

African American Warrant Officers - Their Remarkable History is a compilation of articles, biographies, and stories about African Americans who served or are serving in the United States Army Warrant Officers Corps. The book is in conjunction with the 100th Anniversary of the Warrant Officers Corps (1918-2018).

AFRICAN AMERICAN WARRANT OFFICERS - THEIR REMARKABLE HISTORY

by Farrell J. Chiles

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African
American
Warrant Officers

THEIR
REMARKABLE
HISTORY



THE STORIES, ACHIEVEMENTS, AND
CONTRIBUTIONS OF AFRICAN AMERICAN
ARMY WARRANT OFFICERS

Farrell J. Chiles

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African American Warrant Officers – Their Remarkable History

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Introduction

The idea to do this follow-up book to *African American Warrant Officers...In Service to Our Country* came to me while I was attending an annual conference of the Military Writers Society of America in San Antonio in September 2017. I had not planned to write a Volume II, but I was inspired by other writers at the conference and their zeal to tell the stories of the military, fact and fiction, as it related to their experiences, backgrounds, and interests.

As African Americans, we must continue to tell our stories and history too. Thus, in conjunction with the 100th anniversary of the Warrant Officer Cohort, I present “African American Warrant Officers – Their Remarkable History”.

Again, I have missed a lot of my fellow African American Army Warrant Officers. Their absence from the book does not take away from their contributions and achievements. It means that I was not able to connect with them or their relatives.

My first book was a result of a lot of research and surfing the internet for historical and background information. However, this book relies primarily on African American Warrant Officers providing information about themselves and their willingness to share their biographies, stories, photos, contributions, and achievements in the military and in their civilian life.

I am honored to present their history. I hope you are inspired by their accomplishments.

100th Year Anniversary Observation

Warrant Officers' 100th Celebration!!!

“A Century of Service”

1918 – 2018

The official birthday of the Army Warrant Officers Cohort is July 9, 1918. Prior to that time, Warrant Officers were not commissioned officers, but in reality, were considered civilians. The Judge Advocate General later determined that Warrant Officers held military status.

An Act of Congress on 9 July 1918 documented the founding of the Warrant Officer Corps in the Army by establishing the Army Mine Planter Service as part of the Coast Artillery Corps. Implementation of the Act by the Army was published in the War Department Bulletin 43, dated 22 July 1918.

Highlights of the first one hundred years include:

- On May 12, 1921, a distinctive insignia consisting of an eagle rising with wings, was approved for Warrant Officers.
- In 1941, Public Law 230 authorized appointments up to one percent of the total Regular Army enlisted strength. This law also established two pay rates for Warrant Officers, Warrant Officer Junior Grade (W-1) and Chief Warrant Officer (W-2).
- With the activation of the 99th Pursuit Squadron (March 15, 1941) and with the forming of the 66th Army Air Forces Flight Training Detachment (July 1941), African American Warrant Officers performed in key positions, contributing to the success of their organizations, and making a significant impact on the heritage and legacy of the Tuskegee Airmen.
- In January 1944, the appointment of women as Warrant Officers was authorized.

- During 1948 and 1949, competitive examinations were held to appoint or select for appointment approximately 6,000 regular Army Warrant Officers.
- In 1949, the Career Compensation Act brought about two new pay rates for Warrant Officers. The designations of Warrant Officer Junior Grade (WOJG) and Chief Warrant Officer (CWO) were retained; the grade of Chief Warrant Officer was expanded with the addition of pay grades of W3 and W4.
- In April 1960, the Warrant Officer Program was outlined in Department of the Army Circular 611-7. This document covered utilization policies, criteria for selection, and instruction for conversion to the then new Warrant Officer Military Occupational Specialty (MOS) system.
- In 1966, the Army conducted a review of Warrant Officer career progression and the first Warrant Officer Professional Development Program was published in Department of the Army Pamphlet 600-11.
- The United States Army Warrant Officers Association (USAWOA) was founded in 1972.
- In August 1985, the final report of the Department of the Army Total Warrant Officer Study (TWOS) was forwarded to the Army Chief of Staff. This first-ever DA comprehensive analysis of the Total Army warrant officer program provided the opportunity to capture current strengths of the program and build upon those to develop management and training systems that focused on the Army of the 90's and beyond.
- In February 1992, the Warrant Officer Management Act (WOMA) provisions went into effect.
- On October 1, 1992, the first active Army Chief Warrant Officer was promoted to CW5.
- In 1996, a U.S. Army Warrant Officers History Book was undertaken by the United States Army Warrant Officers Association to tell the story of the Corps.
- In September 1999, the Chief of Staff, Army, chartered the Army Development System (ADS) XXI Task Force to examine

