

To celebrate and inspire the Community through the cultivation, preservation, and presentation of the cultural and artistic contributions of African Americans in Prince George's County, Maryland.

PGAAMCC *Newsfocus*

Coming Home: How the African American experience in World War II shaped the culture of Prince George's County

The Prince George's African American Museum & Cultural Center welcomed more than 100 patrons for the May 14th opening of Coming Home: How the African-American experience in World War II shaped the culture of Prince George's County. The exhibition, which runs through September 14, 2011, features original military-issued equipment, uniforms, an original oral history video that traces African-American Veterans in the county and a collection of military memorabilia from Prince George's County resident, George Hardy.

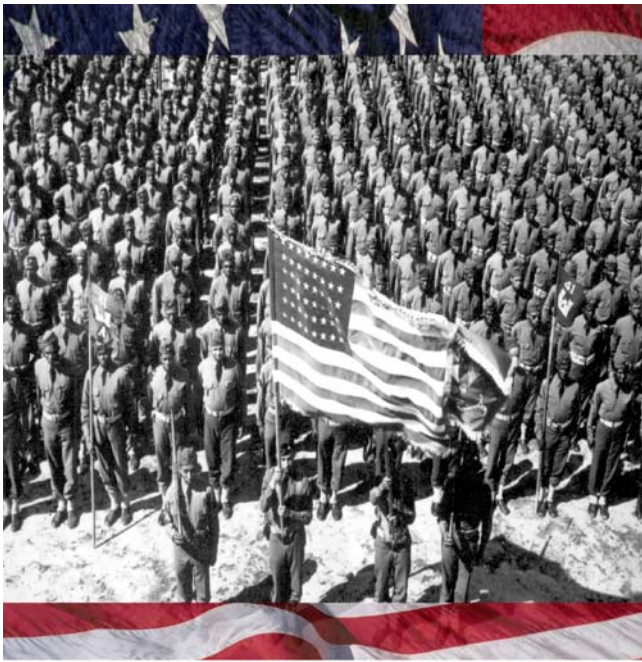
"This collection represents the lifestyle of World War II soldiers down to every detail," said PGAAMCC Curator Jon West-Bey.

"This collection is the full documentation of the African-American Experience in WWII."



Curator Jon West-Bey and Sgt. John Lopes Da Cruz and his family at the exhibition opening





COMING HOME

How the African American experience in World War II
shaped the culture of Prince George's County

MAY 14, 2011 - SEPTEMBER 10, 2011



Prince George's African American Museum & Cultural Center board member William Shelton (left) and Executive Director Dr. Jacqueline F. Brown, engage (Retired Col) Dr. Larry Lewis during the opening of the exhibition "Coming Home," May 14, 2011 at Gallery110 in the Gateway Arts Center in Brentwood, Maryland.

The Prince George's African American Museum and Cultural Center will be constructed on a 2.5 acre site in North Brentwood, the first municipality in Prince George's County incorporated by African American citizens. An anchor project in the Gateway Arts District, a state-of-art facility will be characterized by innovative architectural and environmental design. Visitors will be able to explore the County's African American heritage in exhibitions galleries, classrooms, meeting spaces and a theater.

Donor Spotlight!



George T. Hardy Jr. is an amateur historian and collector. He has a passion for studying and collecting artifacts and memorabilia that are related to the African American experience in WWII.

His collection started early as a youth when his father, George Hardy Sr. shared with him some of his photographs, ribbons and uniform parts from his WWII experience. He has always been fascinated with military history, particularly as it relates to the experiences and contributions of African Americans. For many years he reenacted and participated in living history programs, portraying the role of United States Colored Troops in the Civil War. From there he expanded his focus and in 2000, began to direct his attention and energies on the WWII era. He has created a small museum in his basement that is dedicated to African Americans in WWII which contains hundreds of original photographs, uniforms and other artifacts from the WWII era. The museum is a fascinating place where one can step into space that has essentially been fashioned to resemble a room from a home in the 1940s.

His collection has been on display at the Newton White Mansion in Prince George's County and he has been contacted by the MacArthur Memorial Museum in Norfolk, Virginia and the Reginald Lewis Museum in Baltimore, MD to provide his collection on a loan basis. His collection has also been on display at his church, Shiloh Baptist of Washington DC, in support of Veteran's Day activities. He is an avid supporter of the Veteran's Recognition Committee at Shiloh where veteran's support and recognition receive a high priority.

Mr. Hardy is a native of Portsmouth, VA. He attended Howard University, majoring in Electrical Engineering and graduated from the University of Bridgeport, in Bridgeport CT. with a Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering. He currently is employed by ACS, A Xerox Company where he is an account executive and responsible for managing a portfolio of information technology (IT) contracts for state and local customers in Maryland.

He is married to Dr. Rochelle Hardy, a family physician. One of his goals is to create a repository where African Americans can contribute to the collection and the perpetuation of the rich legacy of their involvement in WWII, so that this important aspect of history will not be lost or overlooked.

**Prince George's African American Museum Administrative Offices:
10201 Martin Luther King Jr. Highway, Suite 260, Bowie MD 20720
301 809 0440/Fax 301 809 6971 www.pgaamcc.org
Gallery 110: 3901 Rhode Island Avenue, Brentwood, MD 20722
301 209 0592**

Executive Director's Column

Hello to each and every Newsletter reader and Museum supporter! My name is Dr. Jacqueline Brown and it is my absolute pleasure to serve as the Executive Director of the Prince George's African American Museum & Cultural Center @ North Brentwood.

As a 41 year resident of Prince George's County, I can only say, "it's about time the stories, the histories, the contributions and the arts of African Americans in Prince George's County are lifted up for all to see!"

Please join in on this amazing journey. Visit Gallery 110 at 3901 Rhode Island Avenue and experience the marvelous exhibits. Stay involved with the Public Programs so you can learn, experience and enjoy information on Genealogy, African American Storytelling, Creative Arts and much more.

Information is available on the website (www.pgaamcc.org). I encourage you to book tours and to tell friends about this jewel in the heart of the Gateway Arts District.

In the very near future, we will begin training docents and other volunteer services that are essential in keeping an institution such as this vibrant and responsive to our public.

Support the Culture Keepers program which offers young people between the ages of 13-18 the opportunity to learn about African American History and Culture, to become models of what it means to be a contributing and positive community member.

You are the reason we are here. Yours are the stories we tell. Become a member today! Show your pride in Prince George's by helping to make this Museum and Cultural Center a reality. We all know, "It's About Time!" Thank you and I'll see you at the Museum!