

THURSDAY MARCH 5, 2026

# THE FORT JACKSON LEADER

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## American awarded Medals of Honor during State of the Union

By **C. TODD LOPEZ**  
Pentagon News

On the night of Feb. 24, in the nation's capital, two heroic Americans were honored with the country's highest military decoration, the Medal of Honor.

At the conclusion of his State of the Union address, President Donald J. Trump announced that Army Chief Warrant Officer 5 Eric Slover and retired Navy Capt. Royce Williams were both medal recipients.

Slover, still on active duty, earned the medal for actions last month in Venezuela, while Williams — now 100 years old — received the medal for actions during the Korean War in 1952.

In early January, Trump announced the capture of Venezuelan leader Nicolás Maduro, following a successful overnight joint U.S. military mission in Venezuela's capital of Caracas.

Both Maduro and his wife, Cilia Flores de Maduro, were captured by U.S. military forces during that raid, and the two are facing criminal court proceedings tied to a 2020 indictment from the Justice Department on multiple federal charges, including narco-terrorism and drug trafficking.

Slover was part of the military effort to capture Maduro during that raid Jan. 2, Trump said. He was responsible for planning a helicopter mission involving a CH-47 Chinook.

"Slover planned a mission and was the flight lead in the cockpit of the first helicopter," Trump said. "Eric steered the Chinook under the cover of night and descended swiftly upon Maduro's heavily protected military fortress."

The area, Trump said, was heavily guard-

ed by thousands of soldiers.

"While preparing to land, enemy machine guns fired from every angle, and Eric was hit very badly in the leg and hip — one bullet after another," Trump said. "He absorbed four agonizing shots, shredding his leg into numerous pieces."

Despite those injuries, Trump said, Slover pressed on to deliver commandos to the drop zone, where the mission could be carried out.

"(Delivering) the many commandos who would capture and detain Maduro was the only thing Eric was thinking about then," the president said.

"Even as he was gushing blood ... Eric maneuvered his helicopter with all of those lives and souls to face the enemy and let his gunners eliminate the threat — turn the helicopter around so the gunners could take care of business — saving the lives of his fellow warriors from what could have been a catastrophic crash, deep in enemy territory."

After safely landing the helicopter in the right location so the mission could continue, Eric told his copilot, also wounded, to take over.

"The success of the entire mission and the lives of his fellow warriors hinged on Eric's ability to take searing pain," Trump added.

During the State of the Union address, Army Lt. Gen. Jonathan Braga, commander of the Joint Special Operations Command, put the medal around Slover's neck.

The president said there would be a sep-



Photo by AIR FORCE STAFF SGT. MADELYN KEECH

**Secretary of War Pete Hegseth hosts Medal of Honor recipient retired Navy Capt. Elmer Royce Williams' Hall of Heroes induction ceremony at the Pentagon, Feb. 25.**

arate event, at the White House, where he would present the medal to Slover.

Nearly 75 years in the making, retired Navy Capt. Royce Williams was also awarded the Medal of Honor. Williams served in World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War, the president said. His combat actions in Korea earned him the Medal of Honor.

"In the skies over Korea in 1952, Royce was in the dog fight of a lifetime — a legendary dog fight," Trump said. "Flying through blizzard conditions, his squadron was ambushed by seven Soviet fighter planes.

It was his first aerial combat of the war. And despite being massively outnumbered and outgunned, Royce led the takedown of four enemy jets and almost destroyed the others — vanquishing his adversaries while

taking 263 bullets to his own plane and being seriously hurt."

For over 50 years, the president said, that mission had been kept secret — Williams didn't even tell his wife.

"But the legend grew and grew," Trump said. "But tonight, at 100 years old, this brave Navy captain is finally getting the recognition he deserves. He was a legend long before this evening."

First Lady Melania Trump placed the Medal of Honor around Williams' neck.

The president also honored other military heroes during the address. Among those were Coast Guard Petty Officer 2nd Class Scott Ruskan, a rescue swimmer, who was awarded the Legion of Merit for his rescue efforts during a flood last year in central Texas. Ruskan is credited with saving more than 160 lives.