the Enlisted and Warrant Officer Personnel Management Systems.

- May 23, 2001 was the first time a Warrant Officer was presented with the prestigious General Douglas MacArthur Leadership Award.
- On July 18, 2002, the Army Training and Leader Development Panel Reports on the Warrant Officer Study. The Report and recommendations were released on August 22, 2002 after approval by the Chief of Staff and Secretary of the Army.
- On March 28, 2003, the United States Army Warrant Officers Association Scholarship Foundation was incorporated in the Commonwealth of Virginia.
- The Warrant Officer Historical Foundation was founded on May 29, 2003.
- On January 1, 2006, the book “WARRANT – The Legacy of Leadership as a Warrant Officer” was published.
- From June 7 to 11, 2010, the first Warrant Officer Summit was held at the U. S. Army Warrant Officer Career College (WOCC), Fort Rucker, Alabama.
- In 2011, the first Warrant Officer graduated from the National Defense University, better known as the “War College”.
- On March 14, 2014, the Chief of Staff, Army (CSA), created a new position for an Army Staff Senior Warrant Officer (ARSTAF SWO).
- On June 10, 2015, MILPER Message 15-166 announced the initial MOS 170A Warrant Officer Cyber Branch Voluntary Transfer for Active Duty Warrants.
- On June 26, 2017, the first African American Warrant Officer was inducted into the Order of the Eagle Rising Society joining a group of nineteen other distinguished Warrant Officers.
- The above information was gathered from the Warrant Officer Historical Foundation – <https://warrantofficerhistory.org>.

One Hundred Years and still going strong.

African Americans in the Warrant Officer Cohort

African American Warrant Officers have performed significant roles in the history of the Warrant Officer Cohort. Their achievements and contributions have been widely recognized.

Harry H. Hollowell joined the Tenth Calvary (Buffalo Soldiers) as a private in January 1936. He served in the Army for twenty eight years, retiring as a Chief Warrant Officer Four and bandleader in August 1964. On July 19, 2009, “Hollowell Drive” was dedicated in his honor at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas.

Cleveland Valrey joined the Army Air Corps in at the age of 16 in 1949. He was the first African American inducted into the United States Army Aviation Hall of Fame. CW4 Valrey was also inducted into the United States Army Ranger Hall of Fame.

Harrison E. Robinson is a member of the Ordnance Corps Hall of Fame. Mr. Robinson entered the Army as an inductee in 1946. CW4 Robinson died in 1978. In August 2013, the CW4 Harrison E. Robinson Ordnance School Conference Room was dedicated in his honor at the Ordnance School at Fort Lee, Virginia.

Carl Burhanan served in the Army for 26 years. His combat experience included Korea and Vietnam. Mr. Burhanan graduated in Flight Class 55-4. He flew 9,024 hours and 332 combat hours. His decorations include the Presidential Service Medal and eight Air Medals. CW4 (Retired) Burhanan was the first African American to become a Presidential Aircraft Commander.

Carl E. Black entered the Army in September 1953 and completed Basic Airborne School at Fort Bragg, North Carolina in 1956. He later became a Legal Administrator. Mr. Black retired in October 1974. For his exemplary service, CW4 Black was made the Honorary Regimental Warrant Officer of the Judge Advocate General Corps.

