

## Major African American documentary to premiere

The 50-year silence that has surrounded the contributions of more than a million African-Americans in World War II will soon end.

A major new documentary, to be premiered around the country by the Department of the Army International Commemorations Committee (formerly the United States of America 50th Anniversary of World War II Commemorations Committee) and the National Minority Military Museum Foundation, finally tells story of the valor displayed by African-American service men and women in World War II, even in the face of persistent discrimination.

With never-before seen footage and interviews with more than 60 African-American veterans and historians, the 60-minute "African-Americans in World War II: A Legacy of Patriotism and Valor" reveals the critical role black service men and women played in the allied victory and in opening future opportunities, for all minorities, in the military and on the homefront.

"With this documentary, we want to bring to light a story that's been untold for over 50 years," says Lt. Col. Thomas G. Surface, Director of Public Affairs for the Department of the Army International Commemorations. "We not only want to honor those veterans and their family mem-

bers who served and opened the door of opportunity to others, we hope to educate future generations and raise people's awareness about the sacrifices these veterans made.

"The harassment, hardships and prejudice they had to put up with are a compelling story. Their courage and accomplishments are a tremendous part of American history."

The National Minority Military Museum Foundation, in San Leandro, CA, an organization dedicated to preserving the history of African-Americans and other minorities in the history of the U.S. armed forces, became involved with the project after working with the commemoration committee during filming, says Charles Blatcher, an Account Manager with American Protective Services, is the Foundation's founder the CEO.

"Our primary efforts are to deal with the veterans' groups to insure that they will be involved," says Blatcher. "Our military history is the basis of every other right of entitlement that we lay claim to."

The Foundation and International Commemorations will co-host simultaneous premieres of the documentary in 11 major U.S. cities in February. Premiere locations include Washington, D.C., New York, Atlanta, Detroit, Philadelphia, Chicago,

Dallas/Fort Worth, Houston, Seattle, Los Angeles and San Francisco. (Specific locations, dates and times will be included in future releases).

African-American World War II veterans and their families will be guests of honor at the premieres. Local civic, political and education leaders in each community and the general public also will be invited to attend the premieres.

Ten thousand videotape copies of the documentary also will be given free of charge to schools around the country.

"Our young people need to understand that as a group they have a vested interest in this history," says Blatcher. "The experience of the war belongs to the men and women who participated, but the history belongs to all of us."

The documentary, produced by ComTel Productions of Marlborough, MA, also features appearances by the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Army General John Shalikashvili, and retired General Colin Powell. Powell talks about the impact the World War II veterans had on his own opportunities.

"African-Americans--A Legacy of Patriotism and Valor" will be available for general viewing following the February premieres.

## Castleberry Named Coors' Diversity Director

Bill Castleberry, former manager of diversity, has been promoted to Director of Diversity Management at Coors Brewing company.

Castleberry will execute and oversee programs aimed at meeting the company's goal of building diversity, with particular emphasis on those business strategies and practices impacting the workplace and the marketplace.

He also will manage the company's Supplier Diversification and Development Program and monitor the national African American Covenant and the National Hispanic/Latino Agreement.

Castleberry joined Coors in September 1994 as manager of diversity. Prior to joining Coors, he managed recruitment, employee relations and training programs for Ohmeda Media Systems, a subsidiary of the British Oxygen Corporation Group.

"Bill's proven leadership skills



Bill Castleberry

will be invaluable as we continue to develop internal and external communication programs which reinforce the importance of valuing diversity," said John Meadows, Coors' Director of Corporate Relations/Diversity

Management.

While serving as a U.S. Air Force Officer, Castleberry developed and managed a race relations seminar that was one of the Defense Department's first official efforts to address race relations in a combat support environment.

The Colonel's 21-year military career included several key assignments, including human resources executive officer for the Joint Chiefs of Staff at the Pentagon.

Castleberry holds a bachelor's degree in political science from Tennessee State University and a master's degree in management from Webster University.

