

NAACP NEWS

President's Corner



The naming of military forts holds deep symbolic meaning, reflecting the values and history we choose to honor as a nation. For too long, several U.S. military installations bore the names of Confederate generals—individuals who took up arms against the United States in defense of slavery and division. In the interest of freedom, unity, and justice, renaming these forts is not an erasure of history, but a powerful affirmation of the progress we have made and the direction we are striving toward. It is a public declaration that the ideals of equality, democracy, and shared purpose are stronger than the legacies of oppression and division. These new names should honor those who have served with distinction, courage, and commitment to a more perfect union—especially those whose contributions have too often gone unrecognized.

In communities like New Kent, where patriotism runs deep and military service is both honored and lived, this effort carries special weight. The renaming of forts serves as a statement of respect for all who wear the uniform today—Black, white, Latino, Asian, Native, and all others—who stand shoulder to shoulder in defense of our nation. It is a call to unity, a sign that we will no longer glorify a past rooted in division, but instead embrace a future defined by togetherness, truth, and honor. For the sake of our children, our veterans, and the generations yet to come, we must ensure that the symbols of our national defense reflect the inclusive spirit of the America we are still becoming.

-Joe Crump, NK NAACP President

NEWS UPDATE

Join Abigail Spanberger in New Kent!

Meeting



Time

Saturday, August 9

5:45 – 7:15pm EDT

Location

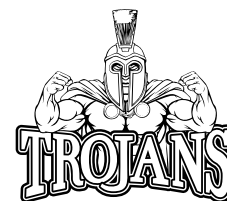
New Kent

New Kent, VA 23124

[Map](#)

RSVP

<https://www.mobilize.us/spanbergerforgovernor/event/812745/>



New Kent High School will host Freshman Orientation on Thursday, August 14th, with two sessions based on student last names. Students will receive schedules, meet teachers, and tour the school.

The Upperclassman Open House for grades 10–12 will take place on Tuesday, August 12th, with two available sessions. Students can pick up schedules, pay course fees, and purchase parking passes.

Students unable to attend either event will receive their schedules during homeroom on the first day of school, Monday, August 18th, 2025.



Lieutenant General Arthur Gregg

Lieutenant General Arthur Gregg had a distinguished career in the United States Army, serving with honor and dedication over the course of several decades. A native of Kentucky, he was commissioned as a second lieutenant in 1965 after graduating from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. Throughout his career, General Gregg was recognized for his leadership in both operational and logistical roles. As a logistician, he played an integral part in the success of numerous military operations, including the Vietnam War and the Gulf War. His expertise in logistics was particularly valuable in ensuring that troops and supplies were efficiently transported to and from various theaters of operation, often in highly challenging and dangerous environments. His efforts were instrumental in improving the operational readiness and effectiveness of the Army.

General Gregg's career was marked by his unwavering commitment to serving his country and its people. His leadership qualities, from his exceptional organizational skills to his ability to manage large-scale logistical operations, earned him numerous commendations and awards, including the Distinguished Service Medal, the Legion of Merit, and the Bronze Star. In addition to his military expertise, he was known for his deep concern for the welfare of the soldiers under his command. His dedication to both his troops and the mission exemplified his commitment to the Army's core values of duty, honor, and country. His legacy extends beyond his own accomplishments as he helped shape the future of military logistics, and his contributions to the defense of the United States continue to be remembered and respected.

“What’s In a Name”



Robert E. Lee Trader of America

Robert E. Lee, though often mythologized as a brilliant tactician and honorable leader, was in fact the commanding general of the Confederate Army—a force that fought explicitly to preserve the institution of slavery. Lee not only led a rebellion against the United States government, but he did so in defense of a society built on the enslavement and oppression of Black Americans. Despite post-war attempts to cast him in a noble light, Lee personally enslaved people, sanctioned brutal treatment of those who tried to escape, and actively fought against the civil rights of freed African Americans during Reconstruction. His actions and beliefs were rooted in the maintenance of white supremacy, not in any universal or democratic ideals.