Robert Levi “Bob” Wimberly joined the Army in 1959. He was promoted to CW5 on January 23, 1999. Mr. Wimberly became the first African American appointed to the position of State Command Chief Warrant Officer (New Jersey) in the Army National guard of the United States.

Mary F. Carter was the first female to serve on the Board of Directors of the United States Army Warrant Officers Association. Additionally, she was the first female Warrant Officer honored as the CW4 Albert M. Holcombe Warrant Officer of the Year in 1984. She retired as a Chief Warrant Officer Five.

Eddie Mallard joined the Army in 1965 and retired in 2009. Mr. Mallard served as the Command Chief Warrant Officer of the United States Intelligence and Security Command (INSCOM) from June 2004 to August 2009. He serves on the Board of Directors and as Treasurer of the United States Army Warrant Officers Association’s Scholarship Foundation.

Aurelia “Vicki” Murray served in the National Guard. Ms. Murray joined the Air National Guard in Ohio in June 1973. She became the first African female Warrant Officer in the Ohio National Guard as a WO1 in March 1978. Ms. Murray became the first African American woman promoted in the Army to CW5 on November 4, 1999.

Douglas Vincent Clapp entered the Army on August 8, 1974. He was appointed as a Warrant Officer on January 31, 1985. On November 29, 2004, he made the ultimate sacrifice when he died in a non-hostile incident at the age of 49. CW5 Clapp served in Desert Storm and Operation Iraqi Freedom. The Douglas Vincent Clapp Memorial Conference Center at Fort Hood, Texas is named in his honor.

Jonathan W. Hosley, as an enlisted Soldier, was injured by an improvised explosive device in Iraq in November 2004, and lost his

left leg below the knee. He later submitted an application to become a Warrant Officer. He was selected for the program and became the first-ever amputee to complete the Army Warrant Officer Candidate School.

Coral J. Jones enlisted in the Army on November 24, 1981. She was appointed a WO1 on August 19, 1994. On October 1, 2010, Ms. Jones made Army history when she became the first African American female to earn the rank of chief warrant officer five within the active Army Adjutant General Corps. CW5 Jones assumed the duties as the Chief Warrant Officer of the Adjutant General Corps on February 17, 2011 (the fifth CWO of the Army AG Corps).

David Williams entered Active Duty in July 1977. He completed Warrant Officer Candidate School and Flight Training in 1987. His combat tours included serving as the Senior Warrant Officer and Warrant Officer Advisor to the Multi-National Force-Iraq Commanding General. On March 14, 2014, the Chief of Staff Army (CSA) selected CW5 Williams as the first ARSTAF Senior Warrant Officer (SWO).

Rufus Montgomery, Sr. began his military career as an enlisted soldier in 1965. CW5 Montgomery retired in 2003. In July 2015, a corridor located within the Warrant Officer Technical College, Army Logistics University, was dedicated in his honor. Mr. Montgomery was inducted into the Order of Eagle Rising Society in June 2017, making him the first African American to receive the honor. He joined a distinguished group of nineteen other Warrant Officers in the society.

Lawrence Blackwell joined the Army in 1979. He was appointed a Warrant Officer in 1990. CW5 Blackwell was attached to the 1st Armor Division during Operation Iraqi Freedom and supported over 2,000 tracked and wheeled vehicles organized for combat operations. He directly contributed to the 97% operations readiness rate for the Brigade Combat Team while deployed in a combat zone. Chief

Warrant Officer Five Blackwell retired in 2011. In 2017, Mr. Blackwell was inducted into the United States Army Ordnance Hall of Fame.

* * *

These individuals represent just a small sampling of African American Warrant Officers who have made an impact in the history of the Warrant Officer Cohort. There are many more.