The Albany, Ga., native also is a graduate of the Industrial College of the Armed Forces in Washington and is a National Defense University Senior Research Fellow.

He, his wife Kathryn, and two children live in Aurora, Colo.

## Affirmative Actions opened the door, talent made them "Boss"

BY JENNIFER AGWUNOBI

Growing up in New Orleans in a home with five girls and no boys, the Dickerson sisters learned that there is nothing a girl can't do. "We played with dolls and trucks," said Terri Dickerson, 39, executive director of American Women in Radio and Television in McLean, VA. "When you live in a house with all girls, you don't have those traditional roles. We had to do every thing including mowing the lawn," she said.

Today, the Dickerson girls are all grown up and each successfully head mainstream companies and programs in the Washington, D.C.-metropolitan area. They credit their successes to affirmative action which removed racial barriers, and their parents who taught them to never let anyone tell them they are not worthy to receive the best.

Terri recalled the first grade when she and two of her sisters, Lisa and Patrice, attended Catholic school during the school's first year of integration. "No one wanted us there," remembered, Terri, "not even the nuns or priest." Being so young, Terri said her father—who was once the Director of the Federal Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC)—explained to them.

Despite the blatant hostility, the Dickerson girls were at the top of their class. From her Catholic school experience, Terri learned that "once you get your foot in the door, talent and intelligence are gender- and color-blind."

The Dickersons had parents who "led by example," recalled Verna, 32. "Success was always embraced in our home; failure was never an option," said Verna, the youngest sister and senior producer of Special Projects for Black Entertainment Television based in Washington,

D.C.

Their father, the late Walter M. Dickerson, was Director of the EEOC for 12 years and later worked as National Field Director to open EEOC offices in six other states. Their mother, Verna, was a school teacher who later worked for Montgomery County Government. They said their mother was a role model to them because she attended college and received a graduate degree during a time when affirmative action didn't exist.

All of the Dickerson women are successful because of their parents' example, their individual talents, and hard work, yet they acknowledge the role affirmative action played in their careers. "Affirmative action gave me the opportunity to show that I had the talent and ability to do the job," said Terri, whose organization advocates for women in the media.

Lauri, 33, owner of a child care business, said affirmative action is still needed because "raising two African-American daughters, I want as many opportunities available to them as is available to anyone else. I want my children to see many black role models. I want to see African-American doctors when I take them to the hospital," she said.

Of the other Dickerson children, Lisa 40, is the President of Airports Management, Inc., and Patrice, 38, is the Chief of Staff at D.C. General Hospital.

Verna said she still can't see where affirmative action is holding back non-whites from employment. "Affirmative action can play a positive role in American society," said Verna.

All five Dickerson women said they are "only too familiar with the look of surprise when people mistake our white colleagues for the 'boss' in situations. They don't see

black women as decision-makers and team leaders...White colleagues who work with us come to learn that we are in our positions because we are prepared and capable...Affirmative action is still necessary and must continue," they said.

A consortium of legal women called Americans for a Fair Chance, is fighting to preserve affirmative action. The Consortium has launched a public awareness campaign on affirmative action and has produced a nationwide public service announcement that airs on black-owned radio stations. Americans for a Fair Chance is comprised of prominent women from the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund, the National Asian Pacific American Legal Consortium, the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, the National Women's Law Center, and the Women's Legal Defense Fund.

"Affirmative action these days just makes competitive sense," said Terri, mother of a 12-year-old son. In applying that to journalism, she said, "you want to be first, fair and accurate. But there is no way you can be all of those things with a homogeneous staff...Affirmative action causes the industry to cast a wider net to find a more diverse workforce," she said.

Lisa, Terri, Patrice, Lauri, and Verna still talk to each other almost everyday. "My sisters are my best friends," said Terri, who is known as the family "spokesperson." "We are diverse ourselves and we learn from each other," she said. Judging from their successes, they also learned from their father who routinely said, "Don't eliminate yourself...there are enough people out there trying to do it for you." Boy did they listen.

