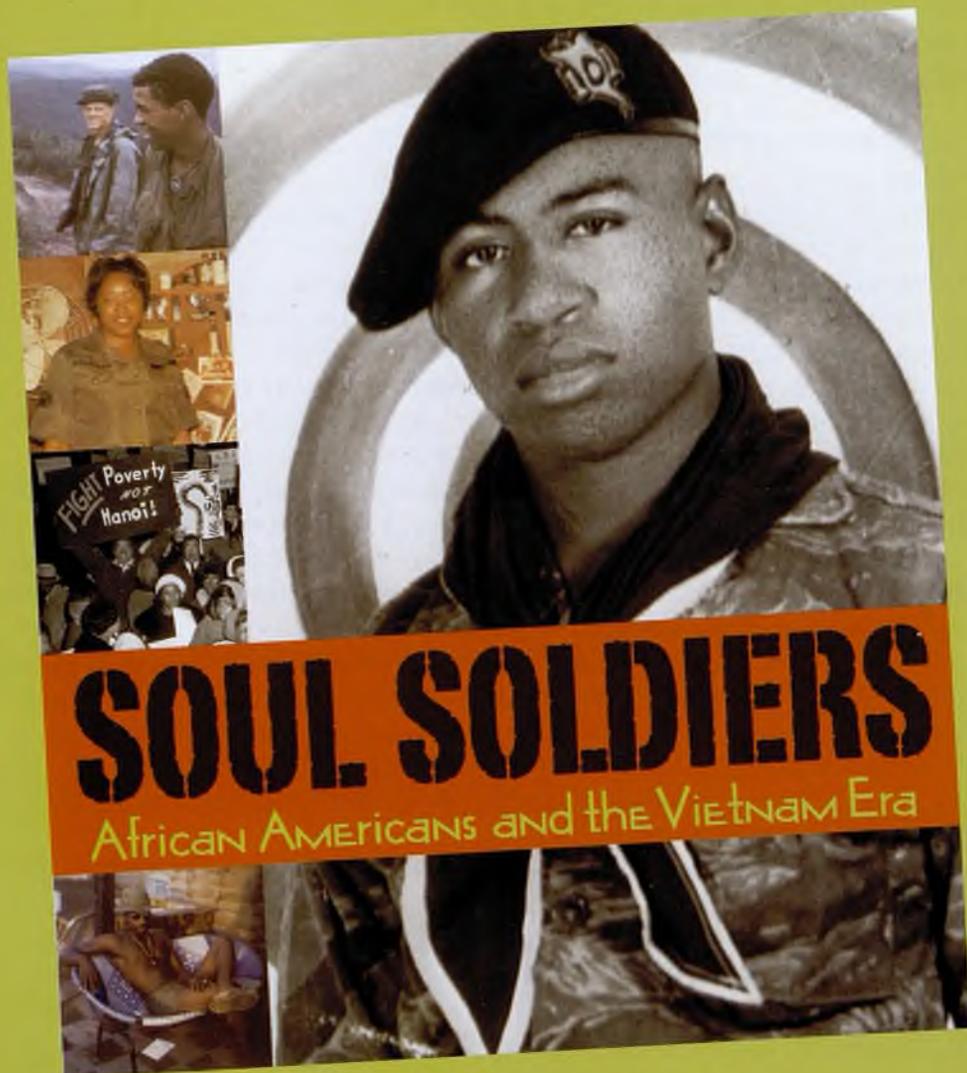


SOUL SOLDIERS: AFRICAN AMERICANS AND THE VIETNAM ERA



A SYMPOSIUM

APRIL 27 & 28, 2007

AT THE HEINZ HISTORY CENTER, PITTSBURGH, PA.

SOUL SOLDIERS: AFRICAN AMERICANS AND THE VIETNAM ERA A SYMPOSIUM

PRESENTED BY THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY AND CULTURE, THE CENTER FOR AFRICAN AMERICAN URBAN STUDIES AND THE ECONOMY (CAUSE) OF CARNEGIE MELLON UNIVERSITY, AND THE SENATOR JOHN HEINZ HISTORY CENTER

This symposium will bring together the contributors to the book, *Soul Soldiers: African Americans and the Vietnam Era*, edited by Samuel W. Black and published by the Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania. Each panelist will present on the nature and importance of their work to the subject areas of African Americans, Civil Rights, military and women's history. The contributors range from academicians to creative writers, veterans, poets, artists, and curators. Symposium attendees will be engaged with presentations from each genre and learn about the impact of war on African American manhood; racism in the Vietnam war; African American women and the literary voice; oral history accounts from Vietnam veterans; poetic verse and fine arts creativity of Vietnam veterans. The audience will experience vivid storytelling, poetry recitation, an artist talk and book signing. The symposium will be held at the Senator John Heinz History Center, 1212 Smallman Street, in Pittsburgh.

