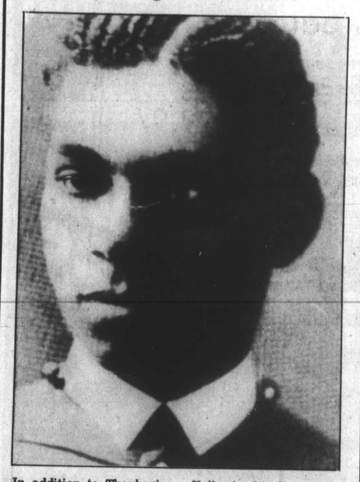
Kids Talk

Do you know this person?



In addition to Thanksgiving, November is also the month in which we honor the nation's veterans.

It is therefore fitting, that you should be aware of the military contributions of Afro-Americans who valiantly defended our country.

This week we will examine the career of this Georgia born Army officer — the first black graduate of West Point.

In 1873, he became the second black appointed to the Academy, but was the first black to finish in 1877.

Commissioned as a second lieutenant, he was stationed in the West where he unfortunately was forced to endure the racist attitudes of both his superiors and subordinates.

Here, he was constantly humiliated, and faced the ultimate embarrassment when he was forced to leave the Army because of alleged embezzlement charges.

Following his dismissal, he obtained employment as a civil engineer in Phoenix, Az. and in 1921, was named the assistant to the Secretary of the Interior. He received high praise in this position.

Although his civilian appointment was not affected by his previous Army record, he maintained his innocence and tried repeatedly and unsuccessfully to have his record cleared.

He died at the age of 84 in 1944 in Atlanta, Ga. without seeing his wish fulfilled.

But after painstaking efforts, the army relented more than two decades after his death and granted him an honorable discharge following a successful appeal by a Georgia educator.

And one year later — in 1977 — his old alma mater, West Point honored him by placing a bust of the officer in their hallowed halls.

Henry O'Flipper

Article on Nelson Mandela wins 'Youth on Beat' contest

Nicole Thompson, a 12th grade student at H.D. Woodson High School in southeast DC, was the second place national winner of the Youth on the Beat Contest. She won a 35 mm camera and a $75 savings bond for her article — "Nelson Mandela: Black Pride Personified."

Her award-winning essay follows. This is the second in a series of articles written by national winners in this contest which was one event in the Second Annual Black Press Hall of Fame sponsored by AFRO Charities,Inc. in October. Contest winners included students from both Baltimore and Washington schools.

NICOLE THOMPSON of Woodson Senior High School,

All my life, I have watched so many honorable men and women receive awards for their accomplishments. I don't really admire most of these people. Of course, I agree when people say that these people should feel proud of themselves, but my admiration ends there.

Whom do I admire? I looked across time at countless faces, but one whose face outshined or stood out from the rest was that of Nelson Mandela's. Mandela was born on July 18, 1918 at Qunu, near Umtata,the eldest son of Henry Gadla Mandela and his fourth wife, Nonquali. Mandela's heritage is part of the royal family of the Thembu, a Xhosa-speaking tribe from South Africa which I believe is the reason for his commanding presence and his intense leadership ability. Itwas and is Mandela's presence that caused South African people to listen and rally behind him when he challenged them to regain the pride, dignity, and courage that had been stripped from them when the Europeans conquered their African homeland. His main goal was to unite black people everywhere, not just in South Africa alone. He desired to strengthen and empower them to fight an oppression whose grip was felt by every member of this once proud race.

With the force of a forest fire, Mandela's strong influence was beginning to make itself known throughout all of South Africa. Everywhere, blacks were joining together to protest the apartheid government. The officials were under pressure to take action, so they released a warrant for the arrest of Mandela on a charge of disrespect for the South African government. Upon learning this, Mandela went into hiding and managed to elude the police for 17 months.

On Aug. 5, 1962, Mandela's art of elusion came to an abrupt halt when he was arrested in Johannesburg. He was taken to Pretoria until his trial on Oct. 22, 1962. He was found guilty of treason and disrespect for the South African government. After his sentencing, he was transferred to the prison on Robbin Island. Despite the fact that his physical appearance deteriorated, his spirit remained fierce and untouched, for it was kept strong and pure by the love he felt for his oppressed brothers and sisters.

