

African American Women Warrant Officers - The New Trailblazers pays tribute to women who have served in the military as Warrant Officers. These unique women have made tremendous contributions to our country and continue to achieve excellence in their careers.

AFRICAN AMERICAN WOMEN WARRANT OFFICERS THE NEW TRAILBLAZERS

by Farrell J. Chiles

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African American WOMEN Warrant Officers

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THE NEW TRAILBLAZERS



UNTIL HERSTORY IS TOLD,
HISTORY IS INCOMPLETE

Farrell J. Chiles

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African American Women Warrant Officers - The New Trailblazers

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Foreword

African American Women Warrant Officers - The New Trailblazers: An Unrecorded History

Few records and statistics are available regarding female warrant officers; moreover, less regarding African American female warrant officers. According to the Warrant Officer Historical Foundation, available records indicate that March 1944 was the date of initial accessions of women into the Warrant Officer Corps, after authorization in January 1944. The first African American woman warrant officer in the Army was not appointed until 1950, according to Department of Defense records.

Gathering and recording historical data across the Armed Forces regarding African American female warrant officers is significant in capturing their premiere contributions or “firsts” in their career fields. Hence, the aim of the author, Farrell J. Chiles, in gathering data to publish this book, African American Women Warrant Officers - The New Trailblazers.

Throughout military history, African American women warrant officers have broken down barriers, created new opportunities, championed justice and risked their lives for the greater good. As creative, talented and determined African American female warrant officers, these women have sacrificed a great deal in the pursuit of equal opportunities in the Armed Forces and all aspects of life. For many, their commendable leadership paved the way for every woman, not just African American women, in the Armed Forces. Such as Summer Levert who became the first African American female boatswain’s mate in the U.S. Navy to hold the position of chief warrant officer and Tywanda B. Morton, senior property book officer, who became the first female and African-American promoted to Chief Warrant Officer Five in the Maryland Army National Guard.

Farrell J. Chiles’ book introduces and celebrates the achievements of aspiring, trailblazing African American Women Warrant Officers who paved or are currently paving the way for future generations of female warrant officers. Notable is the fact that his persistence in

Farrell J. Chiles

recording African American Women Warrant Officers' history and contributions provides critical black history knowledge.

Very respectfully,

Ida Tyree Hyche, Esq.
CW5, USA, Retired

Introduction

I felt it important to highlight the careers and achievements of African American Women Warrant Officers as a unique and special phenomenon within the Warrant Officer Cohort. Their pioneering spirit of joining the military and their decisions to become Warrant Officers are trailblazing actions that must be recognized.

African American Women Warrant Officers are unique. Provided the opportunity, they have excelled at every level of the Warrant Officer “ladder”.

They have served in Vietnam, Afghanistan, Iraq, and other places around the world.

They have served as Command Chief Warrant Officers in the National Guard and Army Reserve.

They have served as TAC Officers and instructors at the Warrant Officer Career College. They have served as Senior Warrant Officers at the Major Army Command (MACOM) levels.

They are definitely the Trailblazers in the military today. Whether serving in the Army, Navy, Marines, or Coast Guard they have shown remarkable leadership and their accomplishments are noteworthy.

I am in awe of their accomplishments and unless we see the significance of their contributions and continually tell HerStory, we will never know the impact of their military service.

This book is a compilation of biographies and stories of African American Women Warrant Officers from my previous three books, plus newly submitted biographies and stories that focuses solely on the careers of African American Women Warrant Officers.

African American Women Warrant Officers have demonstrated outstanding leadership within the Warrant Officer Cohort and in the military. They are experts in their fields; advisors and trainers; and role models and mentors.

President Barak Obama is quoted as saying, “Today, every American can be proud that our military will grow even stronger with our mothers, wives, sisters, and daughters playing a greater role in protecting this country we love.”

Farrell J. Chiles

That quote definitely includes African American women - especially, African American Women Warrant Officers.

I am honored to present HerStory. I congratulate these outstanding Trailblazers.

