

Veterans Celebration Committee

EST. 2011



Veterans Honor Ceremony

November 15, 2025 at 5:00 p.m.
Shreveport Municipal Auditorium
705 Grand Avenue • Shreveport, LA 71101

Veterans Parade

November 16, 2025 at 2:00 p.m.
Louisiana State Fairgrounds
3701 Hudson Avenue • Shreveport, LA 71109

**Veterans, America's First Heroes.
Every Day Should Be Veterans Day in America.**



Veterans Celebration Committee members

VETERANS CELEBRATION COMMITTEE

(EST. 2011)

All persons listed below gave their time and talents to help make this event the best that it could be. The goal was to provide an arena to recognize and honor our Veterans and their Families for the many sacrifices they have made for the United States of America.

Ken Epperson, Sr. - Chairman

Vernon Williams - Vice Chairman

Ken Epperson, Jr. - Executive Assistant

Senior Advisors

Rellis P. Godfrey • Robb Brazzel

Birdie Byrd - Secretary

Gisele Proby-Bryant - Asst. Secretary

Kay Proby-Waller - Treasurer

Shelia Rynders - Asst. Treasurer

LTC Byron LaField - Parade Committee Chairman

Kizzy Whitaker - Parade Committee Co-Chair

Joseph LeBlanc - Entertainment

Dr. Earnestine Coleman - Events/Decorations

Rachael Jackson - Volunteer Coordinator

Barbara Simington - Hospitality Committee

Elder Joyce Rogers - Chaplain

David Williams - Logistics/Planning

Riley Young - Sponsors/ Planning

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Veronica Bell
Caroline Chartier
Linda Cosby
Wilma Davis
Freda Edmond
Chris Epperson
Gwen Hampton

Kimberley Jones
Jennifer Kirsop
Joyce Lars
Joseph LeBlanc
Michelle Nations
Calvin Presley
Patricia Presley

Eric Reedy
Earlene Thompson
James Thompson
LaTasha Washington
Julia Wilson
Kevin Wolfe
Willie Wynn

VOLUNTEERS

Gloria Crew
Billy Gully
Ashlei Jones

Carmella Lafitte
Patricia Player
Chelsea Smith

Paulette Stephens
Pam Taylor
Evelyn Thomas



Special thanks to the above-noted Veterans Celebration Committee Members and Volunteers that made it possible for 15 years of faithful service to our military and veterans, and also recognition in the official Congressional Records.





Veterans Celebration Committee

(est. 2011)

P.O. Box 29436 Shreveport, LA 71149
veteranscelebrationcommittee@gmail.com

November 15 & 16, 2025



Dear Friends:

Welcome to our 15th year of honoring our military and veterans, the largest Honor Ceremony and Veterans Parade in the State of Louisiana.

We are thankful to God that again we will host our Annual Veterans Parade & Honor Celebration. What a blessing this has been! This is a dream of many that has come to fruition because of the hard work of volunteers, sponsors, and the continued support of the Caddo Parish Commission, City of Shreveport, Bossier City, Bossier Parish

Police Jury, and Desoto Parish Police Jury.

We must also applaud and recognize the many Veterans organizations, VFW Posts, American Legions, active and reserve military units, Overton Brooks VA Medical Center, our areas businesses, our school systems, and Barksdale Air Force Base for their unwavering support.

I would be remiss if I did not thank the Louisiana State Fair, the Shreveport Municipal Auditorium, the Trail Lizards Jeep Club, as well as the many other sponsors for their generous sponsorships. Live! Casino and Hotel has continued to partner with the celebration, and we are so grateful for their generous participation. Special thanks to Music Mountain Water Company for providing the water for our parade.

Please make every effort to thank and patronize all of our supporters and sponsors that are listed throughout this booklet. They are extremely important in making this Honor Ceremony and Parade what it is today.

Again, it is my wish that God will continue to bless you, our Veterans, our Military, and the efforts of this Veterans Celebration Committee, and the United States of America.

In Service to our Country,

Kenneth R. Epperson, Sr., Chairman
 Veterans Celebration Committee
 U.S. Army Veterans (Vietnam Era)
 May 29, 1965 - May 28, 1968 (Volunteered-Honorable Discharge)

Union High School

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Compliments of the following alumni:



Leroy Bates
Class of 1965



Willie R. Cherry
Class of 1965
US Air Force



Kenneth R. Epperson
Class of 1965
US Army



J.B. Williams
Class of 1965
US Air Force

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www.caddo.org

November 15 & 16, 2025



GREETINGS TO OUR VETERANS:

The Parish of Caddo is proud to honor the men and women who have served faithfully in the United States Armed Forces. We should acknowledge these heroes who answered the call of duty to defend our freedoms and our country. Let us never forget that we cannot rightfully celebrate the joy of our freedom without remembering the great price paid for that freedom. So, to all our Veterans, we have a simple yet heartfelt message – **Thank You!!**

It is hard to believe that another year has passed since our last Veterans Celebration. Here we are gathered together in a festive and appreciative spirit as we celebrate and commemorate our local men and women who served in the United States military.

It is an honor and a privilege for me to join along with the citizens of Caddo Parish, the employees of Caddo Parish, and the Caddo Parish Commission, in extending to you, our local Veterans, heartfelt appreciation, for all you have done for our country. You are the reason Americans can enjoy the many, many freedoms that have been afforded to us—and for that, we thank you!

Again, we honor, appreciate, and CELEBRATE you and your families for your many sacrifices!!

Very Truly Yours,

Erica R. Bryant
Administrator & CEO
Parish of Caddo

Caddo Parish Commission Proudly Supports our Active Military, Veterans and Their Families



Chris Kracman
District 1



Greg Young
District 2



Commission Parliamentarian
Victor Thomas
District 3



John Paul Young
District 4



Roy Burrell
District 5



Steffon Jones
District 6



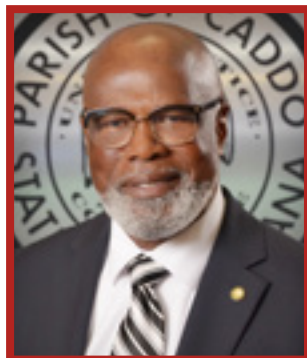
Commission President
Stormy Gage-Watts
District 7



Grace Anne Blake
District 8



John E. Atkins
District 9



Ronald L. Cothran
District 10



Ed Lazarus
District 11



Commission Vice President
Kenneth Epperson
District 12



CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR VETERANS CELEBRATION

NEW BETHEL MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

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Shreveport, LA 71109

Reverend A. B. Kimble, Interim Pastor



Office of The Mayor Shreveport, Louisiana

TOM ARCENEUX
MAYOR

505 TRAVIS STREET, SUITE 200
SHREVEPORT, LOUISIANA 71101
(318) 673-5050



November 15 and 16, 2025



Dear Veterans:

On behalf of the City of Shreveport, I am honored to welcome you to the Veterans Honor Ceremony and the Veterans Parade, which are slated for November 15 and 16, 2025. These events, in conjunction with other meaningful programs and activities held throughout the month, are exclusively designed to honor and express sincere appreciation for the sacrifices that you have made in upholding the ideals and values of this great nation. We are enormously grateful for your service.

In every generation, America's veterans have been willing to give all for that which we hold sacred—freedom, justice, and democracy. You have served selflessly, sacrificed greatly, and shouldered the burden of freedom quietly. America owes you an incredible debt that can never be fully repaid. Today is, indeed, a special one. The City of Shreveport takes pride in saluting you for your bravery and service to our nation.

With gratitude,

Tom Arceneux
Mayor

Shreveport City Council Proudly Supports our Active Military, Veterans and Their Families



Tabatha Taylor
District A



Gary Brooks
District B



Jim Taliaferro
District C



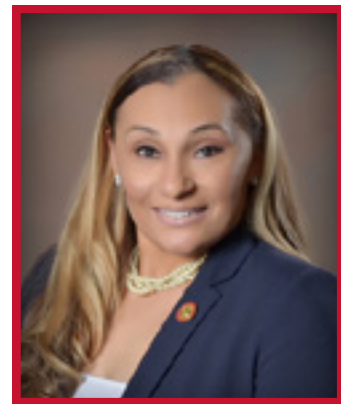
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Dr. Alan Jackson
District E



James Green
District F



Ursula Bowman
District G





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Congratulations to the Veterans Celebration Committee on 15 years of honoring our area Veterans and Active Duty Military

We are deeply honored to join you in recognizing the men and women who have served this great nation. Your courage, sacrifice, and unwavering commitment have safeguarded the freedoms we hold dear. Words can never fully express the gratitude we feel for all you have given.

On a personal note, I want to say thank you—not just for your service, but for the example you set every day. You remind us of what it means to put others before self and to stand strongly in the face of challenge. It is a privilege to celebrate you and your families. **We thank you for your service and for the immeasurable impact you have made on our community and country.**

We hope your time in Bossier/Shreveport is filled with warmth and appreciation. If there is anything we can do to make your visit more enjoyable, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Dr. Ken Ward
Bossier Parish Administrator

DR. KENNETH L. WARD
ADMINISTRATOR

C. ERIC HUDSON, P.E., P.L.S.
PARISH ENGINEER

PATRICK R. JACKSON
PARISH ATTORNEY

MEGAN C. RAMOS
SECRETARY

STACIE FERNANDEZ
TREASURER

Bossier Parish Police Jury Proudly Supports our Active Military, Veterans and Their Families



Kim Gaspard
District 1



Glenn Benton
District 2



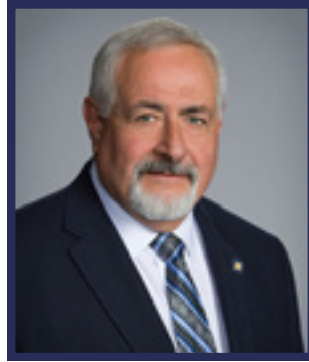
Philip Rodgers
District 3



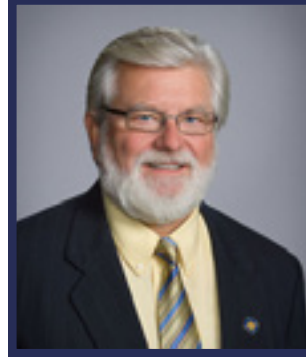
John Ed Jordan
District 4



Julianna Parks
District 5



Chris Marsiglia
District 6



Jimmy Cochran
District 7



Doug Rimmer
District 8



Pam Glorioso
District 9



Julian Darby
District 10



Tom Salzer
District 11



Keith Sutton
District 12

**The Trail Lizards Jeep Club Members
are Honored to serve as driver escorts for our
Military Service Members both active and retired
throughout the 2025 Veterans Honor Parade**

SUPPORT OUR TROOPS



Since 1941, Jeep has been there to support our troops and has established a long history and fond memories with our Veterans. The Trail Lizards Jeep Club believes it is only fitting that those who fought victoriously for our Freedom then and now should only be driven by a vehicle that expresses the true American Spirit of Freedom.

