

UMOLA

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF
THE NBCFAE



HISTORY IN MOTION

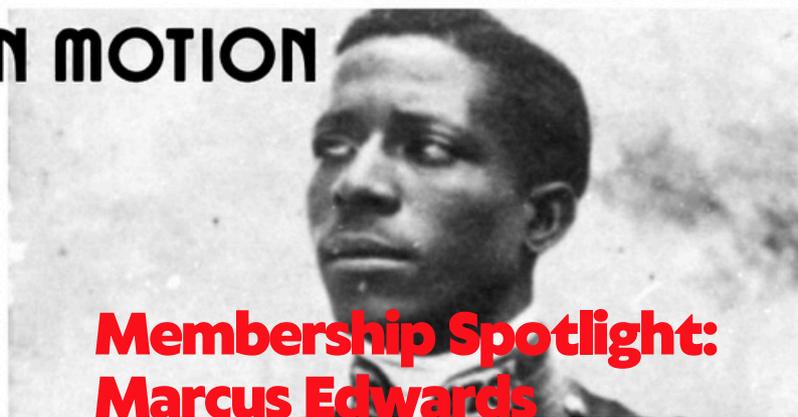


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From Left to Right

**GUY BLUFORD
LT. WILLA BROWN
ROBERT HENRY LAWRENCE
MAE JEMISON
STEPHANIE D. WILSON
OUR MEMBERS
TUSKEGEE AIRMEN
EUGENE JACQUES BULLARD
RUTH CAROL TAYLOR
CORNELIUS R COFFEY
BESSIE COLEMAN**

AS WE HONOR BLACK HISTORY MONTH, WE STAND AT A POWERFUL MILESTONE. 100 YEARS SINCE THE CREATION OF BLACK HISTORY WEEK IN 1926. WHAT BEGAN AS A BOLD ACT OF TRUTH TELLING AND AFFIRMATION HAS GROWN INTO A GLOBAL CELEBRATION OF BLACK BRILLIANCE, RESILIENCE AND CONTRIBUTION. FOR A CENTURY, THIS LEGACY HAS REMINDED THE WORLD THAT BLACK HISTORY IS NOT A SIDEBAR- IT IS FOUNDATIONAL.

THIS MOMENT IS ABOUT MORE THAN REMEMBRANCE. IT'S ABOUT MOMENTUM. EACH GENERATION HAS CARRIED THE STORY FORWARD, EXPANDING THE NARRATIVE, LIFTING NEW VOICES AND REDEFINING WHAT EXCELLENCE LOOKS LIKE, WE INHERIT NOT ONLY THE HISTORY, BUT THE RESPONSIBILITY- TO PROTECT IT, TO TEACH IT, AND TO BUILD UPON IT WITH COURAGE AND IMAGINATION.

THE NBCFAE PROUDLY TAKES UP THE BATON, COMMITTED TO CONTINUING THIS CELEBRATION OF EXCELLENCE. WITH PURPOSE AND PRIDE, WE HONOR THE TRAILBLAZERS WHO OPENED DOORS AND THE VISIONARIES WHO DARED US TO DREAM BIGGER. WE INVEST IN THE PRESENT, CULTIVATE THE FUTURE AND ENSURE THAT THE NEXT CENTURY OF BLACK HISTORY IS WRITTEN WITH OPPORTUNITY, EQUITY AND JOY.

MAY THIS BLACK HISTORY MONTH INSPIRE US TO KEEP RUNNING THE RACE- GROUNDED IN LEGACY, UNITED IN ACTION AND UNWAVERING IN OUR BELIEF THAT BLACK EXCELLENCE IS LIMITLESS.

