





## Office of the President

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Columbia College  
1001 Rogers Street  
Columbia, MO 65216  
(573) 875-7200  
[www.ccis.edu](http://www.ccis.edu)

October 7, 2020

Robert S, Boone III LTC (RET), USA  
Associate Vice President  
Columbia College Global - Military  
1001 Rogers St.  
Columbia, MO 65216

Dear Senator,

This December 7, 2020, Columbia College is honoring one of our most cherished alumni and one of our nation's heroes, retired United States Air Force **Brigadier General. Charles E. McGee**. We would like to enlist your help in honoring him.

On that day, Columbia College will formally dedicate the **Brigadier. General. Charles E. McGee '78 House**, which serves as the new home of the Ousley Family Veterans Service Center on our campus. That date also happens to fall on General McGee's 101st birthday.

### **About Columbia College**

Founded in 1851 in Columbia, Missouri, Columbia College is a private, nonprofit institution with more than 30 locations across the country and 94,000 alumni worldwide. The College takes pride in our strong relationship with service members and veterans and has provided quality education to our military since 1973. Of the 30 previously mentioned locations 18 are located on military installations throughout the country servicing all branches of service.

### **Celebrating an American Hero: Retired Brig. Gen. Charles E. McGee '78**

Brig. Gen. McGee is one of the last living members of the famed Tuskegee Airmen, the first African-Americans to fly in combat. McGee flew 136 combat missions during World War II, and returned to the United States on December 1, 1944. He remained at Tuskegee Army Air Field until 1946. McGee held the Air Force's fighter combat record for many years with 409 missions and 1,151 combat hours, serving in World War II, the Korean War and Vietnam War.

He is a recipient of the U.S. Congressional Gold Medal and a member of the National Aviation Hall of Fame. He retired from the Air Force in 1973 as a Colonel. As a civilian, he served as the director of the Kansas City, Missouri, airport and as a member of the Aviation Advisory Commission. He graduated from our Kansas City location in 1978. In 2014, Columbia College awarded McGee an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters. Since 2009, student veterans or their dependents receive the Charles E. McGee scholarship.

Late last fall, Congress passed legislation authorizing McGee's honorary promotion to Brigadier General, and this past January, he received his Star in an Oval Office ceremony and was a guest of the President during that evening's State of the Union address to Congress.

### How you can help

There are two specific ways you can assist us in celebrating Brig. Gen. McGee. *We're asking for you to provide either or both of the following by Friday, October 30:*

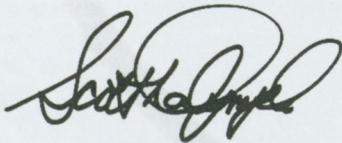
1. A video message for our December 7 virtual dedication
  - Our dedication ceremony on December 7 will take place virtually. As part of the dedication, we'd like to play select clips from various dignitaries, and therefore encourage you to submit your congratulations, memories, or other comments about and for Brig. Gen. McGee. Please record video of yourself via your smartphone or other video recording device. Comments can range from a few sentences to several minutes.
  - We will be unable to play every submission during the dedication ceremony, but all submissions will be made available in a special display at the McGee House for all visitors to enjoy for years to come.
  - *Technical information to assist you in recording and submitting video follow on the next page.*
2. A personal message to Brig. Gen. McGee on the enclosed Red Tail paper airplane
  - We invite you to write a personal message for Brig. Gen. McGee and return it to the following address Attention CCG-Military, 1001 Rogers Street Columbia, MO 65216. We'll fold all of the messages into paper airplanes, reminiscent of the P-51B Mustang "Red Tails" that McGee and his fellow Tuskegee Airmen flew during World War II.

As a reminder, whether you choose to record a video, write your memories of Brig. Gen. McGee on the Red Tail paper, or both, we'd like to have these items in hand by **Friday, November 6, 2020.**

We're proud of Brig. Gen. Charles E. McGee and his service to our country, and we hope you can join us in one form or another in celebrating his tremendous life and accomplishments. Thank you for your consideration.

If you have any questions regarding this correspondence please contact LTC (RET) Rob Boone, Associate Vice President, Columbia College Global - Military at [rboone@ccis.edu](mailto:rboone@ccis.edu) or 573-875-7663.