Jeep... The American Icon, Created in America and Made in America since 1941.

Trail Lizards Jeep Club formed in September 2011. The club's purpose is to be a family-oriented, "fun-loving," and environmentally friendly Jeep club.

We are Northwest Louisiana's only exclusive Jeep only club.
Loving and caring for people, nature, and the "Jeep Way of Life."

Visit us at www.traillizards.com or on Facebook at facebook.com/TrailLizards.

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Office of the Mayor
BOSSIER CITY, LOUISIANA

Thomas H. Chandler
MAYOR

620 BENTON ROAD
POST OFFICE BOX 5337
BOSSIER CITY, LA 71171-5337
(318) 741-8501

Welcome to Bossier City from Mayor Tommy Chandler

November 15 and 16, 2025



Mayor Tommy Chandler

On behalf of the City of Bossier City, it is my pleasure to extend a most sincere welcome to *The Veterans Celebration Weekend Parade and Honors Ceremony*. Our community has enjoyed a great partnership over the years and we are excited to be a part of the event again this year.

I hope you will take some time to visit the great city of Bossier City and experience all we have to offer. After your visit I am sure you will agree that Bossier City is a great place to work, play, and raise a family.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Thomas H. Chandler". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Thomas H. Chandler
Mayor

Bossier City Council Proudly Supports our Active Military, Veterans and Their Families



Brian Hammons
District 1



Debra W. Ross
District 2



Cliff Smith
District 3



Joel Girouard
District 4



Vince Maggio
District 5



Craton Cochran
At-Large Member



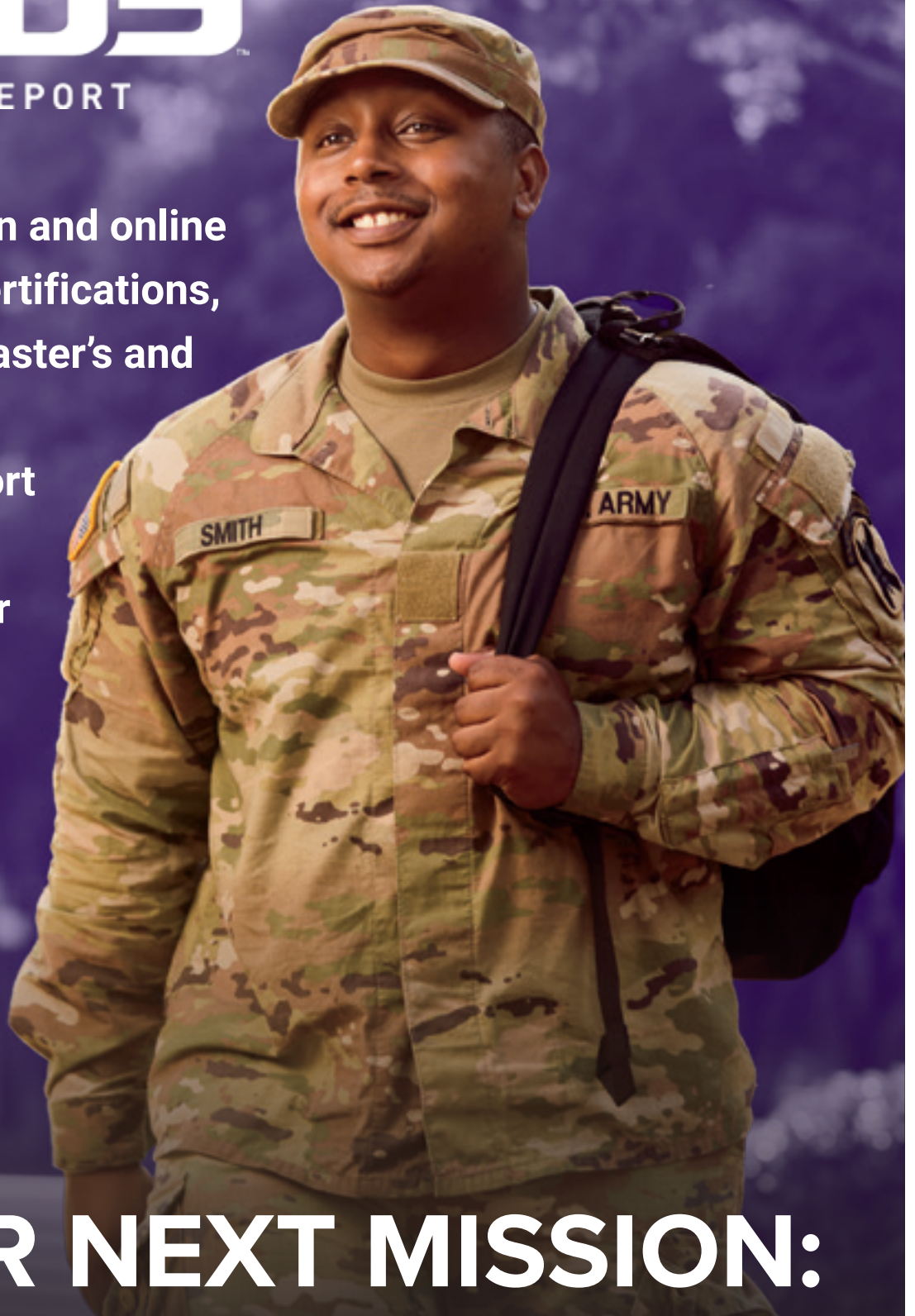
Chris Smith
At-Large Member



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TO A TRUE HERO

Veterans, America's First Heroes

Every Day should be Veteran's Day in America



Commissioner Ken Epperson Sr.

Today, we paused to pay tribute to a real hero. In Caddo Parish and the surrounding parishes, YOU ensure that veterans are never forgotten. Indeed, Mr. Epperson, your bravery and dedication in ensuring that veterans are remembered, thanked, and celebrated make you a true hero. For their service, veterans deserve to be genuinely acknowledged. Veterans have given up time, safety, and often much more to serve the country. We are grateful for your service and acknowledge you as a "true hero." Your sacrifices will never be forgotten.

Sheila Rynders & Kay Proby-Waller

VETERANS CELEBRATION

HONOR CEREMONY EMCEE

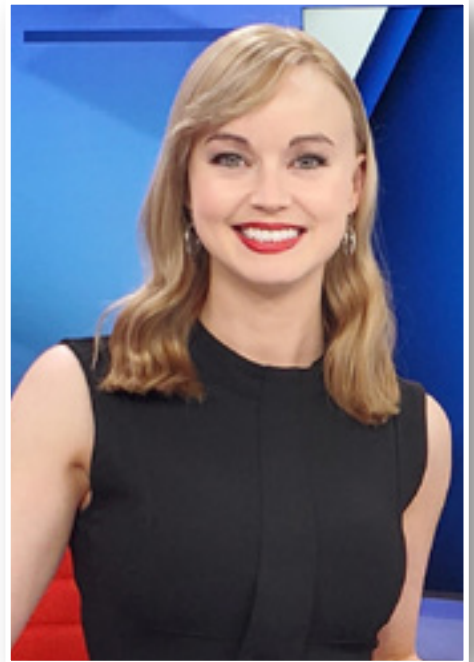
ALEXANDRA MEACHUM

KMSS Fox News First at 9 Anchor and Reporter Alexandra Meachum is a Shreveport native who first joined NBC 6 in 2014, working behind the scenes as a production assistant, and was later promoted to a producer before becoming a reporter and multimedia journalist in May 2015.

Being a Shreveport native has given her an advantage in knowing the community. She's been recognized for her in-depth storytelling that's gained her award nominations, including an analysis of poverty in Northwest Louisiana. She's covered political campaigns for news stations across the Four States Area. She also has a passion for science reporting and wildlife conservation.

Alex studied both print and broadcast journalism at LSU Shreveport where she graduated with degrees in Mass Communication and Political Science. She worked as the Managing Editor for *The Almagest*. She won first place in the Southwest Journalism Competition. She also wrote freelance for publications, including *318Forum* and *SB Magazine*.

If you have a story idea for Alex, please email her at ameachum@ktalnews.tv



VETERANS CELEBRATION

GUEST SPEAKER

WILLIAM A. (ALAN) ROCK

Brigadier General

United States Air Force

Brig. Gen. William A. "Alan" Rock is the Deputy Director of Plans, Programs, and Analyses for Headquarters U.S. Air Forces in Europe and U.S. Air Forces Africa, Ramstein Air Base, Germany (A5/8/9). He leads theater engagement throughout Europe and Africa by managing unit basing, organization, force structure and analyses. He is responsible for developing and directing the command's resource capability processes, doctrine review, strategy initiatives and political-military affairs program, as well as overseeing command analyses and lessons learned.

Prior to assuming his current position, General Rock served as the Mobilization Assistant to the Commander of Air Force Nuclear Weapons Center, Kirtland Air Force Base, New Mexico. He was one of two General Officers directing the Air Force's \$400B nuclear modernization, acquisition and sustainment programs with more than 1,300 personnel at 18 locations worldwide. The center is responsible for the lifecycle management of nuclear weapons systems supporting two legs of the nation's nuclear triad, including intercontinental ballistic missiles; air-launched cruise missiles; gravity bombs; and nuclear command, control and communication systems.

General Rock enlisted in the military in 1983 and was commissioned through the Air Force Reserve Command Deserving Airman Program in 1993. He graduated from Louisiana State University with a bachelor's degree in business and finance.



MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

- Bronze Star
- Air Force Meritorious Service Medal with four oak leaf clusters
- Air Force Commendation Medal with oak leaf cluster
- Army Commendation Medal
- Air Force Achievement Medal
- Meritorious Unit Award
- Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with two oak leaf clusters
- Air Force Good Conduct Medal with oak leaf cluster
- National Defense Service Medal with bronze star
- Iraq Campaign Medal with bronze star
- Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal
- Global War on Terrorism Service Medal
- Air Force Overseas Ribbon Short Tour
- Air Force Expeditionary Service Ribbon with Gold Border and two oak leaf clusters
- Air Force Longevity Service Award with four oak leaf clusters
- Armed Forces Reserve Medal with 2 "M" Devices and hourglass
- Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon with service star
- Air Force Training Ribbon with oak leaf cluster

VETERANS CELEBRATION

2025 PARADE GRAND MARSHAL

ROBERT “BOB” ROBERTSON

MOTOR MACHINIST MATE SECOND CLASS (MOMM2)(E-5), USN (WWII VETERAN)



Robert “Bob” Robertson proudly served in the United States Navy during World War II, following in the footsteps of his older brothers, John and Bill. All three siblings answered the nation’s call to service after the attack on Pearl Harbor, each choosing to serve in the Navy.

Bob volunteered through the V-12 Navy College Training Program and reported for active duty on July 1, 1943. His training included coursework at Rice Institute (now Rice University), boot camp in San Diego, and Motor Maintenance School at the Navy Pier in Chicago. Following amphibious and shipboard training in Virginia, he was assigned to the USS LSM-310, a newly commissioned medium landing ship, where he proudly served as part of the original crew—known with honor as Plank Owners.

As a Motor Machinist Mate Second Class, Bob was responsible for maintaining the ship’s two diesel engines and fresh water distillation unit. The USS LSM-310 participated in seven major amphibious landings in the Asiatic-Pacific Theater, including operations at Leyte, Ormoc Bay, Mindoro, Lingayen Gulf, Corregidor, Mindanao, and Balikpapan.

For his distinguished service, Bob earned five Battle Stars, the American Campaign Ribbon, the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Ribbon with four stars, the World War II Victory Ribbon, and the Philippine Liberation Ribbon with one star.

After more than three years of dedicated service, Bob was honorably discharged on March 1, 1946. In 2017, at the age of 92, he participated in an Honor Flight to Washington, D.C., where he took part in the Changing of the Wreath Ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier—a moment of profound honor and remembrance.

A proud graduate of C.E. Byrd High School and the oldest living Yellow Jacket, Bob Robertson’s remarkable legacy as a World War II veteran and member of the Greatest Generation stands as a lasting testament to courage, patriotism, and unwavering devotion to country.

On January 15, 2025, Bob turned 100 years young!





FULFILLING OUR PROMISES
TO THE MEN AND WOMEN WHO SERVED

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS

Chapter 30

Shreveport—Bossier City

Salutes All Veterans !!



Chapter meets first Thursday of each month

Chapter Home:

7012 Suntan Street

Shreveport, La 71108

6:30 PM

<http://davwebsites.dav.org/la/30>

(318)677-9407

Join Us



Check Us Out



VETERANS CELEBRATION

PARADE ANNOUNCERS



Dan and Jacque Jovic

Dan and Jacque Jovic have been with the NBC 6 News team since October of 2012. Together, the Jovics co-anchor NBC 6 News each weeknight at 5, 6 and 10 p.m.

Dan graduated from the University of Akron in Ohio with a degree in mass media /electronic communications. Prior to joining the NBC 6 News Team, Dan served as the technology and new media reporter for WJW-TV in Cleveland. Over his 19 years in broadcasting, he has worked in both news and sports, writing, editing, producing and reporting on the stories concerning viewers. Dan is a two-time Emmy Award winner for his work covering high school football in Ohio.

After graduating from The Ohio State University, Jacque began her career in Columbus, Ohio as a producer. She then worked as a reporter and anchor in Evansville, Indiana; Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; and Cleveland, Ohio. Dan and Jacque love the weather and the people of the Ark-La-Tex. Spending time with his family, enjoying a great steak and teeing it up for a sunny round of golf are Dan's greatest passions, and Jacque enjoys discovering great restaurants and boutiques, reading motivational books, cooking and entertaining.

Dan and Jacque are the proud parents of daughter Danielle and son DJ.



VETERANS CELEBRATION

AWARD RECIPIENT



PATRICIA RAPHIEL-BROWN

TECHNICAL SERGEANT (TSGT) (E-6), USAF

U.S. Air Force Veteran | Educator | Director of Medical Laboratory Technician and Phlebotomy Programs, Southern University at Shreveport

Mrs. Patricia Raphiel-Brown, a proud native of Shreveport, Louisiana, is a United States Air Force veteran and an accomplished educator whose career exemplifies service, leadership, and excellence. She currently serves as the Director of the Medical Laboratory Technician and Phlebotomy Programs at Southern University at Shreveport (SUSLA)—a role through which she has shaped the careers of countless students and strengthened the region’s healthcare workforce.

A graduate of Southern University at Shreveport, Mrs. Brown earned her Associate Degree in Computer Science in 1990 and her Medical Laboratory Technician degree in 1993. She went on to complete her Bachelor of Science in Clinical Laboratory Science at the University of Louisiana at Monroe in 1995, followed by a Master of Arts in School Counseling from Louisiana Tech University in 2005. Her academic achievements reflect her belief that education is a lifelong

journey—a principle she continues to instill in her students.

Mrs. Brown began her military career in May 1988 at the age of 20, when she courageously enlisted in the United States Air Force Reserves. Though uncertain of what lay ahead, she faced the challenge with determination and faith. Upon arrival at Lackland Air Force Base, she was immediately recognized for her leadership potential, serving first as Squad Leader and later as Dorm Chief for Flight 141. Following basic training, she attended Sheppard Air Force Base in Wichita Falls, Texas, where she completed her technical training as a Medical Service Specialist (AFSC 90230). In the fall of 1989, she was assigned to Barksdale Air Force Base, where she served with the 47th Fighter Wing and the 917th Medical Unit for eight years.

During her military service, Mrs. Brown earned her Associate Degree from the Community College of the Air Force in 1990 and was activated during Operation Desert Storm in 1990–1991. Her dedication and professionalism earned her numerous opportunities to serve in leadership and community roles throughout her military tenure. She was honorably discharged with the rank of Technical Sergeant (E-6), marking a successful and impactful military career.

As both a veteran and an educator, Mrs. Brown has consistently demonstrated her commitment to mentorship, service, and excellence. For over 25 years, she has dedicated herself to Southern University at Shreveport, beginning as an Adjunct Instructor in 1997, later serving as Clinical Coordinator for the Medical Laboratory Technician and Phlebotomy Programs, and eventually being promoted to Program Director, a role she continues to hold today. Her leadership has strengthened the academic structure, accreditation, and outcomes of both programs, ensuring that students receive top-tier instruction and professional preparation.

In addition to her instructional and administrative duties, Mrs. Brown has contributed extensively to the university’s shared governance and student advocacy. She has served as a Faculty Senator, Faculty Senate Treasurer, and currently serves as the Faculty Senate Secretary. She also chairs the Student Support Advocacy Board and serves on the Allied Health/Nursing Executive Board and SUSLA Recruitment Committee. Through these roles, she continues to model leadership, collaboration, and student-centered service.

Beyond the classroom, Mrs. Brown remains deeply connected to the veteran community. She has participated in numerous Veterans Day parades and recognition programs at Southern University at Shreveport, while also supporting the Veteran Upward Bound Program, helping fellow veterans access educational and career opportunities. Additionally, as a proud and active member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., Shreveport Alumnae Chapter, she continues to uphold the values of public service, sisterhood, and community impact.

A 30-year veteran of the clinical laboratory science field, Mrs. Brown continues to inspire through her motto: “Nothing is impossible if you put God first.”

For her exemplary military service, her decades of dedication to education, and her lifelong commitment to uplifting others, Mrs. Patricia Raphiel-Brown is a deserving nominee for the Veterans Recognition Program. Her legacy of service, excellence, and faith continues to inspire students, veterans, and the Shreveport community alike.

VETERANS CELEBRATION

AWARD RECIPIENT



ROBERT E. BULLARD, JR

Master Sergeant (MSG)(E-8), USA (Retired)

Master Sergeant (MSG) Robert E. Bullard Jr., a proud native of Shreveport, Louisiana, honorably served in the United States Army with distinction for over two decades. He began his military journey at Fort Jackson, South Carolina, where he completed Basic and Advanced Individual Training and graduated as a 42A Administrative Specialist (formerly 71L).

Throughout his career, MSG Bullard pursued professional excellence through military education, completing the Primary Leadership Development Course, Basic and Advanced Noncommissioned Officer Courses, Army Basic Instructor Course, and the Postal Operations Course.

MSG Bullard's initial assignment was with Headquarters and Alpha Company, 832nd Ordnance Battalion at Redstone Arsenal, Alabama, where he served as an Administrative Specialist from 1997 to 2000. He continued his service at the 59th Ordnance Brigade as the Commandant's Driver from 2000 to 2002. During this time, he demonstrated strong leadership as President of the Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers (BOSS) Redstone Chapter and proudly represented Redstone

Arsenal at the World-Wide BOSS Conference in Washington, D.C., in September 2001.

In 2002, MSG Bullard was selected for a prestigious assignment with the United Nations Command Security Battalion – Joint Security Area (JSA) in Panmunjom, South Korea. After a rigorous selection and training process, he earned the honor of wearing the battalion's blue and white scroll—standing face-to-face with Communism on Freedom's Frontier.

He later served with the XVIII Airborne Corps G-1 as Personnel Administration/Operations NCO (2003–2004) and was assigned to the 87th Division (Regional Support Command East) in Birmingham, Alabama, as the Headquarters Company NCOIC and Acting First Sergeant.

MSG Bullard continued his commitment to soldier development as a Senior Instructor/Writer for 42A Advanced and Basic Leadership Courses at Fort Devens, Massachusetts (2009–2011). In 2011, he reported to U.S. Army Human Resources Command (HRC) at Fort Knox, Kentucky, as the Senior HR Sergeant in the G-3 Reserve Operations Branch.

