Honoring our African American Men and Women Veterans who were the 1st and broke barriers.
MARTIN DELANY (1812 - 1885)

- Considered the grandfather of Black Nationalism
- 1st African American commissioned Major in the U.S. Army, during the Civil War.
- One of the first African Americans admitted to Harvard Medical School
HARRIET TUBMAN (1822 - 1913)

- 1st African American woman to lead an armed assault during the Civil War.
- Led three Union steamboats to a collection of plantations to liberate over 750 slaves along the Combanee River.
- Also served as a Union Spy to provide military intelligence.
1st African American Female to enlist in the U.S. Army.

Served as male under the name William Cathay.

She was present at the Battle of Pea Ridge and the Red River Campaign.
Established by Congress as the 1st Peacetime All-Black regiment in the regular U.S. Army.

Served in such roles as building roads and escorting the U.S. Mail in the Southwest during the Indian Wars.

Some served as 1st park rangers for the National Parks. The hats worn were known as Ranger Hat, inspired the Smokey Bear Hat.
Benjamin O. Davis, Sr. (1877 - 1970)

- 1st African American general for the U.S. Army after volunteering in the Spanish-American War.
- Advised and Counseled on improvements of tense situations and full integration of U.S. troops.
- Received the Bronze Star Medal and the Distinguished Service Medal in 1948.
HARLEM HELLFIGHTERS
(1913 - 1945)

- 1st all black regime that with the American Expeditionary Forces during World War I in France.
- Nickname “Hellfighters” given by the Germans due to the toughness and that they never lost a man through capture…
- Assigned to the French Army because white solders wouldn’t perform combat duties with black soldiers during WWI.
FREDERICK C. BRANCH (1922 – 2005)

- 1st African American officer in the United State Marine Corps. in 1943.
- Drafted and chosen to become a marine after Executive Order 8802 opening the Marine Corps to African Americans.
- Commanded an antiaircraft training platoon.
1st African American military aviators in the U.S. Armed Forces

Referred to “Red Tails” because of the tails of their P-47’s painted red to distinguish them as Tuskegee Airmen

March 2007 they were collectively awarded a Congressional Gold Medal
GOLDEN THIRTEEN (1944)

- Enlisted men who became the 1st African American officers in the U.S. Navy.

- 12 were commissioned as ensigns & the thirteenth was made warrant officer.

- Often mistreated and given menial assignments, they broke new ground and opened doors for generations to come.