



ROCKET 2023 WINTER EDITION



**50 Years of Concern, Dedication,
and Professionalism**

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TOP STORIES

The Oldest living ROCK turns 100!

By COL (R) Dorene Hurt, USA (Partial Credit: Bill Knight, El Paso Times)



MG(R) Greer stands in his military room at his El Paso home where he and his late wife Jewell moved in 1976. (Credit: Rudy Guitierrez/El Paso Times)

The ROCKS Inc. is delighted to join members in the city of El Paso, Texas and worldwide in celebrating Major General Edward Greer's 100th birthday on March 8, 2024! He was one of the originating ROCKS in the 1970s. El Paso will be honoring him over a two-week period. A representative from the ROCKS National Board will join the local ROCKS Chapter in celebrating MG Greer.

A private in World War II, Major General (Retired) Greer became one of the Army's first black generals. Born March 8, 1924, in Gary, West Virginia, he grew up during the Great Depression near the coal mines. Life was not easy for anyone then. It was even more difficult for a black man. But he knew at an early age life in the coal mines was not for him. His parents pushed their children to get an education.

He enrolled in West Virginia State University, which had a mandatory ROTC requirement, with the intent of becoming a dentist before enlisting in the Army in 1943 after his freshman year. Greer said that he really didn't plan on a military career. He served in the 777th Field Battalion and was discharged as a Master Sergeant. Greer returned to West Virginia State after the war and was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in field artillery after graduating in 1948. He was studying to be a dentist. But there weren't a lot of colleges who accepted black students. Howard University accepted him, but he already raised his right hand to re-join the military by that time.



Edward Greer with two fellow servicemembers in a segregated unit somewhere in Europe during WWII. (Credit: Rudy Guitierrez/El Paso Times)

After commissioning, Greer was initially stationed at Fort Riley, Kansas. He served as a forward observer with the 159th Field Artillery Battalion attached to the 25th Infantry Division in the Korean War. Greer was promoted to captain while in Korea and was posted to Germany after his deployment to Korea followed by an assignment to the Pentagon with the Army General Staff, during which time he attended graduate school at George Washington University.

In 1970, then Colonel Greer deployed to war for a third time, to Vietnam as the deputy commander of XXIV Corps Artillery before taking command of the 108th Artillery Group. In 1972, Greer was promoted to the rank of brigadier general. After serving as the deputy commanding general of Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, he was assigned as the deputy commanding general at the U.S. Army Military Personnel Center in Washington, D.C. in 1972 and promoted to major general later that year. General Greer retired from the Army in 1976.



MG Greer and his wife Jewell being welcomed at Ft Leonard Wood, Mo. where he assumed his post as Deputy Commanding General in 1972 (Credit: Rudy Guitierrez/El Paso Times)

By the time he retired, General Greer had earned the Silver Star, two Bronze Stars including one for valor, two Legion of Merits, the Air Medal, the Joint Services Commendation Medal, the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with Gold Star and a wall full of other commendations and medals. Major General (Ret) and Edward Mrs. Jewell Greer had three children and multiple grandchildren. Son Michael is a doctor in Seattle. Daughter Gail, who had a master's degree from the London School of Economics, was in the financial business and son Kenneth, who was a counselor, are both deceased.



A VISIT TO BLACK WALL STREET

By BG(R) Clara L. Adams-Ender, USA

The month and year are September 2023. The occasion is the annual celebration of the Great 100 Nurses Celebration in Tulsa, OK. I was requested by my good friend and Founder of Great 100 Nurses to be the Keynote speaker. I had never been to Tulsa, so I readily accepted the invitation. I had attended several of these celebrations and always found them to be uplifting. This occasion was similar to the others in that the honorees were humbled and grateful to be recognized. Many of them were employed in Veterans hospitals and in health care facilities of the Indian Health Service.



