

Q News

Over 350 years of quality family connections

Quanders United
Quarterly Newsletter
Fall/Winter 2023



Greetings Quander Family!

The new Quanders United Board members have been elected and already have begun working on your behalf. Some of us are returning; some of us are new. I'm very pleased to see the return of William Q. Taylor to the board, as well as two new faces - Pamela Gill and Shakhan King! I believe that having fresh eyes can bring about changes and improvements we are looking for.

We are gearing up for the 99th Quander Family Reunion to be held in the DC/MD area in Summer 2024 and we really want to put on a great event! The next planning meeting will be December 3, 2023 if you would like to attend and let your ideas be heard.

As always, if you have questions, or any useful/informative/fun things to share, please submit via email to:
quanderersunitedinc@gmail.com.

Michelle Grimes, President
Quanders United

Submissions for the next newsletter due

February 1, 2024

Send to: QuandersUnitedInc@gmail.com

(pictures, announcements, stories, recipes, etc.)

Article word count should not exceed 400 or it may be subject to edit to conserve space.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

- 99th Reunion planning meeting (Zoom), 12/3/23 3:00—4:00 pm
- Board Meetings via Zoom Wednesday, 1/10/24 7:00-8:00 pm
- 99th Quander Family Reunion—DC/MD 8/9-11/24

2023-25 Board Members

Michelle Grimes
President

Jamila Stone
Vice President

Kelci Reedy
Recording Secretary

Larryl Matthews
Treasurer

Sharon Peters-Martin
Financial Secretary

William Q. Taylor
Sergeant-at-Arms

Gina Blair
Chaplain

Le Shaun Quander-Mosley
Archivist

At-Large Board Members
Pamela Gill
Shakhan King

Celebrate our Quander Family Military Veterans & Civilians

(Alphabetical Order by last name)



Leo A. Brooks, Sr.
General



Leo A. Brooks, Jr.
General



Vincent K. Brooks
General



Helen Quander Lewis
Military Police



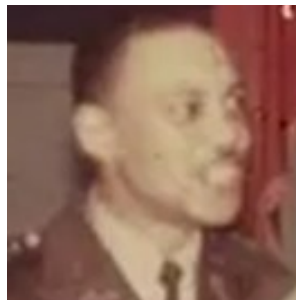
Charles J. Lyons, Sr.



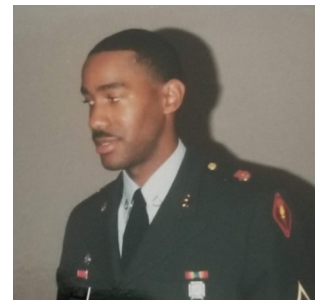
Lowell Matthews



Charles Quander, Jr.
Tuskegee Airman



Clarence Quander, Sr.
1st Lieutenant



Davon Quander



Francis Quander
Lieutenant Colonel



John E. Quander, Sr.



John Pierson Quander
Corporal

A RESOUNDING 'THANK YOU' TO YOU ALL!

CIVIL WAR—PRESENT DAY



Peter Mercer Quander, Sr.



Mark C. Quander
Brigadier General



Milton (Jack) Ford
Quander, M.D.
Captain



Richard I. Quander



Chanelle Ward Ramirez
Sergeant



Jhamal Rhodes



James Simmons



Joseph Ward



Mark Ward, Sr.



Mark Ward, Jr.



Roscoe Ward

See the list of names
submitted on the
following page...

We understand that this list does not contain every family member that served our country. However, this is a remarkable representation of our family and the service they so graciously provided. Because of them, we enjoy many freedoms. Thank you to everyone who provided this information and photos!

