

# WVU NEWS



February 2026

Edition 22

## February Newsletter | Connection • Empowerment • Service



### Black History Month ~ Pioneers on the Frontlines

Cathay Williams (1844–1893) was the first documented African American woman to enlist in the U.S. Army, serving from 1866 to 1868 as "William Cathay". Born into slavery in Missouri, she disguised herself as a man to join the 38th U.S. Infantry (a Buffalo Soldier regiment) to secure financial independence.

February is a time to celebrate the rich legacy, contributions, and leadership of Black Americans—past and present. WVU proudly recognizes the many Black women veterans whose service, sacrifice, and impact continue to shape our communities.

African American women have served with distinction in all major U.S. wars, overcoming racial and gender discrimination to serve in the armed forces. Key milestones include the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion in WWII, the first all-Black female unit to serve overseas, and trailblazing leaders like Brigadier General Lorna Mahlock and Admiral Michelle Howard.

In WWII, over 6,000 Black women served in the Women's Army Corps (WAC), along with nurses and women in the Navy WAVES and Coast Guard SPAR.

The National Association of Black Military Women (NABMW), established in 1976, actively works to honor these veterans and fill gaps in military history.

Resources: The National Association of Black Military Women and the Library of Congress

## LOCAL RESOURCES

Florida Veterans Benefits

Book Edition 2026

Florida Department of  
Veterans Affairs (FDVA)

Florida Department of Highway  
Safety & Motor Vehicles



Click on the link to view photos from the Holiday Gathering-  
[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1c4rOmwQOb-5OAKwn46eBOoEXG-d2Rvkn?usp=share\\_link](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1c4rOmwQOb-5OAKwn46eBOoEXG-d2Rvkn?usp=share_link)

Photos taken by: Maria Renzulli, Paula Hubert and other WVU members

For more info, visit [www.womenveteransunite.com](http://www.womenveteransunite.com)

# Upcoming Events & Announcements

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## WVU Sponsor & Donor Recognition Program

Thursday, March 19, 2026

Theme: *Honoring Those Who Serve Those Who Served*  
–A Celebration of Partnership, Purpose, and Impact

This program will recognize the individuals and organizations whose support strengthens our mission and allows WVU to continue serving women veterans.

## Goodwood Muesuem Exhibit Details

Admission is free for our organization's members.

**Dates:** January 8, 2026 – February 28, 2026

**Tour Days:** Tuesday through Saturday

**Tour Times:** 10:00 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 1:00 p.m., and 2:30 p.m.



Portraits of the Four Chaplains (L-R)  
Alexander Goode,  
Clark Poling,  
George Fox,  
and John Washington

## Four Chaplains Day by Marianne Scholer

On February 3, 1943, the USAT Dorchester, a troop ship carrying military personnel and civilians to Europe at the height of World War II, was torpedoed and began to sink. As the extent of the damage began to be realized among the passengers, four Army chaplains stepped forward with an extraordinary demonstration of bravery and sacrifice.

Distributing life jackets, calming the panicked troops, offering words of comfort and prayer, the four chaplains made every effort to calm and assist the living and offered prayers for the dying. They opened a storage locker and distributed life jackets, removing their own when the locker supply ran out. Of the 902 aboard, 230 survived – many because of the selfless sacrifice of Army Lt George L. Fox (Methodist), Lt John P. Washington (Roman Catholic), Lt Clark V. Poling (Reformed Church in America), and Lt Alexander D. Goode (Jewish).

Established on February 3, 1951, the Four Chaplains Foundation honors the memory of four extraordinary men and their act of supreme sacrifice during World War II.

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WVU Newsletter Submission Deadline is the 15th of Every Month submit to [wvucommunications@gmail.com](mailto:wvucommunications@gmail.com)

For more info, visit [www.womenveteransunite.com](http://www.womenveteransunite.com)

