy the

rewards of a life and career that will forever occupy some very notable pages of Marine Corps history. Among the

words that can best describe him are "first," "only," "hero," and "leader."

But when asked how he feels about being recognized as the Marine Corps' first black aviator, its first black general, and the first African American Marine to wear three stars, he said, "We need to move forward to utilize, not capitalize on diversity. It's just a matter of realizing peoples' talents."

And what talents Petersen had as a Marine! His retirement as the commanding general of the Marine Corps Combat Development Command at Quantico, Va., in 1988 completed a saga that began in 1950 when he decided to join the Navy.

"There wasn't much happening in Topeka. So when some of my friends came home on leave from the Sea-

bees and started telling me about their travels and adventures, I decided it was time to go see the ocean for the first time in my life."

After recruit training at Naval Training Center San Diego, Petersen was sent to school to become a Navy electronics technician.

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*"We need to move forward to utilize, not capitalize on diversity. It's just a matter of realizing peoples' talents."*  
Frank Petersen



(left to right) BGen Coleman, MajGen Gaskin, LtGen(Ret) Petersen, Ms. Petersen, MajGen (Ret) Stanley, BGen Bailey

## Queen Continued...

*(Continued from page 2)*

Master's Degree in Health Science from the Johns Hopkins University School of Hygiene and Public Health in Health Care Administration and Planning. She received a direct commission into the Medical Service Corps, United States Naval Reserve in September 1983 at the rank of Lieutenant Junior Grade and then attended Officer Indoctrination School in Newport, Rhode Island in October 1983.

Her previous assignments include Naval Hospital, Portsmouth, Virginia; Naval Medical Command, Mid-Atlantic Region; the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery where she served as the Head of the Non-naval Health Care Program Branch; Naval Medical Clinic, Annapolis, Maryland where she served as the Director for Administration; and the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery where she was the Administrative Officer to the Deputy Surgeon General and she also served as the Assistant to the Chief of Staff; Naval Hospital, Camp Lejeune, North Carolina where she was the Director for Administration and the Executive Officer of the Fleet Hospital.

After serving as the Executive Officer of the Fleet Hospital Camp Lejeune, Captain Queen participated in two operational readiness evaluations and completed the Fleet Hospital Operations Indoctrination and Orientation Course and four Fleet Hospital Operations Field Training Courses.

She was promoted to Captain on 4 June 2002. Immediately thereafter, she reported to the U. S. Naval Hospital, Naples, Italy as the Executive Officer. In June 2004 she reported to the National Naval Medical Center, Bethesda, Maryland and served as the Director for Administration.

Captain Queen's military awards include the Meritorious Service Medal with three gold stars and the Navy Commendation Medal with one gold star.

She is a credentialed member of the American Academy of Medical Administrators, a member of the American College of Health Care Executives and a Golden Life member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated.



Captain Joan Queen

## Women in Military Service for America Foundation

The guest speaker for the last Women Marines Association luncheon was BGen Wilma Vaught USAF (Ret). She is the president of Women in Military Service for America Foundation.

The WIMSA memorial is located at the gateway of Arlington National Cemetery and is the only major memorial dedicated to the women who have served to defend this nation. All women who have honorably served are eligible to register with

WIMSA.

BGen Vaught's goal is to have 500,000 women registered by the memorial's 10th anniversary next year. You are encouraged to visit the website using the link below. Registration is free but donations are encouraged.

<http://www.womensmemorial.org/>

## Getting Involved Continued...

*(Continued from page 2)*

with senior officers often lead to amazingly practical advice. In many cases, I had excellent support from my chain-of-command to guide me with questions pertaining to my job. Yet on the other hand, I always found it beneficial to have access

to concrete unbiased advice from senior officers outside of my chain-of-command, as well.

It took a couple years, but I am glad I finally got it. It is important that we take up issues beyond our own personal careers. In doing so, we make the Marine Corps stronger and cultivate relationships that will last us a lifetime.

## Military Short On Minority Generals

~*Topher Sanders, Montgomery Advertiser*

Ronnie Hawkins Jr. had been in the Air Force seven years before he met a black man like himself wearing a silver eagle, the insignia of a colonel.

At 29 and determined to make the military his life's work, Hawkins was wondering if he could ever be more than a colonel. The captain wanted to be like Daniel "Chappie" James, the distinguished black general.

"It had a positive effect," Hawkins said of meeting now retired Col. John Culver. "I could see and realize there's something for me to aspire to."