Sincerely,



Dr. Scott Dalrymple  
President, Columbia College  
[sdalrymple@ccis.edu](mailto:sdalrymple@ccis.edu)

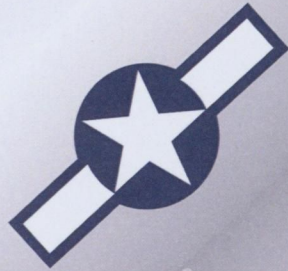


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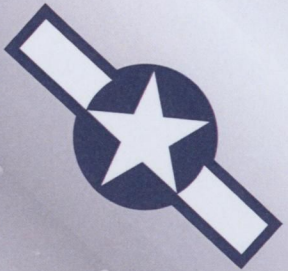
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1878



1878



## The African American Experience during World War II

During World War II, African Americans made tremendous sacrifices in an effort to trade military service and wartime support for measurable civil rights gains. As never before, local black communities throughout the nation participated in wartime programs. In particular, black colleges and universities made vital contributions to the defense program and on a state level directed training facilities and organized the African American war effort. The wartime contributions of institutions such as Tuskegee Institute reflected the black community's desire to contribute to America's victory overseas while improving African American social and economic opportunities.

As America mobilized for World War II, African Americans found themselves in a familiar position. The recurrent debate about whether to support the United States during military conflicts once more occupied black newspaper columns and political assemblies. Though a number of African American political organizations replied that this was the "white man's war," the majority of black newspapers and political leaders reminded the black community that they were "Americans" first and Negroes second. Though black leaders worked to create enthusiasm for the defense program and war effort, violence against and mistreatment of African American civilians in the war industry had a potent effect on the attitudes of many African American servicemen. While the War Department downplayed military race conflicts, black leaders and the press politicized each incident. African Americans throughout the nation responded to news of racial violence and discrimination with a sense of despair and reluctance. As late as 1944, African Americans grappled with serving in the U.S. military while experiencing racism and discrimination in civilian society. In particular, black soldiers often asked themselves what were they fighting for and what could they expect from their sacrifices. Despite serving the country in segregated units as second-class citizens, African American military personnel played a vital role in World War II. At the height of army inductions, African Americans composed more than 700,000 soldiers. They served in the infantry, coast and field artillery, cavalry, tank battalions, transportation units, signal corps, engineer corps, and medical corps. African American women also played a significant role. In 1942 they gained admission to the Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Services (WAVES) and the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps (WAAC), which was later converted to the Women's Army Corps (WAC).

In 1945, African American civilians and soldiers were routinely attacked, even murdered by white southerners and law enforcement officers throughout the South. Racial incidents and violence shortly after the war had ended illustrates that white southerners had no respect for African American servicemen and indeed intended to demonstrate their commitment to racial discrimination and white supremacy. Despite the irony of serving in a segregated military as second-class citizens, African American leaders achieved many political victories while men and women demonstrated patriotism and sacrifice in the war against totalitarianism and fascism. Moreover, the contributions of the Tuskegee Airmen such as Charles McGee and the hundreds of African American officers who received military training at Black Colleges not only increased the popularity of military training units among African Americans and racial minorities, serving in the armed forces became more than a way of life; it afforded them new opportunities that few blacks had ever achieved.

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Signature



GEORGE W. BUSH

December 7, 2020

Greetings to those gathered at Columbia College for the dedication of the Brigadier General Charles E. McGee House.

Charles is a good man who served his fellow Americans with honor and distinction. As a member of the legendary Tuskegee Airmen, he fought for the liberty of all mankind and changed our country for the better. I was pleased to have met Charles and proud to have presented him with the Congressional Gold Medal.

The Brigadier General Charles E. McGee House will be a wonderful resource on campus and will serve as a permanent reminder of this brave patriot's service to our Nation. Thank you for naming this important facility in his honor.

Laura and I send our best wishes to Charles for a very happy 101st birthday. We are grateful to all who made this special celebration possible. May God bless you, may God bless our troops and veterans, and may God bless our great country.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "GWB", written in a cursive style.



UNITED STATES ARMY  
THE CHIEF OF STAFF

7 December 2020

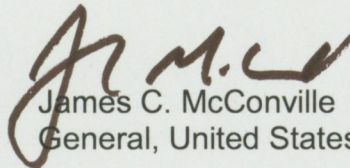
Brigadier General Charles E. McGee, USAF Retired  
CCG-Military Attention: Rob Boone  
1001 Rogers Street  
Columbia, Missouri 65216

Sir  
Dear General McGee:

Happy 101<sup>st</sup> Birthday! On behalf of a grateful Army, thank you for all you have done for our Army and this great Nation. We owe you a debt of gratitude for your actions in World War II and for being a role model for African Americans aspiring to serve. Soldiers like you paved the way to make our Army a more perfect organization. We continue working to honor that legacy.