UMOJA



WWW.THENBCFAE.COM

EMAIL US AT INFO@THENBCFAE.COM

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

RANIKA HARRIS

MANAGING EDITOR

UMOJA TEAM

CONTENT DIRECTOR

UMOJA TEAM

ART DIRECTION

UMOJA TEAM

PHOTOGRAPHERS

AL BEST- SILVER MOMENTS

OUR MEMBERSHIP

CONTRIBUTING WRITER

UMOJA TEAM

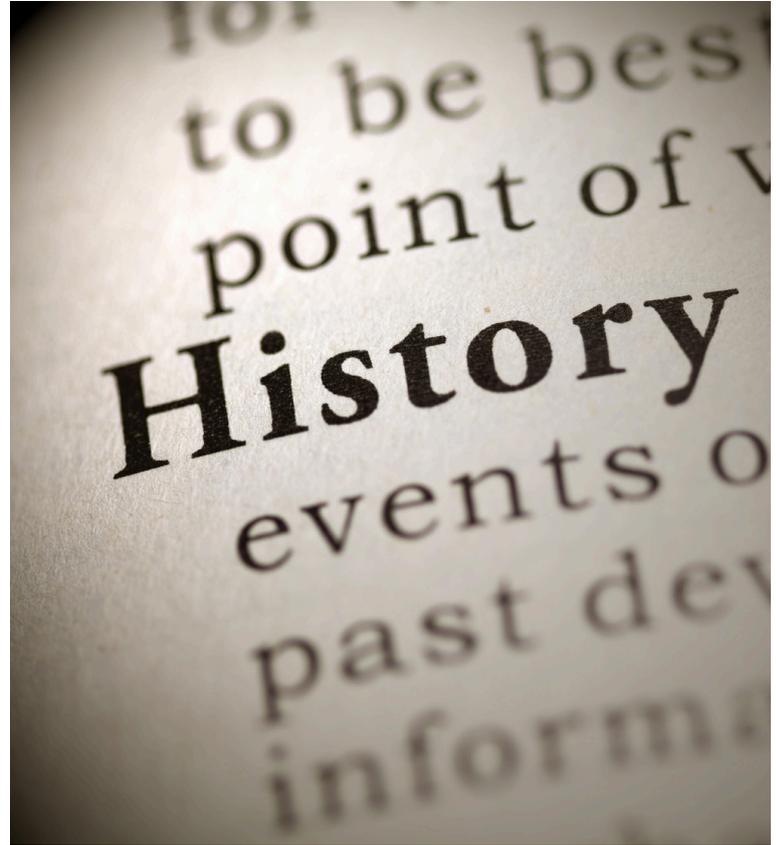
OUR CONTRIBUTORS

EJIDE FASHINA

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BLACK HISTORY MONTH 2026

Community is Give and Take; An OP-ED



MEMBERSHIP SPOTLIGHT

Marcus Edwards





WHY SHOULD YOU JOIN NBCFAE?

1

WHO ARE WE?

We are an employee association that serves the needs of the under represented aviation employees of the federal government.

2

WHAT CAN WE DO FOR YOU?

We offer support, training, mentorship and networking through our national conferences and regional/chapter meetups.

3

AVIATION OUTREACH . . .

We provide a career pipeline and engage over 40,000 youth annually to aviation based careers all over the world.

4

OVER 300+ MEMBERS AND GROWING!

We are the largest federal aviation association with over 300+ members across the country.

FOR MORE DETAILS OR TO JOIN CONTACT

INFO@THENBCFAE.COM / WWW.THENBCFAE.COM

SAVE THE DATE!!!

