

# The Bulletin



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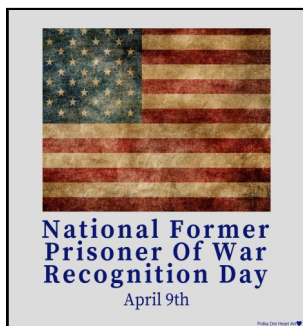
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STORYTELLING • AMBASSADORSHIP • PERSUASION



Try to remember April 9th—an almost forgotten national remembrance and recognition day. Details inside...

Hope all are doing well and glad I finally got this issue into print. A lot going on right now but I'm sure also for many.

Looking forward to Texas 75th Gratitude Train celebration this month and Central States in April. I know there are many /boxcar celebrations coming up—love to see some pictures and articles.

A wide and diverse issue this month—with some things a bit different than what we usually offer—find something to share in your Locale or Grand.

Start thinking about awards! Blessings out there! L'Editeur

### In this issue!!

- **PR Clipboard—"Passive Voice"?**
- **P.A.L.S. Page—2024 Public Relations Awards**
- **Article—Internal PR Awards and Recognition**
- **"Is Public Relations a Leadership Function?"**
- **PR Editorial—"The Being, Knowing, Doing" of Public Relations in La Societe"**
- **Speeches—"The Uses of Military Power"**
- **Newsletter Filler, Trivia or Just for Fun**
- **Spotlight on PR—"The Greatest Story Never Told"**
- **Poster of the Month**
- **Back Page—National Former Prisoner of War Day—April 9th**
- **Digital Only—More Unremembered**

**"Nobody is too busy, it's just a matter of priorities."**

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## THE CLIPBOARD

Savage Chickens

by Doug Savage



Savage Chickens

by Doug Savage



### What's all the hubbub about passive voice?

In active voice, the subject performs the action. Ex: "John **hit** the ball". In passive voice, the action is performed **on** the subject. The subject receives the action, Ex: The ball **was hit** over the fence.

Passive voice is used when focus is on the action. It is not important or not known, however, who or what is performing the action. Ex: Active: Rita **wrote** the letter. Passive: The letter **was written** by Rita.

Why does it matter? In general, the active voice makes your writing stronger, more direct, and, you guessed it, more active. The subject is something, or it does the action of the verb in the sentence. With the passive voice, the subject is acted upon by some other performer of the verb. But in case you are scratching your head...

If you're writing anything with a definitive subject that is performing an action, you'll be better off using the active voice. And if you search your writing for occurrences of was, is, or were and your page lights up with instances of passive voice, it may be a good idea to switch to active voice.

Passive voice summed up...

- The passive voice isn't a grammatical error; it's a matter of style.
- Use the active voice if it makes your sentence sound clearer and more natural.
- Forming passive voice requires the verb to be and a past participle.
- The passive voice is your friend when the thing receiving an action or the action itself is the important part of the sentence—especially in scientific and legal contexts, times when the performer of an action is unknown, or cases where the subject is distracting or irrelevant.
- When it comes to good writing, don't be passive—even if your sentences sometimes need to be.

#### Why use "bullets"?

Bullet points are great for communicating information and breaking up text. For example, they can:

- make lists clearer, as they are more visual
- use white space well
- grab attention by drawing the reader's eye
- help readers scan information quickly

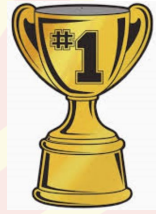
*From grammarly.com*

**"Every strike brings me closer to the next home run" - Babe Ruth**

## P.A.L.S. Page— Notice of 2024 Public Relations Awards

### Thomas W. Fay Award - Chef de Chemin de Fer - 1978

Awarded to the **Voiture Locale** presenting the best publication for the fiscal year.