Thank you for your selfless service as a member of the famed Tuskegee Airmen and the Greatest Generation. May you be blessed with continued health and happiness. Happy Birthday!

Sincerely,

  
James C. McConville  
General, United States Army

Thanks for your  
distinguished service  
to the Nation and  
Happy Birthday!  
40CSA



CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20318-9999

18 November 2020

**IN HONOR OF  
BRIGADIER GENERAL CHARLES E. MCGEE  
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE**

On behalf of the Joint Staff and a grateful Nation, I want to wish you a very happy 101st birthday. As a World War II veteran, you are a historic example of the heroes of our Greatest Generation.

I want to recognize and thank you for your service with the esteemed Tuskegee Airmen during World War II, and subsequently in the Korean and Vietnam wars, when you flew more than 409 fighter combat missions—simply an amazing feat. The prosperity and freedom that the United States enjoys today is a direct result of the courage and sacrifice rendered by you and your fellow veterans. Our Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines, and Coast Guardsmen all inherit from you a proud legacy of service, dedication, and loyalty. Know that the men and women serving around the world today are proud and honored to follow in your footsteps, and have the deepest appreciation and respect for you all.

We salute and honor your heroic service to the Air Force and our Nation. As you celebrate with family and friends, and are honored by Columbia College's dedication of its new Veterans Service Center named after you, please add my congratulations to the accolades you receive and so well deserve. Happy 101st birthday!

Sincerely,

*So proud of you. Thank you for your incredible service. You inspire us all.*

*Mark Milley*

MARK A. MILLEY  
General, U.S. Army

## The African American Experience during World War II

During World War II, African Americans made tremendous sacrifices in an effort to trade military service and wartime support for measurable civil rights gains. As never before, local black communities throughout the nation participated in wartime programs. In particular, black colleges and universities made vital contributions to the defense program and on a state level directed training facilities and organized the African American war effort. The wartime contributions of institutions such as Tuskegee Institute reflected the black community's desire to contribute to America's victory overseas while improving African American social and economic opportunities.

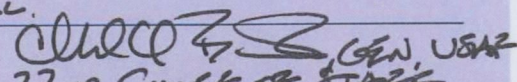
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### Notes

Being GEN MCGEE,

YOU AND THE TUSKEGEE AIRMEN ARE AN  
INSPIRATION TO ME AND THE MANY GENERATIONS  
THAT FOLLOW. YOUR FOUR P's - PERCEIVE, PREPARE, PERFORM,  
AND PERSISTENCE - ARE GOOD ADVICE TO US ALL.

  
22ND CREST OF STAFF  
Signature

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*It gives me great pleasure to recognize and honor*

Notes


*Retired Brigadier General Charles McGee*

*Tuskegee Airman and Columbia College Alumni.*

*Congratulations on the dedication of the BG Charles E. McGee '78 House on the campus of Columbia College. Thank you for your incredible service and gallantry in action while serving in WWII, the Korean and Vietnam Wars.*

*Happy 101<sup>st</sup> Birthday*

*December 7, 2020*



Signature

*Senator Pat Toomey, Pennsylvania*

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Notes We are grateful for you sending this invitation for General McGee.

Larry is unable to attend the ceremony for him + we are unable to recording  
a video. Please give General McGee our best wishes.

I have taken this opportunity to let you know a little about Larry.

Enclosed are some moments of his service in the Marines during WW 2.

Sincerely, Margie Diggs for  
Lawrence Diggs  
Signature

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Notes ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF COLUMBIA,  
THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE AND SACRIFICE.  
WE ARE GRATEFUL TO HONOR YOUR LEGACY  
AT THE BRIG. GEN. MCGEE HOUSE. MAY IT INSPIRE  
OTHERS TO FOLLOW YOUR EXAMPLE OF COURAGE,  
LEADERSHIP, AND DEDICATION.

MAYOR BRIAN TIZEE  
Signature

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Notes Congratulations on your outstanding contributions to the United States  
of America.

We are so pleased that you elected to attend and graduate from  
Columbia College, you are indeed a cherished alumni!

