



# NAACP

Pomona Valley Branch



## 75TH ANNIVERSARY HONORING **EXECUTIVE ORDER 9981**



NAACP PVB Office  
1460 East Holt Avenue  
Building 2, Room 6  
Pomona. Ca. 91767

**July 22, 2023**  
**11:00 am – 1:00 pm**

# Presenters



**Kim Anthony**  
CEO, Urban Leadership Network



**Jeanette Ellis Royston**  
President, NAACP--PV



**Norma J Torres**  
Congresswoman, CA-35



**Col. (Ret) Irma Hagans Cooper**  
President, NAACP  
San Gabriel Valley



**Darren Knowles**  
Superintendent, PUSD



**Donna L. Jackson-Houston**  
Founder & President  
Nogales Buffalo Soldiers Legacy Association



**Ted Burnett**  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, NAACP-PV

# Free Event

## **Kim Anthony-Morrow** **CEO Urban Leadership Network**

Kim Anthony-Morrow's dedication advocating for the unhoused is inspired by her own lived experience of housing insecurity as an emancipated foster youth.

Finding herself on a bus bench, with her belongings in a backpack, \$120 to her name and the directions to the local welfare office, she gathered her resolve to "re-raise" herself in the hope of building a life that would make a difference and be an encouragement to others.

She went on to find entrepreneurial success as the founding publisher of the award-winning Urban Business Journal, now celebrating its 21st year.

Determined to never forget how challenging it was for her access the resources she desperately needed to achieve *her* dreams, she launched the Urban Excellence Foundation, a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization dedicated to providing access to classes, coaching and community resource navigation for anyone with a commitment to bettering their own lives, regardless of their ability to pay. In 2022 the Urban Excellence Coaching Academy was accredited by the International Coach Federation, the gold standard of coach education accreditation worldwide.

Kimberly's heart for the unhoused came full circle as she, alongside her husband Tommy, co-founded the Sheppard's Nest, a 501c3 nonprofit organization dedicated to providing dignity-informed supportive housing for women-in-need in the greater Los Angeles region.

# Program

- Reception/Music..... Brandon Brown
- Color Guard..... American Legion Pomona #30
- Welcome ..... Darren Knowles, Superintendent, PUSD
- Invocation .....
- Introduction of Mistress of Ceremonies ..... Jeaneatte Ellis Royston
- Mistress of Ceremonies ..... Kim Anthony
- Negro National Anthem “Life Every Voice” ..... Brandon Bown & Audience
- Reading of Bio for Veterans not in attendance.....Kim Anthony (Ronald Blue, Ronald Coley, Jr, and Monagayle Sparks-Johnson)
- Special Guest Speaker .....Congresswoman (CA-35), Norma J. Torres
- 13<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> Amendment ..... Ted Burnett, 2<sup>ND</sup> Vice President, NAACP-PVB
- Keynote Speaker ..... Col (Ret) Irma Cooper
- Military Experience & War Stories..... Vincent Terrell, James Sanders & Myron Hester, Edward Thorne, Derrick Steven Meadows
- Buffalo Soldiers Song (Bob Marley)..... Brandon Brown
- Buffalo Soldiers Legacy Presentation..... Donna L. Jackson-Houston, Founder & President  
Nogales Buffalo Soldiers Legacy Association
- Closing Remarks & Certificates ..... Jeanette Ellis Royston

NOTE: A Video about the “Executive Order & Tribute to African American Veterans” can be viewed on [YouTube.com](https://www.youtube.com)

**This is a FREE EVENT  
BUT**

**Donations Welcome**

Checks payable to NAACP Pomona Valley Branch  
 Mailed to: NAACP Pomona Valley Branch  
 1460 East Holt Ave., #142  
 Building 2, Room 6  
 Pomona, CA 91767  
 Or online : PayPal at [naacp-pv.org](https://www.naacp-pv.org)

Contact  
 Jeanette Ellis Royston  
 909-764-7833

# **National NAACP History**

## **114 Years Old - 1909-2023**

*President/CEO: Derrick Johnson*

Founded February 12, 1909, the NAACP is the nation's foremost, largest, and most widely recognized civil rights organization. It's more than half-million members and supporters throughout the United States and the world are the premier advocates for civil rights in their communities, leading grassroots campaigns for equal opportunity and conducting voter mobilization.

Purpose: "To ensure the political, educational, social, and economic equality of rights of all persons and to eliminate racial hatred and racial discrimination."