### John Kilgus Award - Chef de Chemin de Fer - 1977

Awarded to the **Grande Voiture** presenting the best publication for the fiscal year

### La Verne Eccleston Award

Awarded to the **Voiture Locale** for excellence in promoting 40/8 Programs and fostering effective communication with the community during the year. Award and Honorable Mention

### Robert Kaseman Award

Presented to the **Grande Voiture** for excellence in promoting 40/8 programs and fostering effective communication within the community during the year. Award and Honorable Mention

### Don Collins Award

Presented to the **Voiture Locale or Grande Voiture** that submits the best entry showing utilization of the public media (TV, Radio, Newspapers, etc.) to promote the activities of the 40 & 8. Award and Honorable Mention

### John W. Emerson Award

Awarded to the **Voiture Locale** presenting the best **social media website** for the fiscal year.  
Award and Honorable Mention

### Arthur McDowell Award

Awarded to the **Grande Voiture** presenting the **social media website** for the fiscal year. Award and Honorable Mention

### Directeurs L'Editeur Award

Presented to the **L'Editeur** of a **Locale, Grand or Nationale** publication exhibiting the best combination of News, Humor, Creativity, and articles promoting the Programs and Traditions of La Société.

**Note:** Please look closely at this years awards. There are changes. In this modern age of websites, internet, Facebook, etc., we have many Locales and Grands that defer newsletters and use their websites and/or social media to disseminate information and communicate via those mediums. We will begin by looking at those Locales and Grands that use the nationale website for posting their sites. My next Directeur Monthly communique will provide more information and direction. Do not hesitate to contact me personally for details.

**"It's ok for you to believe what you believe.**

**It's not ok for you to demand others believe the same way." - Pres. Calvin Coolidge**

## Internal PR—Awards and Recognition

Many of our members have shown dedication, spirit and commitment to our locales and grands. I know for a fact that many have their own traditional awards provided to those members who deserve it. What immediately comes to mind are nominees for our nationale award of Voyageur of the Year—which begins with a Locale and Grand VOY. My locale also has a Americanism award given to the Voyageur Militaire exhibiting a high degree of Americanism through their spirit and volunteerism. Lets look at ways and ideas we can recognize those members that stand out and deserve recognition...



Everyone signing in gets a raffle ticket. An inexpensive gift card to the winner or even given all or a set amount from your fines. Might promote attendance and add a little fun. I like a gift card for a couple to go see a great movie at a local theatre.

Recognize members unique milestones such as birthdays, births, becoming a grandparent, a work or job promotion. Add a picture and add to your newsletter or social media site.

Group outings? Does your area have a great picnic area, amusement park, sports team? Try to set up a group outing which includes families—creating a bond between members.

What a better way to display the hard work and recognize your membership than a great scrapbook or history book - then submitting at Promenade Nationale. Don't expect one person to do all this work unless they want to—form a committee to share the work, gather pictures and items to include.

Do you meet in the morning—coffee/tea and some pastries are a great way to reward those attending. Consider taking your fines from one prom to pay for those items at the next.

Create your own internal certificates of appreciation or commendation. Emblem sales also has some great ones—but maybe someone has the ability to create something unique just for your Locale or Grand. (I have some examples—just ask!)

Honor those years! What a great way to honor those who renew year and after year. How about milestones for every five years? How about a nice membership certificate for a new member when wrecked and given their manuals, card and lapel pin.

This may be a stretch... But consider training as a way to reward your leadership. New Correspondants, Commissaire Intendants, Chef de Trains and others may need some guidance and help—training is a way to show we care and not leaving them to learn on their own—reward new officers with a mentor.

For your newsletter or in social media, have a special space to recognize a special volunteer with a shoutout and include a picture!

Tie in awards and recognition with your installation, Forty and Eight Birthday, anniversary/birthday of your charter or a holiday or special event.

Appreciating your membership will help keep it afloat and members renewing and coming to promenades. New members might stick around longer rather than drop out when they see you are an active Locale/Grand, and members are recognized.

**“Nothing is impossible.  
The word itself says I’m-possible.” - Audrey Hepburn**



## Is Public Relations a Leadership Function?

Yes!

Where does public relations actually begin?

Does it begin when we open Word and begin a press release or open our software to do an ad or a flyer— perhaps making a posting to Facebook or social media or making a speech?

It begins with our leadership.

Let's be more specific and look at it from the standpoint of a managerial function or leadership function...

I love this quote from Steven Covey— “Management is efficiency in climbing the ladder of success; leadership determines whether the ladder is leaning against the right wall.”

From the “managerial” point of view we are concerned with the technical and procedural aspects of PR. When to use it and who performs it. A big part of public relations is “relationships” and that should be a focus of our leadership. The official definition of public relations, as adopted by the PRSA board of directors, is “a strategic communication process that builds mutually beneficial relationships between organizations and their publics.”