Jelena Maria Schubert '61  
Signature

## The African American Experience during World War II

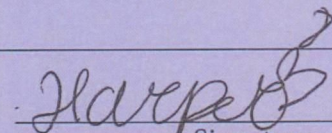
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Thank you!!!

  
Signature

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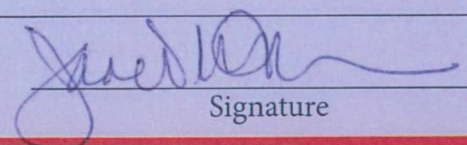
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### Notes

Thank you so much for your service to our country. Your model of service, both in the armed forces and as a supporter of young people, serves to remind us all of our duty to those we serve.

  
Signature

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Notes Mr. McGee,

What an amazing life you have lived and an amazing example you have set in your life. Thank you for making such enormous sacrifices for all of us. We have

I look forward to seeing your name posted at our Veterans Services Center on campus. God Bless You

Melissa M. King

Signature

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Notes Brigadier General Mc Bee, I am a  
recent graduate of Columbia College and  
employee of the Crystal Lake, IL location.  
It is a true honor and privilege to be  
a fellow alumni. Thank you for your  
service. Congratulations on this special day!

Lisa Wuest  
Signature

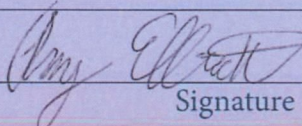
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Notes Thank you for your dedication, for your service,  
and for your sacrifice. You are a true  
hero and an inspiration to all.

  
Signature

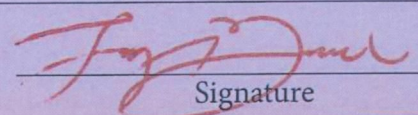
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Notes HAPPY BIRTHDAY!! Thank you so much for your service and for your impact on African Americans in the military. People like are worth being called heroes even without the cape! You should be proud of all you've achieved and I hope you continue to do so! Have an amazing day! ♥

  
Signature

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Notes *Brigadier General McLee, you have been blazing trails for a lifetime and it is so fitting that CC is able to honor your service in this way! Thank you for your dedication to CC and to our country! Respectfully,  
and with much gratitude...*  
*Selma Hartman*  
Signature Regional Director

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Notes Where to start, sir... my words cannot be put to honor you the way you deserve. What perseverance it took for you to pave that path for other black youth. Your story is so relevant in today's climate. I cannot begin to imagine the gumption it took to pave that path back then. The result shows in your great-grandson. Thank you, sir for your amazing service. ♡

Quintin M. ...  
Signature

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Notes Charles - Thank you for being an American hero & inspiration! We at Columbia College couldn't be prouder for what you've done for the US & for education.  
¡Felicidades, Feliz Cumpleaños, y Gracias!  
Dan Jones

Signature

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Notes Happy BIRTHDAY SIR!

Thank you for valiant service to our great nation!

Trailblazers like you have made it possible for young African Americans like myself. Thank you again and enjoy your day.

Eli E. Black  
Signature

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Notes I am sincerely grateful for your service and sacrifices!  
I thank you and your family everyday for making it  
possible for our country to be how we are today.

Olivia Vann  
Signature

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Notes

Happy Birthday!

Thank you for all your service!!

Carole-Drautz

Signature

## The African American Experience during World War II

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Notes

Happy Birthday, Thank you  
for all that you have  
done.

*Chris Beller*  
Signature

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Notes

Happy Birthday Charles! Thank you for your service and being a leader for others to look up to. Enjoy your day! ♥

  
Signature

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Happy Birthday! Thank you for your service!

Bria Jones  
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Notes

Thank you for your service.  
Happy 101<sup>st</sup> Birthday!

Katie Love

Signature

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Notes Happy Birthday! Congrats on turning 101 years young!  
♡ ERICA-CE Aladdin

Signature

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Notes HAPPY Birthday

Signature

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Notes Happy Birthday Mr. McBee!

Signature

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Notes

Happy Birthday!

We are so proud of you!

Daylin Huebotter

Signature

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Notes 🎉 Happy Birthday Mr. McGee! We hope you have the best day ever & we are so thankful for all you have done for us and our country.  
with CC pride,

Daylan Huettner  
Signature

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Notes

Happy Birthday Mr Charles!  
Hope you have a great day. And  
have many more.

You are  
wonderful

Signature

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HAPPY B-day TO YOU

Signature

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Have an amazing birthday!