## ON THE COVER

**Sgt. Pamela Ramos walks under crossed sabers and into the Noncommissioned Officer Corps during a ceremony held Feb. 27 in the Post Theater. Sixteen Soldiers were inducted that day.**



Photo by **ROBERT TIMMONS**

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## THE FORT JACKSON LEADER

**Fort Jackson, South Carolina 29207**

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## Across the threshold: 16 Soldiers join the NCO Corps

**Story, photos by  
ROBERT TIMMONS**  
Fort Jackson Public Affairs

Fort Jackson recognized newly promoted sergeants who joined the Non-commissioned Officer Corps with a ceremony Feb. 27.

Sixteen Soldiers crossed the threshold under crossed sabers and into the Corps, also known as “the Backbone of the Army.”

The NCO traces its lineage back to the American Revolution when Baron Friedrich Wilhelm von Steuben began training Soldiers at Valley Forge in 1778.

He took 100 of the best Continental Army soldiers and trained them to be experts in drill and ceremony, marksmanship and taking care of other troops.

These troops returned to the force and began training the rest of the army.

Today, NCOs are charged with the training of Soldiers, accomplishment of the mission and welfare of Soldiers.

Command Sgt. Maj. Sean Sweeney, 2nd Battalion, 39th Infantry Regiment senior enlisted leader, cautioned the new NCOs to “never forget where you came from or that you lead by example and always take care of your Soldiers.”

He charged them with using other NCOs in their units to help them grow as leaders.

During the ceremony each new NCO would cross under an arch and crossed sabers. They would also take the charge of the NCO and recite the NCO Creed.

Other NCOs dressed in period uniforms would light candles signifying different aspects of the Corps. Gold represents the birth of the NCO Corps; red signifies the blood shed ensuring liberty; white symbolizes puri-

ty; and blue the future and loyalty to the Nation.

Retired Command Sgt. Maj. Michael V. Camacho, who serves as a Department of the Army Civilian in the 165th Infantry Brigade, said the day was monumental in the Soldiers’ careers.

“We gather here to not just to celebrate a promotion, but to celebrate an achievement that is monumental

**WE GATHER HERE TO NOT JUST CELEBRATE A PROMOTION, BUT TO CELEBRATE AN ACHIEVEMENT THAT IS MONUMENTAL IN YOUR CAREER ...**

**- Retired Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Camacho**

in your career,” said Camacho, whose last assignment was as U.S. Army Central’s Inspector General sergeant major. “The title of noncommissioned officer is more than just a rank. It embodies a legacy, a

profound responsibility, an extraordinary opportunity to make a real difference in our Army today.”

He called on them to mentor their troops and make them great.

“Good mentors will take you to midfield,” he added, “but great mentors take you to the goal line. I want you to remember the privilege you hold as an NCO, you have the power to shape the future of our Army one Soldier at a time.”

The Soldiers inducted into the NCO Corps at the ceremony are:

- Sgt. Carlos Alvarez
- Sgt. Armin Besic
- Cpl. Alexander Biggs
- Sgt. Kaevone Camacho
- Sgt. Rashawn Copeland
- Sgt. Eric Cospay
- Sgt. Amber Douglas
- Cpl. Regine Fersoma
- Sgt. Robert Korboi
- Sgt. Pablo Martinez Long Jr.
- Cpl. Kayla Rios Mejia
- Sgt. Ryan Mendez
- Sgt. Pamela Ramos
- Sgt. Shanae Robinson
- Sgt. Leonardo Rodriguez
- Sgt. Courtney Wilson



**A noncommissioned officer lights a blue candle during a Noncommissioned Officer Induction ceremony held Feb. 27 at the Post Theater.**

# Community Updates

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Upcoming Road Work

Contractors will be milling and paving of at the intersection of Century Division Avenue and Strom Thurmond Boulevard, March 9-10. The community is asked to follow all signs and flagmen even though the work will take place after hours. Detour signs will also be posted.

### AER Scholarship Opportunity

The deadline to apply for the Maj. Gen. James Ursano Scholarship for Dependent Children is April 1. Army Emergency Relief offers scholarships to the dependent children of a Soldier on federal active duty, a retired Soldier, or a deceased active or retired Soldier. This need-based scholarship provides assistance to the dependent children of Soldiers as they work toward their first undergraduate degree. To apply or get more information, go to [www.armyemergencyrelief.org](http://www.armyemergencyrelief.org) and click on "Scholarships."

### Safety Training Opportunities

The Installation Safety Office presents various safety training classes. To register for the Army Traffic Safety Training or Local Hazards training classes, go to the website <https://airs.safety.army.mil/default.aspx>. To register for the Unit Safety Officer training, contact your Safety Specialist.