While there, I requested a trip to the Greenwood District to visit Black Wall Street. It was a 4-hour tour led by Chief Egunwale Amusan, a descendant of the Cherokee tribe. He was quite knowledgeable about the incident and had written a book on the topic. The Greenwood District was an area just outside the city limits where African Americans settled after they received their settlements from Indian owners. One marble tablet had the names and occupations of all prominent men and women in the community. I counted 8 physicians, which was a large number for one community. There were engineers, lawyers, realtors, other businessmen and women, teachers, nurses and several other professional tradesmen and women in sufficient numbers to support the community. In school, children were taught about business ownership beginning in third grade. Those who showed no interest in learning these skills were taught various trade skills. There were five policemen in the entire community—crime was not an issue. The richest person in the community was a 13-year-old girl who discovered oil on her property shortly after settlement.

The massacre began on May 30, 1921, when an African American entered an elevator with a white woman and reportedly accosted her during the ride. News spread of the incident, most likely with much embellishment over time. On the evening of June 1, 1921, a white mob entered Greenwood and massacred as many as 300 African American residents, destroying their houses and thriving businesses. Archeologists are still working to uncover one of the worst and virtually unknown incidents of racial violence in American history. Efforts to locate the Macacre of Black Wall Street victims' unmarked graves continue.



We toured the Greenwood District and saw pictures of buildings where the burning and looting took place. I photographed the new church which was reportedly an exact replica of the old one. Some of the rebuilt houses were quite modest in comparison to the original homes in 1921.



It is believed that bombs may have been dropped on some buildings in addition to other high-powered explosives. One reason given for the massacre was to confiscate the land and obtain much of the valuable property the African Americans had accumulated through hard work and sacrifice.

From the day of the fatal attack on the Greenwood District in 1921 until today, none of the African Americans have received any reparations for the properties they lost. This was believed to be the single worst incident of racial violence in American history.

- MAJ Demetrice Francois-Fennell
- CPT Darryl Honore
- LTG Patricia Horoho
- 1LT Eugenia Kelley
- Mr. Todd Kelly
- CPT Eliot Knotts
- 1LT David Lee
- LTC Jeremy Martin
- CPT Darius Person
- LTC William Phillips, II
- LTC Kimbia Rey
- MAJ Kaniesha Roberts
- LTC LaMisa Shaw
- 1LT Brenden Stanton
- 1LT Stephanie Sweer
- CPT Joshua Thomas
- MAJ Gerrold Walker
- CPT Khaleesha Williams
- LTC Ricardo Young



New Members

W · E · L · C · O · M · E

Joined 12/13/2023 – 3/6/2024

- 1LT Lauren Anderson
- MAJ H. Dez Ard'is
- CPT Gwendolyn Bastian
- CPT Shaquita Bowdry
- WO5 Antwan Bowman
- 2LT Dexter Bryant
- 2LT Kathryn Bryant
- LTC Pressley Carr Jr
- Mr. Marcus Carter
- LTC Jonathan Coe
- COL Richard Conkle
- CPT Collin Cooley
- CPT Marcus Ellerbe
- CPT Andrew Epps
- CPT Tyatianna Flemming



CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

The Fort Cavazos Phantom Warrior ROCKS INC. Chapter Hosts a General Officer Leadership Development Session, a Community Service Project, and an Army Leadership Question and Answer Panel with four Fort Cavazos Colonels.

By MAJ Winston Sims

FORT CAVAZOS, Texas – The Fort Cavazos Phantom Warrior ROCKS, INC. chapter hosted two Winter Leadership Development sessions and one community service volunteer event. The first leadership professional development event was conducted on December 6, 2023 in the form of a Holiday Networking Social. The event was hosted by the Fort Cavazos Phantom Warrior ROCKS Chapter President COL Willie Rodney. The special guest speaker of the event was COL Timothy D Gatlin, the 1st Cavalry Division Artillery Commander. The subject of the leadership development discussion was, "Army Culture and how to Positively Cultivate Culture and be an Agent of Change." Colonel Gatlin spoke passionately about his past experiences and how he effectively changed the climate and ultimately the culture. COL Gatlin gave guidance on how to project effective leadership, identify cultural artifacts, and set/maintain a professional standard. The Fort Cavazos ROCKS chapter was honored to have the current 1st Cavalry Division Commander, MG Kevin Admiral in attendance who also provided advice and mentorship during the event.