Today, 20 years later, Hawkins is a brigadier (one-star) general in charge of the Air Force Officer Accession and Training Schools at Maxwell-Gunter Air Force Base. He is one of the branch's 274 generals, only eight of whom are black. Three are Hispanic and one is Asian.

A shortage of minority generals – **62 out of 884 in the four combat branches** – is a fact that Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld readily acknowledges and insists he's trying to remedy. The Pentagon, however, would not put a number or percentage on how many generals should be minorities.

Senior military officials are hard at work on initiatives to increase diversity because there are so few minority officers now on their way up, spokesman Maj. Michael Shavers said in a statement. The Defense Department estimates a newly commissioned officer will need about 25 years to be-

come a general/flag officer.

Both the Pentagon and Hawkins see minority officers as fundamental to the military's success. Defense officials believe diversity is crucial because so many in the ranks are minorities. Hawkins makes the case from the perspective of sheer brain power.

"It's because of the wealth of intellectual capital that's gained," Hawkins said. "Everybody who doesn't look the same doesn't think the same, so you need the wealth of that diversity that comes from having minorities of all races, ethnicities and gender."

Right now, according to Shavers, the Pentagon is hoping to increase diversity two ways: by recruiting more promising minority students to become officers and by helping guide the careers of newly commissioned minority officers.

The military starts its recruitment efforts as early as middle school. Recruiters encourage those with "academic stamina" to apply for Reserve Officer Training Corps scholarships and service academy appointments. The Army, Navy and Air Force academy even have established minority admissions offices to identify and recruit potential appointees.

Hawkins commissions about 80 percent of the officers entering the Air Force, so he knows firsthand how stiff the competition is for talented minority candidates.

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## Navy Ships Named in Honor of African Americans

~*Rudi Williams American Forces Press Service*

WASHINGTON, May 1, 2000 – It took more than 168 years after the Continental Congress authorized the first ship of a new Navy for the United Colonies on Oct. 13, 1775, before a ship was named for an African American.

The first ships were named after kings (Alfred the Great), patriots (John Hancock), heroes (USS Nathanael Greene), ideals (USS Constitution), institutions (USS Congress), American places (USS Virginia), and small creatures with a potent sting such as Hornet, Wasp.

The first ship named in honor of an African American was the USS Harmon (DE-678), a 1,400-ton destroyer escort, commissioned in August 1943. It was named in honor of Mess Attendant First Class Leonard Roy Harmon, who posthumously was awarded the Navy Cross for heroism during the Battle of Guadalcanal on Nov. 13, 1942. He was killed in action aboard the cruiser the USS San Francisco.

Nine other Navy ships have been named in honor of African Americans. Two are under con-

struction.

The nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine USS George Washington Carver (SSBN-656) was the next craft named in honor of an African American. The submarine honors scientist George Washington Carver (1864-1943). Commissioned in June 1966, the Carver carried out 73 patrols in the Atlantic area until mid-1991. She was decommissioned in March 1993.

The USS Jesse L. Brown (DE-1089 and later FF-1089 and

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## An Evening with the Commandant

~Major Tamia Ashley

On Friday, 16 June 2006, several members of the Quantico NNOA Chapter spent an outstanding evening with the 33<sup>rd</sup> Commandant of the Marine Corps, General M.W. Hagee. The occasion was the *Evening Parade* held each summer at the Marine Barracks 8<sup>th</sup> & I in Washington, DC.

Established in 1801, Marine Barracks 8th & I is the Corps' oldest post, and home to the Evening Parade -- the most dramatic military celebration in the world. The parade is a one hour and fifteen minute performance of music and precision marching, which features "The President's Own" United States Marine Band; "The Commandant's Own" The United States Marine Drum and Bugle Corps; and, the Marine Corps Silent Drill Platoon.

The Evening Parade is held every Friday during the summer from May through August. The ceremony starts at 8:45 p.m., beginning with a concert by the United States Marine Band. The Evening Parade has become a universal symbol of the professionalism, discipline, and Esprit de Corps of the United States Marines. The story of the ceremony reflects the story of Marines throughout the world. Whether they are aboard ships, in foreign embassies, at recruit depots, in divisions, or in the many positions and places where Marines project their image, the individual Marine continually tells the story of the Corps.

### History of the Evening Parade

As the "Oldest Post of the Corps," the Marine Barracks has performed military reviews and ceremonies since its founding. The present-day Evening Parade was first conducted on July 5, 1957.