■ Advanced Riders Course: March 13 (4 Seats); April 10 (5 Seats)

■ Basic Riders Course: March 17-19 (5 Seats)

■ Local Hazards Course: Every Monday at 10 a.m. (except holidays) at Strom Thurmond Bldg., Rm. 207

GSA online Training & Registration for drivers' improvement: link - <https://www.improvementlearning.com/gsa/>

■ Intermediate Drivers Course: On-line

**U.S. ARMY**

Your Opinion Matters!

Your feedback can make a BIG DIFFERENCE in the quality of life for Soldiers.

**Your Army Wants to Hear from You!**

\*Completely confidential

We are investing significantly in Barracks and Unaccompanied housing improvements to ensure quality living conditions are provided to our Soldiers. Survey feedback will guide the Army's efforts to provide quality, safe and secure housing.

**"We still need to hear from you"**

**TENANT SATISFACTION SURVEY**

**2 MAR 2026 - 1 MAY 2026**

The completely confidential survey will be emailed from [ArmyHousingSurvey@celassociates.com](mailto:ArmyHousingSurvey@celassociates.com). For additional questions, please contact your local **Army Housing Office**.

OMB Control Number: 0704-0553. OMB Expiration date: 08/31/2028

(provide your Safety Officer with your certificate upon completion).

■ Remedial Drivers Course: On-line (provide your Safety Officer with your certificate upon completion).

Additional training not associated with the registration link. To register contact your designated safety officer.

■ Cold-Weather Illness Prevention training: Every Monday at 1 p.m. (except holidays) at Strom Thurmond Bldg., Rm. 207.

**On-Site Hourly Care at MWR Central**  
7 a.m. to 2 p.m., Registration is available on-site and costs \$8 per hour per child, with a three-hour time limit. Parents have to remain on-site while using Solomon Center facilities. Walk-ins are welcome on space available basis. To make reservations, call (803) 751-4824.

### Sunday Funday

Come out to Century Lanes Bowling Center every third Sunday of the month for Sunday Funday and enjoy \$2 games and \$2 shoe rentals. For more informa-

tion, call (803) 751-6138.

## COMMUNITY EVENTS

### TODAY

#### Post Newcomers Orientation

8 a.m., 1917 Club. This orientation is mandatory for all Soldiers and Department of the Army Civilians arriving at Fort Jackson. Spouses are encouraged to attend. This will be a great opportunity for spouses to receive first-hand information about the valuable available resources on and around Fort Jackson. For more information, call Army Community Service at 751-5256.

### MARCH 12

#### SSI Change of Command

1 p.m., SSI Auditorium. Col. Jason Edwards, Soldier Support Institute commander relinquishes command of the unit. For more information, call (803) 751-8011.

### MARCH 14

## Fort Jackson

### Movie Schedule

3319 Jackson Blvd.

Phone: 751-7488

### MARCH 7

■ No Showing

### MARCH 11

■ Solo Mio (PG)

### MARCH 14

■ Dracula (R)

- All shows start at 2 p.m.
- Ticket sales open 30 minutes before each movie.
- Movie times and schedule are subject to change without notice.

### Offshore Fishing Trip to Charleston

9:15 a.m. Join the Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation on fishing trip to Charleston, S.C.. Venture on a charter fishing boat for a four-hour fishing trip where you may catch sheepshead, black drum, red fish, and even a shark. Groups of six or more will be split across different boats. Outdoor Recreation provides transportation and cooler. The trip costs \$180 per person and covers transportation, license, bait and tackle. Pre-registration is required at MWR Central. For more information, call (803) 751-3484.

### MARCH 17

#### EFMP Arts and Crafts

4:30-5:30 p.m., 9810 Liberty Division

See **EVENTS:** Page 10

## THE FORT JACKSON LEADER

**SEND ALL  
SUBMISSIONS TO**  
[usarmy.jackson.93-sig-bde.mbx.atzj-pao@army.mil](mailto:usarmy.jackson.93-sig-bde.mbx.atzj-pao@army.mil)

Deadline for events to be included in the Community Updates is one week before publication. Include the time, date and place the event will occur, as well as other necessary information.

If you submit an article on an event that already has taken place, please send it as soon as possible. Tuesday is the last day we will be able to accept an article for publication the following

Thursday. Include the date and place of the event, as well as a description of what took place. Please include quotations, if possible.

