

BLACK HISTORY MONTH and the American Experience

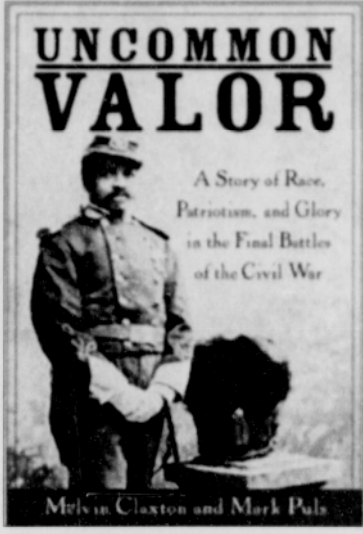
Story of Civil War Patriots Finally Told

'Uncommon Valor' traces historic battle

A new groundbreaking book on the role of African American soldiers during the Civil War tells the historic and glorious story of 14 black soldiers who won the Congressional Medal of Honor.

'Uncommon Valor: The Story of Race, Patriotism, and Glory in the Final Battles of the Civil War' tells the riveting story of the battle of New Market Heights.

This battle was arguably the single most important in African American military history. But for more than 140 years, the story of the black farmers, laborers and tradesmen who bravely risked their lives on a killing field in Virginia remained largely untold. While the battles of Atlanta, Bull Run, and



Gettysburg would be memorialized in history books and in the minds of Americans, few have heard of New Market Heights.

Pulitzer-Prize winning journalist Melvin Claxton and former investigative reporter Mark Puls tell for the first time this powerful tale of war, heroism, and liberation.

Using personal diaries, letters, and other firsthand accounts, the authors follow Christian Fleetwood, a free 23-year-old black man living in Baltimore, who, a few days after Gettysburg, made the momentous and patriotic decision to enlist.

The authors re-create the suffering and sacrifice of black men battling not only rebel enemies but abusive racism from officers and soldiers on their own side.

'Uncommon Valor' describes how Fleetwood and his fellow "colored" troops were torn between the righteousness of their cause and the daily reminders of their second-class status.

The book also examines the battle's impact on the passage of the 1874 Civil Rights Act, which was voided almost immediately by the U.S. Supreme Court. That court decision, the authors point out, paved the way for nearly a century of Jim Crow laws in the South.



Diversity Embraced in 1958

A scene at the Institute on Race Relations, sponsored by the Wesleyan Service Guilds at Hughes Memorial Methodist Church, March 22, 1958. John W. Berry of Pacific University (second from right) was keynote speaker. (OHS neg. 26051)

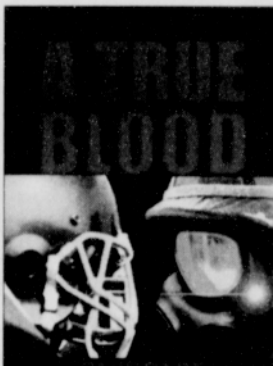
PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE OREGON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Painful Journey Untold stories of Vietnam

A True Blood, the extraordinary life journey of a young African-American athlete at the top of his game who was sent to fight a war he didn't understand, in a country he didn't know. Vietnam robbed him of his dignity, his faith, his hope, his job, his lifestyle and family.



Gene Pace



They vowed to themselves and to each other that what they learned there would be used to further the cause of freedom, justice and equality for their people, for America, and for the world. Their commitment to truth, which was fortified and reinforced with the blood, sweat and sacrifice of thousands of young Blacks and Latinos, was supposed to last a lifetime.

'A True Blood' provides answers to some of the lingering questions about Vietnam, the war that so profoundly changed the lives of those who served there.

Author Gene Pace calls A True Blood his fictionalized biography because it tells personal and painful accounts of some of the untold stories of Vietnam involving murder, drugs, conspiracies,

and delusions. Pace was part of a brotherhood of black soldiers who shared the single-minded purpose to not allow history to repeat itself without a fight.



Eliminating Race in Job Requirements

E. Shelton Hill stands over the signing of 1950 agreement with the state of Oregon Employment Service eliminating racially-entitled jobs. Hill went on to serve as president of the Urban League of Portland from 1959-79. (OHS neg. # 25459)

Smiley Urges Activism in 'Covenant'

His new book pushes issues forward

Author and broadcaster Tavis Smiley's new book 'The Covenant with Black America,' is aimed at inspiring African Americans to take action to address 10 of the most daunting issues impacting black communities, households and individuals.



Tavis Smiley

letter from Black America to Black America to educate ourselves on the issues we all know exist in our communities and then to challenge and hold each other accountable to fix them," Smiley said. "Moreover, the Covenant is our document of accountability for the entire body politic post-Hurricane Katrina and in advance of the 2006 and 2008 national elections."

The book is the result of a year-long project conceived by Smiley as a follow up to the annual State of the Black Union symposiums he has organized during the last six years. These gatherings bring together thought-leaders and opinion-makers to discuss issues impacting African Americans.

move the African American community forward, socially, politically and economically.

In addition, 'The Covenant' contains information on how individuals and households can make changes that will immediately improve their circumstances in specific areas, such as health, education, crime reduction, financial well-being and personal security.

"This book is in a sense a love

Topics include closing the digital divide, inequalities in the justice system, disparity in healthcare and improving public education. A list of resources, suggestions and checklists are provided for what individuals, public policymakers and corporate citizens can do to

"EVERYBODY CAN BE GREAT BECAUSE ANYBODY CAN SERVE"

Martin Luther King Junior



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FBI at work in the community

Today's FBI demands that we become more diverse and we are working harder than ever to be inclusive — for all people, regardless of color, race, religion, national origin, political affiliation, marital status, disability, age, sex, or sexual orientation. To this end, we are redoubling our diversity efforts within the FBI and externally with such organizations as Boys and Girls Clubs of America, Race Against Drugs, the League of United Latin American Citizens, and the NAACP. Additionally, we're very proud to hold our bi-annual, 7-week FBI Citizens Academy. During weekly 3-hour sessions, we bring together leaders from a multitude of ethnic and religious groups to gain an insider's view of the FBI.

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We have opportunities for Special Agents from a broad range of educational disciplines and professions, however, the FBI has special needs for candidates with critical skills among the following areas: Computer Science or IT, Engineering, Foreign Counterintelligence, Information Systems Security, Military Intelligence, Physical Sciences, and Accounting/Financial Management.



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