The NAACP established its national office in New York City in 1910 and named a board of directors as well as a president, Moorfield Storey, a white constitutional lawyer and former president of the American Bar Association. Other early members included Joel and Arthur Spingarn, Josephine Ruffin, Mary Talbert, Inez Milholland, Jane Addams, Florence Kelley, Sophonisba Breckinridge, John Haynes Holmes, Mary McLeod Bethune, George Henry White, Charles Edward Russell, John Dewey, William Dean Howells, Lillian Wald, Charles Darrow, Lincoln Steffens, Ray Stannard Baker, Fanny Garrison Villard, and Walter Sachs. Despite a foundational commitment to multiracial membership, Du Bois was the only African American among the organization's original executives. He was made director of publications and research and in 1910 established the official journal of the NAACP, *The Crisis*.

Over its 100+ year history The NAACP has grown exponentially to what is now a network of more than 2,200 affiliates covering all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Japan and Germany.

**NAACP Pomona Valley Branch**  
*“We Are Stronger Together”*  
**President/CEO: Jeanette Ellis Royston**

The Pomona Valley Branch of the NAACP was chartered in 1954 celebrates 69 years of dedicated service in advocating for civil rights. After 22- years of inactivity, Jeanette Ellis-Royston worked tirelessly to reactivate the Pomona Branch. In 2013 her efforts come to fruition, the NAACP Pomona Branch Charter was issued and the branch was re-activated.

In our ongoing commitment to the communities that we serve, the NAACP Pomona Branch has cultivated positive relationships with: Supervisor Hilda Solis, District One, The City of Pomona, Pomona Police Department, Social Justice Advocacy Project, Pomona Unified School District, Department of Children and Family Services, National Council of Negro Women Pomona Section, Senator Connie Leyva District 20, Assembly member Freddie Rodriguez District 52, Senator Judy Chu District 27, Congresswoman Norma Torres District 35, African American Museum of Beginnings, Latino/a Roundtable Pomona and San Gabriel Valley, Pomona Compassionate City Committee, Guang Dong Association: U.S.A. Monterey Park, Pomona Indivisible, Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center, U.S.A United Nation Alliance of Claremont, Juneteenth Education Technology Mobile Arts Center, Ahmadiyya Chino Mosque, Pomona Chamber of commerce, SEIU1000, Attorney: Willie William and Thomas Allison, Volunteers of America, League of Women Voters Claremont Area, Asian American Advancing Justice Los Angeles, College For All Coalition , Pomona Alliance of Black School Educators-PUSD, Institutional Structural Racism Study Circle and Social Justice Book Club, African American Parent Advisory Council-PUSD, and dA Center of Arts.

During the height of the Covid Pandemic, communities across America faced huge stumbling blocks and uncertainty in securing their basic needs. Students were required to attend remoted learning, while families affected by the unemployment and housing crisis were forced to seek help from several entities throughout their cities and community. The NAACP Pomona Branch partnered with local organization and government entities to provide free Covid-19 PCR testing, food, blankets, backpacks, gas gift cards hygiene bags to individuals and families within the communities that we serve. Molina Healthcare, Project Care Services, Unity Day LA, African American Advisory Alliance Cultural Center.

Today, together we celebrate our resilience to stand up and fight to “Ban the No Knock Warrants” beyond the City of Pomona and throughout the state of California. Thanks to our President, Joe Biden, for signing the H.R. 1280 Bill the “**George Floyd Justice in Policing Act of 2021**” into federal law on May 20, 2022 – the anniversary of George Floyd’s murder. **Subtitle B—Additional Reforms, B Sec. 362 “Ban on no-knock warrants in drug cases.” became Law nationwide!**

**Col. Ret. Irma Cooper**  
**U.S. Army Reserve**  
**Registered Nurse - Evac Hospital**  
**1983-2013 Iraq & Afghanistan**

Colonel (RET) Irma Hagans Cooper is a thirty-year Veteran of the United States Army. She is a graduate of the Army War College with a Masters' degree in Strategic Studies. She has held three (3) Commands ranging from Company to a Medical Group including one command in Iraq. Colonel (RET) Cooper has distinguished herself by exceptionally meritorious conduct in a myriad of assignments with the Army Nurse Corp. In all positions, she has demonstrated inspiring leadership, tireless energy, and total dedication to the spirit and mission of the Army Nurse Corps and the United States Army Reserves.