Following a deployment to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom (2013–2014), he was hand-selected for assignment to Special Operations Command Central (SOCCENT) at MacDill Air Force Base, Florida, serving as the Army Individual Augmentee Manager NCOIC. He later deployed to Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar, in support of Operation Inherent Resolve (2017–2019).

A decorated combat veteran, MSG Bullard's awards and decorations include:

- Defense Meritorious Service Medal (3)
- Meritorious Service Medal
- Joint Service Commendation Medal with "V" Device
- Joint Service Achievement Medal
- Army Commendation Medal (5)
- Army Achievement Medal
- Army Good Conduct Medal (6)
- Afghanistan Campaign Medal with Campaign Star
- Armed Forces Reserve Medal with "M" Device
- NATO Medal, and numerous other campaign, unit, and service awards.

MSG Bullard holds an Associate Degree in General Studies from Columbia College and remains committed to lifelong learning.

Beyond his military service, MSG Bullard is a passionate community servant. He regularly volunteers to feed the homeless and has dedicated years to coaching youth basketball, football, and track in various states across the U.S., as well as overseas. He currently coaches the Lady Hawks and volunteers with the Robert Williams III Basketball Camp, mentoring and inspiring the next generation of athletes and leaders for Shreveport/Bossier.

Master Sergeant Robert E. Bullard Jr.'s legacy is one of steadfast leadership, unwavering dedication to duty, and a heart for service both in and out of uniform. His life's work exemplifies the Army values and the spirit of selfless service.

VETERANS CELEBRATION

AWARD RECIPIENT



JAMES D. COUNCIL

Sergeant First Class (SFC)(E-7), USA (Retired)

Apostle James D. Council is an extraordinary U.S. Army veteran whose life exemplifies selfless service, leadership, and dedication—first to his country, and now to his community. As the Pastor and Founder of True Holiness Tabernacle of Prayer in Bossier City, Louisiana, Apostle Council leads by example, impacting lives far beyond the pulpit. A devoted husband to Co-Pastor Lashoneda Council (also an Army veteran), a proud father of five, and a grandfather, he continues to embody the values of honor, duty, and commitment.

A native of Goldsboro, North Carolina, Apostle Council joined the United States Army at age 19. Over 20 years of honorable service, he rose to the rank of E-7 (Sergeant First Class) and served as First Sergeant at his final duty station. His military career includes distinguished campaigns and leadership roles:

- Served in Cold War operations at Schweinfurt, Germany (January 1986–January 1989) as a Bradley Gunner in A Company, 1/30th Infantry, 3rd Infantry Division.
- Served in Desert Shield/Desert Storm (October 11, 1989–March 1, 1991) as an Infantry Squad Leader in D Company, 3rd Battalion, 41st Infantry Regiment, 3rd Armored Division, Fort Hood, Texas.
- Earned the Army Commendation Medal during Desert Storm.
- Awarded the Expert Infantry Badge (EIB) at Fort Hood, Texas.
- Received the Combat Infantry Badge (CIB) during Desert Shield/Desert Storm.
- Awarded the Meritorious Service Medal upon retirement.

Throughout his military career, Apostle Council demonstrated exceptional leadership and unwavering commitment to excellence. In 1997, while stationed at Fort Knox, Kentucky, he rededicated his life to Christ—a pivotal moment that set the stage for his transformative ministry following reassignment to Fort Jackson, South Carolina.

In 2001, Apostle Council attended the Harvest Tabernacle of Prayer Bible Institute, and in August 2002 he was ordained as an Elder by Apostle Lawrence Bogier of the Original Tabernacle of Prayer for All People. On September 15, 2002, Apostle Council founded True Holiness Tabernacle of Prayer Ministries in Bossier City, Louisiana. He also served on the Board of Elders for the Original Tabernacle of Prayer for All People as the International Youth Counselor under Apostle Bogier. In September 2006, Apostle Council received his call as an Apostle.

In 2014, Apostle Council made history by becoming the first African American male elected to the Board of Directors for The Council on Aging in the City of Bossier. He also successfully completed construction of the current ministry building in July 2014. As Director of the Inside the Tabernacle Television Broadcast, Apostle Council expanded his reach by airing three years on The Word Network and currently broadcasting across the Ark-La-Tex and parts of Oklahoma on Foxx 33. Under his leadership, True Holiness Tabernacle of Prayer has witnessed transformative community impact—supporting high school graduates, GED earners, college students, homeowners, business owners, military families, and broken households as they find stability and healing.

In 2023, Apostle Council earned his Doctor of Divinity in Naples, Italy. Today, he continues his mission as an anointed teacher of the Word, boldly preaching the uncompromised gospel of Jesus Christ and demonstrating that service to others extends well beyond the battlefield.

For his distinguished military service, his pioneering leadership, and his transformative community impact, Apostle James D. Council stands as an exemplary nominee for the Veterans Recognition Program.

VETERANS CELEBRATION

AWARD RECIPIENT



DAVID P. KILLEEN

Petty Officer First Class (PO1)(E-6), USCG

Mr. David Killen is a proud United States Coast Guard veteran whose lifelong commitment to service continues to uplift the veteran community of Northwest Louisiana. His career and civic contributions exemplify integrity, leadership, and dedication to both nation and neighbor.

David began his military journey through the Delayed Enlistment Program on December 31, 1976, and reported to U.S. Coast Guard Boot Camp in Alameda, California, in June 1977, graduating in August 1977. During his distinguished service, he specialized in aviation, qualifying as a Flight Mechanic and Air crewman at Air Station North Bend, Oregon. Following that assignment, he transferred to the Aviation Technical Training Center in Elizabeth City, North Carolina, where he served as an Aviation Electrician's Mate (AE) A-School Instructor, training and mentoring new Coast Guard personnel. He was honorably discharged as a Petty Officer First Class (E-6) in April 1985. His military honors include the Coast

Guard Good Conduct Medal (Second Award) and certification in Micro- miniature Electronic Repair.

Following his military career, David continued his lifelong mission of service through exceptional involvement in veteran organizations across Louisiana and Texas.

He has dedicated 18 years of service to American Legion Post 14 in Shreveport, Louisiana, including 12 years on the Executive Board and 7 years as Post Adjutant. A Life Member of the American Legion, David has also served with distinction in the American Legion Riders as Secretary, and in the Sons of the American Legion, where he held the position of 2nd Vice Commander.

For over a decade, David has been a member of Voiture Locale 137 of the forty and Eight Society in Shreveport, serving as Correspondant (Secretary), Chef de Train (First Vice Commander), and currently completing his fifth year as Chef de Gare (Commander). His leadership extends to the State Forty and Eight, where he has held key positions including Cheminot (Executive Board Member), Conducteur (Ceremonies Director), Grande Chef de Train (First Vice Commander), and now Grande Chef de Gare (State Commander). He proudly holds Life Membership in the Forty and Eight Society.

In addition to his American Legion and Forty and Eight involvement, David is a 10-year Support Member of the Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association (CVMA). Although Support Members have limited eligibility for leadership roles, he has served admirably as Public Relations Officer and Senior Road Captain, organizing and leading numerous rides in honor of veterans and fallen heroes. He is also a Life Member of the CVMA.

David's commitment extends further through his active participation with both the Northwest Louisiana Patriot Guard Riders and the East Texas Patriot Guard Riders, standing in honor at countless military funerals, memorials, and ceremonies.

His decades of dedication reflect a deep, enduring respect for those who serve and sacrifice. Through his military excellence, veteran advocacy, and community leadership, David continues to embody the Coast Guard's motto, "Semper Paratus – Always Ready."

VETERANS CELEBRATION

AWARD RECIPIENT



BRANDON LEE

Master Sergeant (MSG) (E-8), ARNG (Retired)

For Chief Brandon Lee, service to others is a family tradition and a lifelong calling. A proud native of Shreveport, Louisiana, he has dedicated nearly three decades to protecting his community and his country through both the Louisiana National Guard and the Shreveport Fire Department.

Chief Lee enlisted in the Louisiana Army National Guard in February 1997, joining the 1st Battalion, 156th Infantry Regiment, 256th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, where he continues to serve with distinction. Over 28 years of service, he has deployed multiple times overseas and provided critical support to Louisiana communities during hurricanes, floods, and state emergencies. His duties have included search and rescue operations, high-water evacuations, and disaster relief distribution efforts, exemplifying the National Guard's motto: "Protect What Matters."

In his civilian life, Chief Lee has spent 25 years with the Shreveport Fire Department, where his passion for public safety and leadership mirrors his military service. He made history as the first African American Fire Chief of Caddo Parish Fire District 7 in Oil City, having previously served as Assistant Fire Chief. Known for his professionalism and integrity, he continues to mentor and lead his firefighters while strengthening emergency response across Northwest Louisiana.

Reflecting on his dual service, Chief Lee often shares, "Being both a soldier and a firefighter are two of the greatest professions I could have ever had. They go hand in hand, and they've shaped me into the man I am today."

Throughout his military career, Chief Lee has earned numerous commendations, including the Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal (2nd Award), Army Achievement Medal (3rd Award), Meritorious Unit Commendation (2nd Award), Army Good Conduct Medal, Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal (5th Award), National Defense Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal with Two Campaign Stars, Noncommissioned Officer Professional Development Ribbon (3rd Award), Overseas Service Ribbon (2nd Award), and the Combat Action Badge.

A devoted husband and father, Chief Lee continues to call Shreveport home, where he is an active member of American Legion Post 14 and remains steadfast in his commitment to mentorship, leadership, and service. His life stands as a shining example of courage, duty, and community devotion—both in and out of uniform.



VETERANS CELEBRATION

2025 SPECIAL HONOREE



SAM ARCHIE MATTOX

Corporal E-4, United States Army (WWII)

Mr. Sam Archie Mattox is being recognized as the oldest World War II Veteran in Louisiana and this state's oldest living Veteran as well as Veteran of the Foreign War (VFW) member.

Affectionately known as "Mr. Sam," he is 106 years young. Mr. Sam was born on September 27, 1919, in Choudrant, Louisiana. Mr. Sam entered World War II on December 12, 1942, where he served in the 642nd Company Army Field Organization and worked with ammunition as a combat soldier. Mr. Sam served in Australia, the Philippines, New Guinea, and Japan for 26 months before being discharged on December 6, 1945, with the rank of Corporal. In fact, Mr. Sam was in Japan at the time the Japanese surrendered and he even witnessed the President of Japan hold up the white flag.