Thank you for your service ♡

Madri

Signature

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11/24/20

Notes General McGee - Congratulations long time  
since we were serving together on NCMAAC  
in NC City Hall. Glad Columbia College is  
honoring you. Thanks for all you've done  
serving our town, college and country.

John Dillingham

Signature

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Notes Your numerous accomplishments have inspired all C.C. graduates who are fortunate to learn about your amazing life. I have heard about the Tuskegee Airmen for many years. Your service to this country makes me very grateful to you.

Judy Cunningham  
Signature

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Notes Gen. McGee,

Thank you for your selfless service to our country. Thank you for your wisdom and kindness. While you could be kicking back and enjoying retirement, you keep working, leading, inspiring and representing. I feel blessed to have met you, both in Columbia, Mo and in DC. You deserve every honor bestowed upon you. Your legacy lives on at Columbia College with the Brig. Gen Charles McGee 78 House, Home of the Ouseby Family Veterans Service Center! Thank you!

Doranne V. C. Rothwell  
Signature

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Notes Happy Birthday BG McGee!!

I am happy to be able to recount our meetings over the years as a highlight of my time at Columbia College.  
You are something special!!

Rene Massay  
Signature

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Notes

Thank you for all your sacrifices  
and service! You are a  
true hero!

Jennifer Burt  
Signature

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Notes I would like to personally thank you for your service! It is men & women like you who fight for our country to make it safe. I hope you have a great rest of the year & stay safe!

Chloe West

Signature

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Notes Brig. Gen. McGee

My heart burst with pride as my family and I watched you earlier this year, first during the coin toss at the Super Bowl and again being recognized by the President at the State of the Union address; knowing that Columbia College is a part of your amazing story (We Are CC)!

Thank you sir for your service, sacrifice, and inspiration.

God Bless  
Angie Malone & Family  
Signature

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Notes happy birthday! I hope you have such a great day! You've have done such an amazing job thank you!

Audrey Vendetti  
Signature

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Thank you for your service!

Jarrah P.

Signature

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HAPPY B-Day!!

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enjoy your DAY!!

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## The African American Experience during World War II

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As America mobilized for World War II, African Americans found themselves in a familiar position. The recurrent debate about whether to support the United States during military conflicts once more occupied black newspaper columns and political assemblies. Though a number of African American political organizations replied that this was the "white man's war," the majority of black newspapers and political leaders reminded the black community that they were "Americans" first and Negroes second. Though black leaders worked to create enthusiasm for the defense program and war effort, violence against and mistreatment of African American civilians in the war industry had a potent effect on the attitudes of many African American servicemen. While the War Department downplayed military race conflicts black leaders and the press politicized each incident. African Americans throughout the nation responded to news of racial violence and discrimination with a sense of despair and reluctance. As late as 1944, African Americans grappled with serving in the U.S. military while experiencing racism and discrimination in civilian society. In particular, black soldiers often asked themselves what were they fighting for and what could they expect from their sacrifices. Despite serving the country in segregated units as second-class citizens, African American military personnel played a vital role in World War II. At the height of army inductions, African Americans composed more than 700,000 soldiers. They served in the infantry, coast and field artillery, cavalry, tank battalions, transportation units, signal corps, engineer corps, and medical corps. African American women also played a significant role. In 1942 they gained admission to the Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Services (WAVES) and the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps (WAAC), which was later converted to the Women's Army Corps (WAC).

In 1945, African American civilians and soldiers were routinely attacked, even murdered by white southerners and law enforcement officers throughout the South. Racial incidents and violence shortly after the war had ended illustrates that white southerners had no respect for African American servicemen and indeed intended to demonstrate their commitment to racial discrimination and white supremacy. Despite the irony of serving in a segregated military as second-class citizens, African American leaders achieved many political victories while men and women demonstrated patriotism and sacrifice in the war against totalitarianism and fascism. Moreover, the contributions of the Tuskegee Airmen such as Charles McGee and the hundreds of African American officers who received military training at Black Colleges not only increased the popularity of military training units among African Americans and racial minorities, serving in the armed forces became more than a way of life; it afforded them new opportunities that few blacks had ever achieved.

Notes

Happy Birthday!

Thank you for your service.

You are AMAZING!

Mollie Croadwin

Signature

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Notes

Happy Birthday!

What an AMAZING and INSPIRING  
Legacy you have established!  
Thank you for your service to Country,  
& CC! I loved seeing your video  
in the Veterans Day Ceremony! ~Sarah  
Naji

Signature