



BENNIE J. MCRÆ

Civil War Researcher, Author, Lecturer

Bennie J. McRae is a native of Louisville, Alabama and served in the United States Air Force during the Korean War from August 1951 to July 1955. He retired in 1989 after 36 years of service as a specialist and in various training and management positions with the United States Air Force and the Federal Aviation Administration.

For the past twenty years, Bennie McRae has focused his research on the African American Military Experience. He is the owner of three websites “Lest We Forget”, “Making of the United States of America” and “African American Military History”.

After retiring, McRae visited numerous libraries, archives, and historic sites for the purpose on researching and documenting nineteenth century history focusing on United States Colored Troops and Contrabands in the Civil War, and Blacks in the regular army on the Western Frontier. This interest resulted in the publishing of “Lest We Forget”, an historical quarterly from 1992 until 1997.

For many years, McRae has been a frequent lecturer at various historical institutions about the Black Military experience. They cover some of the most important eras in American history: The Civil War, World War II, and the American West. Including, The US Colored Troops: African American Genealogy Group of the Miami Valley; The Darke County Ohio Historical Society; The Camp Nelson Foundation (the 5th and 6th US Colored Calvary Regiments); The National Underground Railroad Freedom Center; the Ohio Historical Society; and the Military Road School Preservation Trust (USCT Symposium – 2006 & 2007). World War II: The American Legion Post, Washington Courthouse, Ohio; American Legion Post, Columbus, Ohio; The Afro American Museum, Wilberforce, Ohio (Panelist), Wright State University (Panelist) and Central State University. The American West: African/Native American military history, Tuskegee University, Tuskegee, Alabama. McRae developed an historical program honoring the Seminole Negro Indian Scouts for the Seminole Days celebration in Brackettville Texas.

McRae is a past Manager of several research forums for Afrigenes.com, the Internet’s legendary beacon to African American history and culture. They include its Military, Underground Railroad and the Western Frontier Forums.

Recently Bennie McRae was military consultant to two international television programs based on the African American military experience. "Black Soldier Blues" broadcast in 2005 on Australian television documents African American soldiers serving in WWII South East Asia. In the near future the BBC will broadcast its documentary on African American soldiers in WWII England.

He is the co-author of "Nineteenth Century Freedom Fighters" centered on Lt. Col. Charles Tyler Trowbridge commander of South Carolina’s USCT’s 33rd Regiment. The book was published in 2007.

Bennie J. McRae is committed to supporting educational programs that include the history of the US Colored Troops. In collaboration with Paul LaRue, history instructor of Washington Senior High School, Washington Courthouse, Ohio, McRae helped spearhead the student’s restoration of the US Colored Troops’ cemetery at Washington Cemetery and student’s database of all Ohio’s USCT. McRae is most proud of Washington High School’s website maintained by its students. “Freedom Fighters: UNITED STATES COLORED TROOPS IN THE CIVIL WAR”, is a compilation of his military research.

McRae has an M.A. in Business Management from Central Michigan University and a B.A. in Business Management from Antioch College. On September 8, 2006, Bennie McRae was honored at the Eighteenth Annual Veterans Braintrust Awards Reception for recognition of his “service and dedication to or in support of the United States Armed Forces.”