Mr. Sam's military medals, decorations, and awards include the Asiatic Pacific Campaign Medal with 2 Bronze Stars, the Philippine Liberation Ribbon Meritorious Unit Award, World War II Bronze Arrowhead, and the Honorable Service Lapel Button, commonly known as the "ruptured duck," that was awarded for honorable Federal military service between 1925 and 1946. In addition, Mr. Sam received a special War World II pin and a flag flown over the United States Capitol in his honor for his 104th birthday! On September 27, 2024, Sam celebrated his 105th birthday!

After Mr. Sam was discharged from the military, he landed a job working at a sawmill. Mr. Sam worked during the day and attended a trade school at night. Mr. Sam became a Brick Mason and worked in this position until he retired at the tender age of 92!

Mr. Sam is an active member in both the American Legion and the VFW organizations. He enjoys attending events and meetings at both locations.

Mr. Sam also enjoys attending church as a senior Deacon at Saint Rest Baptist Church in Choudrant, Louisiana. He loves singing the church songs, taking walks for exercise, and spending a lot of time with his grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Mr. Sam is the proud father of seven children whom he loves dearly: Mary, Virgie, Sammy, Clara, Loujuna, Evelyn, and David.

**OLDEST KNOWN LIVING VETERAN IN LOUISIANA
106 YEARS YOUNG AS OF SEPTEMBER 27, 2025**

VETERANS CELEBRATION

AWARD RECIPIENT



EULA McDOWELL

Drill Sergeant (SFC)(E-7), USAR

A proud retired Sergeant First Class and former Drill Sergeant, having dedicated more than two decades of honorable service to the United States Army. My military journey began in November 1980, when I enlisted in the Louisiana National Guard in Delhi, Louisiana. I completed Basic Training in 1981 and earned certification as an Administrative Specialist at Fort Jackson, South Carolina. During this time, I also became certified as a Basic Medical Specialist at Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio, Texas—training that inspired my later career in nursing.

In November 1984, I transitioned to the U.S. Army Reserve in Monroe, Louisiana, where I proudly served as a Drill Sergeant until my retirement in 2004. Over the course of my career, I had the privilege of training recruits and future Drill Sergeants at major Army installations, including Fort Sill (OK), Fort Leonard Wood (MO), Fort Polk (LA), Fort Jackson (SC), and Fort Benning

(GA). My mission was to help shape disciplined, confident, and capable soldiers—leaders who would serve with integrity, courage, and pride.

Following my military retirement, I continued my life of service through a rewarding career in nursing, where I applied the same compassion, discipline, and dedication that defined my years in uniform. Caring for others has always been at the heart of who I am, whether on the battlefield, in a hospital, or within my community.

At this stage of my life, I remain focused on growing as a confident, compassionate, and understanding individual. My greatest desire is to maintain a strong and enduring relationship with God Almighty, trusting Him to guide my path as I continue serving others—especially my fellow veterans—in their pursuit of a better quality of life.

Family remains the cornerstone of my life. I am blessed to be both a parent and a grandparent, striving each day to live by the values of love, faith, and responsibility that were instilled in me early on.

Education has played a vital role in my journey, serving as a foundation for personal and professional growth. I have always believed that lifelong learning is not only a path to success but also a means to better serve others.

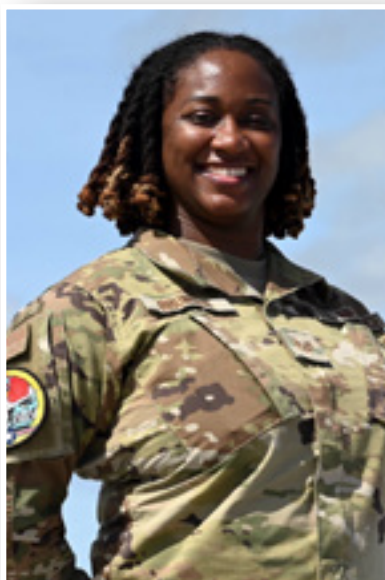
Today, I continue to serve the veteran community as the Assistant Secretary-Treasurer of the Buffalo Soldiers – Local Independent Chapter of Shreveport, Louisiana, where we preserve and honor the legacy of African American soldiers who served our nation with distinction. In this role, I support administrative operations and community outreach initiatives that uplift veterans and educate younger generations about the importance of service and sacrifice.

I am also an active member of my local church, where faith and service guide every aspect of my life. Whether mentoring youth, supporting fellow veterans, or volunteering in programs that promote leadership and character, I remain devoted to making a positive impact in my community.

As I move forward, I carry the lessons of military discipline, the compassion of nursing, the strength of family, and the unwavering guidance of God. My life's mission continues to be one of purpose—rooted in faith, love, and selfless service to others.

VETERANS CELEBRATION

AWARD RECIPIENT



ASHLEY OWENS

Technical Sergeant (TSgt) (E-6), AFRES

Technical Sergeant Ashley Owens is a proud native of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and a dedicated member of the United States Air Force Reserve, where she continues to serve her country with excellence and compassion.

Motivated by a strong sense of duty and service, TSgt Owens enlisted in the U.S. Air Force Reserve in 2015, beginning her military journey at Keesler Air Force Base in Biloxi, Mississippi. After completing her initial training, she transferred to Barksdale Air Force Base in Bossier City, Louisiana, where she currently serves as both an In-Flight Refueling Specialist and Personnel Specialist. Her dual expertise reflects her adaptability, professionalism, and commitment to mission readiness.

Beyond her military service, TSgt Owens is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker with over 12 years of professional experience in the mental health field. She has dedicated her civilian career to caring for veterans and their families through her role with the Department of Veterans Affairs, where she provides critical support to those navigating the challenges of military life, transition, and healing. Her compassion and professionalism make her a valued advocate for veterans' wellness and reintegration.

TSgt Owens is a proud graduate of Baton Rouge Community College (Associate Degree in Business), Southern University and A&M College (Bachelor's Degree in Social Work), and Stephen F. Austin State University (Master's Degree in Social Work). Her educational background underscores her lifelong commitment to learning, leadership, and service.

Now residing in Bossier City, Louisiana, with her husband James and their two beloved dogs, Prince and Parker, Ashley finds balance through faith, family, and community. In her personal time, she enjoys decorating, reading, traveling, cooking, and spending quality time with loved ones.

Her awards and decorations include the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with Oak Leaf Cluster, National Defense Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, and the Air Force Training Ribbon—a reflection of her dedication to excellence and her unwavering service to both the military and veteran communities.

Through her dual callings as a social worker and service member, Technical Sergeant Ashley Owens continues to embody the Air Force Core Values of Integrity First, Service Before Self, and Excellence in All We Do. She stands as a shining example of leadership, compassion, and patriotism—committed to uplifting others and strengthening the community she proudly serves.

VETERANS CELEBRATION

AWARD RECIPIENT



ROBERT “BOB” ROBERTSON

*Motor Machinist Mate Second Class (MOMM2)(E-5),
USN (WWII Veteran)*

Robert “Bob” Robertson proudly served in the United States Navy during World War II, following in the footsteps of his older brothers, John and Bill. All three siblings answered the nation’s call to service after the attack on Pearl Harbor, each choosing to serve in the Navy.

Bob volunteered through the V-12 Navy College Training Program and reported for active duty on July 1, 1943. His training included coursework at Rice Institute (now Rice University), boot camp in San Diego, and Motor Maintenance School at the Navy Pier in Chicago. Following amphibious and shipboard training in Virginia, he was assigned to the USS LSM-310, a newly commissioned medium landing ship, where he proudly served as part of the original crew—known with honor as Plank Owners.

As a Motor Machinist Mate Second Class, Bob was responsible for maintaining the ship’s two diesel engines and fresh water distillation unit. The USS LSM-310 participated in seven major amphibious landings in the Asiatic-Pacific Theater, including operations at Leyte, Ormoc Bay, Mindoro, Lingayen Gulf, Corregidor, Mindanao, and Balikpapan.

For his distinguished service, Bob earned five Battle Stars, the American Campaign Ribbon, the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Ribbon with four stars, the World War II Victory Ribbon, and the Philippine Liberation Ribbon with one star.

After more than three years of dedicated service, Bob was honorably discharged on March 1, 1946. In 2017, at the age of 92, he participated in an Honor Flight to Washington, D.C., where he took part in the Changing of the Wreath Ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier—a moment of profound honor and remembrance.

A proud graduate of C.E. Byrd High School and the oldest living Yellow Jacket, Bob Robertson’s remarkable legacy as a World War II veteran and member of the Greatest Generation stands as a lasting testament to courage, patriotism, and unwavering devotion to country.

On January 15, 2025, Bob turned 100 years young!



VETERANS CELEBRATION

AWARD RECIPIENT



NICCOLE C. ROBINSON

Master Sergeant (MSgt) (E-7), USAF (Retired)

Mrs. Niccole C. Robinson is a recently retired United States Air Force Senior Noncommissioned Officer whose distinguished 21-year career stands as a testament to leadership, excellence, and unwavering dedication to mission success. She now continues her service as the Intelligence Unit Support Program Manager for Air Force Global Strike Command (AFGSC/A2) at Barksdale Air Force Base, Louisiana. In this pivotal role, she develops intelligence policy, validates deployment models, manages mission-essential tasks, and ensures operational readiness across the command—supporting Agile Combat Employment (ACE) initiatives and unit capability integration throughout the Air Force intelligence enterprise.

Mrs. Robinson retired from active duty in June 2024, following a remarkable career marked by diverse, high-impact assignments and sustained leadership at both the tactical and strategic levels. Her final active-duty position was as Intelligence Superintendent for the 2nd Bomb Wing at Barksdale AFB, where she led a team of 37 intelligence professionals and oversaw all wing intelligence operations. She previously

served at Headquarters Air Force Global Strike Command as the Readiness Functional Area Manager for Intelligence (AFGSC/A2F), managing readiness programs and force capability for intelligence units across the Major Command.