Colonel (RET) Cooper previously Commanded one of the largest Medical Groups on West Coast which consists of two Combat Support hospitals and 12 medical companies and detachments. She successfully planned, organized, and sustained. command and control for medical units in California and Utah. She successfully executed numerous. deployments and humanitarian missions. She commanded major deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan and humanitarian missions to Honduras, Germany, and El Salvador.

COLONEL (RET) Cooper's professional execution of medical deployments established confidence in the AMEDD's ability to meet the medical needs of the Combatant Commanders. Currently, she continues to be active working with Veterans, with a focus on Women Veterans and mentoring junior officers.

COLONEL (RET) Cooper was awarded the Bronze Star for her service in Iraq and has numerous other awards including the Merit of Legion. Colonel (RET) Cooper is the recipient of numerous awards and honors, including, the 021 Tribute to Women Award SGV NAACP, the 2018 National Association Black Military Women Support of Conference, the 2013 Veterans Service Award by California State Senator Dr. Ed Hernandez, the 2012 Military Nurse of the Year Award presented by The National Association of Black Nurses and in 2004 Nurse of the Year Award presented by Citrus Valley Medical Center. She maintains membership in the Nursing and Military National Association to stay current on issues to better assist veterans.

Colonel (RET) Cooper is a graduate of California State University in Rohnert Park, California where she received her bachelor's degree. In 1986 she received her Master of Science in Adult-Gerontology, Clinical Nurse Specialist, and Nursing Administration from the University of San Francisco, San Francisco, California, and a second master's degree in strategic studies from Army War College.

Colonel (RET) Cooper retired from her civilian job as a registered nurse. She has held various positions from staff nurse to nursing manager. Colonel (RET) Cooper was also a clinical instructor at Merritt College of Nursing in Oakland, California. She has a wealth of experience with over forty years of clinical nursing experience, civilian and military.

Colonel (RET) Cooper is the President of the NAACP San Gabriel Valley Branch.

Colonel (RET) Cooper has been married for thirty-five years to Minister Titus Cooper. They have three sons, Anthony, Julius, and Titus Cooper III. Her favorite pastime is going to the mountains. She loves beauty and spending quiet time with nature. Her new self-care activity is Kayaking.

## Congresswoman Norma J. Torres California's 35th Congressional District

Congresswoman Norma J. Torres represents California's 35th Congressional District in the Inland Empire which includes Chino, Montclair, Ontario, Pomona, and parts of Chino Hills, Eastvale, Fontana, Rancho Cucamonga, and Upland. She previously served as a State Senator, Assembly Member, and as a Mayor and Council Member in the City of Pomona. Throughout her career in elected office, she has worked to make government more responsive to the needs of Inland Empire residents.

As State Senator, Torres played a significant role in making the Affordable Care Act work for California's patients and consumers. Her law to diversify the Covered California Board so that it would be better prepared to enroll the uninsured, earned her statewide recognition and national attention. As Chair of the Committee on Housing and Community Development, she led an effort that secured \$2 billion in federal funds for the "Keep Your Home California" program, which helped thousands of families keep their homes during the foreclosure crisis. Fighting crime and making sure public safety systems are responsive to the needs of the community has been a lifelong priority for Torres. As a former 9-1-1 dispatcher, she drew on her expertise to author a law that modernized the 9-1-1 system—resulting in a system that now routes cell phone callers to their local police department, rather than a statewide hotline, during an emergency.

Now on her fifth term in Congress, Torres currently serves on the powerful [House Appropriations Committee](#) and Committee on House Administration. The Appropriations Committee is responsible for appropriating all federal spending, domestic and abroad. The Committee on House Administration oversees federal elections and the day-to-day operations of the House of Representatives.

As a member of the Foreign Affairs Committee, she worked to address the root causes of migration from Central America and has fought to ensure accountability and transparency for U.S. funds spent abroad. Notably, her amendment to require the Secretary of State to send Congress a list of corrupt officials in Honduras, El Salvador, and Guatemala was adopted in the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019 and signed into law.

Torres also served on the Natural Resources Committee, where she championed initiatives that would strengthen Indian Country's ability to become more self-sufficient and address the disturbing increase in murdered and missing Native American women. Her amendment to the [National Landslide Preparedness Act](#) that addresses increased risk of landslides and flooding due to wildfires passed in the House.

Torres immigrated to the United States from Guatemala at age five and is a longtime resident of the Inland Empire. She resides in Pomona with her husband Louis, and their two sons Robert and Matthew. Her third son, Christopher, is an Air Force veteran. Torres received her bachelor's degree in Labor Studies from the National Labor College in Silver Spring, Maryland.