Presidential inaugurations and specific occasions prompted the parades and ceremonies conducted at the Barracks during the early 1900s. The traditional reveille and morning muster parades were conducted with varying frequency at the post, and they eventually resulted in more formalized ceremonies.

Using the resplendent setting of the Barracks, wistful imagination and the Marines' flare for showmanship, the parades were to be a showcase for the ceremonial prowess of Marines and the musical eminence of the U.S. Marine Band, which had achieved international renown under the premier military band leader of all time, John Philip Sousa.

In planning the parade se-

quence and format, Colonel Leonard F. Chapman Jr., the future 24th Commandant of the Marine Corps, insisted that the parade adhere to strict regulations. The parade drill would be according to "the book" with no fancy theatrics, which frequently characterized drill routines of that period. Since its inception, the Evening Parade has become a unique patriotic tradition of the "Oldest Post of the Corps". The parade is offered solely to express the dignity and pride that represents more than two centuries of heritage for all Americans. (History of the Barracks provided courtesy of Public Affairs Staff.)

To learn more about 8<sup>th</sup> & I or to attend a parade, visit: <http://www.mbw.usmc.mil/>.

*Established in 1801,  
Marine Barracks 8th  
& I is the Corps'  
oldest post, and home  
to the Evening Parade  
-- the most dramatic  
military celebration in  
the world.*



Capt Travis Reeves, Capt Paula McNair, General Hagee, Major Tamia Ashley, and Capt Melissa Ayres

## Silver Hawk Continued...

(Continued from page 3)

There, he heard about the Naval Aviation Cadet program and suddenly found himself on a different path toward the adventure and travel he craved.

“I was sent to Pensacola, Fla., for flight training, and that’s where I met a man who would change my life.”

That man was a former enlisted Marine, Dave Campbell, also a Naval Aviation Cadet. And if things had worked out a bit differently, the Corps’ first African American aviator may have been Campbell, not Petersen.

“I was only the fourth black cadet in the program,” Petersen said. “It was tough training, and Dave ended up washing out. But before he left, he advised me there had never been a black aviator in the Corps, something he had hoped to change. It was up to me to carry that on.”

Petersen persevered and, in October 1952, accepted a commission as a second lieutenant in the Marine Corps.

“They gave me orders to Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, N.C.,” he recalled, “but I told them I would prefer El Toro, Calif. I didn’t know it at the time, but I had just jumped from the frying pan into the fire.”

Petersen got his “dream tour” to California, but it ended up a short-lived one. The fire he had jumped into turned out to be Korea where he flew Corsairs with Marine Fighter Squadron 212 in 60 combat missions. And it was there that he discovered the “eagle” in himself, earning the Distinguished Flying Cross and 6 Air Medals.

“It was something, returning to El Toro as a lieutenant wearing a DFC,” he said. “You wouldn’t believe some of the looks I got.”

But the attention leveled at Frank Petersen was just begin-

ning. He transitioned from prop fighters to jets, while using his off-duty hours to attend night school so he could qualify for the Bootstrap Program. He knew he needed to finish college if he was going to be competitive in the officer Corps.

His studies went more slowly than he preferred, interrupted in part by assignments to Hawaii and Iwakuni, Japan. Finally, he drew orders to the Amphibious Warfare School at Quantico where he was able to finish up his bachelor’s degree at nearby George Washington University. The year was now 1967 and fate was about to create some new pages in the chronicles of Frank Petersen.

“I went to Vietnam and took over Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 314,” he said. “It was one of the best assignments I had – we took the title of Fighter Attack Squadron of the Year in the Corps for 1968.”

It was also one of Petersen’s most dangerous assignments. In August 1968, his F-4 Phantom was shot down.

“We had just taken off from Chu Lai,” Petersen said, “to provide close air support for a trapped recon unit. I was leading the attack as we made a second run on the target when my left engine was hit and caught fire.

“Both of us (Petersen and his radar intercept officer, Maj. Ed Edelen) knew if we went down north of the DMZ, we’d be guests at the Hanoi Hilton for a long time, so we turned around. We were just about to the DMZ when the second engine caught fire. We pressed on. Then the fire crossed over our hydraulics and our controls locked. We punched.” Petersen and Edelen were fortunate. Both were rescued, but not before Petersen wrote a footnote to his ordeal.