To honor Robert E. Lee by naming U.S. military installations after him is to elevate a man who betrayed the nation and sought to uphold one of its greatest moral atrocities. It sends a harmful message to service members—particularly Black Americans—that the military venerates those who fought to keep them in bondage. Military bases should reflect the values of unity, freedom, and equality, not the legacy of division, oppression, and treason. Removing Lee's name from these institutions is not an erasure of history; it is a necessary correction that aligns our national symbols with our national principles.



Lieutenant Colonel Charity Adams Earley



Lieutenant Colonel Charity Adams Earley was a trailblazing leader whose service during World War II marked a turning point for both the U.S. Military and the broader struggle for racial and gender equality. As the first African American woman commissioned as an officer in the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps (WAAC), she broke barriers in a deeply segregated institution. Her most notable wartime role was commanding the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion—the only all-Black, all-female unit deployed overseas. Under her leadership, the battalion efficiently cleared a massive backlog of undelivered mail, restoring critical communication between U.S. troops and their families and significantly boosting military morale.

Adams not only excelled in logistics and military organization but also led with strength and dignity in the face of discrimination. She challenged unfair treatment head-on, famously standing up to a senior officer who attempted to impose unnecessary integration on her unit. Her leadership emphasized discipline, respect, and professionalism, earning her the respect of her peers and superiors alike. By the end of the war, she had risen to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel—the highest attained by a Black woman in the Women's Army Corps during that time—setting a powerful precedent for future African American women in the armed forces.

Beyond her wartime accomplishments, Adams became a lasting symbol of progress and resilience. She continued to serve her country through education, public service, and advocacy for civil rights and veterans' issues. Her legacy was cemented in history when the 6888th Battalion was awarded the Congressional Gold Medal in 2022. Charity Adams Earley's decisive impact on the military and her unwavering commitment to equality made her a transformative figure, whose influence continues to inspire leadership, courage, and change.

ONWARD AND UPWARD



Congratulations and good luck to our Senior Youth Council members who have decided to further their education:

Gabby Butler - Regent University

Tristen Jenkins - Ferrum University

Damani Jackson - George Mason University



Author Spotlight: Dolen Perkins-Valdez

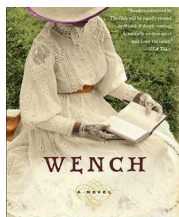


Dolen Perkins-Valdez is a New York Times bestselling author that has written four historical fiction novels. Each novel focuses on various aspects of African American History that you will not find in any typical classroom History book. Each book stands as a testament to the strength and fortitude of the African American community that has allowed us to persevere during the most difficult of times.

Perkins-Valdez was born and raised in Memphis, Tennessee. She received her BA from Harvard University. She returned to Memphis to obtain her Masters in Fiction and eventually received her Ph.D. in English from George Washington University. Currently she is an associate professor at American University. Her 3rd novel *Take My Hand* received the 2023 NAACP Image Award for outstanding literary work-fiction. She currently resides in Washington D.C.



**"IF YOU KNOW WHENCE YOU
CAME, THERE IS REALLY NO LIMIT
TO WHERE YOU CAN GO."
JAMES BALDWIN**



Her first novel *Wench*, which was published in 2010, focuses on the real life Ohio hotel/ resort called Tawawa House. The hotel opened in 1851 and became popular among Southern slaveholders who would bring their female slaves to the resort, and at time's their interracial children. This was not some sort of romantic getaway but rather another example of the abuse of power that slaveowners held over these women. Although Ohio was a free state, these women were far from free.

Tawawa House eventually closed in 1855 due to its distain by Northern White Abolitionist. The resort was eventually purchased and became the site of the first campus of Wilberforce University, a HBCU.

The novel focuses on four slave women over the years as the grapple with the reality of their lives in bondage and the reality of freedom that is only miles away.

