



State of North Carolina

ROY COOPER
GOVERNOR

NORTH CAROLINA MILITARY HALL OF FIRSTS

2022

BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, North Carolina is proud to be the home to active duty members of the military as well as veterans who have served our country with honor, and is grateful to be considered one of the most military-friendly states in the nation; and

WHEREAS, the State of North Carolina is proud to recognize the accomplishments of outstanding North Carolinians with by announcing the first official class of inductees for the North Carolina Military Hall of Firsts; and

WHEREAS, Admiral Edwin Anderson displayed dedication to duty over a career that spanned 42 years, included heroic actions during the intervention at Veracruz that earned him the Medal of Honor as well as the supervision of humanitarian aid to Japan following the Great Kanto earthquake of 1923; and

WHEREAS, Major Bennis M. Blue became the first female officer of the 82nd Airborne Division on June 15th, 1978, following the integration of females; and

WHEREAS, Brigadier General Norman C. Gaddis dedicated a 30-year career to the United States Air Force, serving in 3 global conflicts, including time spent as a Prisoner of War, and continues to serve to this day as a mentor and advocate for the military and veteran community; and

WHEREAS, Lieutenant Colonel Elmer P. Gibson served as a pioneer for the desegregation of the United States Army, first as a military chaplain who held integrated religious services, and then later as an advisor during the Truman administration; and

WHEREAS, Madelon "Glory" Battle Hancock willingly declined a life of comfort to instead volunteer as a nurse on the front lines of Europe during World War I, and subsequently launched multiple fundraisers and supply drives to provide comfort to the wounded troops she oversaw; and

WHEREAS, Private First- Class Elizabeth Bernice Barker Johnson served honorably in the European theater in World War II as one of the first female African American soldiers, and engaged afterwards in a long and rewarding career as a North Carolina educator for 32 years; and

WHEREAS, John R. Thompson served as a trailblazer as a Montford Point Marine stationed in the Pacific theater during World War II, and upon returning home served as a teacher within the Guilford County School System for 23 years; and

WHEREAS, Captain Ted Triebel engaged in a 29-year career with the United States Navy that included honorable service as a naval aviator and as a prisoner of war, followed by an influential career in higher education; and

WHEREAS, the State of North Carolina is honored to call such brave trailblazers North Carolinians;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ROY COOPER, Governor of the State of North Carolina, do hereby proclaim June 4, 2022, as "NORTH CAROLINA MILITARY HALL OF FIRSTS" in North Carolina, and commend its observance to all citizens.





Roy Cooper
Governor

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Great Seal of the State of North Carolina at the Capitol in Raleigh this third day of June in the year of our Lord two thousand and twenty-two and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-sixth.