Complementing the symposium is the History Center exhibition, *Soul Soldiers: African Americans and the Vietnam Era*, the most comprehensive exhibition to ever explore the issues of the Vietnam War from an African American perspective. The exhibition explores Vietnam and the rise of the Civil Rights Movement through items such as soldiers' uniforms, historic photographs, military recruitment posters and soldiers' letters back home that help to bring this tumultuous time to life. Access to the exhibition during the symposium will be included in the symposium registration fee. All other History Center exhibits will be available to registered attendees during History Center hours, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

SYMPOSIUM OPENING - FRIDAY, APRIL 27

The Symposium will begin with a curator's tour and reception on Friday, April 27, 2007. Samuel W. Black will provide a brief history and background of the exhibition, and discuss the controlling ideas for *Soul Soldiers*.

REGISTRATION FEES

| FULL CONFERENCE | Postmark by April 6 | After April 6 |
|-------------------------|---------------------|---------------|
| History Center Member | \$20 | \$30 |
| Non-member | \$34 | \$44 |
| Veteran's rate | \$20 | \$30 |
| Students with valid ID* | \$15 | \$25 |
| SATURDAY ONLY | | |
| History Center Member | \$15 | \$20 |
| Non-member | \$25 | \$35 |
| Veteran's rate | \$15 | \$25 |
| Students with valid ID* | \$10 | \$20 |

NOTE: All symposium registrants will receive a complimentary copy of the book, "Soul Soldiers: African Americans and the Vietnam Era."

- Students, please enclose a copy of valid student identification with your registration form.
- Student scholarships available. Please enclose an essay indicating why the symposium would benefit your studies. (Maximum length: 250 words).
- For special rates for groups of 5 or more, call 412-454-6372 or e-mail nhorner@hswp.org
- For membership information, call 412-454-6436 or e-mail tsblanchette@hswp.org

THE SPEAKERS & PRESENTATIONS

SAMUEL W. BLACK is curator of African American Collections at the Senator John Heinz History Center and curator of the *Soul Soldiers* exhibition. He is vice president of the Association of African American Museums. He is co-author of the forthcoming book, "Through the Lens of Allen E. Cole: African Americans in Cleveland" (Kent State University Press).

ALBERT FRENCH served in the U. S. Marines as an infantryman during the Vietnam War. After the service, he taught himself photography and worked as a medical photographer and photojournalist. He is the author of *Billy* (1993), *Holly* (1995), *Patches of Fire: A Story of War and Redemption* (1996), and *I Can't Wait on God* (1998).

HERMAN GRAHAM III is the author of "The Brothers' Vietnam War: Black Power, Manhood, and the Military Experience," and has published articles in the *Journal of Men's Studies*. He has taught at Denison and Princeton universities. He received his B.A. from Yale University and his Ph.D. from the University of Pennsylvania.

TERRANCE HAYES, born in Columbia, South Carolina, in 1971, is the author of “Wind in a Box” (2006), “Hip Logic” (2002) and “Muscular Music” (1999). His honors include a Whiting Writers Award, the Kate Tufts Discovery Award, a National Poetry Series Award, a Pushcart Prize, two best American poetry selections, and a National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship. His poems have also appeared in “The New Yorker” and have been featured on NPR. He is a professor of creative writing at Carnegie Mellon University and lives in Pittsburgh, Pa., with his family.

YUSEF KOMUNYAKAA is the author of 12 volumes of poetry. They include “Taboo” (2004); “Pleasure Dome: New & Collected Poems, 1975-1999” (2001); “Talking Dirty to the Gods” (2000); “Thieves of Paradise” (1998), which was a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award; “Neon Vernacular: New & Selected Poems, 1977-1989” (1994), which won a Pulitzer Prize and the Kingsley Tufts Poetry Award; “Magic City” (1992); and “Dien Cai Dau” (1988), which won the Dark Room Poetry Prize. Born in Bogalusa, La., in 1947, Komunyakaa served in Vietnam and received the Bronze Star. He is a professor in the Council of Humanities and Creative Writing at Princeton University. In 1999 he was elected a chancellor of the Academy of American Poets. Komunyakaa’s prose is collected in “Blues Notes: Essays, Interviews & Commentaries” (2000). He also co-edited “The Jazz Poetry Anthology” (1991) and co-translated poems by Vietnamese poet Nguyen Quang Thieu.

KIMBERLEY L. PHILLIPS is associate professor of history and American studies at the College of William and Mary. Her scholarship includes “Alabama North: African American Migrants and Working-Class Activism in Cleveland” (2000), which won the 2000 Richard Wentworth Prize for the Outstanding Book in American History. She co-edits the New York University Press series “Culture, Labor, History.” Her new work includes the forthcoming “War! What is It Good For? Black Popular Culture and the U.S. Military” and an edited collection of essays, “Fight for the Nation: African Americans and the U.S. Military.”

LAMONT B. STEPTOE was born and raised in Pittsburgh, Pa. A graduate of Peabody High School and Temple University, he has lived in Philadelphia the last three decades. Steptoe is the author of 11 collections of poetry, the most recent being “A Long Movie of Shadows,” which won the 2005 American Book Award, and “Crowns and Halos,” published in 2006. A Vietnam Veteran, his work has appeared in the “Oxford University Press Anthology of African American Literature,” edited by Keith Gilyard and Anissa Wardi. In 2006, Steptoe was awarded a Pew Fellowship in the Arts for Poetry.