Regards,

Farrell J. Chiles
CW4, USA, Retired

HerStory of African American Women Warrant Officers

The first African American Woman Warrant Officer was appointed in 1950. I would love to know who she was, but I was unable to find her information through my research.

From 1950 – 1952, there still remained only one African American Woman Warrant Officer. From 1953 – 1960, no African American Women was a part of the Army strength. In 1972, there were five and by 1978, there were 12 African American Women Warrant Officers.

By 2013, the number of African American Women Warrant Officers had increased. The tables represent their participation on Active Duty and in the Reserve Forces. Of significant importance, the percentage of Army African American Women Warrant Officers compared to White Women Warrant Officers was 41.5% to 39.3%.

African American Women Warrant Officers Active Duty Forces by Pay Grade – Including Coast Guard September 2013

Rank	Army	Navy	Marines	Coast Guard
W-5	12	3	1	0
W-4	72	6	0	2
W-3	182	18	7	5
W-2	303	14	10	9
W-1	88	0	10	0
Total	637	41	21	16

**African American Women Warrant Officers
Reserve Forces by Pay Grade – Including Coast Guard
September 2013**

Rank	Army Reserve	Army National Guard	Navy Reserve	Marine Corps Reserve	Coast Guard Reserve
W-5	2	5	0	1	0
W-4	15	13	0	0	0
W-3	33	29	0	0	0
W-2	97	59	0	2	0
W-1	15	12	0	0	0
Total	162	118	0	3	0

African American Women Warrant Officers saw opportunities in the Warrant Officer Corps and their dedication to service has made a difference in the success of the American military.

African American Women Warrant Officers' Timeline

1950 - Annie L. Grimes of Chicago, who was destined to become a chief warrant officer later in her career, joined and went to Marine boot camp in February 1950

1966 - CWO Annie Grimes became the first African American woman appointed as a Warrant Officer in the Marine Corps

1970 - CWO2 Annie Grimes became the first African American woman to retire with 20 years of service

1977 - GySgt Mary Vaughn was the first African American woman to receive a Regular Commission as a Warrant Officer in the United States Marine Corps

1980 - CW3 Doris "Lucki" Allen retired after 30 years of military service to include three tours in Vietnam

1993 - CWO Carmen Cole was selected as a Warrant Officer becoming the first female in the Marine Corps to become a Motor Transport Maintenance Officer

1994 - Mary F. Carter was the first female presented with the United States Army Warrant Officers Association's Albert Holcombe Memorial Award as Warrant Officer of the Year

1995 - Doris Hull became the first active duty African-American woman to be promoted to Warrant Officer in the Coast Guard

1996 - Harriet Thompkins made history by becoming the first African American female Chief Warrant Officer (CWO) in the United States Coast Guard Reserves

1999 - Aurelia “Viki” Murray became the first African American female in the history of the Army to be promoted to the rank of Chief Warrant Officer Five.

2000 - CW3 Ida Tyree Hyche was selected as the Reserve Officers Association’s first woman Warrant Officer of the Year

2006 - CW3 Belynda Lindsey served as the only Legal Administrator in country during her tour in Iraq

2006 - CWO2 Apple G. Pryor, assigned as the Main Propulsion Assistant onboard the CGC Boutwell, was the first African American female Naval Engineering Chief Warrant Officer of the Coast Guard

2007 - CW4 Martha Ervin served as the Senior Warrant Officer for the Combined Forces Command in Kandahar, Afghanistan

2007 - CWO2 Apple G. Pryor became the first African American woman CWO Naval Engineer in the Coast Guard

2008 - Donna Gialone became the third African-American woman to achieve the rank of Chief Warrant Officer (5) in the United States Navy

2008 - CW4 Sharon Mullens was the first African American female Warrant Officer HHC Commander in a forward-deployed contingency operation

2009 - CW3 (Retired) Doris “Lucki” Allen was inducted in the Military Intelligence Hall of Fame at Fort Huachuca, Arizona

2013 - Chief Warrant Officer Four Vickie Slade became the first Legal Engagement Warrant Officer in the Department of Defense