Her earlier assignments showcased her technical and instructional mastery. As Flight Chief and Instructor at the 39th Information Operations Squadron, Hurlburt Field, Florida, she led eight sections and 49 personnel while certifying 356 program managers annually in support of nine Combatant Commands. During her tenure as Training and Tactics NCOIC at the 603rd Air Operations Center, Ramstein Air Base, Germany, she managed intelligence training for more than 500 Airmen and ensured mission certification across multiple disciplines.

Mrs. Robinson's operational contributions included two combat deployments in support of Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom, where she served as a Weapons Intelligence Team Analyst and NCOIC of the Intelligence Flight for the 447th Expeditionary Operations Support Squadron. Her leadership supported over 17,000 combat missions, the movement of 187,000 personnel, and more than 26,000 tons of cargo, directly impacting U.S. and coalition success in theater operations.

Following her military retirement, Mrs. Robinson continued her legacy of service as a Project Coordinator for Bering Straits Native Corporation, managing the Air Force Global Strike Command's Comprehensive Readiness for Aircrew Flying Training Project. In this capacity, she ensured program compliance, supervised contract performance, and maintained fiscal oversight. Today, in her civilian leadership role with AFGSC, she remains a driving force for innovation, policy development, and readiness across the Air Force intelligence community.

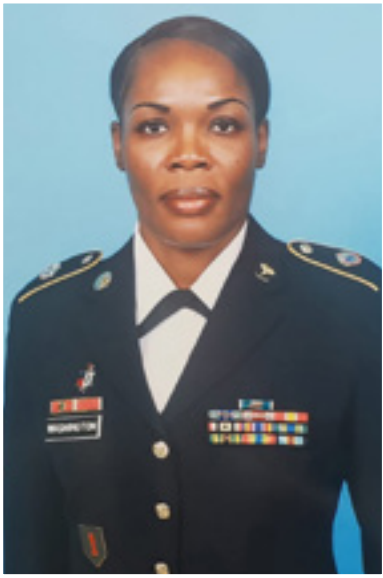
A lifelong learner and professional mentor, Mrs. Robinson holds Associate Degrees in Intelligence Studies and Instructor in Technology from the Community College of the Air Force, and a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice from American Military University. She has also completed more than 20 advanced military and technical certifications, including the Senior Noncommissioned Officer Academy, Airman Leadership School, Nuclear Weapons Orientation, and Contingency Wartime Planning.

Her exemplary service has been recognized through numerous awards, including the Meritorious Service Medal (2), Air and Space Commendation Medal (2), Army Commendation Medal, Air and Space Achievement Medal (2), Air Force Combat Action Medal, and Army Combat Action Badge. She has also been honored as Senior NCO of the Quarter and Year at multiple commands, a Tuskegee Airmen National Military Award recipient, and a Lance P. Sijan Leadership Award nominee.

Throughout her career and beyond, Mrs. Niccole C. Robinson has exemplified the highest ideals of military and civilian leadership—integrity, innovation, and a steadfast commitment to excellence. Her enduring contributions to the intelligence and defense communities continue to strengthen the Air Force mission and inspire those who follow in her footsteps.

VETERANS CELEBRATION

AWARD RECIPIENT



DAMEATRICE B-L. WASHINGTON

Sergeant First Class (SFC) (E-7), USA (Retired)

Dameatrice (Dee) Washington was born on April 4, 1976, in Tampa, Florida, to Charles and Brenda Palmore. She is the first of four children. Dee graduated from Tampa Bay Vocational Technical High School in 1994 and earned her college degree in 1996.

She began her career in the health field by joining the Army Reserve with the 73rd Field Hospital in Saint Petersburg, Florida, in 1998. She served as a 76J/91J, which later became a 68J Medical Logistics Specialist. Dee attended Basic Training at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, and Advanced Individual Training (AIT) at Fort Sam Houston, Texas.

In January 2000, Dee made the life-changing decision to go on active duty. She was stationed at the original Walter Reed Army Medical Center on Georgia Avenue. During her tour in Washington, D.C., the nation experienced a horrific attack, resulting in the loss of some extraordinary individuals who could never

be replaced. However, during this time, she also formed new connections with those who became like family to her.

Her military education is vast, encompassing leadership and specialized training, including the Primary Leadership Development Course, Basic Noncommissioned Officer Course, Advanced Leaders Course, Senior Leader Course, Battle Staff course, Combat Life Savers Course, Combative Level 1 Course, Environment Compliance Officer Course, Basic Instructor Training Course, Equal Opportunity Leaders Course, Field Sanitation Team Certification Course, National Training Center Observer/ Controller Course, Unit Prevention Leaders Course, Casualty Assistance NCO, and Sexual Harassment/ Assault Response Prevention (SHARP). Receiving her BS in Health Care Management and a Master's in Health Administration with a concentration in Health Care Compliance and Privacy.

SFC Washington held numerous positions throughout her tenure, including acting 1SG, NCOIC, and OIC, while deployed to Iraq. One of her greatest joys was mentoring students at the local junior high and high school in Leesville, Louisiana.

Over the span of 23 years, SFC Washington's achievements and accolades include Meritorious Service Medal, Joint Service Commendation Medal, Army Commendation Medal (x5), Army Achievement Medal (x4), Meritorious Unit Commendation, Army Superior Unit Award (x2), Army Good Conduct Medal (x7), National Defense Service Medal, Global War On Terrorism, Korea Defense Service Medal (x3), Humanitarian Service Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal w/Campaign star, Non Commissioned Officer Professional Development (x3), Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon (x4).

Her military career took her to several locations, including Massachusetts, Korea, Washington, D.C., Georgia, and Fort Riley, Kansas, where she deployed to Iraq with the Big Red 1, HHC Intelligence & Sustainment, Division Surgeon Office.

In 2011, while stationed at Fort Polk, Louisiana, Dee met Theodore, the love of her life, and they later became a dual military family. In 2016, she was stationed in Virginia at Fort Belvoir Community Hospital, where she was reunited with her WRAMC and Pentagon family. Returning to Fort Polk in 2020, before retiring in January 2022.

Dee's goal in this chapter of her life is to help the youth and others succeed in life. She believes that if she can succeed, others can achieve the same success. There is nothing like encouraging others to encourage themselves.

VETERANS CELEBRATION

AWARD RECIPIENT



THEODORE P. WASHINGTON

First Sergeant / Master Sergeant (E-8), USA (Retired)

Theodore (Teddy) Washington was born on January 28, 1966 in Minden, Louisiana, to Mr. Nathaniel and Velma Washington. He is the 8th of 9 children. Theodore graduated from Minden High School class of 1986 where he began to set forth the parameters of his life. He first started off by attending DeVry Institute of Technology in the City of Industry, California studying Electronic Engineering. On 18 May 1988 Theodore changed his career path to that of the United States Army, joining the military as a 19Delta Cavalry Scout Reconnaissance.

After completing Basic Training and AIT at Fort Knox, Kentucky, his first duty station would be with Bravo Troop 3/12 Cavalry Budeingen Germany. Spending 3 years and 8 months with this unit he experienced his first encounter with military combat deploying to serve in three campaigns (Operation Desert Storm, Operation Desert Shield and Operation Provide Comfort) Iraq. During this time, his unit underwent three different unit flagging (3/12 Cavalry, 4/7 Cavalry, and 1/1 Cavalry). Theodore went on to serve his country for a total of 25 enlisted years, carrying him to duty stations in California: National Training Center (NTC), Colorado (2nd Deployment OIF I), (3rd Deployment OIF III), Kentucky, Korea, Alaska, and Fort Polk (JRTC), Louisiana where he retired on the 17 May 2013. In 2011 while stationed at Fort Polk, Louisiana Theodore met his illustrious wife (Dameatrice) where they later became a dual military family. Theodore's prestigious military career was defined by holding such titles as Battalion Command Sergeant Major (CSM), Company 1SG, Cavalry Scout Platoon Sergeant, Cavalry Doctrine NCOIC, Basic Non-Commissioned Officer Instructor (BNOC), Primary Leadership Development Instructor (PLDC), Master Fitness, Finance Advisor, and Casualty Assistance NCO.

Over the span of 25 years, Theodore's achievements and accolades include: Order of Saint George, Meritorious Service Medal (x2), Army Commendation Medal (x11), Army Achievement Medal (4), Army Superior Unit Award, Army Good Conduct Medal (x9), National Defense Medal (x2), Southwest Asia Medal with bronze star, Iraq Campaign Medal with star, Non-Commissioned Officer Development (x3), Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon (x4), Southwest Asia Service Medal (x4), Ku-Lib-Medal(Saudi Arabia), Kuwait Liberation Medal (Kuwait), Draper Leadership Award (x2), Expert Pistol and Rifleman, and Combat Action Badge.

His dedication to duty and relentless services continues on after retirement. He now focuses on inspiring others around him to better their lives and dedicate themselves to Christ. In June of 2022 he and his family became members of the Pleasant Hill Baptist Church in Shreveport, Louisiana, where they aid in any and all things and events asked of them.

VETERANS CELEBRATION

A LEGEND



Steven dePyssler

Colonel, United States Air Force (Retired)

Colonel Steve dePyssler, USAF Retired was born on July 21, 1919. 38 years of his 100 year lifetime were involved in active duty, holding every enlisted, warrant and officer grade from Private through Colonel. 39 years of those years he served as volunteer, and 30 years as Director of the Barksdale AFB Retiree Affairs Office.

Colonel dePyssler is the only known American to serve in four wars: WWII, Korea, French-Indo China and Vietnam. He served 3 years with the Central Intelligence Agency during the Cuban Missile Crisis and Bay of Pigs.

Among Colonel dePyssler's projects: Donated 440 flags from spanning American Revolution to present conflicts

- Held and sponsored multiple parades and color guard events
- Participated in national conventions, including Medal of Honor, Korean War, Strategic Air Command
- Medal of Honor flag
- Purple Heart Stamp
- Patriot Award at Supreme Court
- 38 years hosting annual POW-Purple Heart Veteran Luncheons
- Initiated change to LA state Last Will and Testament guidance
- NWLA Veteran Home
- War Memorial

- Bossier City Civic Center
- 4 perpetual National MOAA Scholarships
- Established NWLA Veterans Home Trust Fund
- Ark-La-Tex Chapter, MOAA Scholarship Fund
- Avenue of Flags NW LA Veteran Cemetery
- Avenue of Flags North Gate Barksdale AFB
- 3,000 Flags donation for annual 911 ceremony
- Counseling on VA disability issues
- Editor of two monthly newsletters — *Military Officer* and *Retiree Newsletter* — reaching as many as 20,000 subscribers
- LA state grant for low income childcare
- Fallen Soldier Memorial at NW LA Veteran Cemetery.

