



FORT GEORGE G. MEADE NEWS RELEASE

PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

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<https://home.army.mil/meade>

Jan 31, 2020

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE HD Video of Final Salute

WHAT: HD Video of final salute for 101 year-old Buffalo Soldier
WHO: 101 year-old Charles Hurbert Lancaster
WHERE: Mount Ephraim Baptist Church, Upper Marlboro

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Fort George G. Meade Garrison Commander, Col. Erich Spragg and Command Sergeant Major Michael Behnkendorf (Bek'-in-dorf), led members of the Fort Meade Funeral Honors Team in a final salute ceremony, honoring Charles Hurbert Lancaster. The 101-year-old Lancaster, enlisted in the Army in 1941 and served as a 1st Lieutenant Company Commander in the 372nd Infantry Division. He earned a Purple Heart and was awarded a Bronze Medal during his service.

After the war, while living in Fairmont Heights, Maryland, Lancaster became the first black owned franchiser for the Sun Oil Company, and opened his station in 1951.

When three young children were killed in a fire, Lancaster worked with community groups to establish a volunteer fire department that would serve his segregated and underserved community. He took his argument for funding of the department to the floor of the Maryland General Assembly, where the effort was rejected, lawmakers claiming that the proposed station lacked professionally trained firemen.

Refusing to be turned down, Lancaster enrolled in the Fire Training School at Maryland University and upon completion, reargued his case before the assembly. The bill authorizing funding was passed, granting state funding on Feb. 28, 1966.

The final salute event was organized and hosted by the Seasons Hospice and Palliative Care of Maryland and the Maryland Veterans Administration. The event took place Mount Ephraim Baptist Church in Upper Marlboro, Maryland.

Please see attached for a full bio for Mr. Lancaster. B-roll video of the event along with an interview and soundbites can be found at the dropbox here:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/q956stg9cm1o9d0/AABU-iqSfPuMRRfNwa17ApK4a?dl=0>

- Interview with: Gloria A. Lancaster, Eldest daughter
- Sound from - Cmd. Sgt. Maj. Michael Behnkendorf (Bek-in-dorf)

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BACKGROUND

Fort Meade is the Nation's Platform for Intelligence, Information and Cyber Operations. With more than 57,000 employees representing each branch of military service, Fort Meade is the largest employer in the state of Maryland and the Army's second largest installation based on population. Some of the Fort's 119 tenant organizations include US Cyber Command, The National Security Agency, Defense Information Systems Agency, Defense Media Activity and federal agencies including the Architect of the Capitol and the Environmental Protection Agency.

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EDITOR'S NOTE: Questions or issues with this video should be directed to Mary Doyle in the Fort Meade Public Affairs Office at (301) 677-5592 or mary.l.doyle14.civ@mail.mil.

For more about Fort Meade, visit our Web site www.home.army.mil/meade and look for Fort George G. Meade on Facebook and Twitter.