2014 - Chief Warrant Officer Five (Retired) Karen L. Ortiz was inducted into the Quartermaster Hall of Fame

2015 - Chief Warrant Officer Five Janice Fontanez became the first woman to hold the position of the Command Chief Warrant Officer of the District of Columbia National Guard

2015 - The U.S. Army Warrant Officer Career College renamed its Distinguished Honor Graduate Award to The CW3(R) Doris Allen Distinguished Honor Graduate Award

2017 - The U.S. Navy's CWO5 Valencia Simmons-Fowler became the first African American woman to achieve the highest rank in the information warfare community

2017 - Chief Warrant Officer Two Summer Levert became the Navy's first African American woman Bostswain's mate (while in the well deck aboard amphibious transport dock ship USS Verde (LPD 19))

2017 - Chief Warrant Officer Two Cicely Williams became the first African American female rotary-wing pilot in the Nevada Army Guard

2018 - Chief Warrant Officer Five Cheryl D. Monroe became the first African American female CW5 in the ammunitions field

2018 - Chief Warrant Officer Four Petrice McKey-Reese, U.S. Army, Retired, inducted into the Army Women's Foundation Hall of Fame

Conclusion

African American Women Warrant Officers are a unique group of military warriors. Given the opportunity, they have excelled at every level of the Warrant Officer echelon. They have served in Vietnam, Desert Storm, Desert Shield, Iraq, Afghanistan, and other places around the world. They are continually demonstrating their patriotism and loyalty to the United States.

African American Women Warrant Officers have served as Command Chief Warrant Officers in the National Guard and Army Reserve. They have served as TAC Officers and instructors at the Warrant Officer Career College and served in Senior Warrant Officer Positions at the MACOM levels.

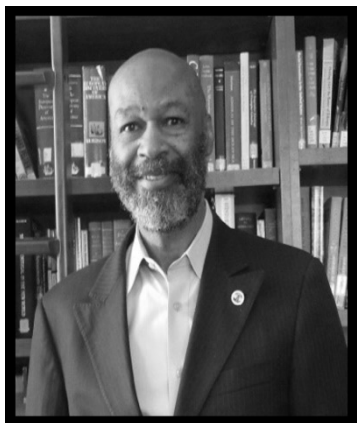
These “Quiet Professionals ®” are definitely the New Trailblazers in the Warrant Officer Cohort today. Whether serving in the Army, Navy, Marines, or Coast Guard, they have demonstrated remarkable leadership and their accomplishments are noteworthy.

This book presented just a small representation of HerStory. There are many more stories and hopefully they will continue to be told.

I thank the African American Women Warrant Officers who shared their biographies and accomplishments for the book.

To all African American Women Warrant Officers – I salute you.

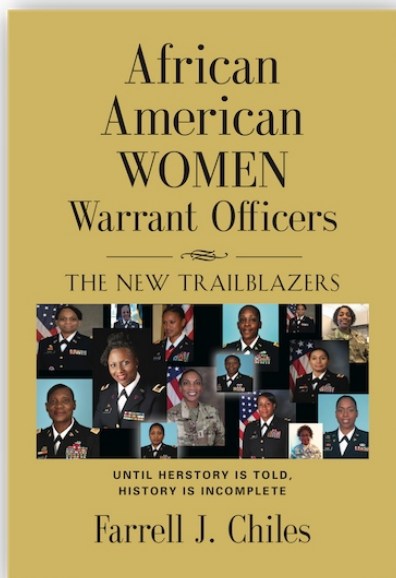
About the Author



FARRELL J. CHILES, Cultural Historian, 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. Novosel 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 is the author of “African American Warrant Officers...In Service to Our Country” (2014); “African American Warrant Officers – Their Remarkable History” (2018); and “African American Warrant Officers: Preserving Their Legacy” (2019). His first book, “As BIG As It Gets” (2010) chronicles his tenure as Chairman of the Board of the National Organization of Blacks In Government (BIG) for five consecutive years.

Farrell Chiles resides in Phillips Ranch, California.



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