The foundation of any leadership strategy and a leader's ability to manage it is to establish public relations goals and of course strategies to implement those goals. The mechanics of PR could be accomplished by a L'Editeur, Publiciste or even a Correspondant. It could be something as simple as publishing a newsletter, planning special events, posting information to social media, etc. But above and beyond that our leadership must foster and perpetuate our relationship with our communities and developing and promoting partnerships. Why important...

Partnerships with our communities and community organizations could feed into our Locales and Grands not only funding but new members. Leadership needs to initiate that engagement and once engaged sustain it—making a long term connection that can support and advance our goals and objectives within La Societe.

“They (leaders) are also responsible for making wise decisions, understanding situations, listening to people, and evaluating the atmosphere they operate in.” That statement goes far beyond the aspects of public relations but to the leadership function itself.

Discussing, writing, theorizing, strategizing about public relations is not the same as doing it. Understanding the dynamics, definition and mechanical aspects of it does little in fostering the relationships that we need to make it a success in our Locales and Grands.



There is no one-best-way of doing public relations or leadership—no secret formula. We just do our best to understand it and not fall or stumble on our way. We rely on others to help us all the while we ourselves reciprocate by mentoring and listening.

Externally we and our leaders need to do more public speaking and storytelling while focusing on our ambassadorship—becoming the key persuaders within our communities.

*Inspired by a variety of leadership articles and web sources on PR leadership.*

**“You have brains in your head. You have feet in your shoes.  
You can steer yourself any direction you choose.” - Dr. Seuss**

## PR Editorial—The “Being, Knowing, Doing” of PR & La Societe

“Being, Knowing and Doing” has been around for a while and used in many training circles for non-profits and many corporate organizations. It sometimes has a little different order such as “Knowing, Being and Doing”. It is generally used in leadership training but has many applications.

In PR I like to think of “knowing” as our storytelling—being able to articulate to others about the Forty and Eight, our history, programs and values. We gain an understanding and “knowing” of La Societe by attending promenades and Cheminot’s and having an understanding of our ritual and its purpose.

Consider “being” as our ambassador role. Wearing La Societe on your sleeve so to speak and carrying inside your love and dedication for it—expressing that to others. We’ve got to be self-aware of our role and are we meeting our own expectations and the expectations of others as Forty and Eighters.

“Doing” of course is how we practice our role in the Forty and Eight—recruiting, helping and assisting in membership, accepting a leadership role, etc. We have to think more of “we” rather than “me” in our role of doing. In doing we must have a philosophy of success rather than accepting the status quo. Consider your “doing” as your personal impact on the Forty and Eight.

Three words all boil down to one—“competency” - the framework of knowing, being and doing.

Knowing our history and understanding La Sociétés distinctive role and place in our veteran world, being that Forty and Eight ambassador at all times, and fulfilling obligations—all are indicative of competency.

Competency is of course a broad term and subject to interpretation and degrees. Is a competent Forty and Eighter one who just pays their dues every year? Food for thought...

How would we describe a “competent” locale or Grand—individuals and /or groups?

We have a different expectation or expect a different level of competency from a Voyageur Militaire as opposed to a National Officer or Directeur. Experience, positions held, membership years are all a factor—all contributing to our being, knowing and doing.

So, as we look at ourselves and all the different levels, duties, responsibilities and aspects between a blue and gold chapeau—we need to look internally, with introspection—at our knowing, being and doing. Look first at ourselves before we scrutinize or criticize others. We as voyageurs need to set personal goals and objectives as Forty and Eighters—even if it is something as simple as faithfully renewing each year—that is at least a basic foundation or starting place.

We must have expectations for ourselves as it is normal for us to have expectations of others.

Knowing, being and doing is a bit more than “fitting in”. - L’Editeur

**KNOWING** a little or a lot,  
makes **LITTLE** Difference.

**DOING** a little or a lot,  
makes **LOTS** of Difference.

“Treat a man as he is and he will remain as he is. Treat a man as he can and should be and he will become as he can and should be.” - S. Covey

“You can't expect everyone to have the same dedication as you.”— Jeff Kinney

“Expectation wasn't just about what people expected of you. It was about what you expected of yourself.”— Brandon Sanderson



**“Is it better to be safe than sorry?”**

## "The Uses of Military Power" - Sec. of Defense—Hon. Casper Weinberger

Remarks prepared for delivery by the Hon. Casper Weinberger, Secretary of Defense to the National Press Club, November 28, 1984.

