



Region 8 Veterans Committee
November/December 2019 Newsletter

**Let us remember those who are not
home for the Holidays this season!**



Women in the Military



West Point graduates, its largest class of black women 2019.
Thirty-four black women are graduated West Point 2019.

“Because of Them We Can”

Thirty-four black women are expected to graduate from West Point next week.

“That will be the largest class of African American women to graduate together in the military academy's lengthy history”, West Point spokesman Frank Demaro said.

"Last year's graduating class had 27" said Demaro, "and the expectation is next year's class will be even larger than this year."

Last year, the school appointed Lt. Gen. Darryl A. Williams as its first black superintendent.

In 2017, the academy, for the first time, selected an African-American woman, Simone Askew, to serve at the top of the chain of command for cadets.

"It makes me feel prideful that the academy is acknowledging diversity", 2012 West Point alum Shalela Dowdy said.

Dowdy, who said she tries to stay in touch with female African American cadets to offer support, believes the outreach that the minority admissions office at West Point is doing is the reason why more minorities are coming to the school.

"There were only 13 in my class, I just counted, but the numbers keep going up and up. It's encouraging and inspiring to see leaders graduating from the school that are from all different kinds of backgrounds and represent the diversity of the army itself", said Dowdy.

West Point's graduating class is seeing diversity in other minority groups. "Also, this year's class will have the highest number of female Hispanic graduates along with graduating our 5,000th female cadet since the first class of women to graduate in 1980," said Demaro.

Cadet Tiffany Welch-Baker, spoke to the website "Because Of Them We Can ," about her feelings about being a part of this historic graduating class.

"My hope when young black girls see these photos is that they understand that regardless of what life presents you, you have the ability and fortitude to be a force to be reckoned with".

West Point created its office of diversity in 2014 to try to attract, retain and promote a more diverse workforce according to its website.

About 10% of undergraduate students are black and women make up about 20% of cadets, according to the school's statistics.

Vice President, Mike Pence, will speak at the graduation ceremony on May 25, according to a news release from the academy. "More than 950 cadets are expected to graduate from the U.S. Military Academy and be commissioned as second lieutenants in the US Army," according to the release.

Take a moment to read this article. Times have changed!

<https://www.wptv.com/news/local-news/water-cooler/west-point-is-about-to-graduate-its-largest-class-of-black-women>

Bikes or Bust

Volunteers assemble bikes for annual Bikes or Bust donation drive

Bikes or Bust is a public event sponsored by Greater Louisville Central Labor Council, GLCLC, UAW 862 and other unions. Location: 3000 Fern Valley Rd., Louisville KY 40213.

Hundreds of kids will have a special Christmas thanks to a local radio station. Country radio station Q103 held its annual Bike or Bust collection drive. Each bike donated was distributed by the Salvation Army and the Marine Corps Toys for Tots.

Students from the Prosser Career Education Center, along with Local Union and Community support pitched in to put together donated bicycles.

"I had a lot of fun, especially with the team I was with because we were able to work together and get big bikes and little bikes finished", said Angelique Henderson from Prosser, in an interview.

Over the past three years, more than 6,000 new bikes have been collected through Bike or Bust and this year they're hoping to see the same giving spirit. The community is





UAW Local 3058 member Chris Ash helping to build bikes. Volunteers from all over. Pictures of bikes loading into trucks, are with the support of UAW Local 862 at their Local Union Hall.



WOW! So many bikes for kids this year. Truck is getting full. A good thing.

Join us on National Wreaths Across America Day December 14, 2019

Each December on National Wreaths Across America Day, our mission to remember, honor, and teach is carried out by coordinating wreath-laying ceremonies at Arlington National Cemetery, as well as at more than 1,600 additional locations in all 50 U.S. states, at sea and abroad.

Join us by sponsoring a Veterans' wreath at a cemetery near you, volunteering or donating to a local fundraising group.

Why We Remember

Wreaths Across America coordinates wreath-laying ceremonies at more than 1,600 locations across the United States, at sea and abroad. Click below to find a location near you.

If you don't see a location near you, Wreaths Across America will support you in becoming a Location Coordinator for a cemetery in your area. There is no cost to become a participating location and host a Wreaths Across America ceremony.

How We Teach

Wreaths Across America's mission touches the lives of thousands of schools, scout, civic and religious groups across the country through fundraising for wreath sponsorships. These groups help us ensure that we reach our goal to place a wreath on each hero's grave. In return, they receive fundraising dollars that assist in furthering their own goals and projects. Support us by supporting our participating groups below.

Who Supports Us?

Thank you to all the companies and organizations working to support the mission to remember, honor, and teach. Without their support, we would not be able to reach so many communities across the country.

Click here to find you closest location to help volunteer.

<https://www.wreathscrossamerica.org>

Metro United Way Event Louisville, Kentucky



BOXES OF LOVE

Volunteers from unions, community groups, and businesses are coming together to assemble boxes with 1400 turkeys and several boxes and cans of side items on Monday, December 23rd at 6 a.m. Boxes will begin being put together and to be delivered by other volunteers throughout the day.

**This is in Louisville KY., 400 S. 4th Street
Louisville KY**

Such a gift of giving of yourself to make this event happen! Check your local United Way and see what events are happening and Volunteer!

What's happening in your state and local?

Reminder: If you know of an event that is going to happen, please send me the information and if possible a flyer in a word document.

Please all information on what happened with photos and quick informational or will be happening to:

debbiabattipearson@yahoo.com

See you next year!

November

2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
				Bikes or Bust – Louisville KY 	Bikes or Bust – Louisville KY 	Bikes or Bust – Louisville KY 
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Bikes or Bust – Louisville KY 	Bikes or Bust – Louisville KY 			Thanksgiving 	Black Friday <i>SHOP TILL YOU DROP</i>	

December

2019



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 Toys For Tots Month	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23 Metro United Way/Boxes Of Love Event 	24 Christmas Eve 	25 Christmas 	26	27	28
29	30	31	1 New Year's Day! 	2	3	4

Please Drink and Drive responsibly. Have a Designated Driver if you plan to drink or take an Uber!