“As I was floating down on my chute, I could see the Marine CH-

46 (Sea Knight helicopter) about an eighth of a mile away off to one side. Directly where I was headed, though, I saw something else – Vietnamese running toward where I was going to land. I didn’t know it at the time, but they weren’t interested in me, they wanted my chute for silk pajamas.”

Petersen’s uncanny good fortune was illustrated again before the week was out.

“I couldn’t let my Marines think their ‘old man’ was having second thoughts, so we found another bird and I was flying again in two days. When I found out what our target was, I started muttering in my helmet. My backseater said, ‘Skipper, what’s wrong?’ I said, ‘You aren’t gonna believe this, but we’re headed right back to where I got my ass shot down the other day!’ But the second time was a whole different story.”

Vietnam safely behind him, Petersen continued his upward spiral toward the eagle’s nest. He commanded a Marine Aircraft Group, a Marine Amphibious Brigade, and a Marine Aircraft Wing, carving out many of his successes during one of the Corps’ most contentious eras.

Petersen retired from the Marine Corps in 1988 and went to work for DuPont, where he rose to become a vice president, teaching corporate America about Marine Corps leadership. Retiring from DuPont in 1997, Petersen now lives in his home along the Chesapeake and donates his time to his favorite causes.

### SILVER HAWK

**Frank Petersen, a man of firsts but always a Marine.**

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*“It was something, returning to El Toro as a lieutenant wearing a DFC,” he said. “You wouldn’t believe some of the looks I got.”*

## Minority Generals Continued...

(Continued from page 5)

"I see it all the time in this job, when I've got a corporation telling a minority individual that they will pay for all of their college and give them X number of thousands of dollars just to come into their company," he said.

For newly commissioned officers, Shavers said, mentoring is key. A role model can provide invaluable advice about career planning.

Hawkins had role models in his own family – his grandfather was a Buffalo Soldier, his father is a retired Air Force chief master sergeant – but it was mentors who taught him how to be a good general officer candidate.

Culver, the retired colonel, and retired Maj. Gen. Dale Meyerrose gave Hawkins the confidence to believe he could become a general.

"I didn't really even think or believe in that and focus in on that until I was already a colonel selectee," he said. "And so that's why I'm telling you there were some blessings and people in my path that made this possible because, in all honesty, it could have just passed me by, and I'd have never known any difference."

Like Hawkins, retired Rear Adm. Clyde Marsh believes mentoring is absolutely essential to the success of junior officers. Marsh returned to civilian life in 2004 after achieving the rank of rear admiral lower half, the Navy's equivalent of a one-star general.

"As a junior officer, you don't really know all the ins and outs of building a successful military career," said Marsh, who now heads the Alabama Department of Veteran Affairs.

"You have to pursue the high-profile and challenging jobs, and avoid the easy ones. You have to

attend all the right schools and take the right assignments – that makes a difference," he said. "Mentors can give you those hints and advice."

The Pentagon flatly states that not enough young minority officers are in the military occupations where many of the general and flag officer positions exist.

Defense officials are so serious about addressing the shortages, Shaver said, that they're holding a strategy-planning summit this year. Each branch also has established an office devoted solely to increasing diversity.

Hawkins acknowledged that certain jobs – pilot, air battle manager or navigator – traditionally have been a faster track to general officer but stopped short of saying more minorities need to be pushed into those military jobs.

"You want to be in those operational career fields," he said. "Unfortunately, I'm a blemish on that track record because I'm a support person. So the reverse is also true, the opportunities are there to make it happen."

Marsh stressed that even beyond doing all the right things as an officer, increasing the number of minority generals has to be a priority of top military officials.

"The senior leadership has to be committed and they have to make diversity a priority," he said. "Specifically the four-stars, they are the ones that set the tone and set the example."

Hawkins is proud of his 27-year career and hopes his success will prove to be a motivator for other officers.

"Yes, I experienced some struggles, both professional and personally," he said. "But I didn't focus in on them, and I didn't let them hinder me. I use

*"Everybody who doesn't look the same doesn't think the same, so you need the wealth of that diversity that comes from having minorities of all races, ethnicities and gender."*

## Career Day at Coles Elementary School

~LtCol Dawn Harrison

On 7 April 2006, I participated in the career day at Coles Elementary School where my son, Tommy, is a second grade student. I addressed kindergarten through second grade classes. I used various posters as visual aides. At the end of my presentation, I handed out Marine Corps lanyards and Marines.com

bracelets similar to the live strong bracelets. The lanyards were a big hit. While the kindergarten class was quite shy, like most seven and eight year olds, the first and second graders had plenty of questions. There was one student who said he wants to be a Marine like his grandfather. He even had in a plastic

bag in his pocket a picture of his grandfather in his Marine uniform during the 1940s. According to his teacher, the student carries the picture with him every day. At his young age, he is already demonstrating an understanding of the motto Semper Fidelis.