AFRICAN AMERICAN WARRANT OFFICERS – THEIR REMARKABLE HISTORY



CW5 (Ret) Harry L. Hobbs



CW3 (Ret) Octavia Saine

African American Warrant Officers and the Army Ordnance Corps Hall of Fame

By CW4 (Ret) Farrell J. Chiles

(Originally Published in the USAWOA Newsliner –February 2016)

Background

The Ordnance Branch was founded on 14 May 1812, making it one of the oldest branches in the United States Army. The branch is currently located at Fort Lee, Virginia. Prior to its move to Fort Lee, the branch, for over a century, was located at Aberdeen Proving Ground in Maryland.

The U.S. Ordnance Corps' mission is to support the development, production, acquisition, and sustainment of weapon systems, ammunition, missiles, electronics, and ground mobility material during peace and war to provide combat power for the U.S. Army.

Warrant Officer Military Occupational Specialties in the Ordnance Branch consist of 890A, 913A, 914A, 915A, 915E, 919A, 948B, 948D, and 948E.

The Army Ordnance Corps Hall of Fame

The Army Ordnance Corps Hall of Fame was established in 1969 to recognize and memorialize persons who have made a positive, significant contribution to the U.S. Army Ordnance Corps.

The individuals are chosen solely on their significant contribution to the Corps and each selectee is able to stand up to close scrutiny. "Attainment of high rank or position is not necessarily indicative of a significant contribution to Ordnance. Likewise, rank, sec, ethnicity and/or religion are not discriminators."

Currently, there are 46 warrant officers in the Hall of Fame. The first was inducted in 1981. The first African American warrant officer was inducted in 1991. There are nine African American warrant officers in the Hall of Fame, representing 19.6% of the warrant officers inducted into the Hall.

Chief Warrant Officer Four Harrison E. Robinson

Chief Warrant Officer Harrison E. Robinson was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 1991.

Harrison Robinson was born in Atlantic City, New Jersey in 1927 and entered the Army as an inductee in 1946.

Mr. Robinson rose to the rank of master sergeant and served as a battalion maintenance sergeant in several units and as a noncommissioned officer in charge of heavy equipment and wheel vehicles for the 782nd Maintenance Battalion of the 82nd Airborne Division.

In 1951, he was appointed a Warrant Officer and served as a maintenance officer with a number of units in the United States, Europe, Korea, and Vietnam, including the 82nd and 101st Airborne Divisions. Mr. Robinson retired in 1978 and died later that year.

On October 18, 2013, the U.S. Army Ordnance School at Fort Lee, Virginia hosted a rededication ceremony for the Chief Warrant Officer Four Harrison E. Robinson Conference Room. The conference room was originally dedicated on May 9, 1996 at the former Ordnance School which was located at Aberdeen Proving Grounds, Maryland.

Chief Warrant Officer Four Everett C. Evans, Sr.

Chief Warrant Officer Everett C. Evans was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 1995.

Everett Evans was born in Rossville, Ohio on June 3, 1937. Evans was appointed as a warrant officer in 1965 and assigned as an armament technician to Company C, 703rd Maintenance Battalion, 3rd Infantry Division where he formed control teams to support tank gunnery training in Grafenwohr, West Germany's largest NATO training site.

As an instructor/writer assigned to the Ordnance Center and School, he instructed the first Warrant Officer Entry Course and served as the primary staff officer for the initial development of the Master Mechanic Program.

Mr. Evans retired from the military in 1977 and in 1980 was hired as a training specialist at the Ordnance Center and School. He retired as Assistant Director of Training and Doctrine in 1992. Mr. Evans was

selected to serve as Honorary Warrant Officer of the Ordnance Corps in 1988.

Chief Warrant Officer Five Fred Norman

Chief Warrant Officer Fred Norman was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 2005.

Fred Norman was born on September 2, 1935 in Albany, Georgia and enlisted in the Army in 1955. He completed Basic Training at Fort Jackson, South Carolina and following Advanced Individual Training at Fort Knox, Kentucky, served as a mechanic in Germany.

In 1969, Mr. Norman was appointed a warrant officer and assigned to Fort Baker, California, as a Maintenance Technician with the 2/51st Defense Battalion (Nike Hercules). In 1986, Norman became the Chief of the Maintenance Division, U.S. Army Engineer School, Fort Belvoir, Virginia. In 1992, he served as Senior Maintenance Advisor to the Commanding General, 1st Corps Support Command (COSCOM), Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

Mr. Norman retired in 1997 after 40 years of distinguished service to the U.S. Army and the Ordnance Corps.

