



Coalition of Veterans Organizations



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Member Organizations:

24th Infantry Regiment
Buffalo Soldiers
Chicago Chapter

555th Parachute
Infantry Association
"Triple Nickel"
Chicago Chapter

American Legion
Dorie Miller Post 915

American Legion
Harold Washington
Post 1987

Blind Veterans
Association
Chicago Chapter

Disabled American
Veterans
Chicago Chapter 6

Montford Point Marine
Association
Chicago Chapter

Muslim American
Veterans Association
Chicago Chapter

National Women
Veterans United

Veterans of
Foreign Wars
Major Harris Post 2024

Veterans for Peace
Chicago Chapter

Veterans for Unification

Veterans Strike Force

Vietnam Veterans
of America
Chapter 311

VetNet



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Bruce Parry

12/04/14

Season's Greetings from CVO!

CVO wishes everyone a very Happy Holiday season! As we celebrate, let us all think about the need for peace in the world and good will towards our brothers and sisters across the planet!

CVO will continue to grow and develop in the coming year, which will be a year of transition. We are going to begin leadership rotation in the Executive Committee and of Officers. We will depend on our



Committees and Member Organizations to carry on and develop the CVO mission. The Veterans Against Violence Committee will be meeting at 10 AM on Saturday, January 10th to develop its strategy in combating urban violence. Veterans have known and know it has no place in our communities and on our streets. The Veterans Affairs Committee has developed a pamphlet outlining the CVO Veterans Program. It will be available shortly. The Homelessness Committee has also been active, developing Veterans' resources in the Austin Community. Support CVO! We hope to see you at our January meeting!

Bruce

WRITE FOR THE CVO NEWSLETTER!

Submissions to the CVO Newsletter should be pertinent to veterans and their families and reflect the membership and mission of CVO. We reserve the right to refuse any submission. We may edit submissions but will strive to not change the content. Edited versions will be resent to the submitter for consideration. Articles should be 150 to 170 words in length.

Submit articles to Newsletter@CoalitionofVets.org or mail to: CVO 1658 N Milwaukee Ave, Box 365 Chicago, IL 60647 Our website is www.CoalitionofVets.org and the CVO Newsletter can be downloaded there. If you want to clarify your preference for an email version or a hard copy, please email us at Newsletter@CoalitionofVets.org stating your preference.

Editorial Staff:

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Bruce Parry

Deadline for the next issue is February 1, 2015.

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Coalition of Veterans Organizations Meeting at Jesse Brown VA.

November 15, 2014



CVO Abundio Zaragosa, Connie Edwards



CVO Abundio Zaragosa, Connie Edwards, Darryl Howard, Ray Parish



Christopher LaFayelle, Kim McGraw from Mission Continues.org,



Ray Parish, Larry E. Nazimek, other members



Local attorney hosts luncheon for Montford Marines

Steve Stout, steves@mywebtimes.com, 815-431-4082 | Posted: Tuesday, November 25, 2014 7:10 pm

Anita Kopko, an Ottawa attorney who has been battling an inoperable brain tumor, fulfilled a long-time dream Tuesday by meeting several members of the original Montford Point Marines in her home on the South Side.

The retired Marines, all from Chicago, were accompanied to the luncheon gathering by Montford Point Marine Association Chicago Chapter 2 President Sharon Stokes-Parry.

"I was thrilled and honored to meet these Marines who helped to erase discrimination in our Armed Forces and who provided great service to the country," said Kopko.

The Montford Point Marine Association is a charitable nonprofit veterans organization established in 1996 to perpetuate the legacy of the first African Americans who entered the U.S. Marine Corps from 1942 to 1949 at Montford Point Camp in New River, N.C.

According to Internet sources, about 20,000 African-American recruits received training at Montford Point Camp during World War II. The initial intent of the Marine Corps hierarchy was to discharge these African-American Marines after the war, returning them to civilian life, leaving the Marine Corps an all-white organization.

Attitudes changed and reality of their valuable service took hold as the war progressed. Once given the chance to prove themselves, it became impossible to deny the fact this new breed of Marine was just as capable as all other Marines regardless of race, color, creed or national origin.

Kopko became interested in the Montford Point Marines and became a Quantico Chapter 32 Auxiliary Associate member through years of friendship with Cladie Fisher and her daughter, Dr. Cladie R. Spears, who was once the NMPMA Auxiliary president.

Spears was among those who worked with legislators on Capitol Hill in recent years to confer the Congressional Gold Medal on the combined legacy of the Montford Point Marines who served from World War II to the Vietnam War era.

Tuesday, the Marines gave Kopko a decorated Montford Point Marine memorial coin and each thanked her for years of support to their national organization.

The association is now raising funds to build a memorial to the Montford Marines and their legacy.



Four original members of the legendary Montford Point Marines attended a luncheon in the Ottawa home of Anita Kopko on Tuesday. Kopko, who is suffering from an inoperable brain tumor and is a member of the group's auxiliary organization, said the visit by the "heroes" was a longtime dream come true. At the luncheon are, sitting from left, John Vanoy, Kopko and Hubert Burks. Standing, from left, are James Reynolds, Ottawa Mayor Robert Eschbach, Montford Point Marine Chicago Association Chapter 2 President Sharon Stokes-Parry and Stanley Porter.

555th Parachute Infantry Battalion

In 1943 and 1944 twenty young Africa- American U. S. Army enlisted men trained as parachutists. They were pioneers because ‘Coloreds’ were not considered intelligent enough or brave enough to serve in combat.

Sixteen of them completed training and were awarded the silver wings of qualified parachutists in spite of being subjected to treatment designed to make them fail.

The battalion did not serve overseas during WWII. One of the reasons for this decision was segregation. European theater commanders “simply had no use” for the black jumpers.

In 1944 and 1945 Japan sent 9000 fire balloons toward the western coast of North America. 1000 reached the United States. Each balloon dropped an incendiary bomb. The 555th not only put out these fires but also fought other fires, engaging in over 1200 missions. Their accomplishments were considered exemplary.

In 1947 they reformed as the 3rd Battalion, 505th Airborne Infantry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division. Many former 555th members fought bravely in the Korean War. The men of the 555th were pioneers who proved that bravery, courage, and strength have no color. They opened the doors for the many black women and men who have served our country so gallantly.



CVO Executive Committee



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CVO Chair



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CVO Co-Chair



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Director



Dr. Connie Edwards
Recording Secretary



Darryl Howard
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Taalibdin Shabazz
Director



Dr. Stacy Henderson
Director

To all the CVO members and their families



Seasons Greetings



HAPPY
NEW
YEAR