With any photo you submit, include IDs — rank, unit, and first and last names. All submissions will be edited and published using Associated Press Style.

Questions? Call (803) 751-3615.

## 'Epic Fury' goals 'laser-focused'

By **C. TODD LOPEZ**  
 Pentagon News

Since early morning Feb. 28, American forces in the U.S. Central Command area of operations have been involved in an intense bombing campaign against Iran that has already resulted in the death of Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

As part of Operation Epic Fury, which started at 1:15 a.m. EST, American forces have already targeted the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps command and control facilities, Iranian air defense capabilities, missile and drone launch sites and military airfields.

Secretary of War Pete Hegseth said that while there is no timeline for the military operation, there are clearly defined goals for what the United States hopes to achieve.

"The mission of Operation Epic Fury is laser-focused," Hegseth said March 2, during a press briefing at the Pentagon. "Destroy Iranian offensive missiles, destroy Iranian missile production, destroy their navy and other security infrastructure, and they will never have nuclear weapons."

For decades, Iran has been in pursuit of a nuclear weapons capability, through both enrichment of weapons-grade nuclear material and development of missiles that can carry a nuclear warhead.

In June 2025, during Operation Midnight Hammer, the United States struck Iran's Fordow Fuel Enrichment Plant using 30,000-pound GBU-57 "massive ordnance penetrator" bombs. That operation, Hegseth said, obliterated Iran's nuclear program.

Nevertheless, Hegseth said, the Iranians have persisted in pursuing a nuclear capability and in building conventional capabilities to protect their nuclear ambitions.

"Iran was building powerful missiles and drones to create a conventional shield for their nuclear blackmail ambitions," he said. "Our bases, our people, our allies, all

See **EPIC FURY:** Page 9



Photo by **JESSICA LACEY**

First-grade students react with excitement as a classmate demonstrates the "sponge brain" activity.

## First grade students grow strong 'sponge brains'

By **DR. LORRAINE EMORY**  
**and JESSICA LACEY**  
 Pierce Terrace Elementary School

In a calming, welcoming first-grade classroom at Pierce Terrace Elementary School, social-emotional learning is intentionally woven into each month of the school year.

First-grade teacher Jessica Lacey introduced a new character trait every month, previously incorporating lessons on empathy, self-control, integrity, and friendship to help students build confidence, resilience, and self-awareness for both academic and personal success.

This month's focus is on developing a growth mindset. Through hands-on activities and meaningful read-alouds, students are learning how their brains grow when they challenge themselves. One featured story, *The Magical Yet*, reinforces the idea that there are things we cannot do yet—and that learning new skills takes time, ef-

fort, and positive self-talk.

The highlight of the unit is a hands-on demonstration of "sponge brain" and "potato brain."

Students dip a potato into a clear container of water and compare it with a sponge, observing how the sponge absorbs water while the potato does not.

First-grade student J. Hedge said it was "pretty cool," noting that "the potato doesn't take in water, and the sponge takes the water." Student E. Marts added, "I like how the sponge squeezes out the water."

The concrete, sensory experience helps students visualize the difference between choosing a "sponge brain" that soaks up learning and keeps trying, versus a "potato brain" that resists when learning feels challenging.

The affirmation for this month is, "My brain grows when I try."

Lacey pairs each monthly social-emotional focus with a specific affirmation and a chant or song to reinforce the lesson.

These routines provide students with tools they can carry beyond the classroom, encouraging positive self-talk and emotional awareness throughout the school day.

Instruction during the unit supports Grade 1 reading, writing, and social-emotional learning standards as students reflect on story messages, share their thinking in writing, and explain their mindset choices.

Lacey's instruction is further strengthened by her professional learning in *The Heart-Centered Method*, which integrates social-emotional development into daily classroom structures and positive classroom management practices.

By intentionally nurturing both hearts and minds, Pierce Terrace's young learners are developing the confidence to say, "I can't do this... yet," and the courage to keep trying.

In Lacey's classroom, growing strong "sponge brains" is more than a lesson—it is a foundation for lifelong learning.



Photo by ROBERT TIMMONS

Ron Cooper with the Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security practices before the tournament.



Photo by ROBERT TIMMONS

Wanda Redd, Fort Jackson Army Emergency Relief coordinator, helps a Soldier sign in to the AER Campaign Kickoff bowling tournament held Feb. 26 at the Century Lanes Bowling Center.