Thank you for inviting me to be here today with the members of the National Press Club, a group most important to our national security. I say that because a major point I intend to make in my remarks today is that the single most critical element of a successful democracy is a strong consensus of support and agreement for our basic purposes. Policies formed without a clear understanding of what we hope to achieve will never work. And you help to build that understanding among our citizens.

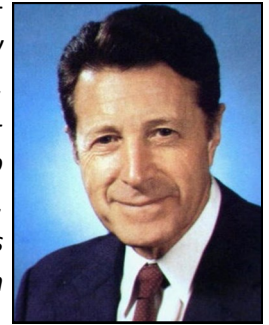
Of all the many policies our citizens deserve -- and need -- to understand, none is so important as those related to our topic today -- the uses of military power. Deterrence will work only if the Soviets understand our firm commitment to keeping the peace,... and only from a well-informed public can we expect to have that national will and commitment.

In today's world, the line between peace and war is less clearly drawn than at any time in our history. When George Washington, in his farewell address, warned us, as a new democracy, to avoid foreign entanglements, Europe then lay 2-3 months by sea over the horizon. The United States was protected by the width of the oceans. Now in this nuclear age, we measure time in minutes rather than months.

Aware of the consequences of any misstep, yet convinced of the precious worth of the freedom we enjoy, we seek to avoid conflict, while maintaining strong defenses. Our policy has always been to work hard for peace, but to be prepared if war comes. Yet, so blurred have the lines become between open conflict and half-hidden hostile acts that we cannot confidently predict where, or when, or how, or from what direction aggression may arrive. We must be prepared, at any moment, to meet threats ranging in intensity from isolated terrorist acts, to guerrilla action, to full-scale military confrontation.

Because we face a spectrum of threats -- from covert aggression, terrorism, and subversion, to overt intimidation, to use of brute force -- choosing the appropriate level of our response is difficult. Flexible response does

not mean just any response is appropriate. *But once a decision to employ some degree of force has been made, and the purpose clarified, our government must have the clear mandate to carry out, and continue to carry out, that decision until the purpose has been achieved. That, too, has been difficult to accomplish.*



I have developed **six major tests** to be applied when we are weighing the use of U.S. combat forces abroad.

**First**, the United States should not commit forces to combat overseas unless the particular engagement or occasion is deemed vital to our national interest or that of our allies.

**Second**, if we decide it is necessary to put combat troops into a given situation, we should do so wholeheartedly, and with the clear intention of winning. If we are unwilling to commit the forces or resources necessary to achieve our objectives, we should not commit them at all.

**Third**, if we do decide to commit forces to combat overseas, we should have clearly defined political and military objectives. And we should know precisely how our forces can accomplish those clearly defined objectives.

**Fourth**, the relationship between our objectives and the forces we have committed -- their size, composition and disposition -- must be continually reassessed and adjusted if necessary. Conditions and objectives invariably change during the course of a conflict. When they do change, then so must our combat requirements.

**Fifth**, before the U.S. commits combat forces abroad, there must be some reasonable assurance we will have the support of the American people and their elected representatives in Congress. ...***We cannot fight a battle with the Congress at home while asking our troops to win a war overseas or, as in the case of Vietnam, in effect asking our troops not to win, but just to be there.***

...**Finally**, the commitment of U.S. forces to combat should be a last resort. · *From www.pbs.org*

## THE OLD GUARD

The Old Guard is older than our Constitution. For more than a century and a half, The Old Guard fought our nation's battles from the frontier to the Civil War, from Mexico to the Philippines. The Old Guard is literally the *OLD* Guard, the oldest active-duty infantry regiment in the Army. The Old Guard soldiers live this every day. Their uniform bears distinctive insignia, such as the eighteenth-century buff strap, to commemorate the regiments origins—and some soldiers wear a colonial uniform for ceremonies. The soldiers march with bayonets fixed, a privilege reserved only to the Old guard, to honor the regiment's bravery in the Mexican War. And the regimental colors bear fifty-five campaign streamers to celebrate The Old Guard's history of battlefield valor.

Arlington has about ten active-duty chaplains—they are not assigned to the Old Guard but are in support.