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The most certain sign of wisdom is continual cheerfulness. Her state is like that of things in the regions above the moon, always clear and serene.

—Montaigne

## Chicken company changes name

Atlanta-based American's Favorite Chicken Company, parent company of Popeyes Chicken & Biscuits and Church's Chicken, announced that it will change its name to AFC Enterprises effective today.

The name change reflects the maturation of the company's strategic direction, including its effort to expand its existing portfolio of high-value brands and become the world's Franchisor of Choice. AFC is seeking to acquire high value brands to add to its existing portfolio and has six companies under consideration.

"The adoption of AFC Enterprises as our name marks another milestone in the history of our corporation," says Frank Belatti, chairman and CEO. "We are evolving into a franchise company as well as a restaurant company. We will take the knowledge and experience that we have gained with our current brands to leverage our world-class service and support for our new brands."

"We have implemented a system-wide effort to improve franchise services and procedures and also demonstrate our innovative leadership and diversity in all areas of franchising," says Belatti.

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One can always trust to time. Insert a wedge of time and nearly everything straightens itself out. —Norman Douglas

## Police News

### Montavilla graffiti suspect arrested

On Monday, December 16, 1996, just after midnight, Portland Police arrested William K. Kuhn III, and charged him with Criminal Mischief I. He was observed defacing properties in the 400 block of SE 81st avenue.

Southeast Precinct-Neighborhood Response Team members, Deputy

District Attorney Tom Cleary and Officer Jon Cox became involved in this case and were able to link William Kuhn III to at least 60 graffiti crimes in the Montavilla Area. Kuhn sometimes working with others, has been very active in this and several other locations in the Portland area. SE Precinct uniform officers, Jimmy Lee and Eric

Torgerson observed and arrested Kuhn while in the act.

Victims include at least 20 businesses in the Montavilla area of SE Portland. The investigation is continuing and additional charges are expected. A photo will be available in the Portland Police Identification Division office.

Norman worked each of those weeks, earning a total of \$13,108.

The investigation by the Employment Department was triggered by the agency's cross-match system. This computerized system compares social security numbers of individuals collecting unemployment benefits with those listed on employers' quarterly payroll tax reports.

To receive unemployment benefits, a person must be able, available,

and actively seeking work. Also, any earnings during a period a person is claiming benefits must be reported. Individuals may earn up to one-third of their weekly benefit amounts before benefits are deducted dollar for dollar.

Norman was sentenced to 24 months probation, during which he must repay \$7,566 to the Employment to the Employment Department.

## Chief's forum presented community awards

At its regularly scheduled meeting on Monday, December 16, 1996, at 9:00 a.m., the Chief's Forum presented its community policing awards. The meeting was at the Justice Center, 111 SW 2nd, 14th floor, Room B.

The Chief's Forum developed the awards in order to acknowledge citizens, organizations and Police Bureau members involved in strengthening the partnership between the community and the Police Bureau through innovative and cooperative problem solving efforts and enhancing Portland's livability and community safety.

These are the categories of

awards: The Nathan Thomas Memorial Award (awarded annually, December), maybe awarded to any individual for an act of outstanding performance by which the nominee demonstrated in great degree, exceptional communicative accomplishments which further the goals of community; Recipient: Officer Victoria Wade, who was instrumental in the creation and implementation of the Crisis Response Team for inner Northeast Portland; Community Policing Problem Solving Award (award semi-annually, June/December) may be awarded to any individual or group for recognition of demonstrated creative problem

solving methods and/or techniques used to aid in the betterment of the community. Recipients: Officers Jonathan Cox and John Taylor of the Southeast Neighborhood Response Team and Officer Marcia Barbour of the Northeast Neighborhoods Response Team; Certificate of Appreciation (awarded semi-annually, June/December). Awarded to any individual who directly aids the community in promoting the community policing effort in a distinctive way. Recipient: Marco Bento, Portland Cable Access.

For more information, contact Terri Wallo-Strauss at 823-0258.

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