The Fort Cavazos Phantom Warrior ROCKS, INC. chapter Vice President, LTC Taneshia Johnson planned, coordinated, and led the execution of the chapter's first community service event on January 18, 2024. The community service event was held at the Fort Cavazos' Food Pantry located inside the Main Post Chapel. The event was open to all Soldiers and NCOs within the Fort Cavazos area who wished to assist. Volunteers packed, labeled, and organized donated dry food and supplies. Volunteers also inspected the quality of food for expiration dates and any damages. The items were stocked by categories of perishable items, dry items, or emergency supplies. The Fort Cavazos food pantry supports Operation Phantom Support which aims to assist any military service members, contractors, or families that face food insecurity. CPT Emilio Walls, the 2d CBRN Battalion HHC Company Commander, expressed a feeling of purpose when volunteering at the Fort Cavazos Food Pantry. "It just feels right helping people that may be struggling, I have personally known people who have fallen on hard times, but

after receiving a small boost, they are now thriving and doing great things." The Fort Cavazos Food Pantry accepts donations of unopened and unexpired food, cleaning, and personal care items. Donations can be brought to the Main Post Chapel. Units can coordinate food drives or drop off donations by contacting the Garrison Chaplain's office via phone call at (254)-288-6545 or emailing Teresa Paris at teresa.a.parris2.civ@army.mil.



On 25 January 2024, the Fort Cavazos Phantom Warrior ROCKS INC Chapter also hosted its first leadership professional development session in the form of a leader question and answer panel. Seated on the panel were distinguished Colonels assigned to various leadership positions across Fort Cavazos. The panel included COL Delarius Tarlton, former 1st Cavalry Division G4; COL Christopher S. Jones, 1st Cavalry Division Sustainment Brigade Commander; COL Todd W. Hook, 1st Cavalry Division Chief of Staff, and COL Lakicia Stokes, the Fort Cavazos Garrison Commander. The topics of discussion were centered on career professional development and aspects of resiliency, balancing risks and rewards, culture, and personal courage. COL Jones initiated the mentorship session by answering questions and giving guidance on failure and success "Relating and communicating is vital, seeing yourself and seeing your enemy or objectives cannot be bypassed if you aspire to complete success." COL Jones also expressed that "you can't cram for a swim test, as a leader you must always work to prepare yourself and prepare your Soldiers." COL Jones also spoke on the importance of reading. "ARs are Army Regulations, not Army Recommendations, ADP 6-22 should be read by all leaders."

COL Hook provided in depth perspective and guidance on culture as he challenged officers to "be the higher common denominator for your Soldiers, give your Soldiers something to aspire to." COL Hook also expressed that "Leaders must do the work. What got you here, won't get you there." COL Tarton expressed the importance of trust as it relates to risk, "Commanders must build trust within the unit and assess prudent risk by having a shared

understanding and a defined commander's intent." COL Stokes gave guidance on how Leaders can utilize the peer 360 assessment to overcome failure; She encouraged leaders to, "take the feedback from your peers to ensure you do not have blind spots in your performance and abilities ". The mentorship session panel concluded with advice from the 1st Calvary Division Commander, Major General Kevin Admiral who encouraged leaders to enforce standards and discipline and hold leaders accountable. "Audie Murphey was good at home station. He turned into a superhero while being deployed, and he performed at a high standard before crossing the LD."



On, Jan 18th, Fort Cavazos Phantom Warrior Chapter of the ROCKS INC. hosted the first volunteer event of 2024. The chapter helped organize the Fort Cavazos Food Pantry located inside the Main Chapel.