THE NBCFAE INVITES YOU TO THE 48TH
ANNUAL NATIONAL TRAINING CONFERENCE

50TH

Anniversary

NBCFAE CELEBRATION

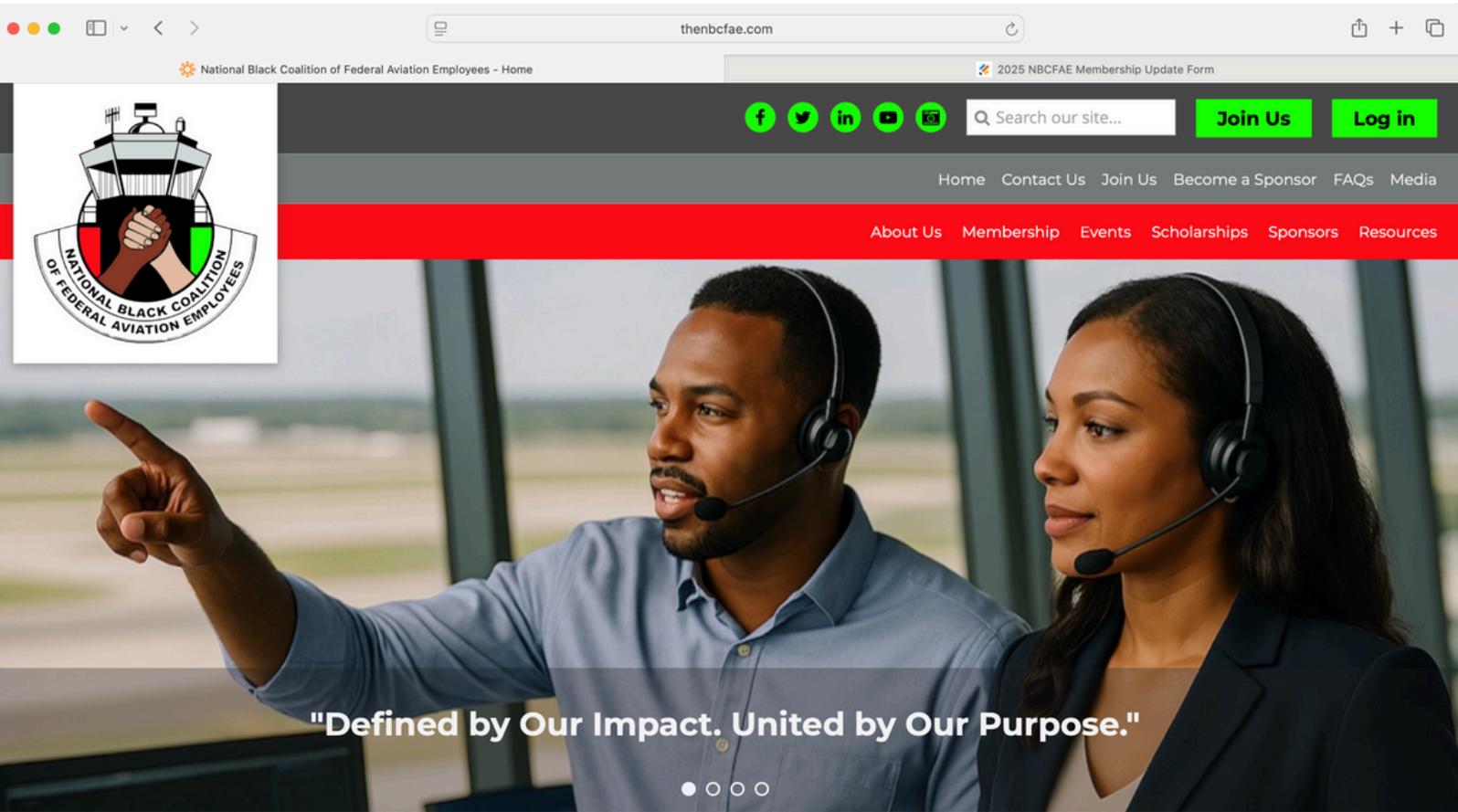
AUGUST 1-4, 2026

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NEW ORLEANS, LA

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CLICK THE IMAGE TO RESERVE YOUR HOTEL ROOM!
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MORE DETAILS ABOUT REGISTRATION FOR THE
CONFERENCE TO FOLLOW SOON.
WWW.THENBCFAE.COM



We'd love for you to check out www.thenbcfae.com, the official home of the newly revitalized National Black Coalition of Federal Aviation Employees (NBCFAE)! As our organization evolves, so does our digital presence—this beautifully redesigned website is more than just a facelift; it's a central hub built to keep our members informed, engaged, and connected.