Although he has been jailed for 25 years, Nelson Mandela has managed to call attention to his plight resulting from apartheid. Over the years, various companies have closed their businesses in South Africa to protest apartheid. That is very admirable of them.

I respect and admire Nelson Mandela because he is a strong force against apartheid and other racist governmental systems in the world today, despite his current situation. I believe anyone who exerts that much influence from a jail cell should be honored and respected by all. And in his words I should like to echo, "Nkosi Sikelel Afrika," meaning "God Bless Africa."

Puzzling???

Thanksgiving Fun

V	L	E	R	U	C	W	t	t	n	B	A	B	A
T	Z	S	U	J	K	s	u	a	U	L	h	R	I
E	p	R	S	y	a	r	i	A	I	o	U	T	R
U	u	M	M	e	k	d	y	J	r	r	h	C	N
m	m	N	f	e	n	l	Z	n	e	u	Y	B	Z
a	p	S	y	'	i	P	o	w	r	L	X	h	E
z	k	A	A	m	i	f	o	s	t	F	t	Q	T
e	i	J	a	l	p	l	d	s	J	u	E	T	K
X	n	f	g	l	f	a	e	V	o	J	H	T	W
A	M	r	e	y	y	v	Z	m	W	M	P	Y	R
S	i	n	a	P	r	H	y	F	Y	Q	W	X	R
m	t	M	D	a	T	l	F	P	T	I	Z	U	M
y	E	F	h	K	P	K	F	G	Y	Z	N	Q	D

FIND THESE HIDDEN WORDS IN THE ABOVE PUZZLE:

Indian	Mayflower
Thursday	family
hornofplenty	maze
Pilgrim	Plymouth
feast	harvest
pumpkin	turkey

HERE IS THE ANSWER KEY:

SANTA's Coming

There are only six more weeks before Christmas!

For you boys and girls who have been good all year, it's time to get those "wish lists" headed toward the North Pole in time for Santa Claus and his elves to bring you the toys and treats you desire.

To make sure your letter makes the long journey to the North Pole, mail it to the AFRO and we will send by our special express system directly to Santa. Furthermore, the best written letters will appear on the Kids Talk page. Since Santa always reads the AFRO, we are sure that he will give those featured letters special attention.

Write your letter right away, put it in an envelope with a stamp, and mail it to:

Kids Talk
The Washington Afro-American Newspaper
2002 11th Street NW
Washington, DC 20001

Mix & Match

1. A person who travels to a sacred or revered place; the name of the travelers from England to America who celebrated the first Thanksgiving.

2. The original inhabitants of the continent of America; native Americans.

3. The city in Massachusetts said to be the landing place of the Pilgrim Fathers.

4. The gathering of crops; the season's yield of any natural product.

5. Thanksgiving is always celebrated on this day in America.

6. A large, round, orange-colored fruit from which pies are made during the Thanksgiving season.

7. The ship that sailed from England in 1620 to bring the Pilgrims to America.

8. A large bird eaten in traditional Thanksgiving dinners, often served with stuffing and cranberry sauce.

9. A group of relatives.

10. A large elaborate meal.

11. Another name for corn.

12. A horn-shaped container overflowing with fruit and flowers.

ANSWERS:

1. pilgrim; 2. Indian; 3. Plymouth; 4. harvest; 5. Thursday; 6. pumpkin; 7. Mayflower; 8. turkey; 9. family; 10. feast; 11. maze; 12. horn of plenty.

Kids to celebrate in Disney World

Mayor Marion Barry, of Washington, DC has selected 70 children to attend a private birthday party in Florida for Mickey Mouse who is celebrating his 60th. The party guests range from eight to 12 years.

The kids from DC will be among more than 5,000 children who otherwise might never have an opportunity to come to Walt Disney World, or even ride on an airplane. These children have been selected by the Mayor and his aides with input from local children's welfare institutions and other special programs.

Children from more than 100 cities in the United States and Canada plus six European cities in the United Kingdom, Ireland, France and West Germany will attend the celebration. If you are one of the thousands of children selected, write Kid's Talk and let us know.