Buffalo ROCKS (Fort Leavenworth) Finance LPD

By MAJ Brandon M. McFadden



First Command presenters and the Buffalo ROCKS members pose for a picture together following the conclusion of the LPD.

On Monday, January 29, 2024 the Buffalo ROCKS INC Chapter conducted a Financial LPD hosted by First Command and led by COL(R) Eric Olson, a financial advisor with company. First Command is a financial institution committed to coaching the nation's military families in their pursuit of financial security. COL(R) Olson presented a variety of topics including, Retirement planning, investing, life insurance, and other financial topics that the average American may not necessarily think about in depth. The Buffalo ROCKS want to ensure not only that its members are equipped to take on their next assignments, but also equipped to take on the realities of life post Army and beyond.



COL(R) Olson (First Command) presenting to the ROCKS members with intimate engagement.



Buffalo ROCKS members actively listen to the presentation during the LPD.



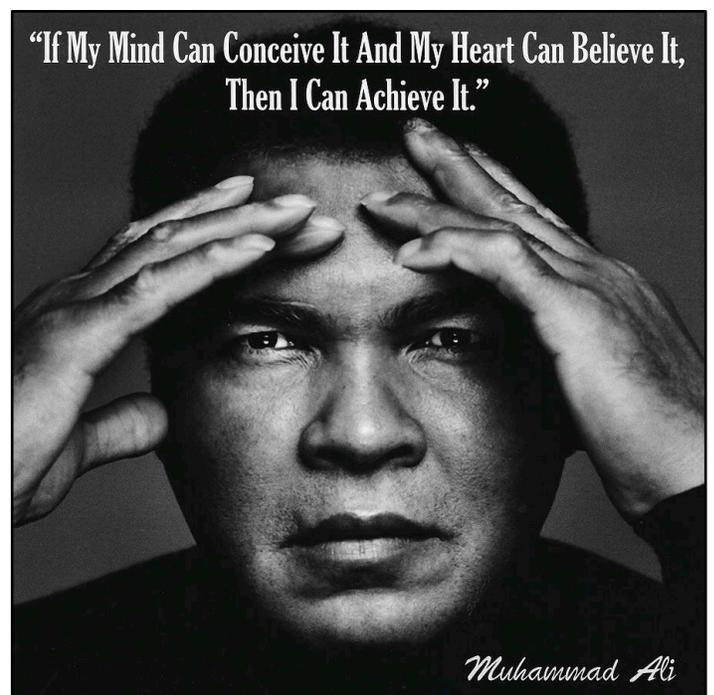
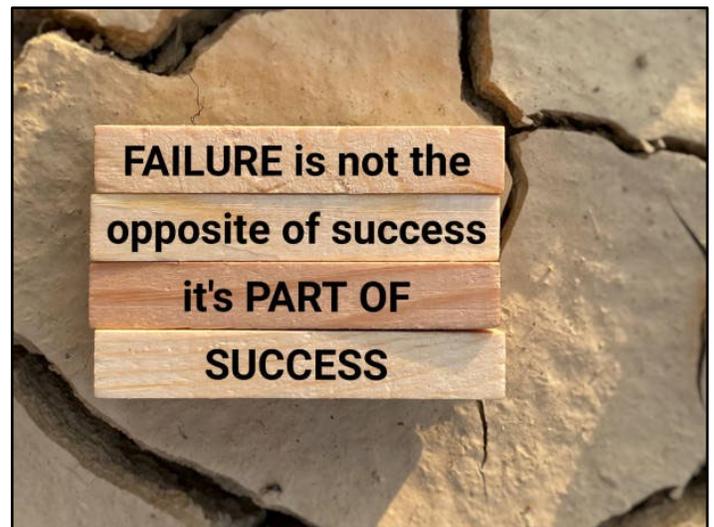
Buffalo ROCKS Chapter Community Service Event



CPT (P) Shaisha Ferguson (President), MAJ Brandon McFadden (Vice President-Admin), MAJ Janaire Jackson (Social Action Committee Chair), and CH (MAJ) Abram Staten

On December 15th, 2023, the Buffalo ROCKS INC. Chapter participated in a Christmas giveaway event at the Harvest Christian Center in Leavenworth, Kansas. The community event included donations of children's coats, free groceries, Christmas presents, and holiday activities for

kids. The ROCKS chapter would like to give a huge thanks to MAJ Janaire Jackson, Social Action Committee Chair for coordinating the event. We also recognize the "Unity in Community Movement" and the Leavenworth Interfaith Community of Hope for outstanding contributions within the Leavenworth community!