Courtesy photo

Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. Brie Kotula hands the tournament trophy to a Soldier Support Institute team.

# Jackson kicks off campaign aimed at Army helping its own

By ROBERT TIMMONS  
Fort Jackson Public Affairs

The Army has always been about taking care of its own. The Army Emergency Relief campaign allows just that. It allows for Soldiers, Family members and civilians to help each other through donations. The annual AER campaign began March 1 and runs through June 14, but Fort Jackson got an early start with a Feb. 26 celebration at the Century Lanes Bowling Center that included a friendly unit-on-unit bowling tournament.

“Army Emergency Relief is a non-profit organization that was established to help Soldiers and their Families during their times of financial need,” said Capt. Eskender Kidane, Fort Jackson AER campaign coordinator during the event. “The purpose of the campaign is to bring awareness to the AER program and give Soldiers an opportunity to donate.”

The AER campaign is one of two allowed to solicit donations directly from Soldiers. The other is the yearly Combined Services Campaign, or CFC.

According to AER, since its founding in 1942, it has stood as a cornerstone of support for the U.S. Army, providing a vital safety net for Soldiers and their families in times of financial need. In 2025 the Fort Jackson AER office assisted 486 Soldiers and Families with over \$1.1 million; \$147,000 was provided as a grant.

The campaign, with a theme of empowering Soldiers, enhancing lives, reinforces Army readiness, Kidane said.

“The (campaign theme) reminds us that Soldiers helping Soldiers is our purpose and our mission. Taking care of Soldiers is what we do.”

Col. Chesley Thigpen, Army Training Center and Fort Jackson deputy



Photo by ROBERT TIMMONS

Sgt. 1st Class Catherine Tripp, senior human resources specialist with 120th Adjutant General Battalion, speaks about her experiences with Army Emergency Relief. According to AER, since its founding in 1942, it has stood as a cornerstone of support for the U.S. Army, providing a vital safety net for Soldiers and their Families in times of need.

commander, agreed.

“This is about readiness and it’s about family,” he said. “When you think about readiness for the U.S. Army, the Army Emergency Relief is part of it.”

Thigpen called on Soldiers to let everyone know about the campaign.

“Don’t let it stop here,” he said. “Everyone you get engaged with, please pass on the importance of our emergency relief.”

One of this year’s campaign coordinators knows exactly how AER can help.

For Sgt. 1st Class Catherine Tripp, a senior human resources specialist with the 120th Adjutant General Battalion, AER assistance was a savior during an emergency early in her Army career.

She had to take emergency leave

and didn’t have any money, but instead of taking a high-interest loan, she went to the AER office where they were able to give her a loan/grant. The money helped her with transportation and other expenses since her husband was deployed.

“At first I felt embarrassed,” she said during the kickoff ceremony. “AER helped me through the situations, through our bad times, and with a small, no interest loan that I was able to pay off through allotments.”

The Soldier Support Institute won the bowling tournament.

For more information about the campaign visit <https://www.armyemergencyrelief.org> or speak to your unit AER representative.

# Army releases Tenant Satisfaction Survey

By **CAPT. GABRIELLE HILDEBRAND**  
Army News Service

The U.S. Army launched its annual Tenant Satisfaction Survey on March 2 to gather feedback from over 200,000 tenants in privatized, government-owned, and government-leased housing.

This confidential and voluntary survey is a critical tool for the Army to assess and improve the quality of life for Soldiers and their families.

The survey, administered by the neutral third-party firm CEL & Associates Inc., will be open for 60 days.

The results will be instrumental in guiding future improvements to housing, resident services, and community amenities across all Army installations.

“Quality housing is fundamental to Soldier and Family readiness,” said Mr. Jordan Gillis, Assistant Secretary of the Army for Installations, Energy and Environment. “We are committed to holding ourselves and our partners accountable, and that starts with listening. I strongly encourage every eligible resident to complete the survey and share their experience so we can continue improving Army housing across the enterprise.”

The Army is dedicated to providing safe and reliable homes.

“The survey is the Army’s annual evaluation to assess the effectiveness of all housing assets and services that are provided,” stated Mr. David Dentino, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army for Installations, Hous-

ing & Partnerships. “It’s our goal each year to exceed expectations and provide safe and reliable homes for service members and families. This year we are confident that the responses will assist with improving the health and welfare of our Army Housing residents resulting in meeting the Army Readiness mission.”