The U.S. Army Band, known as "Pershing's Own" for the great general ordered its creation in 1922. The band has more than 250 musicians and ten ensembles. Along with the Old Guard's Fife and Drum Corps, Pershing's Own is "the most highly educated unit in the United States Army," as Pershing's successor, General Mark Milley, likes to say. Most of its soldier-musicians have a master's or doctorate in music, often from prestigious conservatories like Julliard.

The busiest ceremonial unit in the Old Guard is the Continental Color Guard (CCC), which performs in more than seven hundred events per year, even though it has only twenty-five soldiers. Given the number and complexity of its missions, the platoon's operations resemble an overseas deployment, and it requires mature soldiers who can act responsibly and without supervision. Only the strongest and fittest member of the "CCC" can carry the Army colors, weighing eighty-eight pounds, at times standing at attention for over an hour and holding steady when dipped—making even the strongest bearer's right arm to quiver.

The Tomb is eight feet wide, thirteen feet long, and eleven feet tall. The six wreaths inverted to represent mourning—on the north and south sides stand for the six major campaigns in World War I. The eastern front contains three classical figures: Victory, holding a palm branch; Peace, holding a dove; and valor, holding a sword. And the western façade bears only the famous inscription seen by visitors the world over: HERE REST IN HONORED GLORY AN AMERICAN SOLDIER KNOWN BUT TO GOD.

The marble for the Tomb came from the Yule Marble Quarry outside Marble, Colorado, the same source for the Amphitheater and the Lincoln Memorial. After a yearlong search for the seven massive pieces of marble that would become the tomb, the marble went to Rutland County, Vermont, home to some of the country's finest stoneworkers. They cut and polished the marble pieces, which arrived for assembly at Arlington on August 29, 1931.

Twenty-one. The number is central to the Tomb. The sentry, "walking the mat", as it is known—takes twenty-one steps. Where they halt is known as the "twenty-one block." There the sentry faces the Tomb and stands at attention for twenty-one seconds. The guard faces back up the mat and shifts the rifle to their shoulder opposite the tomb—or nearest the visitors, as a symbol of his duty to protect the tomb. He stands at attention for another twenty-one seconds before he steps off for another twenty-one steps. The guard repeats that sequency, over and over, back and forth, an endless vigil for the nameless dead. Why twenty-one? It symbolizes the love we feel for our war dead, and the honor we pay them. The exact reason for twenty-one have been lost in the midst of time.

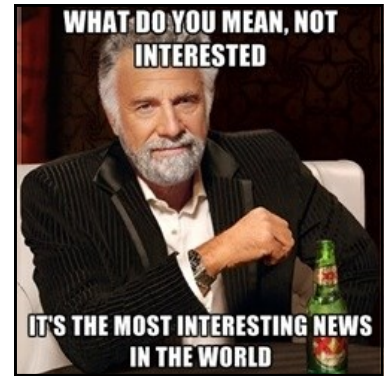
The Tomb Guard walks the mat until the Changing of the Guard, which occurs on the hour during the winter and on the half hour in the summer. They have a sacred motto...

"Soldiers never die until they are forgotten. Tomb Guards never forget." *From "Sacred Duty" by Tom Cotton, U.S. Senator*





# Spotlight on Public Relations



## The Greatest Story Never Told

We talk about storytelling almost every month—but it is an important and integral part of PR. Quite frankly it can be very powerful.

We rarely hear “What is the American Legion” or “What is the VFW”? The Forty and Eight story is out in plain site. But how well do we articulate it and how are we doing it? We might conclude it is “The Greatest Story Never Told”.

We can also say that the greatest story is one that needs no telling—fine within our own circle of La Societe. Internally we know our own audience and our history and rituals are for the most part commonly known. But, I think that it is fair to say that no matter how long you have been a Forty and Eighter—we still learn and become educated all the time. It was not until I became active at Grand and Nationale that a lot of the pieces came together.

So a knowledge of our history and our programs is kind of essential—beginning with the history of our organization as a whole but not leaving out our locale. Lets not forget in our storytelling to go beyond history but also focus on current events and happenings. Our goal—to create a positive image and perception of the Forty and Eight.

Besides answering the question “what” we must also focus on the “why”. Our storytelling may answer and educate on “What is the Forty and Eight” but is it no less important to tell about *why we are important*. That helps create the emotional *connection* that in my opinion “seals the deal”.

What good does it do to send out a press or media release, attempt to get an article printed if the first question is “What is the Forty and Eight and “Why Should I publish this” by the media?

Our story needs to become the “greatest” story of the day.

