

FOREWORD:

HALLOWED GROUNDS: SITES OF AFRICAN AMERICAN MEMORIESBy **Alicia L. Moore & La Vonne I. Neal**

In this issue, we honor hallowed grounds: sites of African American memories preserved by the National Park Service. They are sacred sites associated with our nation's diverse history, from ancient archaeological sites to the homes of poets and presidents to the sobering stories of Civil War soldiers and civilians¹ to the legacies of courageous women and men who organized the Civil Rights Movement. In 2016, the National Park Service turns 100 years old. Authors within this issue explore the theme of hallowed grounds by sharing memories of actions for justice, literature, military legacies, migration, and museums.

To participate in the centennial celebration, we decided to use our oral tradition as African Americans and preserve the memories of harbingers who were standard bearers—whose work we personally experienced. Thus, we call the following names:

- Mr. Robert G. Stanton, who served nearly four decades in the National Park Service and became the first African American to be appointed as director of the National Park Service. He played a key role in the preservation of cultural sites that were part of the rich history of people of color in the United States. The National Park Service's heritage initiatives have recognized special sites associated with American Latino and Black history, Asian American and Pacific Islander history, women's history, and LGBTQ history.²

- Dr. Margaret Burroughs, founder of the DuSable Museum in Chicago, and Dr. Charles H. Wright, founder of the Museum of African American History in Detroit. Drs. Burroughs and Wright, who initiated a series of conferences for Black museums in the 1960s, laid the foundation for the establishment of the Association for African American Museums in 1978.³ These museums are hallowed sites that preserve and protect African and African American art, history, and culture.⁴

We conclude with anticipation of the reopening of Dr. Carter G. Woodson's home—a National Historic Landmark since 1976 and a part of the national park system since 2006. The National Park Service recently announced plans to restore this historic site, which was also the national headquarters of the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH) until the early 1970s.

Please join us—turn on your smart devices and send a tweet—[#woodsonhomer renovation](https://twitter.com/woodsonhomer renovation).

Teacher Resources: The following organizations, archives, and sites provide excellent resources and lesson plans for educators who want to teach a history lesson about hallowed grounds or African Americans in the military.

1. Association for African American Museums: <http://www.blackmuseums.org/>
2. National Park Service: <http://www.nps.gov/teachers/index.htm>
 - a. Harper's Ferry: <http://www.nps.gov/hafe/index.htm>
 - b. Antietam: <http://www.nps.gov/anti/index.htm>

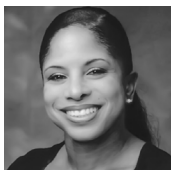
3. Tuskegee Airmen Inc.: <http://tuskegeeairmen.org/>
4. African Americans in the U.S. Army: <http://www.army.mil/africanamericans/timeline.html>
5. United States Department of Defense, African Americans in the Military: <http://www.defense.gov/home/features/2007/BlackHistoryMonth/Index.html>
6. Little Rock High School National Historic Site: <http://www.nps.gov/nr/travel/civilrights/ak1.htm>
7. U.S. Army, Guardians of Freedom, Operation Arkansas 1957: <http://www.army.mil/arkansas/>
8. National Archives, Blacks in the Military: <http://www.archives.gov/research/alic/reference/military/blacks-in-military.html>
9. National Archives, Electronic Records Relating to Civil Rights: <http://www.archives.gov/research/electronic-records/civil-rights.html>
10. The Journey Through Hallowed Ground, African American Heritage: <http://www.hallowedground.org/Plan-Your-Journey/Itineraries/African-American-Heritage>
11. Veterans History Project, Library of Congress American Folklife Center: <http://www.loc.gov/vets>

Other Resources:

Hallowed Grounds, DVD, directed by Robert Uth (Boston, MA: Public Broadcasting Service, 2009).

Notes:

1. National Park Service, *Discover History and Historic Preservation in the National Park Service*, accessed April 24, 2015, <http://www.nps.gov/history/>, para. 4.
2. *Ibid.*, para. 5.
3. Association for African American Museums, *Mission and History*, accessed April 24, 2015, <http://www.blackmuseums.org/missionandhistory>, para. 9.
4. *Ibid.*, para. 1.



ALICIA L. MOORE, Ph.D., holds the Cargill Endowed Professorship in Education at Southwestern University, Georgetown, Texas;
Email: moorea@southwestern.edu



LA VONNE I. NEAL, Ph.D., is Associate Vice President--Administration & Finance and Professor of Special Education at Northern Illinois University;
Email: lneal1@niu.edu