

## Friday online: Black History Month event - celebrating the Black Family

By Public Affairs Office 18 February 2021

REPRESENTATION • IDENTITY • DIVERSITY

“I think of my life as a unity of circles. Some are concentric, others overlap, but they all connect in some way. Sometimes the connections don’t happen for years. But when they do, I marvel. As in a shimmering kaleidoscope, familiar patterns keep unfolding.”

- Dorothy Height

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

### The BLACK FAMILY

THE BLACK FAMILY OF THE FUTURE WILL FOSTER OUR LIBERATION, ENHANCE OUR SELF-ESTEEM, AND SHAPE OUR IDEAS AND GOALS.

FEBRUARY

The Black History Month theme for 2021, "The Black Family: Representation, Identity, and Diversity", celebrates the wide-ranging

iversity of black family life - as well as its deep and lasting impact.

STREAMED LIVE at Noon, Friday, Feb. 19: [www.armywarcollege.edu/live](http://www.armywarcollege.edu/live).

In a unique partnership between the graduate education program of the Army War College and middle schools in the region, the Feb. 19 event will feature four Army officer-students and highlight 13 students to be honored for their essays addressing The Black Family. Students represent these area schools: Big Spring, Eagle View, Lambertton, Mountain View, and Saint Patrick's.

Acting Commandant Maj. Gen. David Hill will open the event.

Featured speakers are 4 Army officers currently pursuing a master's degree in Strategic Studies at the Army War College:

- Col. Frank Jefferon will talk about success despite challenge – and paying it forward by mentoring, supporting, and guiding junior members of the team
- Lt. Col. Melissa Riddick will talk about how being a female service member makes a difference in her career and her family
- Lt. Col. Chika Ihenetu will talk about the perseverance of the Black Family.
- Lt. Col 'BJ' Lane will describe how his family learned to be ambassadors for their country and race when living overseas.

The students are members of the Carlisle Barracks chapter of ROCKS, Inc., a nonprofit mentorship and professional development organization named in honor of Maj. Gen. Charles C. Rogers.

This year, 2021, marks the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Rogers' graduation from the U.S. Army War College in 1971. He earned our nation's highest honor, the Congressional Medal of Honor for his actions three years prior, on November 1, 1968, while serving as a Battalion Commander during the defense of Fire Support Base Rita on the South Vietnam-Cambodian border.

The citation for his award notes that then-Lt. Col Rogers rallied his artillery crewman while under attack from ground forces and a concentrated bombardment of indirect fire. He led a small counterattack force to drive an enemy force from friendly positions. In doing so, he was seriously wounded by an enemy mortar round.

"Although too severely wounded to physically lead the defenders, he continued to give encouragement and direction to his men, leading to the successful defeat of the enemy attack."

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