NATIONAL BOARD

CHAIRMAN'S CORNER



BG Lawrence Gillespie, USA, Retired

2024 has all the aspects of becoming a year that will have a significant impact on our membership. The ROCKS INC. will celebrate our Golden Anniversary and 50 years of Concern, Dedication and Professionalism. I am asking all of our members to take a moment of time to reflect on exactly what this milestone means to you. I hope you individually remember the group of officers, while attending the Command and General Staff College, who joined together for support, and later when (most were) stationed in the Washington D.C. area decided to socialize and assist each other with career advancement. From the beginning this organization has grown and prospered in many ways, but we are not done yet. With the Army and other Services experiencing recruiting shortfalls, the emphasis on our junior officer population plays an even more significant role in our nation's readiness.

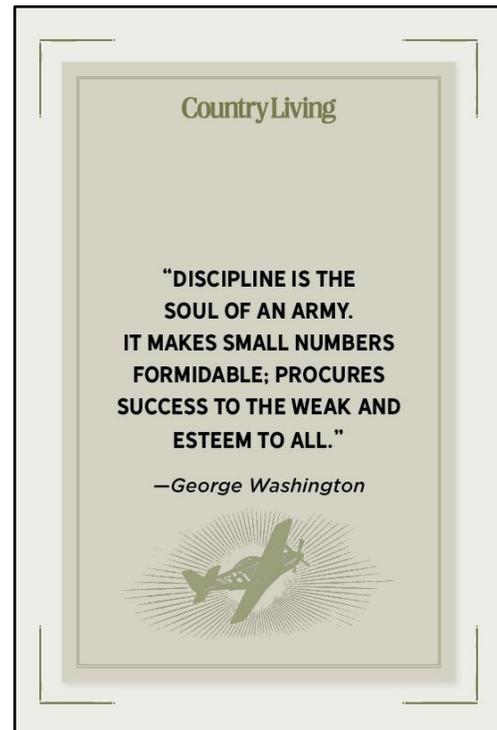
As an organization, we want to expand our efforts to support our company grade officers. We want to add them to the ranks of the ROCKS, provide them with the guidance and mentoring they need to matriculate to the higher ranks, while grasping a better understanding of what Army leadership is all about. To that end, Chapters please utilize your team to enhance and continue to grow your ROTC Scholarship programs.

Just recently the Army announced that they are seeking volunteers to transfer from combat branches to the combat support and combat service support branches. I believe the lessons learned from the war in Ukraine are greatly influencing the Army leadership in preparation for future conflicts. For example, the Army announced the cancellation of the Future Attack Reconnaissance Aircraft program after spending over \$2.4B in development dollars.

The reason was to focus Army efforts on new drone, anti-drone, and other remotely piloted advanced technologies. This highlights that the Army is in the midst of changing how it fights and my message to all ROCKS is where do our members fit into this transition?

I am also proud to report that the Military Officer's Association of America (MOAA), will award their DISTINGUISH SERVICE AWARD to the ROCKS INC. during the first part of April in a ceremony on Capitol Hill. This is quite an honor for the ROCKS and is evidence of the progress we are making.

Lastly, I want everyone in our organization to consider the political environment we are facing today and ensure that your vote is counted. Many have paved the way so that your voice be heard, I want to encourage each and every one of you to exercise your franchise.



