Military, Law, and more ...

National Coalition of Black Veteran Organizations to partner with National Park Service to invite public to First Freedom Festival at Camp Nelson National Monument on June 21

By Charles Blatcher, III
Chairman,
National Coalition of Black Veteran Organizations

The National Park Service in partnership with the Camp Nelson Preservation and Education Foundation, National Coalition of Black Veteran Organizations, Kentucky Center for African American Heritage, Jessamine County Public Library, Jessamine County Tourism, Huntertown Community Interpretive Park, and the Kentucky Historical Society, announces the 1st Annual Freedom Day Festival. The event will be held from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm on Saturday, June 21, 2025 at the Camp Nelson National Monument located in Nicholasville, Kentucky.

The special event commemorates the Brigadier General Charles Young Memorial Historical Corridor—the 170-mile route from Camp Nelson National Monument in Jessamine County to Mays Lick—and concludes at

Among the special items to be displayed at the event is a bronze maquette of Brigadier General Charles Young on horseback. The statuette, placed on temporary loan to Camp Nelson by the Veterans Coalition is a replica of the statue the organization is proposing to establish on the grounds of the National Museum of African American History and Culture in Washington, D.C. The statue created by sculptor Antonio Tobias Mendez will be on display for thirty days after-which it will be returned to the Kentucky Center for African American Heritage in Louisville. The festival features live music featuring The Marshall Law Band, food trucks, arts and crafts, children's activities, guided talks and walks, and a keynote presentation by sculptor Ed Hamilton, creator of the Spirit of Freedom African American Civil War Monument in Washington DC. It is free and open to the public. Limited free bus transportation will be available from the Kentucky Center for African American Heritage in Louisville located at 1701 Muhammad Ali Blvd. Sign-up now to reserve a seat. See the flyer for details on sports-Military 3.

Buffalo Soldier legend Brig. Gen. Charles Young.

For more on the Camp Nelson Freedom Festival on YouTube.
Link here

the Charles Young Buffalo Soldiers National Monument in Wilberforce, Ohio. Born to enslaved parents in 1864 in Mays Lick, Kentucky, Young became the third African American to graduate from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point; the first African American superintendent of a national park; and the highest ranking African American U.S. Army officer at the time of his death in 1922. Charles Young was posthumously promoted to the rank of brigadier general in the Regular Army on February 1, 2022, at the behest of the National Coalition of Black Veterans and Kentucky Governor Andy Beshear.

***

For more information, contact Charles Blatcher III at cnmmmf@aol.com

SAF files brief in Illinois assault weapons ban lawsuit

BELLEVUE, Wash. — June 9, 2025 — The Second Amendment Foundation (SAF) and its partners have filed their brief with the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals in SAF's challenge to Illinois' assault weapons and magazine capacity bans.

SAF is joined in **Harrel v. Raoul by the Illinois State Rifle Association, Firearms Policy Coalition, C4 Gun Store, Marengo Guns and Dane Harrel,** for whom the lawsuit is named.

The case challenges the constitutionality of the Illinois assault weapons and magazine capacity bans, on the grounds that both modern semiautomatic rifles, and the standard capacity magazines that feed them, are overwhelmingly in common use for lawful purposes, including self-defense. Twice now, the District Court has agreed and ruled in SAF's favor, first in granting a preliminary injunction, and then on the merits on remand. With a full trial record now before it, the

"SAF is litigating seven cases around the country against so-called assault weapons bans," said SAF Executive Director Adam Kraut. "We're challenging the Illinois ban, and others like it, as they fly in the face of the Second Amendment and the Supreme Court's interpretations in both Heller and Bruen..."

Seventh Circuit has a second opportunity to properly apply the Heller/Bruen test and leave these Illinois statutes in the wastebin of history.

"SAF is litigating seven cases around the country against so-called assault weapons bans," said SAF Executive Director Adam Kraut. "We're challenging the Illinois ban, and others like it, as they fly in the face of the Second Amendment and the Supreme Court's interpretations in both Heller and Bruen. The modern semiautomatic rifles banned in Illinois are among the most commonly owned firearms in the country, placing them well within the protection of the Second Amendment."

"Illinois legislators may disagree with the Constitution and the Supreme Court, but they don't get to thumb their nose at both and ban broad categories of popular arms," said SAF founder and Executive Vice President Alan M. Gottlieb. "The Second Amendment demands the protection of all semiautomatic rifles like the AR-15 and those like them. Hard stop."

For more information, visit saf.org.

Medal of Honor Profile: Navy Acting Master's Mate Thomas Harding of the Civil War, a lesson in courage

By Katie Lange
Dept. of Defense (DOD)

June 9, 2025- During the Civil War, Navy Acting Master's Mate Thomas Harding did his best to save one of his superiors on a sinking vessel. His brave actions earned him the Medal of Honor.
Navy records show Harding was likely born in 1837 in Middletown, Connecticut. No details of his early life have been published, but Department of Veterans Affairs records show he enlisted in the Navy in 1859 and served as a seaman on the USS Dolphin. Similar records show he was discharged in 1861 but reenlisted again soon after the Civil War began.
Harding was discharged for a second time in January 1862, National Archives records show, but about a month later, he enlisted a third time.
His heroic actions came toward the end of the war when he held the rank of captain of the forecastle on the USS Dacotah, which was used as a gunboat during the

On June 9, 1864, the Dacotah was off the coast of Beaufort, North Carolina, when a nearby ship's boiler exploded. Harding and some of his crewmates were tasked with rowing a small boat out to the damaged ship to try and rescue some of the sailors and collect its cargo. On the way, however, the boat started taking on water,

Please see sports-Military 3

FedEx St. Jude Championship to give complimentary tickets to military personnel

All military personnel should visit FedExChampionship.com/tickets to claim their tickets, if assistance is needed, please contact: ticketsupport@pgatourhq.com.

Parking passes are not included in any ticket purchases. A separate parking pass is required each day of tournament week and must be purchased online in advance.

A good man is a good father!

Happy Father's Day to all fathers and to all military fathers on June 15!