

Contemporary Black Arts Program presents program to salute the "Buffalo Soldiers" for Black History Month

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UCSD BLACK HISTORY MONTH SALUTES THE "BUFFALO SOLDIERS" WITH A HISTORIC LOOK AT THE MEMBERS OF THE 9TH AND 10TH CAVALRY

The Congressional Medal-winning Black 9th and 10th Cavalry Regiments of the United States Army will be honored with a lecture, video, and panel discussion, at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 25, in room 104 of the Third College Lecture Hall at the University of California, San Diego. Two members of the historic units will be present for the event, which is free and open to the public.

Charles Ambers, chairman of the National Education Committee for the 9th and 10th Horse Cavalry Association will give a lecture and slide presentation on the history of the units, which were formed in 1866. A five-member panel, including the two living ex-members of the 9th and 10th units, will engage in a question and answer session with members of the audience.

The 9th and 10th Cavalry Units campaigned against American Indians on a frontier extending from Montana to Arizona, New Mexico and Texas. The Indians nicknamed the units "The Buffalo Soldiers," which conveyed the degree of respect the Indians held for the Buffalo Soldiers' fighting ability. The soldiers' duties included escorting wagon trains, riding shotgun on mail runs, and patrolling the Mexican border. They engaged in many skirmishes, including historic fracas with chiefs Geronimo and Nana. Border patrol units were responsible for rousting Victorio and Pancho Villa, and chasing them back into Mexico.

When the battleship Maine was sunk in 1898, the troopers were ordered to fight under Teddy Roosevelt's Roughriders, at San Juan Hill. Until 1922, regular duty orders for the troopers included patrolling the Philippine Islands, and the Mexican border. The 9th Cavalry was then ordered to Fort Riley, Kansas, and the 10th Cavalry remained on the border until 1931. In 1941, the two regiments formed the 4th Cavalry Brigade, commanded by Gen. Benjamin O. Davis Sr., at Camp Funston, Kansas, and also included the two newer regiments, the 27th and 28th.

The ex-troopers who will take part in the panel discussion are Sgt. Ernest Collier and Sgt. Hoyt Liggins, both retired and living in San Diego. Collier served with the 9th Cavalry from 1941-52, in Texas, North Africa, Europe, Japan and Korea. Liggins served with both the 10th and 28th Cavalry units, in North Africa, Italy, and the Philippines.

Charles Ambers, ex-trooper, served with the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, and with the 24th Regiment. He also was attached to a M.A.S.H unit during the Vietnam conflict. He is currently a teacher in the Chula Vista City Schools System.

For more information, call the UCSD Contemporary Black Arts Program, at 534-0670.

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