



CONNECTIONS

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Camp Humphreys youth center teaches Black history with art

By Sgt. Courtney L. Davis, U.S. Army Garrison Humphreys Public Affairs Office

Students from the Smith Middle School and Teen Center's Keystone Club join Alexandra Harris, the youth center's interim program director, and Col. Seth Graves, the U.S. Army Garrison Humphreys commander, to celebrate Black History with an art exhibition at the Camp Humphreys youth center Feb. 18, 2022. (Photo by Sgt. Courtney L. Davis)

CAMP HUMPHREYS, Republic of Korea – Students at the U.S. Army Garrison Humphreys Smith Middle School and Teen Center participated in a Black history art exhibition Feb. 18, 2022.

The art exhibition was a creative way for the students to set their differences aside and learn about Black history.

"Actually, this is our first black history art exhibit," said Alexandra Harris, interim program director for the Smith Middle School and Teen Center, also known as the youth center. "The youth, they drew a lot of these pictures. We also created a power point with black actors, black athletes, and black inventors to play in the background, so onlookers could read their bios."

Keaira Richardson, an eleventh grade student at Humphreys High School and the youth center's Keystone Club president, said the students wanted to do something fun and decided on the art exhibition as a way to pay tribute to the Black change makers in the U.S., both past and present.



"I thought the exhibit was great, not only because of the beautiful art pieces on display, but also because of the diversity in the kids that provided the art work," said Command Sgt. Maj. Benjamin Lemon, the USAG Humphreys senior enlisted advisor. "It was the epitome of what observing Black History Month is about, providing the ability for others outside the African American community to learn about and appreciate the contributions African Americans have made towards the

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Education is key

By Sgt. Courtney L. Davis, U.S. Army Garrison Humphreys Public Affairs Office

CAMP HUMPHREYS, Republic of Korea – Each February, the U.S. Army joins the nation to celebrate Black history. Dr. Helen Bailey, the Pacific West District Community Superintendent for the Department of Defense Education Activity, says celebrating Black history is important to building context between the past and present. Often, we have only heard of the struggles and turmoil of African Americans, but our history is much richer than the racism and turmoil, she asserts.

“We, as a people, have made significant contributions to the world, not just the United States, through arts, through science, through politics, and through leadership. I think it is important for not only adults, who didn’t get that history growing up, but also our children to understand the diversity of our people as African Americans,” stated Bailey.

A Dunn, North Carolina, native and daughter of a veteran, Bailey has spent thirty-one years in education and twenty-three years in the DoDEA school system,

spreading her love of life-long learning with young minds.

Growing up, Bailey could not see her future going further than the local grocery store, but some affirming words from a mentor enabled her to look beyond her circumstances.

“I wanted to be a bagger at Piggly Wiggly when I was growing up – because that was all I saw in my small neighborhood. I did not have a whole lot of role models to look at from my neighborhood, but I did have teachers from my neighborhood that saw something in me even when I didn’t see it,” reflected Bailey.

Bailey said she found out these educators, who had themselves together, were willing to champion for her. Motivated to make a better life for herself, Bailey worked hard academically.



“I was motivated, and the only way for me to get out of the situation I was in was do well in school, so I did well in school,”

Dr. Helen Bailey, the Pacific West District Community Superintendent for the Department of Defense Education Activity, discusses Alpha Kappa Alpha, her college sorority, at the Pac-West School District office on Camp Humphreys, South Korea, Feb. 17, 2022.

(Photo by Sgt. Courtney L. Davis)



Dr. Helen Bailey, the Pacific West District Community Superintendent for the Department of Defense Education Activity, shares her life experiences at the Pac-West School District office on Camp Humphreys, South Korea, Feb. 15, 2022. (Photo by Sgt. Courtney L. Davis)

declared Bailey.

In addition to her academics, she worked to help financially at home.

“My mother was a single parent for a very long time who worked the third shift. My brother, sisters and I had to work, so that is what I did. I worked at Wendy’s, Western Sizzlin’ and I drove a bus. I made money. That was how I purchased my class ring. That’s how I purchased my prom dress,” remembered Bailey.

Even with working three jobs, Bailey said, she still managed to graduate in the top 10% of her class from Triton High School.

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Col. Seth Graves
Garrison Commander