Whether you're looking for the latest updates, upcoming events, or ways to get involved, our site is your go-to destination. As NBCFAE continues to grow and break new ground, our website will grow with us—offering new features, resources, and opportunities. Visit us today, explore what's new, and become part of a powerful community that's soaring to new heights. Join us, and let's shape the future together!

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1976-2026



50 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE





Government Shutdown 2026

The U.S. government has entered a partial shutdown after Congress failed to meet a deadline of midnight on Friday, January 30th, 2026 to complete work on a spending package to prevent funding from running out across multiple federal departments.

Just a week ago, Congress appeared on track to approve nearly \$1.3 trillion in spending for defense, health, transportation, housing and more in a single package before the deadline.

But the second deadly shooting of a U.S. citizen in Minneapolis by federal immigration officers upended those plans, as Democrats pledged to withhold support for the funding package without policy changes on immigration enforcement. Now that the Senate has voted, the fate of the legislation moves to the House.

If lawmakers act quickly upon returning Monday, the effects of a shutdown could be extremely limited, as most federal offices are closed on the weekend.

Democrats are calling for broad changes to the way federal immigration officers carry out their work. Divides remain among party lines.

This news is being published prior to Monday, February 2nd, 2026. More to come in future publications.

Sources: NPR, CNBC and
POLITICO





From the Editor

As we observe Black History Month, we pause to honor the enduring legacy of Black excellence while also looking forward—clear-eyed and committed—to what lies ahead. In the spirit of the NBCFAE’s call to Learning, Living, and Leading, 2026 stands as a pivotal moment to reaffirm the power of education, the responsibility of community, and the courage of leadership.

Learning in 2026 means more than the pursuit of knowledge; it is an act of preservation and possibility. It is how history is carried forward, how innovation is sparked, and how future generations are equipped to navigate and shape an ever-changing world. Living speaks to the daily practice of our values—uplifting one another, investing in wellness, and honoring the fullness of Black life and culture. Leading challenges us to step forward with integrity and vision, ensuring that progress is not only achieved, but sustained and shared.

This Black History Month, we celebrate the scholars, trailblazers, and change-makers who embody the NBCFAE’s mission, and we recommit ourselves to the work ahead. May 2026 be a year defined by intentional learning, purposeful living, and bold leadership—rooted in history, responsive to the present, and unwavering in its hope for the future.

Ranika

Editor-in-Chief





President's Message

Dear NBCFAE Family,

As we step into Black History Month 2026, we do so at a sacred milestone for NBCFAE. 50 years of flight, faith, and fierce determination. This is not just a celebration of history; it is a living testimony of what happens when Black excellence refuses to be grounded.

Fifty years ago, visionary federal aviation employees dared to believe that representation mattered, that equity was not optional, and that our voices too often unheard deserved a seat at the table. They organized in the face of resistance, rose in the face of exclusion, and built The National Black Coalition of Federal Aviation Employees with courage, conviction, and community. Because of them, generations have entered this industry not just to work but to lead.

No matter what, Black History is American history. NBCFAE history is Black History in motion, written in control towers and technical operations, in safety offices and headquarters, in policies shaped and barriers broken. It is written in every promotion earned, every mentee guided, every door held open for the next one coming behind us.

This year's theme, **50 Years of Flight: Rising Above Every Challenge** honors more than longevity. It honors resilience. It honors those who stayed when it was hard, who spoke when it was risky, who led when it was lonely. It honors the elders who paved the runway and the rising leaders who will take us higher still.

As your National President, I am deeply humbled to stand on the shoulders of giants profoundly inspired by you, our members. You are the heartbeat of this organization. Your excellence, integrity, and service continue to elevate not only the NBCFAE, but the entire aviation community and the public we serve.

Black History Month calls us to remember but also to recommit. To recommit to advocacy that protects our workforce. To leadership that reflects our values. To unity that strengthens our impact. And to legacy-building that ensures the next 50 years are even more transformative than the last.

