



ODEI Director

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Black/African American History Month



Black/African American History Month is a time to celebrate Black/African American achievements while also acknowledging the obstacles present throughout US history. The theme chosen for 2024 is "African Americans and the Arts". The individuals highlighted are LT James R. Europe, SGT Leonora Hull Brown, and PFC Horace Pippin.

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ODEI NUGGET

Confrontation

Is inevitable in the diverse environment we operate in.

Tips for success:

1. Don't make it personal.
2. Look for shared objectives or common ground.
3. Don't wait! Addressing early on can prevent it turning into larger issues.
4. Tensions may rise, keep it calm and stick to the facts.

We are currently looking to fill vacancies in our support team!

- Native American/Alaskan Native Special Emphasis Program Manager.
 - Special Emphasis Program Director.
 - EEO Investigators

We have an incredible team of SEPMS that support the ODEI office and our continued focus towards a more equal and inclusive SCANG/SCARNG.

Some of the duties of our SEPMS:

- Sponsor/support special events promoting diversity.
- Assists in identifying barriers to hiring, development, and advancement.
 - Community outreach

If you have any questions, or are interested in any of these positions please contact SSG Bergloff.

LT James R. Europe

The son of a former slave, LT Europe became one of America's greatest musical innovators. LT Europe is credited with making the style "ragtime" mainstream. LT Europe's passion for music started at the age of 10 when he started violin and piano lessons. In 1903 LT Europe moved to New York City to pursue a musical career. While in New York LT Europe had continued to establish himself as an artist and also as a bandleader. In 1912 the Clef Club Orchestra he helped create became the first African American band to play in the famous Carnegie hall. With WWI beginning just a couple years later LT Europe enlisted as a private in the 15th Infantry. He then did what only few African Americans were able to at the time; attended officers training. He proceeded to demonstrate his musical talent when he was commissioned as a Lieutenant and led the regimental Army band. When LT Europe and the band arrived in France they were assigned to the 16th Division French army. Where he learned to fire French machine guns and became the first American officer and first African American to lead troops in battle during the war. They would serve 191 days in combat, longer than any other U.S. unit. Despite returning home a internationally known trailblazer, and celebrated hero he was murdered in 1919 and became the first public funeral for a Black American in NYC.



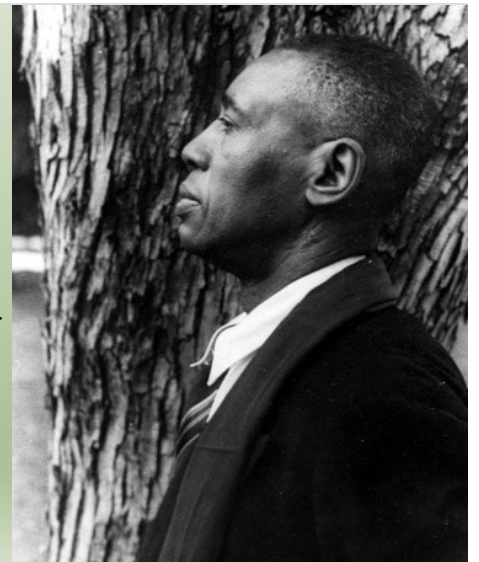
SGT Leonora Hull Brown



SGT Leonora Brown's story began at the age of five when she received piano lessons from her neighbor. SGT Brown's love for music continued throughout her youth into adulthood. She obtained two degrees in music at Oberlin college, and taught music at Dillard's University. After graduation she obtained a position at South Carolina State University. It was there where SGT Brown was recruited to join the Women's Army Corps (WAC). At the time there was no all-Black female band, and she was crucial in its creation. She helped form the group after being denied participation in the all-White band. SGT Brown being the only one with musical experience, and just 8 weeks until their first performance, had work to do. She taught the women volunteers how to play instruments and exceeded expectations in their first performance. This group became recognized as the 404th Armed Service Forces band. After several performances, they were defunded by the Army. This didn't stop Leonora and her band, after an outpouring of support from the Black community and leaders, the army reversed its decision a month later. SGT Brown reorganized the band and they were then recruited to support the Seventh War Bond Drive's opening day parade in Chicago. The group toured the local black communities, schools, and neighborhoods collectively raising \$26 billion dollars over 6 weeks.

PFC Horace Pippin

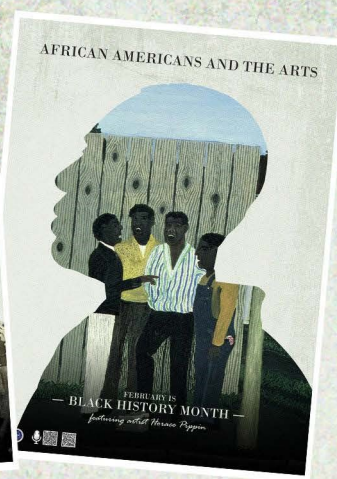
PFC Horace Pippin is one of the most celebrated African American painters of the 20th century. Born in West Chester Pennsylvania, he eventually made his way to Goshen, New York. PFC Pippin enlisted in the New York National Guard at the age of 30. He was a part of the 15th NYNG which later became the 369th regiment "Harlem Hell fighters". During WWI the 369th was attached to a French regiment. Throughout his time with the French, the 369th endured horrendous conditions. The never ending rain, mortar shells, dog fights above, mustard gas and more. This provided little reprieve for the soldiers. On PFC Pippin's final mission he and a comrade were stalking a German gunner. Suddenly the sniper hit PFC Pippin leaving his right arm shattered by bullets. Trapped in a shell hole, bleeding out and unable to move, two soldiers eventually carried him out as the night fell. With his right arm mostly paralyzed PFC Pippin was shipped back home and was left to deal with the emotional and physical wreckage. Returning home as a disabled veteran, he faced both racism and ableism in the search for employment. Working against the odds PFC Pippin found a therapeutic outlet in painting. Using a linear art style with powerful designs and expressive color, PFC Pippin covered many subjects, but mostly his time in the war. A year before he died he was retroactively awarded the Purple Heart.



OBSERVANCE



— BLACK HISTORY MONTH —



During this special observance, the DoD honors the contributions made by African Americans in the arts and celebrates diversity, inclusion, and accessibility for all Americans.

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