Command Sgt. Maj. Benjamin Lemon
Garrison Senior Enlisted Leader

Steven Hoover
Public Affairs Director

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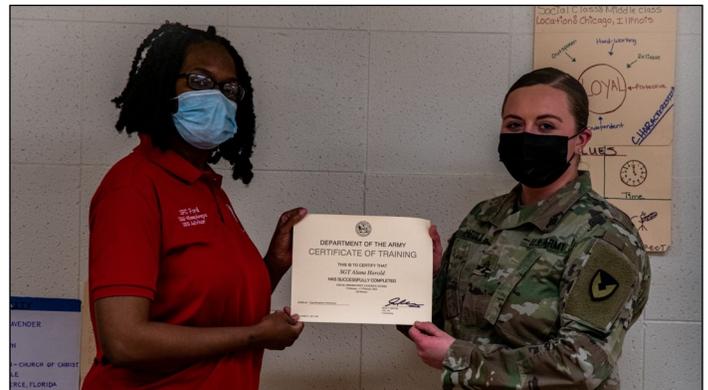
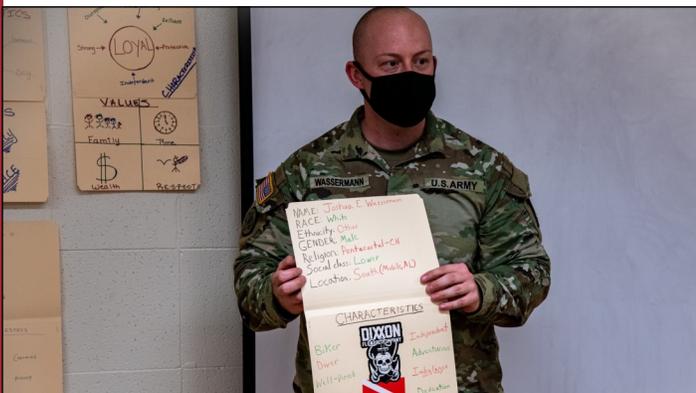
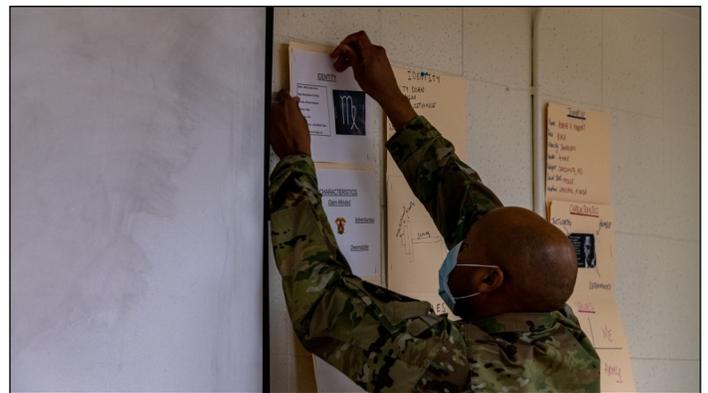
Submit stories, information, or photos to USAG Humphreys Connections to: kelly.m.pickett2.civ@army.mil

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Around the Garrison

Service members assigned to various units on Camp Humphreys receive their certificate of training from the garrison's Equal Opportunity Leaders Course during a graduation ceremony at the EOL headquarters Feb. 17, 2022. Participants shared their badges containing their ethnic backgrounds, core values and belief systems. (Photos by Sgt. Courtney L. Davis)



EDUCATION, continued from page 2

All of Bailey's hard work paid off. Upon graduating high school, she was accepted to Fayetteville State, a historically black university. There she was finally able to do the things she was too busy for in high school. She tried out for and made the school's cheerleading squad and rushed Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority.

Thirty-one years later, a Fayetteville State alumna, smiling and grateful, Bailey sat in her office and reflected on the events of her past and expressed pride in her present success.

"When I was younger, I had no idea that I would be able to see the things or do the things I have done or have my children grow up overseas – and graduate from DoDEA schools," mused Bailey.

She talked about how working for the DoDEA school system is a full circle for her, since her children were part of the school system, and she saw how it affected them.

"My son Patrick graduated from Guam High School. My daughter Britney is in a dual degree program. She finished with her mathematics in pre-engineering at Anderson, and now she is going to Clemson. She is playing basketball on a full scholarship," Bailey shared cheerfully.

Now, she takes the opportunity to inspire someone else's child. Bailey said she leads by her motto – "education is key."

"We, as a people, have to understand that college isn't for everyone. A two-year college may work fine for you or a certificate program where you are learning a trade. That may be fine for you, but knowledge is power and education is the key," stated Bailey.

Her past has created a strong bridge to her present. It's far different than what she might have expected, but she knows to be successful you must dig deep and believe changes can happen,

Bailey added.

"We live in a diverse society. Every single person, no matter your creed, your color, your national origin, or your gender, everyone has something to offer to our society and to our world. You have to look deep within yourself to determine what your offering to society is going to be," stated Bailey.

It's important to understand people are different, she said. Knowing that fact, she hopes we get to a point where we are all working together and not against each other. There is enough out there

"Everyone has something to offer to our society."

A graphic for USAG HUMPHREYS EMERGENCY services. At the top is a yellow and red Maltese cross logo with 'USAG' and 'HUMPHREYS' written on it. Below the logo, the text 'USAG HUMPHREYS' is in large white letters. Underneath that, 'EMERGENCY' is in even larger white letters. Below 'EMERGENCY' is 'POLICE/FIRE/MEDICAL' in smaller white letters. The background is a dark, high-angle view of a city. At the bottom, a red horizontal bar contains the text 'DSN 911' in white, followed by 'Commercial' and '031-690-7911' in white.

for everyone, Bailey explained.

"No one would ever think a black female from Dunn, North Carolina, would be here, but I have worked hard to do it, and I did have to work harder than the next person," Bailey said.