We Should All Be from Missouri

By Eric Flowers, Vice Chair



An old saying holds Missouri is known as the “show-me” state. Although little evidence exists that expressly explains why and how the state earned this nickname, the unofficial tagline can be a useful reference for us when it comes to taking care of business.

When we think about The ROCKS, we must be mindful that we help people differentiate themselves in highly competitive environments. We strive to make measurable and meaningful impacts on the lives of others. To achieve such ends, it is essential we condition ourselves to consistently capture pertinent information that verifiably confirms that we do what we say we do. Another way of looking at this is that we must be constantly prepared to show proof that we mentor and produce career changing results.

Potential examples of proof (from an administrative perspective) include: the number of active mentoring relationships, the number of mentoring hours executed, the number of mentoring relationships involving vulnerable segments of the Army’s officer and civilian workforce and, the number of personal goals identified and accomplished through various mentoring relationships. From a programmatic perspective, ways that demonstrate we produce career changing results can be expressed by participants’ feedback. Demonstrated through active participation in our mentoring activities, they strengthened their feedback and critical thinking skills, expanded their professional networks, leveraged one-on-one assistance to overcome professional and/or personal obstacles and, learned more about the Army as an element of national power.

Continuously keeping administrative and programmatic perspectives at the forefront of our minds facilitates our ability to actively execute mentoring activities for the benefit of helping us unambiguously know how many people we’ve impacted and to what degree we have improved folks’ lives. To this end, Chapters could be well

served through a restructuring of how recurring Chapter meetings are conducted.

Such a restructuring could occur by consciously devoting more meeting time to mentoring matters and less time to the reporting and ‘housekeeping’ actions that traditionally occur during a regular chapter meeting. Our meetings should be forums that introduce attendees to content that improves their professionalism and mentoring skillsets. There is a potential for our recruitment, retention, and reclamation efforts to be enhanced by conducting meetings that are concise, present participants with mentoring best practices from across our profession and facilitate resource and information sharing that mentors could use to help their respective mentees navigate through challenging career and life events. Periodically bringing professionals together to have focused discussions on the art and science of mentoring and how to positively impact the lives of individuals will help The ROCKS distinguish itself from fraternities, sororities, veteran support organizations and other social groups.

When we distinguish ourselves in such a manner, we breathe rarified air because we are not just sayers, but verifiable doers. As doers, we hold a responsibility to always be prepared to defend our claims and to ultimately show the proverbial proof in the pudding. So, in the spirit of preparedness, when it comes to mentoring and our results, let’s not get caught flat-footed, let’s assume a posture of preparation and be from Missouri!



ROCKS NEWS

Black History Month, Family History, and Presidents

By COL (R) Charles D. Allen, USA

February 12 is known throughout our nation as the birthday of our 16th president, Abraham Lincoln.

It is also a special date for our family: the birthday in 1925 of our fathers, George Green Allen. Had he lived to see this year, he would be 99 years old. Most of my friends know that he drowned in 1967 while fishing in a Lake Erie boat accident. He was the married father of six children and the baby brother to two siblings.

He was also a beloved son of parents who remained in Alabama when their children headed to Cleveland as part of the Great Migration of African Americans to the North. I can only imagine his parents' hopes and fears as their children left Jim Crow behind to create new beginnings in a different world. While my father left the geography of the South behind, he held onto his love of family and friends. He was aware of his roots and maintained those connections. But he wanted so much more for his children.

I often try to piece together the kind of man my father was. Several things linger in my memory. With a large family to support, finances were always a concern. So, he was very conscious of where the money went. He always had a job; he worked in a warehouse not too far from our apartment. He liked to dress well; as he prepared for his Friday nights out, he sang Elvis's "Blue Suede Shoes." He used Royal Crown Pomade on his hair, keeping it slick on the sides and a bit curly on top. I recalled he used Old Spice as his Aftershave lotion. I also remember vividly that Sunday morning in May 1967 when we learned that he had drowned and how our family and friends missed him. That is another story.