On Friday, November 8, 2019, the 2d Mission Support Group Building at Barksdale Air Force Base, Louisiana, was renamed The Steven dePyssler Building — the only building on a military installation to be named in honor of a living person.

Thank you, Colonel D., for your service! A true legend!

VETERANS CELEBRATION

RECIPIENT: THE STEVEN (Col. D) dePYSSLER AWARD

Ben Cothran

In 2023, Lowe McFarlane American Legion Post 14 stood at the brink of collapse. The once thriving organization, once the largest American Legion Post in the South by both membership and land size, with over 4,000 members and 16 acres on Cross Lake had fallen into disrepair. The building was crumbling, the grounds neglected, the finances in crisis, and morale at an all-time low. Leadership had fractured, culminating in the firing of the office manager and the resignation of the sitting Commander under pressure from the membership.

In the midst of this chaos, Ben Cothran, freshly retired from both the Louisiana Department of Children and Family Services and the U.S. Army, stepped forward. A 17-year member of Post 14, though never previously involved in leadership, he was elected Commander in a special election held in October 2023. On November 1, he officially assumed command with one clear mission: to save the Post his grandparents helped build after World War II.

Commander Cothran's strategy was simple but bold radical transparency and a return to the core mission of the American Legion: serving veterans, service members, and their families. He immediately began reaching out to veterans of all backgrounds across race, gender, and branch of service, forming a diverse and dynamic executive board that reflected the community it served.

At the time, Post 14 was over \$50,000 in debt to contractors and months behind on all bills. Basic operations had ground to a halt. With tireless commitment and more than 80 hours of volunteer work per week, Commander Cothran personally took on every role necessary, janitor, cook, bartender, and mentor, refusing to let the Post fail.

Under his leadership, the Post regained financial stability and renewed its dedication to veterans and the wider community. Post 14 expanded its support to include youth programs, including ROTC, rifle competitions, Boys and Girls State, Cub Scouts, 4-H, and family day events. Former members who had left due to discrimination or poor leadership returned, and volunteers began stepping up in greater numbers, inspired by Cothran's example.

Membership not only rebounded, but it also flourished. All club units met or exceeded 100% membership goals, and Commander Cothran earned the prestigious 200 Club Pin, a rare honor given for recruiting over 200 new or renewed members.

Beyond rebuilding the Post, Commander Cothran has embraced a broader mission. Certified as an ASSIST Trainer for suicide prevention, he has worked to ensure no veteran is left behind. He has joined multiple veterans' and civic organizations, embedding Post 14 in a network of support services aimed at improving the lives of those who served.

His vision is unshakable: a world where every veteran has a home, food, clothing, access to the benefits they've earned and most importantly, hope. He will not stop until every veteran receives the dignity, respect, and care they deserve.





**THE POLICE JURY ASSOCIATION OF
LOUISIANA PROUDLY HONORS OUR
VETERANS FOR THEIR SERVICE**



Executive Director Guy Cormier, *St. Martin Parish*

President Craig Smith, *Rapides Parish*

Treasurer Lisa Nelson, *St. Martin Parish*

1st Vice President Robby Miller, *Tangipahoa Parish*

2nd Vice President Doug Rimmer, *Bossier Parish*

3rd Vice President Bryan Vidrine, *Evangeline Parish*

THANK YOU!

VETERANS HONOR CEREMONY

November 15, 2025

WELCOME	Alexandra Meachum, KMSS-TV News Anchor
INVOCATION	Chaplain Barnabas Kim Overton Brooks VA Medical Center
NATIONAL ANTHEM	Caroline Chartier Member, Veterans Celebration Committee
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE	Kenneth R. Epperson, Jr. Executive Assistant, Veterans Celebration Committee
MUSIC	Shreveport Metropolitan Concert Band Director, Joseph LeBlanc Service songs of the U.S. Military
INTRO OF GUEST SPEAKER	Richard Crockett Director, Overton Brooks VA Medical Center
GUEST SPEAKER	Brigadier General William A. (Alan) Rock United States Air Force
MUSIC	Shreveport Metropolitan Concert Band
PRESENTATION OF AWARDS	Alexandra Meachum Kenneth R. Epperson, Sr. Rellis Godfrey



VETERANS HONOR CEREMONY

November 15, 2025

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GOD BLESS AMERICA Shreveport Metropolitan Concert Band
(Audience is welcome to join in)

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Email: soldiers.buffalo@yahoo.com

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Buffalo Soldiers
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 (318) 834-9297

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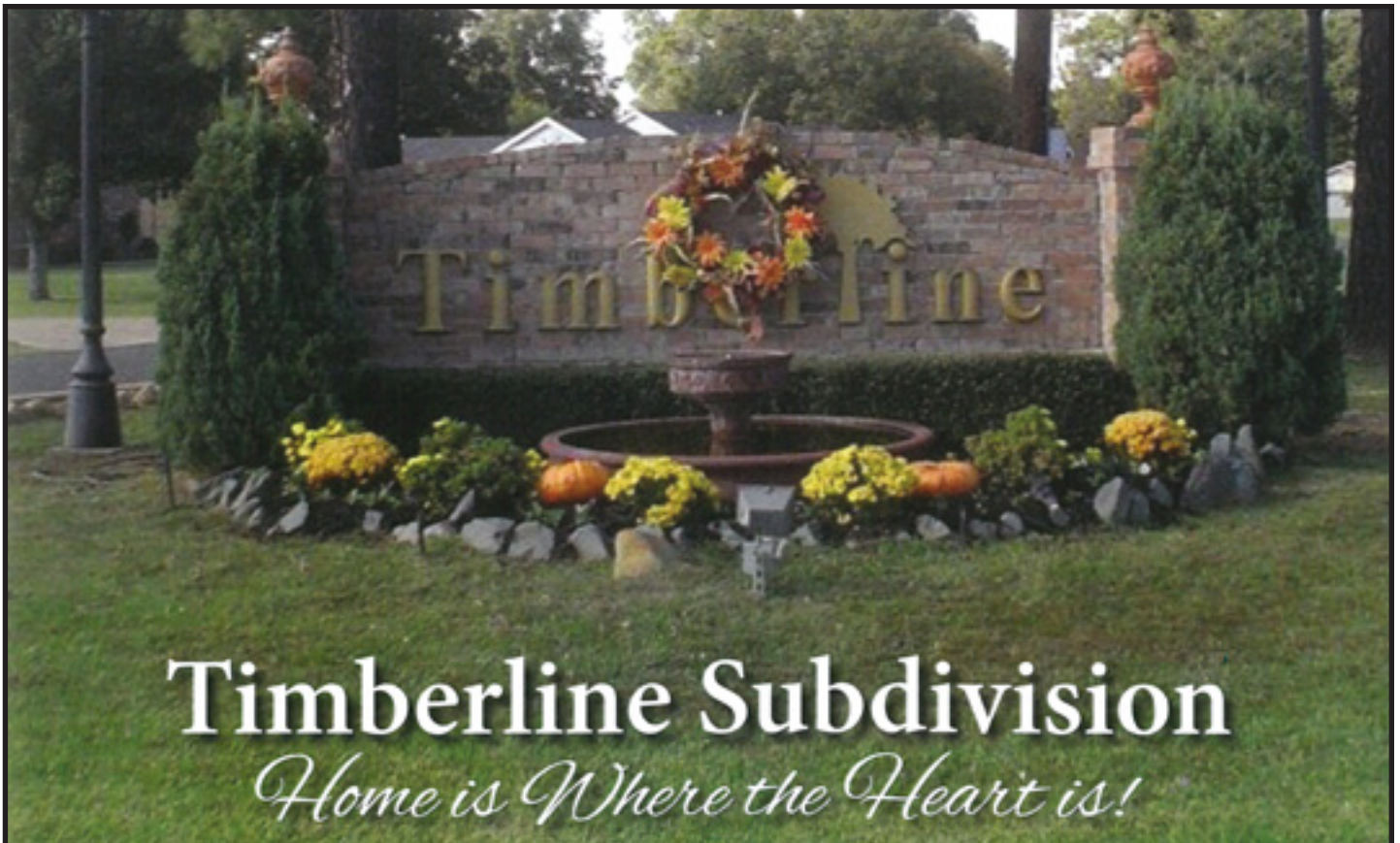
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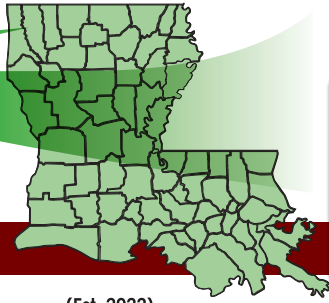


**All Women Veterans, Active Duty, Guard
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NO MEMBERSHIP DUES TO JOIN

**Goal: Bring women Veterans together to offer
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sisterhood, fun and community service.**





(Est. 2022)



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**Visit our website at
PrabaShreveport.com**

**Email us at
prabainc2022@gmail.com**

Pines Road Area Business Association, Inc. • PRABA
Meetings (4th Monday monthly @ 6:00 p.m.) • NO meetings are scheduled in July and December.
GracePointe Church of the Nazarene • 6825 Pines Road • Shreveport, LA 71129

PRABA is an organization committed to the growth, economic prosperity, and vibrancy to the Pines Road Area and other surrounding areas in West Caddo Parish/Shreveport.

