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black history: a living legacy
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Photo courtesy of Dr. Mary Ann Humphrey, author of My Country, My Right to Serve

REVIEWING THE TROOPS

...And the Ban Plays On

by Rex Wockner

The United States military's ban on gays and lesbians has been diagnosed with a terminal illness and given six months to live, on a respirator.

President Bill Clinton Jan. 29 partially suspended the ban for six months, after which he intends to issue an executive order overturning it.

Clinton wanted to kill it immediately, but key senators insisted hearings must be held first. The hearings will begin in March. Had Clinton not agreed to their demand, the senators might have voted to overturn his executive order and may have punished him with uncooperativeness on other matters.

Some Republican senators are still expected to try to turn the military's anti-gay "directive" into a full-blown federal law, but Clinton would veto such legislation, and it is unlikely Congress could muster the votes to override him.

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