

Military, Law Enforcement News, and More...

The National Coalition of Black Veterans on Tyler Perry's Netflix release - 6888th Battalion... from sports-Military 2

“As I followed the two-hour, seven minutes film the storyline intersected with the facts as I understood them of the Battalion’s service. It recreated the political/social environment of the times with humor, along with the insults and disrespect the women faced in their efforts to serve our less than appreciative nation. Seeing it all played out in the movie, it provoked laughter, anger, and a sense of pride in how the leadership and members of the Battalion maintained focus on the mission at hand - moving the mail.”

complishments and achievements in the defense of our nation.

The National Coalition of Black Veterans has created a poster “Saluting” Sisters in the Service of the Nation”. The poster recognizes the achievements and advancements of Black women in all branches of the Armed Forces. Beginning with Cathy Williams who disguised herself as a man to serve in the Army, the women featured are trailblazers.

The poster promotes greater public awareness of the expanded role Black women occupy in today’s Armed Forces. For information on the poster contact the coalition at: cmmmmf@aol.com

We salute Tyler Perry for creating an outstanding production well worth the two hours and seven minutes of viewing. We encourage you to make the viewing a family affair and recommend it to friends.



Nicole Avant and Tyler Perry share journey to bring ‘True Story of the 6888th Battalion’

Now streaming on demand on Netflix

By Anne Cohen

When producer Nicole Avant was growing up, one of the most remarkable feats of courage during World War II wasn’t taught in school. “I first heard about the 6888th Battalion when I was a young girl,” Avant told Netflix. “My mom told me about Major Charity Adams, but I didn’t know the full story.”

What was the 6888th Battalion? In early 1945, the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion — the first and only Women’s Army Corps unit of color to be stationed in Europe during World War II — was deployed to England to take on a seemingly impossible mission. Their assignment? Sort through, catalog, and prepare for delivery a backlog of more than 17 million pieces of mail to US soldiers fighting abroad and their loved ones back home, often mislabeled or without a complete address. The task was Herculean, and the conditions arduous. As well as the terrors of war, the 855 women of the 6888th, led by Major Adams, faced segregation and sexism within their own military, and carried out their important work in derelict buildings lacking adequate light and heat. They were given six months to complete the job. They did it in 90 days, bringing missives of hope to the front lines. Still, their inspiring story has remained largely untold — until now. With their new movie The Six Triple Eight, Avant and writer, producer, and director Tyler Perry seek to bring deserved and long-overdue attention to the sacrifice and patriotism of the brave women whose tireless efforts helped raise morale and win the war.

The film has been a labor of love for Avant, a commitment Perry recognized with a surprise dedication to the life, service, and memory of her parents, Clarence and Jacqueline Avant, who she credits with nurturing her interest in history. “I saw my mom’s name [at the end], and it was so emotional for me,” Avant said. “My mom really loved history and would be so proud that this story was finally being told.” “My parents would’ve loved The Six Triple Eight because they [were] big believers in passing the baton, and they always believed that you can’t teach people about passing the baton if they don’t understand the baton itself,

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Watch for The Mid-South Tribune’s 30th Annual Black History Month Edition in February 2025!

2024 and Beyond, an interview with Mark Oliva from sports-Military page 2

President-elect Trump said that Second Amendment rights would be a priority for him in the next administration, and his overall track record from his previous term bears that out. He supported lawful gun ownership and appointed justices to the U.S. Supreme Court who believe the Constitution and Bill of Rights mean what they say – that the right to keep and bear arms belongs to “We, the People” and not be relegated to the bureaucracy that can pluck it away at a whim.

5. Question: What will get better or easier for conservation organizations?

Answer: Conservation organizations will always have to prove their worth, no matter the administration. What will change is that the Trump administration will listen to the voices in the conservation community and treat their priorities with the value that they deserve.

6. Question: What will become more difficult for sportsmen and conservation organizations?

Answer: There will still be battles on the state fronts for many sportsmen and women. Take the example of Colorado and Arizona. Colorado introduced wolves onto the landscape through a ballot initiative. That didn’t account for the impact those wolves would have on wildlife and ranching, and we’ve seen that even the Native American tribes that assisted in relo-

cating wolves to Colorado have abandoned that program because it isn’t being administered the way they were promised. Ranchers are pleading with the state to take more decisive measures to deal with predation on livestock. We saw special-interest groups try to push a ban on big cat hunting in Colorado that would have cost the state tens of millions of dollars and could have had devastating impacts on elk and mule deer. That was voted down. However, some of those same special-interest anti-hunting groups are trying to do the same thing in Arizona now.

7. Question: What will become more difficult for gun owners and conservation organizations?

Answer: Gun owners in some states still face significant challenges. Washington state lawmakers pre-filed bills that would radically change the process to lawfully obtain a firearm, including permits-to-purchase, state-mandated efficiency tests, registration, and more. Colorado passed a 6.5 percent excise tax on all firearm businesses by ballot initiative in 2024. That will increase the cost of exercising the right to purchase a firearm legally. Other issues, like bans on entire classes of firearms and standard-capacity magazines, are making their way through the courts, and the U.S. Supreme Court is still considering a petition to challenge at least one state’s ban on Modern Sporting Rifles.

8. Question: What are some

new administration concerns you have that may surprise the hunting, shooting, and conservation communities?

Answer: NSSF hopes the incoming administration will improve the outlook on hunting, recreational shooting, and conservation. The record of achievement is there. The reality is that this administration is facing significant challenges on many issues that will require Congress to address some of these issues as well. The interests of the hunting, shooting, and conservation community are only one part of a big “to-do” list for the next four years. This is also why NSSF urges all hunters and gun owners to remain plugged in and attend their polling places in local and midterm elections. Those voting opportunities are no less critical to the viability of our priorities than the presidential elections.

9. Question: What can advocates within the hunting, shooting, and conservation communities do to engage the new administration successfully, and specifically, what will be different about this engagement versus the past administration?

Answer: Advocates should engage with their elected officials. Voters hire them to do a job, and the hunting, shooting, and conservation communities must remind them that our voices deserve to be heard and respected. If they are discounted, then voters have the option to hire someone else who will represent their interests. Additionally, as policies are pre-

sented, those same communities should make those policymakers aware of their support or opposition. Public engagement in the policy process is invaluable, and voices make a difference. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service recently rolled back a “woke” policy proposal that would have put climate change ahead of conservation policies for public lands. That policy proposal was abandoned after more than 50,000 comments were submitted to the Federal Register, most of which told policymakers that this agenda wasn’t acceptable.

As the 2024 political landscape evolves, the future of sportsmen, gun owners, and conservation or-

ganizations will be shaped by opportunities and challenges. The incoming administration’s focus on public land access, Second Amendment rights, and science-driven conservation policies offers hope for positive change. However, success will depend on the active involvement of these communities. By staying informed, engaging policymakers, and advocating for their priorities, hunters, recreational shooters, and conservationists can ensure their voices are heard and their traditions preserved for future generations. The power to shape the future lies in collective action and unwavering commitment.

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