May this month renew your pride, deepen your purpose, and remind you that you are history in real time.

With gratitude, strength, and unwavering belief in our future,

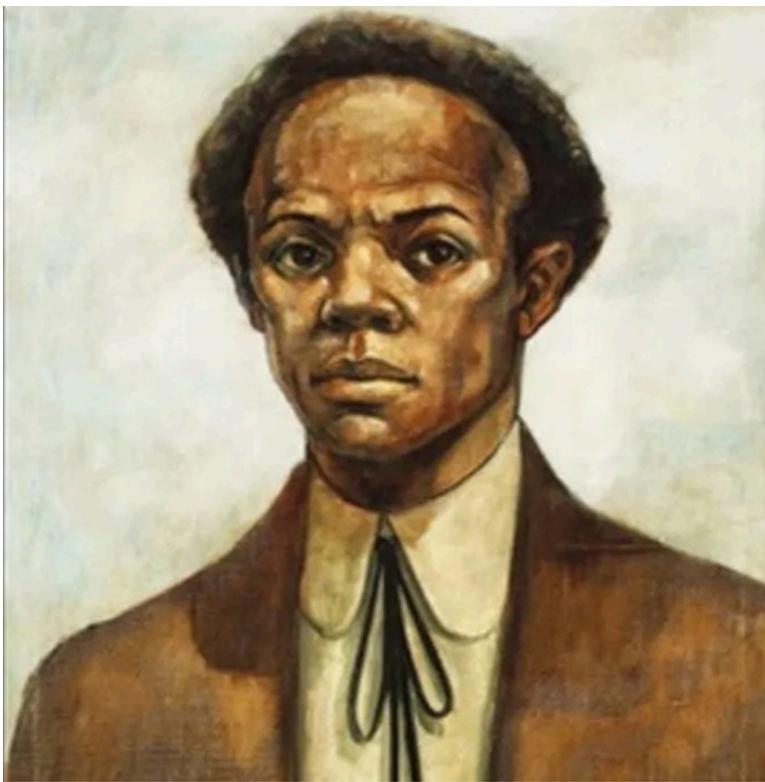
In Unity,

Ejide D. Fashina

Ejide D. Fashina
National NBCFAE President



Honoring the past. Leading the present. Securing the future.



The Baptist War (1831-1832), led by Black Baptist preacher Samuel Sharpe was the largest enslaved rebellion in the British West Indies involving 60,000 people. It began as a peaceful, organized general strike during Christmas 1831, aiming for freedom.

While brutally suppressed, it catalyzed the 1833 Slavery Abolition Act.

Samuel Sharpe, an educated Baptist deacon, orchestrated the rebellion, fueled by the belief that Christianity meant equality and that Parliament had already granted freedom.