The survey aims to identify areas for enhancing communication with residents, addressing any deficiencies, and prioritizing improvements that are most important to the community’s well-being.

Tenants who do not receive the survey email should contact their local garrison Army housing office. Fort Jackson will host its annual Independence Day fireworks celebration July 4.

The Fort Jackson Housing Services Office, located at 4514 8th Division Road, can be reached at (803) 751-9343. It can also be found on the web at: <https://home.army.mil/jackson/housing-services-office>.

## TENANT SATISFACTION SURVEY Army Housing FY26

**Get Your Survey**

### ✉ Check Your Email Inbox

All eligible tenants with a valid email address on file will receive their unique Army Housing Survey link. If you don’t see it, check your spam folder for: [ArmyHousingSurvey@celassociates.com](mailto:ArmyHousingSurvey@celassociates.com). If applicable, check with your spouse, partner, or other household member(s) to determine if they received the email or text.

### 🌐 Use the URL or scan the QR code:

<https://celsurvey.com/ArmyHousingSurvey.htm>

### 📄 About the Survey

- Survey launches Monday, March 2, 2026.
- The survey is conducted by CEL & Associates, Inc. (CEL).
- Results are confidential and anonymous—only CEL has access.
- Comments will be forwarded exactly as typed.
- One response per household or room/bed.



2026 Army Housing Survey

OMB CONTROL NUMBER: 0704-0553 OMB EXPIRATION DATE: 08/31/2028



# TENANT SATISFACTION SURVEY

**2 MAR 2026 - 1 MAY 2026**

**Your Army Wants to  
Hear from You!**

\*Completely confidential

**Your Opinion  
Matters!**



The completely confidential survey will be emailed from [ArmyHousingSurvey@celassociates.com](mailto:ArmyHousingSurvey@celassociates.com). For additional questions, please contact your local **Army Housing Office**.

OMB Control Number: 0704-0553. OMB Expiration date: 08/31/2028

## Epic Fury

Continued from Page 5

in their crosshairs — Iran had a conventional gun to our head as they tried to lie their way to a nuclear bomb.”

The secretary said the clear goals for Epic Fury mean it will be unlike past American conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan.

“Our ambitions are not utopian; they are realistic, scoped to our interests and the defense of our people and our allies,” he said. “This is not Iraq. This is not endless. ... This is the opposite. This operation (has) a clear, devastating, decisive mission: destroy the missile threat, destroy the navy, no nukes.”

Hegseth said Epic Fury doesn’t include nation-building or democracy building goals.

Air Force Gen. Dan Caine, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said planning for an operation such as Epic Fury has been underway for a significant amount of time.

“This marked the culmination of months, and in some cases, years, of deliberate planning and refinement against this particular target set,” Caine said. “From precision strikes against key military infrastructure to persistent intelligence and targeting integration to the close coordination of the components across vast distances, this operation again demonstrated Amer-



U.S. Navy photo

**An F/A-18F Super Hornet launches from the flight deck of the aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln in support of Operation Epic Fury in the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility, March 1, 2026.**

ica’s reach, readiness and professionalism, and that of our joint united force.”

### Setting the Force

Over the last 30 days, at the direction of the secretary, Caine said, the joint force repositioned forces around the region in order to provide President Donald J. Trump with options, if he intended to act.

“These movements ensured that U.S. forces remained postured, protected and

ready to respond decisively (to) any emerging threat,” he said.

That effort included thousands of service members, hundreds of advanced fighter aircraft, refueling tankers, a sustained flow of munitions, fuel and supplies, and the USS Abraham Lincoln and USS Gerald R. Ford carrier strike groups, along with their air wings. More capabilities continue to flow into the region, Caine said.

“This rapid buildup of forces demonstrated the joint force’s ability to adapt and project power at the time and place of our nation’s choosing,” Caine said.

The final word that Epic Fury was going to happen, he added, came from the president, Feb. 27, in the afternoon.

“Operation Epic Fury approved. No aborts. Good luck,” Caine said, relaying the message from the president.

“In the region, every element of the joint force made their final preparations,” he said. “Air defense batteries readied themselves, checking their systems to respond to Iranian attacks. Pilots and crews rehearsed their strike packages for the final time. Aircrews began loading their final weapons, and two carrier strike groups began to move towards their launching points across the globe.”