As an educator and leader, Bailey continues to demonstrate to the next generation the power of hard work, perseverance and belief in self. She also inspires others to embrace her motto. Education is key.



(Left) Dr. Helen Bailey, the Pacific West District Community Superintendent for the Department of Defense Education Activity, smiles at photos of her children at the Pac-West School District office on Camp Humphreys, South Korea, Feb. 17, 2022. (Right) Bailey shows off a U.S. Army Garrison Humphreys commander's coin at the Pac-West School District office on Camp Humphreys, South Korea, Feb. 17, 2022. (Photos by Sgt. Courtney L. Davis)

ART, continued from page 1



Julia McCants, a ninth grade student at Humphreys High School and a Keystone Club member at Smith Middle School and Teen Center, shows her drawing during the Black History Art Exhibit at the Camp Humphreys teen center Feb. 18, 2022. (Photo by Sgt. Courtney L. Davis)

school students to paint and draw by telling them their work would be part of the art exhibit.

"The middle schoolers were in the art center everyday painting something," said Scoggin.

Julia and Lilian McCants, ninth grade students at Humphreys High School, highlighted the drawing of a woman's profile with a beautiful headdress created from the words "Black History Month." Each letter glistened with black, red, yellow, or green flecks.

"The person who did the art work is Lilian McCants," gushed her twin Julia, as she explained the inspiration

A U.S. Army Garrison Humphreys community member explores paintings displayed as part of the Black History Art Exhibit at the Camp Humphreys Smith Middle School and Teen Center Feb. 18, 2022. (Photo by Sgt. Courtney L. Davis)

betterment of the United States. The more we learn about each other, the more empathy and understanding we gain."

Madam C.J. Walker, Martin Luther King Jr. and Frederick Douglass posters hung on the exhibit walls with biographies and affirming words from the iconic Black history figures. Renditions of a black power fist, Black Lives Matter paintings, and other abstract art were displayed across the tabletops.

The exhibition included paintings and drawings created by students from Humphreys Middle School and Humphreys High School.

Jimmy Scoggin, a youth program assistant at the youth center, explained the Keystone Club members – ninth through twelfth grade students – encouraged the middle



behind the artwork. "We were looking for art pieces to do for Black history, and this one kind of stood out to us both. We thought it would be kind of cool to try and interpret it our own way and make it look cool for other people to view."

Camp Humphreys students and community members walked through the exhibition, admiring the beautiful displays of black culture, discussing what the artists were trying to convey, and learning a little history in the process.

Roxanne Venegas, a ninth grade student at Humphreys High School and a Keystone Club member at Smith Middle School and Teen Center, shows her drawing during the Black History Art Exhibit at the Camp Humphreys youth center Feb. 18, 2022. (Photo by Sgt. Courtney L. Davis)



HUMPHREYS TAX CENTER

Maude Hall Building 6400, Room R301 (Legal Office)

1 February - 22 April 2022

- There will be tax assistance kiosks for self-help tax filing via computer available for service members (and their families filing jointly) to prepare their taxes using tax software provided by Military OneSource.
- Trained personnel will be present to assist service members with the software.
- All services at the tax center are free.
- For non-service members, including civilians and retirees, the tax center will provide referrals to other resources located on- and off-post. Those resources will enable personnel to complete their own taxes elsewhere at their own expense.
- For non-service members falling below the federal poverty line, eligible to receive Social Security, and with extenuating circumstances, the tax center may be able to provide full service tax preparation services, resources permitting. These individuals will apply for special tax assistance at the tax center.
- One-on-one tax preparation assistance, as provided in past years, will not be available.

For more information, contact 757-2644



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Women's History Month

The Army story isn't complete without the historic achievements of Women Soldiers and Civilians, who have played a major role in defense of our Nation since the Revolutionary War.

Women of every race, class and ethnic background have made historic contributions to the growth and strength of our Army in countless recorded and unrecorded ways.

Dr. Mary Edwards Walker (1832-1919) was the first woman appointed as an Assistant Surgeon in the U.S. Army, and the only woman to have received the Medal of Honor. Her story, and so many more, make up the remarkable legacy of service, contribution, and achievements by women in the Army.

Click [here](#) or more inspiring stories about women serving throughout the Army's history.

To learn more about women Soldiers and Veterans, click [here](#).

Check out the [U.S. Army Women's Museum](#) for more great stories and information about women serving in the Army.

Connect with USAG Humphreys



HAPPENINGS AT HUMPHREYS

- [Read Across America](#) with Humphreys Family and MWR March 2 from 4:30 p.m. to 6 p.m.
- [Army Emergency Relief](#) campaign kicks off on March 1.
- [ACS Lunch and Learn: Maximize Your Savings](#) virtual seminar March 12 at 12 p.m.
- [USAG Humphreys Performance Summit](#) on March 24 at 9 a.m.
- Classes in woodworking, art, framing, 3D printing, and more at the [Arts and Crafts Center](#).

Click the provided links for more details and information.