

Lee N. Coffee, Jr.



Education:

1977 Graduate of Thomas W. Harvey High School

Career Service:

1978 - Master Sergeant in the United States Army
Equal Opportunity Advisor for the Army Medical Department Center and School
First Sergeant, "Alpha Warriors" at the Brooke Medical Center at Fort Sam Houston, Texas
Senior Drill Sergeant, 187th Medical Training Battalion at Fort Sam Houston, Texas
Platoon Sergeant, 47th Field Hospital at Fort Sill, Oklahoma
Member of the not-for-profit group called "The Buffalo Soldiers"
Theatrical historian who presents a program based on the life of the first African-American to receive the Congressional Medal of Honor for valor

Accomplishments:

- ◆ Awarded the GEICO Military Service Award in 1996
- ◆ Awarded the Outstanding Young Man of America by the Board of Directors of the Outstanding Young Americans program in 1996.
- ◆ Awarded the Expert Field Medical Badge, the Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendations Medal, the Army Achievement Medal, Parachutist Badge, and the Air Assault Badge.
- ◆ Inducted into the Order of Military Medical Merit and the Order of Spur.
- ◆ Has traveled to more than a dozen Texas counties to deliver his anti-drug, anti-gang "I am somebody" quality-of-life classes to over 3,000 students during his off-duty time
- ◆ Has provided motivational and inspirational classes on the African-American soldiers of the 19th century, known as the "Buffalo Soldiers".
- ◆ Has been the director of Heritage Intervention Programs. The camps that he directs challenge youth physically, mentally, and emotionally and teach the importance of a drug-free and gang-free lifestyle.
- ◆ Has devoted 50 hours per month to a mentorship program where he assists youth in many counties.
- ◆ Has written articles on the underground railroad which have appeared in magazines such as *Black Man* and *Our Heritage*.

As the encampment director for Texas Rural Communities Inc. "Heritage Intervention Programs, Master Sergeant Coffee has taught police officers, military retirees, civilians, and university students how to effectively manage at-risk youths in six day camps. Master Sergeant Coffee designed these camps to challenge the youths physically, mentally, and emotionally while teaching the importance of a drug-free, gang-free lifestyle. The youths attending the camps face practical situations that encourage problem-solving and teaches them to recognize the importance of a lifestyle uncluttered by substance abuse.

Inducted:
Member of The Harvey Alumni Association
Distinguished Graduates
June 1, 1999