A press release has a specific format and is usually limited to something specific—but accompanied by a one page information sheet on your history and programs may be the one thing that’s get you attention. *Note: In the next issue, I will present a sample one-page info sheet for general use.*

When we send out a newsletter—for the most part it is for our own. I have always stated that it is important to get those newsletters out to our community partners. Very important to stay connected to our intended audience.

One of the great thing about social media is finding your “unintended” audience. These new “friends” may provide a good source for new members and even revenue.

Great stories engage your audience and help them understand who you are, what you’re doing, why you’re doing it and how they might consider being part of your success. This is accomplished by articulating why we are here, where we are going, why we are important, what we believe, why we serve and what we hope to achieve.

All that creates the “greatest story ever told” about La Societe.—L’Editeur

**“I don’t always honk my horn.  
But when I do it’s because I wonder how in the world you got your license.”**

# POSTER OF THE MONTH



**"And they who for their country die  
shall fill an honored grave,  
for glory lights the soldier's tomb,  
and beauty weeps the brave."**

**-American poet Joseph Rodman Drake**

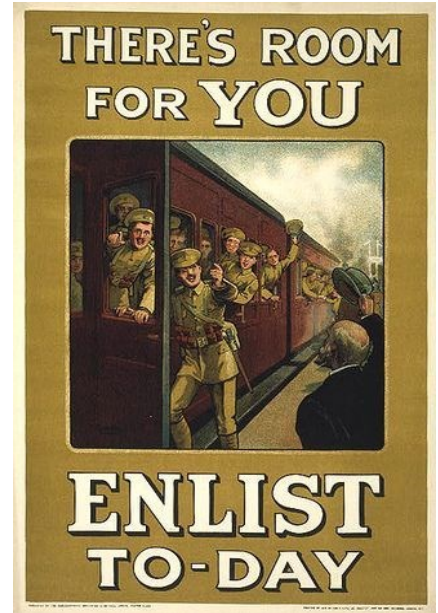


## L'Editeurs Back Page—National Former Prisoner of War Recognition Day

National Former Prisoner of War Recognition Day is different and separate from National POW/MIA Recognition Day. National Former Prisoner of War Recognition Day is **April 9**. It was officially designated by Congress in 1988, Public Law 100-269 [Sen J Res 253 100th Congress]. as a Presidentially-proclaimed observance.

National Former POW Recognition Day commemorates the April 9, 1942 surrender of approximately 10,000 United States military personnel and 65,000 Filipino soldiers on the Bataan Peninsula in the Philippines by Major General Edward P. King to the invading Imperial Japanese Army headed by General Masaharu Homma. Bataan, thereafter, is distinguished as the largest mass surrender in United States military history. The surrender was followed immediately by the infamous Bataan Death March. By law, the President of the United States must issue annually a proclamation.

**Although this remembrance day is for all who were POWs, it is most associated with those who were POWs of Imperial Japan during WWII.**



<b>APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP TO THE BLUE CHEVALIERS</b>		<b>INITIAL MEMBERSHIP</b>			
NAME:			40ET8 MEMBER	LA FEMMES MEMBER	NON MEMBER SUPPORTER
ADDRESS:	STREET:	CITY:	ST:	ZIP:	
PHONE:			EMAIL:		

**New members: \$15.00    Renewals: \$2.00    PUFL: \$65.00 for new members \$50.00 members**

**Checks payable to P.A.L.S. - Remit to:**  
**Renslar R. Keagle, 8714 Marble Drive, El Paso, TX 79904**



**P.A.L.S./Blue Chevalier dues are annual from January to December**

**P.A.L.S. APPLICATION—RENEWAL or NEW MEMBER**

Full Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_    New Member     Renewal

Email \_\_\_\_\_    PUFL \$100.00

Voiture Locale \_\_\_\_\_

**ANNUAL DUES**

MAIL ONLY: \$20.00   

MAIL AND DIGITAL: \$20.00   

DIGITAL ONLY: \$10.00   

PUFL down payment (minimum \$25)

**Checks made out to P.A.L.S.**

**Remit to:**  
Renslar R. Keagle  
8714 Marble Drive  
El Paso, TX 79904-1710  
[rennykeagle@gmail.com](mailto:rennykeagle@gmail.com)

## More Unremembered



New technologies and education gave ambitious women remarkable opportunities during World War I. When the American Expeditionary Force (AEF) landed in France in 1917, Commanding General John J. Pershing found that the French women serving as switchboard operators spoke little or no English, which made communications between American headquarters almost impossible.