U.S. Cyber Command and U.S. Space Command, he said, initiated action with non-kinetic effects to disable Iran’s communications ability. And then, at 1:15 a.m. EST, 9:45 a.m. Tehran time, Epic Fury kicked off.

“More than 100 aircraft launched from land and sea: fighters, tankers, airborne early warning, electronic attack, bombers from the states and unmanned platforms forming a single synchronized wave,” he said. “This was a daylight strike based on a trigger event conducted by the Israeli Defense Forces, enabled by the U.S. intelligence community.”

## Civilians of the Year named

Fort Jackson would like to recognize the following Department of War Civilians as the Installation Fiscal Year 2025 Civilians of the Year. The two honorees in the two categories were recognized for their commitment to service and were presented with a Civilian Commendation Medal and time off award. GS-8 and below: Karen Mack, Housing Management Assistant, with the Directorate of Public Works, and Christine Urquiola, Supervisory Human Resource Specialist, 120th Adjutant General Battalion.



**KAREN MACK**  
(GS-8 AND BELOW)

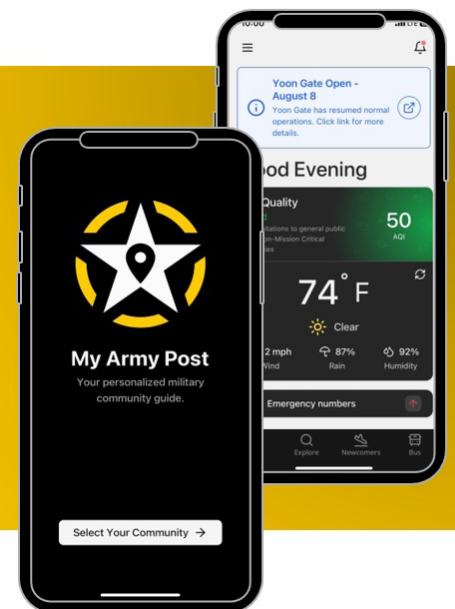


**CHRISTINE URQUIOLA**  
(GS-9 AND ABOVE)

## Download the My Army Post App

### Stay in the know at your Garrison

- Installation Services
- Gate Hours
- Community Events
- Maintenance Requests
- Weather
- Resources
- **AND MORE**



# Events

Continued from Page 4

Road. The Army Community Service Exception Family Member Program is hosts a time to socialize, meet members of the community and express self through arts and crafts. For more information, call (803) 751-5256.

## MARCH 21

### Memorial Bataan Death March

5 a.m., Hilton Field Sports Complex. Come out and ruck to remember those who died in the Bataan Death March during World War II. There are two distance options available: 26 and 14 miles. A 35 lb. rucksack is optional. For more information, call (803) 751-3700.

## MARCH 21-22

### Spring Family Campout

4 p.m., Twin Lakes Park. This family-friendly overnight camping event will have fun activities such as games, s'mores making, arts & crafts and more. Rental items available: Tents/cots, sleeping pads, cook stoves/pots and pans. The event costs \$17 for children under 13, and \$22 for those over 13 years old.

To sign up, or for more information, call (803) 751-3484.

## MARCH 23

### Intramural Softball League

6 p.m., Hilton Field Sports Complex. Service members and Department of Defense ID cardholders can participate in an intramural softball league that begins play March 23. For more information, call (803) 751-3700.

## MARCH 26

### Free Throw Challenge

5-7 p.m., Coleman Fitness Center. Sports and Fitness presents a gym monthly challenges. Show your skills and join the challenge. For more information, call (803) 751-6272.

## APRIL 1

### Community Lunch

Noon to 1 p.m., Main Post Chapel Fellowship Hall. The Fort Jackson community invited to attend a lunch with food, fellowship, fun and a brief inspirational message. For more information, call (803) 751-3979.

## APRIL 4

### Easter Egg Hunt

Noon to 2 p.m., Twin Lakes Park. Fort Jackson Outdoor Recreation presents

the annual Easter Egg Hunt. Come enjoy our annual egg hunt filled with eggs, inflatables, themed activities, and special appearance from the Easter Bunny. This is a free event. For more information, call (803) 751-3484.