## **Ships Continued...**

*(Continued from page 5)*

FFT- 1089) was named in honor of Ensign Jesse L. Brown, USN (1926-1950). Brown was the first African-American naval aviator, and was killed in action during the Korean War.

The USS Miller (DE-1091, later FF-1091) was named in honor of Cook Third Class Doris ("Dorie") Miller. Miller was awarded the Navy Cross for heroism during the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941. The Miller was commissioned in June 1973 and was transferred to the Naval Reserve Force in January 1982. She was decommissioned in October 1991.

The USNS (U.S. Naval Ship) Pfc. James Anderson Jr. (T-AK- 3002) was named in honor of Marine Pfc. James Anderson Jr., who was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor for heroism during the Vietnam War. A maritime prepositioning ship, the Anderson was built in Denmark in 1979 as the merchant ship Emma Maersk. She's based at Diego Garcia, an island in the Indian Ocean, and carries equipment to support a Marine expeditionary brigade.

The guided-missile frigate USS Rodney M. Davis (FFG-60) was named in honor of Marine Sgt. Rodney M. Davis, who was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor for heroism during the Vietnam War.

The USNS Henson (T-AGS-63) was named in honor

of the Arctic Explorer Matthew Alexander Henson (1866-1955) who accompanied Robert E. Peary when he was credited with discovering the North Pole in 1909. The Henson was commissioned in 1998.

The USNS Watson was named in honor of Army Pvt. George Watson, who was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor for heroism during World War II.

The USS Oscar Austin was named in honor of Marine Pfc. Oscar P. Austin, who was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor for heroism during the Vietnam War. The Austin is an Arleigh Burke class guided missile destroyer. The Austin is under construction and is scheduled for commissioning in August 2000.

A 10th ship honoring an African-American Navy Cross recipient, Navy Cook 3rd Class William Pinckney, is under construction. No commissioning date has been set for the Pinckney (DDG-91). The ship is named to honor Pinckney's heroism aboard the aircraft carrier USS Enterprise during the Battle of Santa Cruz in 1942. He survived the battle and died in 1975.

## **Farewinds and following seas...**

Major Tamia Ashley was awarded the Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal (MOVSM) for 3600 volunteer service hours. The vast majority of her volunteer efforts were related to NNOA-sponsored activities. Bravo Zulo. Fair winds and following seas to Maj Ashley as she transitions to the Defense Language Institute, Monterey, CA.



*National Naval Officers  
Association, Inc.*  
P.O. Box 812  
Quantico, VA 22134



Website: <http://www.quantico-nnoa.org>

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## About NNOA

National Naval Officers Association (NNOA) actively supports the Sea Services in the recruitment, retention, and career development of minority officers.

We are an essential element in maintaining operational readiness. We provide professional development and mentoring and support cultural diversity. We establish and maintain a positive image of the Sea Services in communities and educational institutions. National Naval Officers Association (NNOA) is the "Gateway to Success" in the Sea Services. We are innovative thinkers committed to a shared vision of leadership, professional exchange, and networking. We are dedicated to achieving a diversified workforce. We are the premier professional development organization in the Sea Services. Our members are empowered with the skills necessary to achieve their full potential. We are an invaluable partner of the Sea Services in the achievement of their recruitment, retention and readiness goals. We recognize our responsibility to our community as we promote and foster American ideals.

We are an inclusive organization that seeks diversity in our membership. We value all members and are committed to treating everyone with dignity, respecting individual differences, and affirming organizational and personal strengths. We are "TEAM NNOA" composed of active duty, reserve and retired officers and civilians. We achieve our mission and vision through enthusiastic support and dedicated service at the national and local levels. We are an organization of professionals whose accomplishments are attained through teamwork and accountability. We are dedicated to the professional development of our members. We promote an atmosphere conducive to self improvement and forward thinking. We promote honest, effective, and open communications. We communicate and process information using the best resources and technology available. We recognize achievements and maintain our valued reputation.



**General Body meetings are held at 1700 on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at the Officer's Club.**