General Pershing's solution was to recruit American women who spoke both English and French to join the AEF as switchboard operators to run the command's telephone networks. Of the approximately 7,000 American women who submitted applications, the War Department selected 223 who had experience with telecommunications and who also spoke French.

### **They became known as the "Hello Girls."**

Moved by the urgent needs they saw throughout the war zone, the women did more than run switchboards. They also went to hospitals and spoke to British, American, and French soldiers to offer encouragement and foster friendship.

However, the work was long and the conditions they faced were sometimes dangerous. In one heroic moment, Hello Girls kept running the phone lines even when the building they were working in caught fire. This earned them a commendation from the chief signal officer of the First Army and a Distinguished Service Medal for chief operator Grace Banker.

Although General Pershing greatly admired their work, the U.S. government did not recognize them as Army members and thus denied them veterans' bonuses, disability assistance, and flags for their coffins. Finally, in 1977, the GI Bill Improvement Act gave the Hello Girls full recognition, veterans' benefits, and World War I Victory Medals.

Their contributions were vital to the Army's success in World War I.

### **BRIGADIER GENERAL CHARLES YOUNG, FIRST BLACK U.S. ARMY COLONEL**

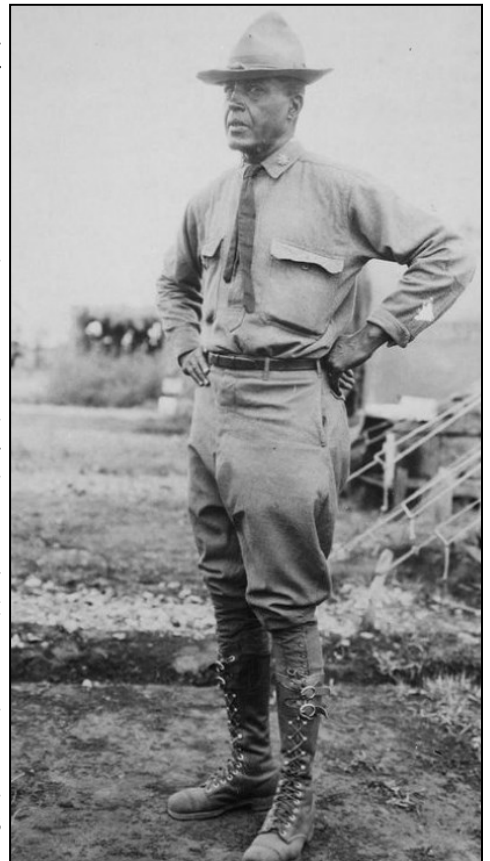
Despite the overwhelming racism of his time, Colonel Charles Young forged a stellar career in the late-19th to early 20th century U.S. Army, although a well-deserved promotion to the rank of Brigadier General was withheld from him for racist reasons and was eventually bestowed on him posthumously in 2022.

Born into slavery in Kentucky in 1864, Charles Young grew up in Ripley, Ohio and attended an integrated high school, where he excelled. His father, a Union Army veteran, encouraged him to attend West Point, where he became the ninth Black American to enter the academy. Shunned by his fellow cadets because of his race, Young persevered and became only the third Black cadet to graduate from West Point.

Young served in the 9th and 10th U.S. Cavalry Regiments at various western posts and rose to the rank of captain. He later taught military science at Wilberforce University, served two tours in the Philippines, became the first Black superintendent of a national park, and was a military attaché to Haiti, the Dominican Republic, and Liberia.

During the Mexican Punitive Expedition, he led a squadron of the 10th Cavalry and, at Agua Caliente, routed the Villistas without losing a single man, a feat that earned him promotion to Lieutenant Colonel.

When America entered World War I, Young stood in good position for promotion to Brigadier General, a rank no Black officer had ever reached. Instead, the War Department medically retired him at the rank of Colonel. After Young rode 500 miles on horseback from Wilberforce, Ohio to Washington to prove his fitness, the Army returned him to active duty, but he lived out his remaining years as an attaché in Liberia.



It was left to one of his proteges, Benjamin O. Davis, Sr., to become the first Black Brigadier General. Young was posthumously promoted to Brigadier General on 1 February 2022.