HEATHER STUR is a doctoral candidate in history at the University of Wisconsin. Her dissertation focuses on military and civilian women’s service in the Vietnam War. Her article, “Finding Meaning in Manhood After the War: Gender and the Warrior Myth in Springsteen’s Vietnam War Songs” is forthcoming in the anthology “Dancing in the Dark: Bruce Springsteen, Cultural Studies, and the Runaway American Dream” (Penn State University Press).

JAMES E. WESTHEIDER was born August 21, 1956, in Cincinnati, Ohio. He is married to Virginia Westheider. He received his Ph.D. from University of Cincinnati-Clermont College. Westheider is author of “Fighting On Two Fronts: African-Americans and the Vietnam War” (1997) and another book on African Americans and Vietnam due to be published by Rowman and Littlefield, as well as numerous articles and book chapters.

TENTATIVE CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

Unless otherwise noted, all activities take place in the Sebastian Mueller Education Center on the History Center’s 5th floor.

FRIDAY APRIL 27

6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Opening reception and curator’s tour of the *Soul Soldiers* exhibition
4th floor, Campbell and Community galleries

SATURDAY APRIL 28

8:00 a.m. Registration in the Mueller Education Center, 5th floor

8:30 a.m. Welcome

9 a.m. to Noon Panel #1- “Sign of the Times: Race, Masculinity, and Femininity, In and Out of the Vietnam War”

Noon to 1:30 p.m. Lunch (On your own)

1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Panel #2 - “Recollections of a War: Veterans and Family Remember Vietnam”
Break

3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Panel #3 - “A Soldier's Voice: Vietnam Veterans’ Poetic Expressions”

Soul Soldiers: African Americans and the Vietnam Era is made possible due to the generous support of The Pittsburgh Foundation, the Maurice Falk Fund, the Howard & Nell E. Miller Foundation, the Citizens Bank Foundation, and WQED Multimedia. Additional support is provided by Fried Provision Co., Louis C. Dillon, Michael E. Flournoy, *The New Pittsburgh Courier*, Poise Foundation, Reed Smith LLP and Sager McDill.

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ABOUT PITTSBURGH

If you haven't seen Pittsburgh lately, you haven't seen Pittsburgh. Once the industrial hub for steel, iron and glass production, Pittsburgh, which celebrates its 250th anniversary in 2008, is now a center for technology, robotics, medicine and tourism. Today Pittsburgh's skies and its famous rivers are clean. This city of 350,000 people is known for its vibrant cultural scene, its architecture and its neighborhood charm. For more about Pittsburgh and Western Pennsylvania history, visit the History Center's exhibition, *Points in Time: Building a Life in Western Pennsylvania, 1750-Today*, and The Western Pennsylvania Sports Museum, both located on the second floor.

ABOUT THE SENATOR JOHN HEINZ HISTORY CENTER

From the exploration of Lewis and Clark to the legendary gridiron match-ups of the Super Steelers, Pittsburgh's fascinating history is told through six stories of engaging exhibits at the History Center. An affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution, the History Center is Pennsylvania's largest history museum.

Symposium attendees will not want to miss *Soul Soldiers:*

African Americans and the Vietnam Era, presenting the dramatic story of African American service in the conflict, the impact of the war at home, and music as a voice of protest and revelation.



Courtesy SueEllen Fitzsimmons.

HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS

A variety of hotels are available in the vicinity of the Heinz History Center. The closest, within a short walk, is:

Courtyard by Marriott Pittsburgh Downtown
945 Penn Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15222
(412) 434-5551
www.courtyardpittsburghdowntown.com

When phoning in your reservation to the Courtyard by Marriott, please identify yourself as being with the Soul Soldiers Symposium at the History Center to receive a reduced conference rate of \$109 per room (plus 14% hotel tax). If you make reservations through their web site, utilize one of the following codes: SSSSSS A, if your room preference is a “single” (one king-size bed); and SSSSSS B, if your room preference is a “double” with two queen-sized beds. A roll-away bed, if needed, is available at no additional charge (for use in double rooms). Parking is valet only at \$22 per 24-hour period with in-and-out privileges. To receive the special conference rate, hotel reservations must be made on or before **Friday, April 6, 2007**, after which regular room rates (\$179 or more) will apply.

For other hotels in Downtown Pittsburgh, go to www.pittsburgh-downtown.com
Other hotels within an approximate 20-minute drive include:

Red Roof Inn Pittsburgh
6404 Steubenville Pike
Pittsburgh, PA 15205
(412) 787-7870

Holiday Inn Pittsburgh - North Hills
4859 McKnight Road
Pittsburgh, PA 15237
(412) 366-5200

Hampton Inn
3000 Mossie Blvd.
Monroeville, PA 15146
(412) 380-4000



SENATOR JOHN HEINZ
HISTORY CENTER
IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

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of Western Pennsylvania
1212 Smallman Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15222

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