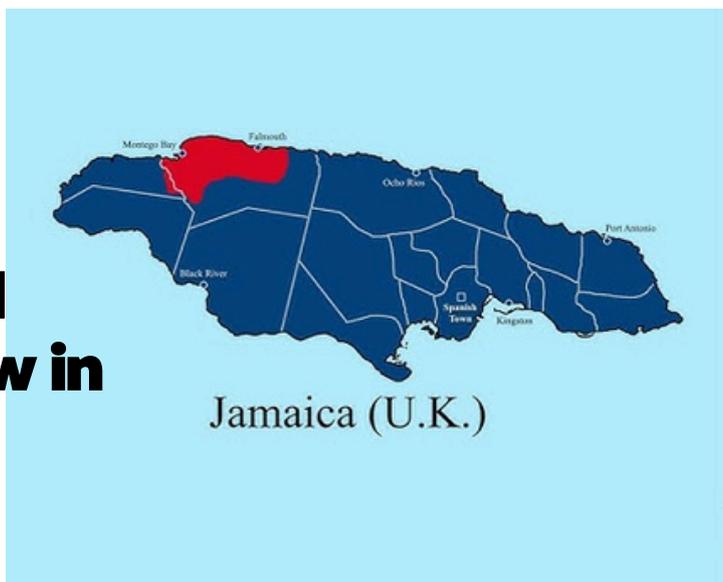
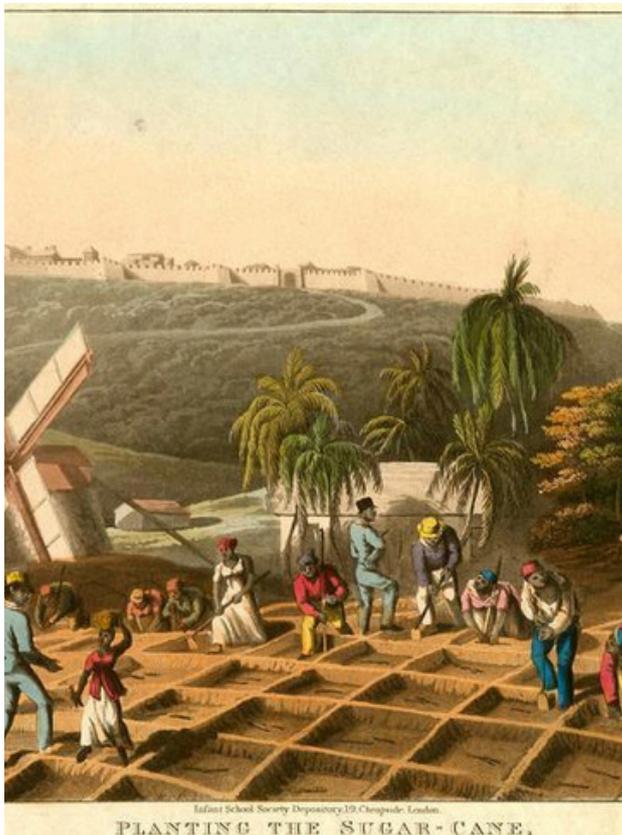
The uprising started on December 27, 1831, with widespread destruction of over 100 sugar estates across the island, particularly in St. James.

The British military, led by Willoughby Cotton, used extreme force, executing over 300 to 500 enslaved people, including Samuel Sharpe, who was hanged on May 23, 1832.

The rebellion, along with the subsequent brutal crackdown by colonial authorities, shocked the British public and accelerated the passage of the Slavery Abolition Act, leading to the end of slavery in Jamaica by 1838.

The rebellion was characterized by high levels of organization, using intelligence networks and a strategy of non-violent, passive resistance that escalated into armed struggle.

THERE WERE SEVERAL REBELLIONS IN JAMAICA STARTING IN THE 1700S. THE BAPTIST WAR WAS IN THE MONTEGO BAY AREA



The Baptist War: Every Day

- U.K.
- Slave Rebels

27 Dec 1831 - The slaves on strike begin an outright revolt.
 31 Dec 1831 - Martial law is declared.

03 Jan 1832

Organized Overthrow in Montego

BHM, A Love Letter

Dear Black History Month,

You arrive every year like a knowing nod, a deep breath, a reminder that we are still here—and have always been. Loving you means loving our stories in full: the joy and the grief, the brilliance and the burden, the ancestors and the unborn. It means remembering that history is not behind us; it lives in how we show up for one another now.

This season invites us to reframe what community truly means. Not just proximity, not just shared struggle—but shared responsibility. Community is learning together, passing down wisdom, and creating spaces where brilliance is recognized before it has to fight to be seen. It is choosing collective progress over individual survival, and understanding that when one of us rises, the reach should be wide enough to pull others along.

That's where the purpose of the NBCFAE feels especially at home. At its heart, the work is about connection—bridging generations through education, honoring legacy while cultivating leadership, and affirming that learning is a communal act. The NBCFAE reminds us that excellence does not happen in isolation; it is nurtured by mentors, institutions, and communities that believe in us even when the world hesitates.