Color me

(This page was written and edited by Sherri Milner)

(Washington AFRO 2002 11th St., N.W.)

332-0800

(Baltimore AFRO 628 N. Eutaw St.)

728-8200

Attn: KIDS TALK

COLUMBIA CAPERS

By Pinnie Ross

SCHOLARSHIP FUND ESTABLISHED

The Howard County Community Educational Foundation established the James Wilson Rouse Scholarship Fund at Howard Community College with contributions of more than $13,000.

A "TRIBUTE FROM A GRATEFUL COMMUNITY" was held in the Kittamaqundi Room of the Rouse Building in Columbia to recognize Rouse's fifty-year quest to find innovative answers to suburban and urban housing and land use problems.

Because of his vision, Columbia and Howard County have been acknowledged as models of successful community planning throughout the world.

Although there have been many national and international honors and tributes to Jim Rouse, this is the first local tribute to the man and his vision. The Rouse Scholarship creates a lasting memento to his name at the college in the community he founded.

President Dwight A. Burrill was the emcee for the evening after a delightful banquet. Musical selections by Columbia Pro Cantare were followed by tributes from Senator James W. Clark, Jr., who received the first scholarship of this kind; Richard M. McCauley, Senior Vice President and General Counsel for the Rouse Company; Maggie J. Brown, Sales manager for the Columbia Association and a member of St. John Baptist Church and president of the Columbia Birthday Celebration; Jenny Kim, a native Korean attending Hammond High School and member of the Advisory Board of the Columbia Forum, and Padraic M. Kennedy, President of the Columbia Association.

Jiff McCaun, Chair of the Foundation Board of Directors presented the honoree a framed drawing of one of four designs of Columbia notecards given to each guest as a memento of the occasion. The artist creating the drawings is Zina Andresini of Ellicott City.

Celonia B. Walden, founding Chair of the Foundation presented Jim Rouse with an original poster, "Give Us A Place For People" designed by Cornerstone. This original drawing and a poem by the same title were used on the cover of the evening's souvenir journal. She also thanked him for his vision and allowing Howard Community College to establish the scholarship.

President Burrill presented a special statue entitled, "The Family" donated by the artist, David Breeden of Biscuit Run Studios in Charlottesville, VA. Other sculptures were on display in the lobby and around the banquet room.

James Wilson Rouse thanked his wife Patty, his children and grandchildren present at the dinner for their support and love throughout the many years.

He told how a man from a small town on the Eastern Shore of Maryland, who attended law school at night grew up to build cities and become an urban visionary.

He is now concerned with urban sprawl, problems of the homeless and the Enterprise Foundation and Development Company which provides housing for low income families across the country. He then thanked the guests for the tribute and the scholarship.

THOUGHT FOR TODAY

THERE ARE TWO WAYS OF SPREADING LIGHT: TO BE THE CANDLE OR THE MIRROR THAT REFLECTS IT.

Edith Wharton

Volunteer.

American Heart Association

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In 1962, a seventeen year-old discovered the world.

Back when Patricia Lightfoot got interested in space flight, cars had fins, movies had double features and mathematically gifted Black girls had limited career prospects. But 1962 was the year Patricia Lightfoot won a scholarship to Howard University. And on the way to becoming a math teacher, she discovered a world of opportunities.

In the unique environment that historically Black colleges provide, Patricia Lightfoot learned that her dreams of becoming a mathematician were achievable. "At Howard," she says, "I learned how to learn. A Black college gave me confidence... and a support that was always there when I needed it."

That confidence helped Patricia master higher mathematics, computer science, graduate school and her own destiny. Today, as head of the spacecraft Control Branch of NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center, she directs the design and development of ground support systems for vital satellite projects.

When you're considering colleges, doesn't it make sense to consider the ones that produce distinguished achievers like Patricia Lightfoot and **40% of the nation's Black college graduates?** America's Black colleges. If you want to make a world of difference in your future, they can show you how.

This food for thought is brought to you by Maxwell House® Coffee, a supporter of America's historically Black colleges.

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