Perkins-Valdez chose the title *Wench* after seeing past rewards posters for runaway slave women. On the posters, black women were referred to as wenches. The word wench originally referenced a young girl or maid in England but during slavery it took on the negative connotation that it still carries today. Perkins-Valdez wanted to "highlight, complicate, and recast" the derogatory term given to black women by humanizing their experiences and giving them a chance to tell their story.



Happy Land begins when, at her grandmother's request, Nikki travels to the Appalachian region of North Carolina where her family has lived for generations. Nikki hopes this trip will bring her answers about the strained relationship between her mother and grandmother, but Mother Rita has other plans. Her grandmother wants her to understand their family history and how they descended from the Queen of an American kingdom called Happy Land. Nikki and Luella's stories blend together- taking the reader from past to present, while introducing readers to the real story of resilient former slaves in the late 1800s.

The real story of The Kingdom of Happy Land begins in Montgomery, Mississippi when Luella Montgomery led 50 former slaves to start a new life as a community. By the time they finally settled in North Carolina their numbers were close to 200. The widow of Civil War Col. John Davis offered the group the land in return for help. They were able to eventually purchase 200 acres of the land.

They were inspired by the African Kingdoms of their ancestors and they eventually chose a King and Queen- Luella and her brother in law Robert. The community was well known for their medical liniments. The community eventually disappeared once the railroad industry started and members left to seek work.

This novel is a reminder of the importance of legacy and how we must continue to tell our stories- our ancestors' stories.

Services Provided by New Kent

Commissioner of Revenue

DMV Select

About DMV Select

DMV Selects are a service alternative to visiting a full-service DMV customer service center. Local governments and private entities contract with DMV to provide secure, select DMV transactions at convenient locations.

Transactions Available at a DMV Select

DMV Selects can process vehicle titling and registration transactions; however, **DMV Selects do not issue Driver's Licenses, Learners Permits or Identification Cards.**

Before visiting this location, check the following list of available transactions:

- **Vehicle Titles and Registrations**
 - Original (with or without liens), substitute and replacement titles and title maintenance (to change information on title records, adding/removing of names). Original registrations, renewals (including fleets), transfers, re-issues and plate surrenders.
- **Dealer Title and Registration Transactions**
- **License Plates**
 - Specialized and personalized plate orders, including the issuance of motorcycle, permanent trailer, truck, taxicab and local government use plates.
- **Permits and Placards**
 - Trip permits and overload permits. Original issue of handicapped parking placards.
- **Transcript Requests**
 - Driver transcripts and vehicle transcripts (helpful for those who apply for a job where a driver's transcript is needed initially, submitted periodically or checked by their employer).
- **Address Changes**
 - Not involving issuance of a driver's license or ID card.
- **Returned Checks**
 - Full or partial payment of returned check fees.
- **Voter Registration Applications**



Hours and Days of Operation

The New Kent Farmers Market will be open, rain or shine, on Saturdays from 9am to 12pm starting May 3, 2025 and running through August 30, 2025. There are tentative Fall Market dates on September 27 and October 25. Prior to each Market, producers will receive a site map that illustrates the pavilion layout for the day. There is always a chance that a producer's booth space will change from Market to Market. Producers may not set up prior to 8am, and vehicles will not be allowed to enter the market area after 8:45am. Any producer planning to leave early should notify the Market Manager ahead of time.

Location

The Market is located at 7589 New Kent Highway, New Kent, VA (Intersection of New Kent Highway and Vineyards Parkway). Producer spaces will consist of 10' x 10' spaces under the pavilion. There will also be limited 10' x 10' tent spaces available outside of the pavilion (producer provides tent). Portable public restrooms will be available on the property. Pets are not permitted under the pavilion and in food/producer areas.

FOR MORE INFO :

[HTTPS://NEWKENT-VA.US/649/FARMERS-MARKET](https://newkent-va.us/649/farmers-market)