Throughout the turmoil of the civil rights movement, I do not remember any political or social discussions in our home. I remember the Glenville riots of 1966 when the Ohio National Guard patrolled our neighborhood. An armored personnel carrier was parked ominously in the vacant lot adjacent to our apartment. I remember my father sharing six-packs of beer as he hung out with the National Guard soldiers through the night as they secured our neighborhood. I often wonder how he would react to the incidents and demonstrations of 2014. Would he be disappointed... or simply shrug it off with, "that's just the way it is"?

An Army War College colleague of mine often remarks that "History provides the context of our experiences."

As we celebrate Black History Month each February, it is important to realize that children (if they are like me) do not recall world or national events that transpire during their childhood. Rather, children remember the lived experience of their families and their neighborhoods. While they may be somewhat aware of historic events, their concerns are more immediate. Are they safe in their homes and in their schools? Do their parents have jobs and make a living wage to provide for their children's health and well-being—physical, mental, and emotional? Do they have access to and the opportunities for education that may well allow them to rise above the circumstances of their birth? Such questions are universal. They transcend racial and ethnic groups. So, we must acknowledge that the common threads from the Black experience are part of the fabric of our nation's history.

When Lincoln stopped on this way to first inaugural in 1861 and visited Philadelphia's Independence Hall, he spoke about, "...that sentiment in the Declaration of Independence which gave liberty, not alone to the people of this country, but, I hope, to the world, for all future time. It was that which gave promise that in due time the weight would be lifted from the shoulders of all men."

We know that "four score and seven years ago" in the Gettysburg Address direct us to those "unalienable rights" listed in the Declaration of Independence—"Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness." I suspect my father journeyed to Cleveland to claim these rights for himself and for his future family.

There may be a time when we no longer need to designate specific months to acknowledge the value of the great diversity of our nation. But for now, such designations give us pause to reflect from whence we have come. They may light the way as we go forward.

COL(R) Charles D. Allen, USA, is Professor of Leadership and Cultural Studies at the U.S. Army War College.





**2024 National Board of the
ROCKS Inc. Awards**

Honorary ROCK of the Year Award



GEN Charles Q. Brown

ROCK of the Year Award



LTG Xavier T. Brunson

COL Robert B. Burke Award



LTC Eduardo T. Moten

Chairman's Award

Buffalo Soldier ROCKS Chapter

MAJ Shaisha M. Ferguson

MAJ Brandon M. McFadden

Chaplain (MAJ) Abram R. Staten

Phantom Warrior ROCKS Chapter

CPT Teresa Allen

CPT Danielle Salley

CPT A'Miracle Wesley

Fort Huachuca ROCKS Chapter

CW2 Jeff B. Newsome

CW4 Frederick Joyce Jr.