## APRIL 25

### Youth Fishing Derby

8 a.m. to 1 p.m., Heise's Pond. Come join Fort Jackson Outdoor Recreation for the a Youth Fishing Derby. Youths ages 5 to 16 are welcome to come try and catch a whopper in Heise's Pond. There will be prizes for heaviest fish and five fish limit total weight. The pond will be stocked so come join us. This is a free event. For more information, call (803) 751-3484.

## MAY 2

### Magic Show

3 and 7 p.m., Down Range Bar. Magician and comedian Michael Kent is coming to the Down Range Bar for free shows.

## MAY 5

### Shred Day

9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Recycle Center. All types of paper with sensitive information will be accepted, but no classified documents.

## Holy Month Services

**Ramadan** – Until March 19

**Eid** – March 21, 8 a.m., Lightning Chapel (Trainees will celebrate during the regularly scheduled service)

**Passover** – April 1, 6 p.m., Main Post Chapel (Trainees have priority...RSVP required)

### Maundy Thursday

**Catholic** – April 2, 6 p.m., Main Post Chapel

**Protestant** – April 2, 6 p.m., Main Post Chapel Fellowship Hall

### Good Friday

**Catholic** – April 3, 3 p.m., Main Post Chapel

**Protestant** – April 3, 6 p.m., Main Post Chapel

### Easter

April 5 (regularly scheduled services)

Sunrise Service, 7:30 a.m., Main Post Chapel (Permanent Party. Event held outside of Main Post Chapel entrance)

## WORSHIP SCHEDULE

### FAITH GROUP

CATHOLIC MASS  
CATHOLIC MASS  
GOSPEL SERVICE  
GENERAL PROTESTANT  
JEWISH SHABBOS SERVICE

### DAY

SUNDAY  
MONDAY-FRIDAY  
SUNDAY  
SUNDAY  
FRIDAY

### TIME

9:30-10:30 A.M.  
NOON  
10:30 A.M.  
11 A.M. TO NOON  
6-7 P.M.

### PLACE

MAIN POST CHAPEL  
MAIN POST CHAPEL  
KINGS MOUNTAIN CHAPEL  
MAIN POST CHAPEL  
CENTURY DIVISION CHAPEL

### INITIAL ENTRY TRAINING

CATHOLIC MASS  
PROTESTANT CONSOLIDATED SERVICE  
CHURCH OF CHRIST  
HISPANIC PROTESTANT SERVICE

### DAY

SUNDAY  
SUNDAY  
SUNDAY  
SUNDAY

### TIME

8-9 A.M.  
9:30-10:30 A.M.  
9-10 A.M.  
11 A.M. to NOON

### PLACE

SOLOMON CENTER  
SOLOMON CENTER  
CENTURY DIVISION CHAPEL  
SOLOMON CENTER (1st and 3rd Sundays)  
SOLOMON CENTER (2nd and 4th Sundays)  
LIGHTNING CHAPEL  
LIGHTNING CHAPEL  
120TH AG BN (for trainees in 120th only)

### GOSPEL SERVICE

SUNDAY

11 A.M. to NOON

ANGLICAN  
ISLAMIC SERVICE  
JEWISH SERVICE

SUNDAY  
SUNDAY  
SUNDAY

9:30-10 A.M.  
8-9 A.M.  
10:30-11:30 A.M.

THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF  
LATTER DAY SAINTS

SUNDAY

10:30 A.M. to NOON

CENTURY DIVISION CHAPEL

# History comes alive

Photos by Robert Timmons

Where can you find Abraham Lincoln, a few astronauts and other historical figures together? At C.C. Pinckney Elementary School's Living Museum, Feb. 23-27. The museum helps students learn more about history as they dressed up like historical figures, and lined the school's halls. Once prompted the students read about the figure they portrayed. This helped them practice their speaking and presentation skills.



Top: Sacagawea, played by C.C. Pinckney Elementary School second grader Willow Ostrand, speaks about the life of the legendary Native American.

Above: Mariela Melendez plays Civil Rights icon Coretta Scott King.

Left: Madison Crumb plays Deborah Sampson a woman who fought during the American Revolution.

# VICTORY STARTS HERE



A noncommissioned officer lights a red candle during a Noncommissioned Officer Corps induction ceremony held Feb. 27. The red candle signifies the blood shed for the protection of liberty. Sixteen Soldiers were welcomed into the NCO Corps during the ceremony.

Photo by ROBERT TIMMONS