Black History Month, loving you means recommitting to that vision. It means seeing community as a living, breathing promise—one that calls us to learn with intention, live with care, and lead with courage. You teach us that our collective story is not finished, and that together, we are still writing chapters rooted in purpose, pride, and possibility.

With gratitude, always.

Black History Month arrives every year with consistency and intention, yet for many, it passes too quietly—reduced to a calendar marker, a familiar refrain, or a set of well-worn narratives. It is often taken for granted not because it lacks meaning, but because its meaning has been made to feel routine, compressed into a few lessons, a few quotes, a few names we think we already know.

Some take Black History Month for granted because the depth of Black history is uncomfortable. It asks for an honest reckoning with injustice, resilience, and unfinished work. It challenges the idea that progress is complete and reminds us that many of the freedoms and innovations we benefit from were hard-won by people whose stories are still under-told or misunderstood. Avoidance can feel easier than engagement.

Others take it for granted because Black history is mistakenly treated as separate—something to be acknowledged briefly rather than understood as foundational to our shared past and present. When history is framed as optional or seasonal, its urgency is diluted, and its lessons risk being overlooked.

Yet Black History Month is not about repetition for repetition's sake. It is an invitation to pause, to listen more closely, and to expand what we think we know. It is a time to move beyond the familiar narratives and recognize the everyday contributors, the educators, the builders, and the communities who continue to shape culture, knowledge, and leadership.

Taking Black History Month for granted means missing an opportunity—for learning, for connection, and for growth. Honoring it fully requires intention: to engage beyond comfort, to reflect beyond celebration, and to carry its lessons forward long after the month has ended.

Our member Marcus values community and camaraderie that the NBCFAE provides

Marcus Edwards joined the FAA in 2009 as an Air Traffic Controller and currently serves as an Operational Supervisor at Chicago Center. His federal career began in 2005 with the TSA, contributing to a combined 20 years of government service. Marcus first learned about air traffic control from a coworker at TSA and pursued the profession independently. After a rigorous hiring process that spanned more than a year, he received his academy date in August 2009.

Upon arriving at Chicago Center (ZAU), Marcus was introduced to NBCFAE for the first time. While his early focus was dedicated to navigating the demanding training process at a Level 12 facility as an “off-the-street” hire, he soon found a meaningful sense of community. After certifying, he became more involved in networking opportunities and attended his first NBCFAE conference in 2018, hosted in Chicago. It was there that he recognized the depth and reach of the Coalition throughout aviation—relationships from that event continue to this day. The ability to connect with peers across the country remains one of the aspects he values most, and it drives his desire to see more regional and national networking events offered in the future.

Marcus finds great fulfillment in speaking at Career Days of all ages and sharing insights about aviation and life at Chicago Center. He has participated in multiple school events alongside Chicago NBCFAE Chapter President Abasife Green and Vice President Krysti Thomas. He hopes to see continued growth in local membership and engagement.

A proud Chicago sports fan, Marcus also enjoys spending time with his daughter, 4-year-old Aubrey, who is the light of his world.



NBCFAE Events

We want to know what's going on! To advertise your event, send your flyers and/OR photos from your event HERE!



Save

THE

date

50 Years of Flight:
Rising Above Every
Challenge

50th Anniversary Celebration
NBCFAE's 48th Annual
National Training
Conference

August 1-4, 2026

*for more info, please visit our website:
www.thenbcfae.com*

Upcoming Events to know about

We want to know what's going on and share. Tell us about events in your community! Send your information to info@thenbcfae.com



SAVE THE DATE

**SATURDAY,
FEBRUARY 28TH 2026**

**National Museum of African American
History & Culture Tour**

As we prepare for Black History Month, please save the date for a full day tour of the NMAAHC in beautiful downtown DC!

Eventbrite information coming soon!!