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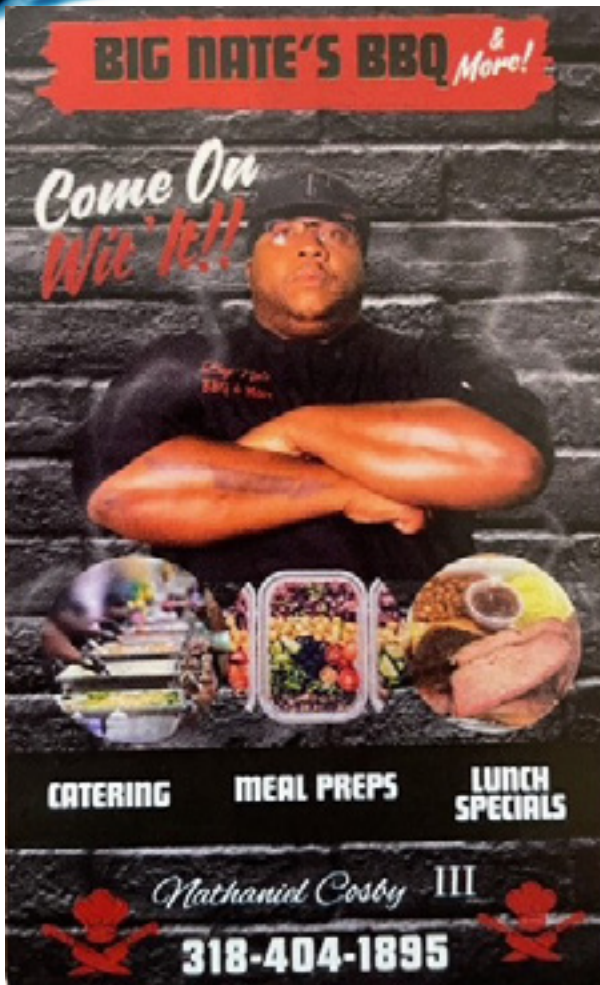
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The American Promise
speech to Congress
March 15, 1965



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VETERANS DAY

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THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE.**

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“Where Veterans Come First”

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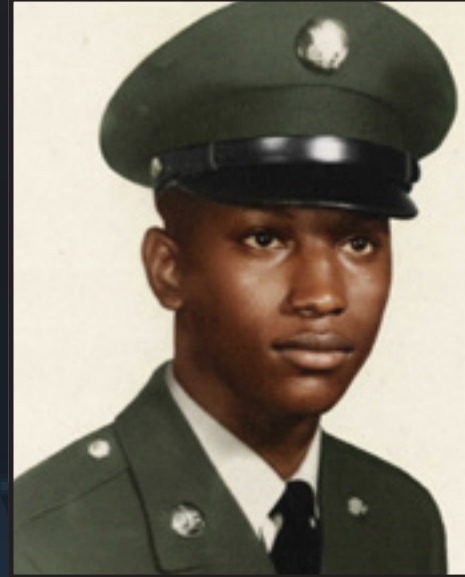


Deware Spencer Epperson

U.S. Army

May 4, 1942 - December 8, 1945

*World War II - Naples-Foggia, Southern France
Rome-Arno, Rineland*



Kenneth R. Epperson, Sr.

U.S. Army

May 29, 1965 - May 28, 1968

Vietnam Era

Kenneth R. Epperson, Jr.

U.S. Army

July 1985 - May 1993

*Operation Just Cause - Panama
Desert Storm / Desert Shield - Iraq*

Christopher B. Epperson

U.S. Army

May 1986 - October 1988

Steven D. Epperson

LA National Guard, June 2014 - Present

Operation Inherent Resolve in Iraq, Jan.-Sept. 2021

Eric W. Jochimsen

U.S. Navy

June 1993 - June 1997

Brenda M. Epperson

U.S. Army

September 1985 - October 1993

Desert Storm / Desert Shield - Iraq

Brenda H. Epperson

U.S. Air Force

1986 - 1994

Jasmine H. Epperson

U.S. Army

May 2006 - Present

Iraqi Freedom / Enduring Freedom

Fromesica Epperson

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November 2012 - Present

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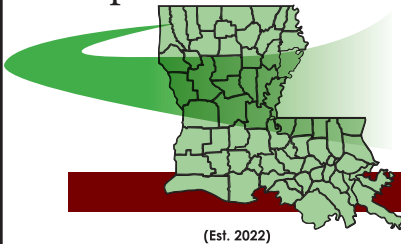
U.S. Army

January 1986 - April 1987

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- Northwest Louisiana Veterans Home318.741.2763
 3130 Arthur Ray Teague Parkway, Bossier City LA 71112
- Caddo Parish VSO318.676.7540
 1031 Creswell Avenue, Shreveport LA 71101
- Bossier Parish VSO318.741.8391
 2292 Barksdale Boulevard, Bossier City LA 71112
- Northwest Louisiana Veterans Cemetery.....318.925.0612
 7970 Mike Clark Drive, Keithville LA 71047 • nlvc@la.gov
- Overton Brooks VA Medical Center.....318.221.8411
 510 Stoner Avenue, Shreveport LA 71101-4243
- VA Health Connect.....833.363.1063
- Mental Health Care.....318.990.5051
- Shreveport Vet Center318.861.1776
 1255 Shreveport-Barksdale Highway, Shreveport LA 71105
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**106 Years Young as of September 27, 2025
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Sister Wanda T. Simmons
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**Morning Worship: 11:00 a.m. every Sunday
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Shreveport Alumnae Chapter
DELTA SIGMA THETA SORORITY, INC.
A Service Sorority Founded in 1913

VETERANS DAY

TUESDAY
November 11, 2025

HONORING ALL WHO SERVED



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 SALUTES OUR VETERANS 2025**

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On Veterans Day, and every day -- we proudly honor the courageous sisters of Delta who served our nation with unwavering fortitude. May your sacrifices for our freedom never be forgotten.

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- Yolanda Jackson, U.S. Air Force**
- Faith Johnson, U.S. Air Force Reserves**
- Granada Knox, U.S. Navy**
- JoAnna Lester, U.S. Army**
- Vickie Moore, U.S. Air Force**
- Ericka Pierre, U.S. Army**
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- Follow us on Facebook at Lowe McFarlane Post 14
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- Want to become a member so you can enjoy fishing and our boat launch? Come by the office to sign up.

American Legion Post 14
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Shreveport, LA 71109
(318) 635-8186
alegionpost14@yahoo.com

**WE RECOGNIZE THE FOUNDING MEMBERS OF THE
SHREVEPORT-BOSSIER VETERANS MEMORIAL STEERING COMMITTEE**

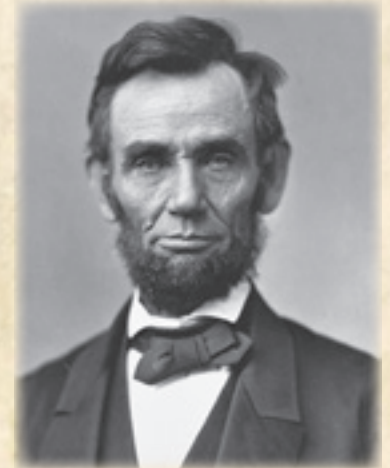
~ SINCE 1999 ~



**FRONT ROW: ROBERT STEWART, KEN EPPERSON, SR., DALLAS GREEN, LO WALKER, GEORGE MCGOVERN.
2ND ROW: STEVE DEPYSSLER, TOM THOMAS, GAYLE HAMILTON, LIZ SWAYNE, RELIS GODFREY**



**Overton Brooks
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"To care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow, and his orphan."



★ ★ ★

VETERANS DAY


HONORING ALL WHO SERVED



Join Us For *Worship!*

WORSHIP WITH US ON SUNDAY MORNINGS!

Dr. Bryten Johnson
Pastor



Sunday School
9:45am
Youth Church
11:00am
Morning Worship
11:00am



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IN RECOGNITION OF VETERANS DAY AND THE MEN & WOMEN WHO SERVED

the Agora Borealis

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**THIS WEEK IS ALSO
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VETERANS CELEBRATION
WEEK. LIGHT UP YOUR
HOMES AND BUSINESSES
GREEN TO LET VETERANS
KNOW THAT THEY ARE
APPRECIATED AND
SUPPORTED. LET THOSE
GREEN LIGHTS SHINE
NOVEMBER 3 - 11!**



The American Legion

Leonard C. Barnes Post 450

“Veterans serving Veterans and their community”



Come out and be a part of the change in your community.

Monthly Meeting

*Every 3rd Saturday of the Month at 10:30 a.m.
717 Crockett Street (2nd Floor)
Shreveport, Louisiana 71101*

*Riley Young, Commander
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THE CHERRY FAMILY OF VETERANS

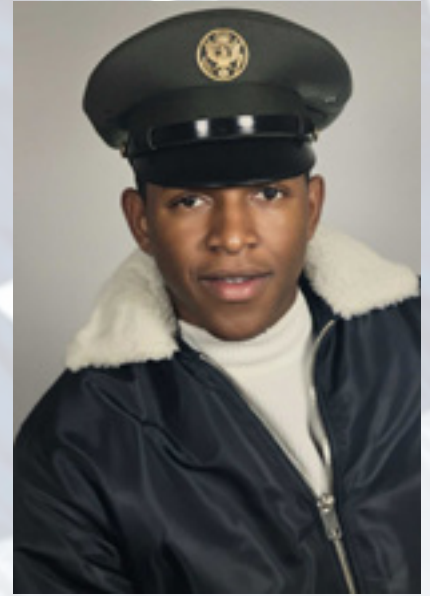
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US Army 30 Years Retired
Booker T. Washington H.S.



Willie R. Cherry
US Air Force
Union High School



Clemon Edward Cherry
US Air Force
Booker T. Washington H.S.



Kahlafa Khaaliis Cherry
US Air Force
Union High School



Kevin Ray Cherry
US Navy
Hueneme High School
Oxnard, Calif.



**We would like to Recognize
Our Employees who have Served
In the Armed Forces...
Thank You for your Service!**

Lafayette, LA

- **Randy Cherry, USA**
- **Joshua Lamb, USA**
- **Morgan, Lee, USAF**

Port Allen, LA

- **Jackie Brown, USA**

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- **David Burch, USAF**
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VETERANS

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THANK YOU TO ALL VETERANS, BOTH ACTIVE AND RETIRED,
WHO HAVE SERVED IN THE ARMED FORCES OF THE UNITED STATES!

Your bravery and service are deeply appreciated by all of us at the Independence Bowl.



RALLY ON THE RED

DEC. 29 @ 6:30PM

FREE Public Event

East Bank District

Parade, Pep Rally, Concert, Fireworks Show

PRESENTED BY  



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DEC. 30 @ 1PM

Independence Stadium

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Veterans Celebration Committee
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