Chief Warrant Officer Three Alvin Rose

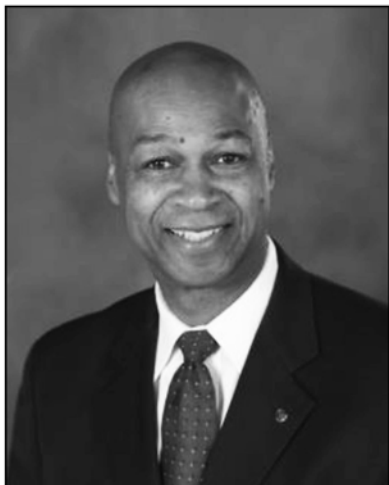
Chief Warrant Officer Alvin Rose was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 2005.

Alvin Rose was born on June 24, 1944 in New Orleans, Louisiana. Rose entered the U.S. Army in 1962 serving as a personnel clerk in Alaska while reenlisting in 1964 to attend Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) School.

In 1974, Mr. Rose was appointed a warrant officer and served as a project officer in the Doctrine and Training Literature Branch at the US Army Ordnance Missile and Munitions Center and School (USAOMMCS).

Mr. Rose retired from the military in 1984. In 1990, Rose accepted a position as Senior Management Analyst in the Weapons System Management Directorate, US Missile Command, Redstone Arsenal. Mr. Rose retired in 1999.

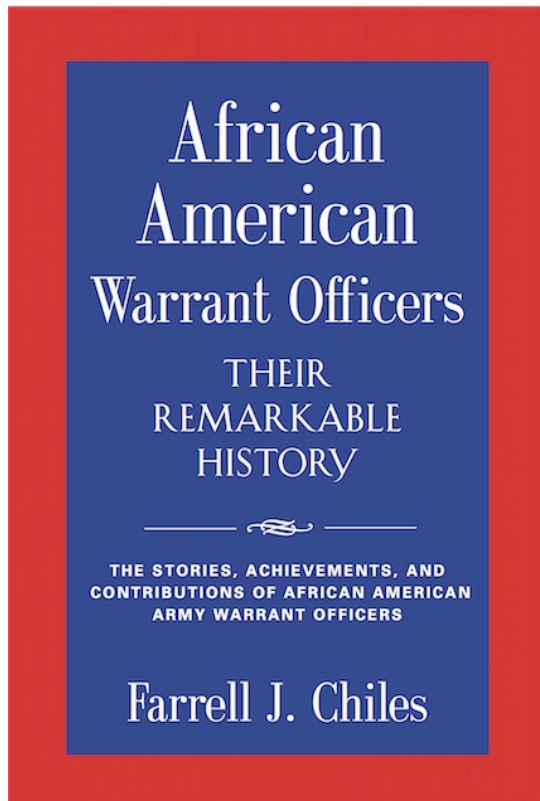
About the Author



FARRELL J. CHILES was drafted into the Army on May 26, 1970 as a private and served our country on active duty and in the Army Reserve for 38 years. He is a Vietnam Veteran and a retired Chief Warrant Officer Four. Chiles was honored as the Warrant Officer of the Year in 1998 by the United States Army Warrant Officers Association and in 1999, he was the first recipient of the Reserve Officers Association's CW4 Michael J. Novasel Outstanding Warrant Office of the Year Award. As a CW3, Chiles served on the Warrant Officer Executive Panel for the Army Leadership and Training Development Program (ATLDP). In 2016, he received the Don Hess Lifetime Achievement Award from the United States Army Warrant Officers Association.

Chiles' earlier book, "African American Warrant Officers...In Service to Our Country" won a 2015 Silver Medal Award from the Military Writers Society of America (MWSA).

Farrell Chiles resides in Phillips Ranch, California.



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