## **Theodore Burnett**

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President NAACP Pomona Valley Branch**

Theodore “Ted” Burnett is the 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President NAACP Pomona Valley Branch and has been an active participant in the various year-round programs facilitated by the Branch. During the height of COVID-19, he served as a member of the NAACP-PBV Mobile Covid Testing team to provide testing and supplies to individuals in the Inland Empire and beyond.

Ted’s was employed at SEIU Local 1000 as a Field Coordinator for 26+ years. In this position he was responsible for Statewide California and the greater Los Angeles area. He was known by his peers for his grassroots organizing, building coalitions and labor relations. Ted is a champion at community outreach, volunteer management and strategic communications.

**Donna L Jackson-Houston**  
**Founder/President**  
**Nogales Buffalo Soldiers Legacy Association**

Donna Jackson-Houston is the President and Founder of the Nogales Buffalo Soldiers Legacy Association. She is an active member in several Buffalo Soldier organizations and non-profits groups in Arizona and California and looks forward to expanding nationally.

Jackson-Houston resides in Pomona, CA with her husband and two sons, both are Engineering Majors at Cal Poly Pomona. She is a Pomona Community Life Commissioner and a graduate of the USC Annenberg school for Communication and Journalism. For decades she has enjoyed volunteering in the schools and community.

Knowing one's history is vital and empowering Although my family and I knew that my grandfather, Lucius Franklin Monroe Jackson, served in the United States Army 25th Infantry over 100 years ago, it was less than two years ago that we learned he was a member of the legendary Buffalo Soldiers. During WWI, he was stationed at Camp Little in Nogales, Arizona. Jackson and his fellow soldiers secured and patrolled the U.S./Mexico Border.

The Buffalo Soldiers were the all-Black segregated units of the U.S. Army from 1866-1947. In 1866 After the Civil War, Congress created six all-Black regiments, later consolidated into four -the 9th and 10th Cavalries and the 24th and 25th Infantries, who became known as "The Buffalo Soldiers."

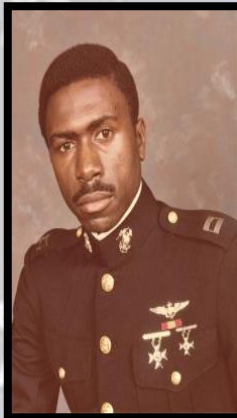
The mission of the Nogales Buffalo Soldiers Legacy Association is to partner with schools and communities across the nation to educate, inform and highlight the notable accomplishments of the Buffalo Soldiers who served patriotically while subjected to oppressive and discriminatory conditions.

I am honored to collaborate with President Jeanette Ellis- Royston and the NAACP Pomona Valley Branch. In 2022 at the California/Hawaii State Convention, the NAACP passed a Resolution to include the Buffalo Soldiers in the educational curriculum.

July 26, 2023 is the 75th anniversary of Executive order 9981 signed by President Roosevelt to end the desegregation of the U.S. military and July 28 is National Buffalo Soldiers Day. It is vital to honor the numerous African American Soldiers who proudly served our great nation. Black history is American History.

Please join us in celebrating these two historic events.

[www.NogalesBuffaloSoldiers.org](http://www.NogalesBuffaloSoldiers.org)  
[NogalesBuffaloSoldiers@gmail.com](mailto:NogalesBuffaloSoldiers@gmail.com)



Lt Col Ronald Coley  
US Marines  
1972-1992  
Pilot, Flyer and Trainer



Ronald Blue  
US Army  
1962-1966  
2<sup>nd</sup> Infantry –  
Signal Corps



Myron Ray Hester  
US Navy  
1968-1972  
E4 Services Department  
USS Eversole  
Long Beach, CA



Derrick S. Meadows  
US Air Force  
1983-1987  
E-4 Buck Sargeant



Monagayle S. Johnson  
US Navy  
1966-1969  
Transitioned to Heaven  
October 25, 2020



James Sanders  
US Army,  
Purple Heart Recipient



Edward Thorne  
US Air Force  
1977-1983  
Staff Sergeant  
Hydraulic Specialist



Vincent Terrell  
US Marines  
1987-1991  
Armor (Weapons  
System Specialist)

*We Thank You For Your Service*

# NAACP

Pomona Valley Branch

75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Honoring  
**EXECUTIVE ORDER 9981**

July 22, 2023