LTC Octavia R. Scott

JBLM Rainer ROCKS Chapter

MAJ Mikhail Jackson

MG Charles C. Rogers ROCKS Chapter

Dr. Madelin Bodoh

LTC Ricarlos Caldwell

Alamo ROCKS Chapter

2LT Amber Hoover

MAJ Marissa Alexander

MAJ Rhonda Wells

DC ROCKS Chapter

LTC Carmona March

LTC Michelle Chillis

Upcoming ROCKSWide Meetings

March 16, 2024
3:00pm – 4:30pm EDT

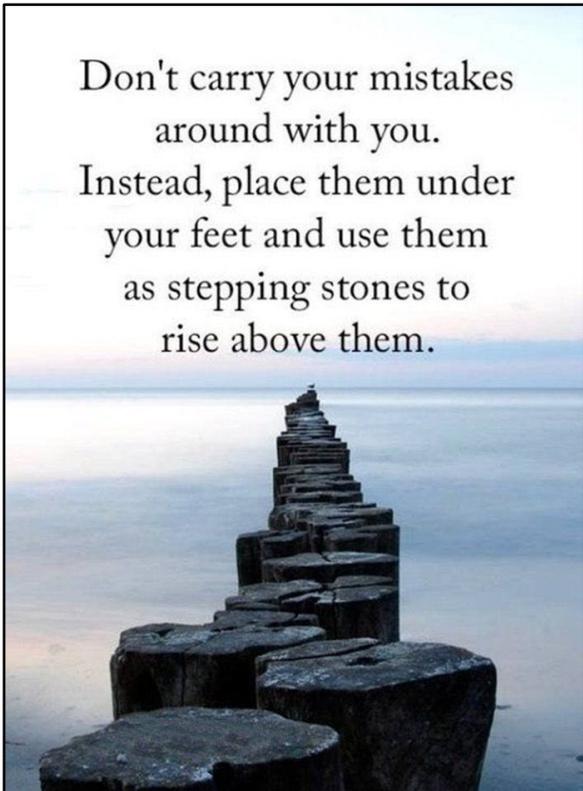
All Chapters are invited!

Check with your Chapter President or email rocksnationalboard@gmail.com for more information.



THE NATIONAL BOARD OF THE ROCKS INC.
CFC# 60959

Don't carry your mistakes
around with you.
Instead, place them under
your feet and use them
as stepping stones to
rise above them.



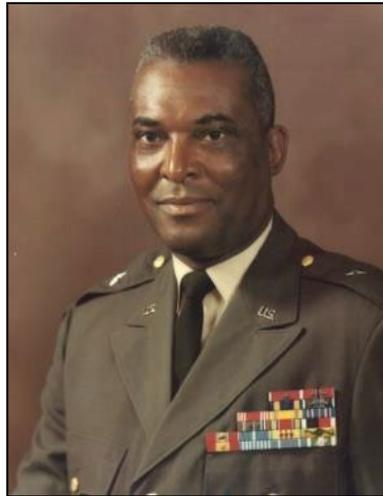
DEADLINE FOR ROCKET SPRING EDITION 2024 **MONDAY, MAY 13, 2024**

ROCKET SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

- ✓ Submit articles in **Microsoft Word Document Format Only!!!** (Do not include photos within the body of text.)
- ✓ Article Header Font = **Times New Roman**; Font Size = 14; **Bold**.
- ✓ Author/contributor credit reflected in following format: *Written by [Insert Author's name]*; Font = *Times New Roman Italics*; Font Size = 11]
- ✓ Page Margins = 1" Left, Right, Top and Bottom
- ✓ The text should be **Times New Roman** Font; Font Size=10. No special formatting. Use left justification. Maximum number of words = 600 words
- ✓ Maximum number of photos per article = 3 (Place at the end of the article)
- ✓ Include photo captions under photo (Times New Roman Font; Font Size=8)
- ✓ PDF documents will **NOT** be accepted.
- ✓ Links to web articles will **NOT** be accepted.
- ✓ Articles should be written from third-person point of view, or outsider looking in, and use pronouns like he, she, it, they or the _____ Chapter.
- ✓ If you would like an article from another publication to appear in the ROCKET, you must obtain written permission from the author and forward it to nationalrocket@gmail.com along with the article in MS Word format.

Note: We do not accept podcasts or videos as standalone submissions for this written publication. However, we do have other media platforms available to disseminate or distribute video or podcast material.

**YOU SHOULD KNOW THEIR STORY.... BECAUSE IT IS OUR STORY, THE
ROCKS INCORPORATED.... THIS IS *THE JOURNEY***



BG(R) Roscoe "ROCK" Cartwright



Burke



Brooks



Cade



Chambers



Collins



Francois



Hazelwood



Mann



Miller



Wyatt

Shown above:

COL Robert B. Burke

MG Harry W. Brooks Jr.

BG Alfred J. Cade

LTG Andrew P. Chambers

COL Harold Collins

COL Frank Francois III

COL John E. Hazelwood

LTC John E. Mann Sr.

COL Clarence A. Miller

COL James E. Wyatt

**Do you know their names? These men comprised the "Blue Geese".
They are the foundation of the ROCKS INC; representing 50 years of success.**

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