WASHINGTON
HQ

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2026 WAI Conference

37th Annual Women in Aviation International
Conference
Grapevine, TX

-  **Thursday, March 19, 2026** to Saturday, March 21, 2026
-  Gaylord Texan Resort & Conference Center
[1501 Gaylord Trail](#)
[Grapevine, TX 76051-1945](#)
[United States](#)

37TH Annual Women in Aviation Conference
March 19-21, 2025
Grapevine, TX



Past Events to know about

We want to know what's going on and share. Tell us about events in your community! Send your information to info@thenbcfae.com



Some of our wonderful National Executive Board Members at our site visit for the 48th National Training Conference that coincides with our 50th Anniversary in New Orleans, LA



Follow Us!!

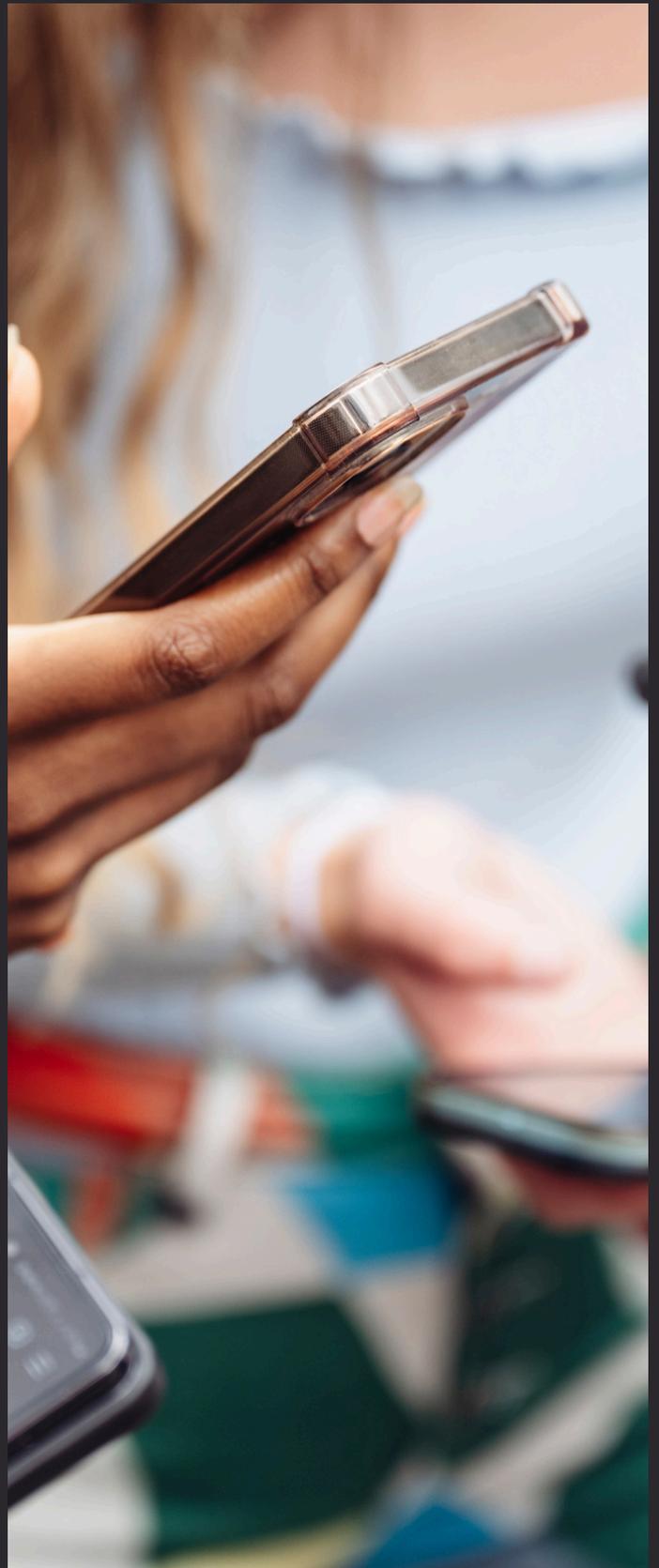
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FEBRUARY 2026
ISSUE NO.07

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