Joyce Bell – Air Force/Air Force Reserve

Mary Jo Blair – Navy

Leo Austin Brooks, Sr. – General, Army

Leo Austin Brooks, Jr. – General, Army

Vincent Keith Brooks – General, Army

Anthony Grimes – Drill Sergeant., Army

Rosalyn Ford Hillary - Army Civilian

Gregory Jackson – Navy; Vietnam

Phillip Jeffries - Coast Guard/Air Force Reserves

Helen Quander Lewis – Military Police, Army; WWII

Charles Joseph Lyons Sr. – Army; Purple Heart recipient, WWII

Lowell Matthews, Sr. – Air Force

Charles Calvin Quander – Captain, Army; WWI

Charles H. Quander, Sr. – Army

Charles H. Quander, Jr. – Army

Charles Johnson Quander, Jr. – Tuskegee Airman, Flight Officer, U.S. Army Corps; WWII

Clarence Quander, Sr. – 1st Lieutenant, Army; Korean War

Donald Victor Quander – Tuskegee Airman ground support, U.S. Army Corps, WWII

Francis Augustine Quander – Lt. Colonel, Army

John Edward Quander, Sr. – Army; WWI

John Pierson Quander, Sr. – Corporal, U.S. Army Colored Troop; Civil War

John Pierson Quander, Jr. – Army Civilian

Joseph Pearson Quander, M.D. – Captain, Air Force, WWII

Lewis Lear Quander – Sergeant, Army; WWII

Llewellyn J. Quander, Sr. – WWII

Llewellyn J. Quander, Jr. – Vietnam

Mark C. Quander – Brigadier General, Army

Milton (Jack) Ford Quander, M.D. – Captain, Army; WWII

Peter Mercer Quander – Navy, WWI

Richard Ignatius Quander – Army band; Spanish American War; WWII

Robert Augustine Quander – Corporal, Army; WWII

Vincent Thomas Quander – Army; WWII

Eunice K. Quander-Taylor – WWII

Richard E. Reed – Navy Reserve

Eric Rhodes – Army

Jhamal Rhodes – Army

Lucius Shuler – Lt. Colonel, Army

Paul David Shuler – Army

James Simmons – Army; WWII

Eunice K.Q. Taylor-Bell – Lt. Colonel, Air Force

James Robert Taylor – WWII

Robert M. Taylor – Captain, Navy/USPHS

Davon L. Quander – Army

Milton (Jack) Ford Quander, M.D. – Captain, Army; WWII

William Quander Taylor – Sergeant, Navy/U.S. Army Reserve; Vietnam

Chanelle Ward Ramirez – Sergeant, Army

Joseph Ward, Sr. – Army; Vietnam War

Mark A. Ward, Sr. – Army; Vietnam War

Mark A. Ward, Jr. – Air Force

Roscoe Ward, Jr. - Army; Vietnam War

George Ware Jr. – Sergeant, Army

Quander Family Profiled in WUSA9 Documentary April 11, 2023

Submitted by Rohulamin Quander

Our Quander Family has been frequently featured on many prior occasions, as historians and members of the general public inquire about the interesting, unique, and sustained legacy that represents what it means *To Be A Quander*.

Such was the case during Black History Month 2023, when Natalie Hockaday, feature reporter for Channel WUSA9 contacted Cousin Jahmond “Jay” Quander, initially indicating that the channel wanted to feature *1799Prime*, the restaurant that he opened in August 2022. What started as a feature to promote the historical legacy and backdrop for the idea that created the restaurant evolved into much more. Hockaday came to understand the breath and magnitude of the Quander legacy and its connection to President George Washington.

Beyond initially discussing the food and beverage offerings of the restaurant, Hockaday was impressed with Jay’s personal sustained history in the food and beverage industry. She realized the fuller essence of this story as greater than a newly well received restaurant. Not native to Northern Virginia, she was previously unaware of the family’s history and recognition, but was enthralled as Jay explained how the name, *1799 Prime* was selected, and the underscoring true meaning.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

RETIREMENTS

- Rosalyn Ford Hilary after 39 years as a DOD Army civilian employee.
- Mark Ward, Jr. after 39 years in the Air Force

ANOUNCEMENT

Dana McPherson has relocated to the D.C. area. She has been appointed Assistant Vice President in Howard University’s Office of University Communications.



LOSSES

- Peter Haynes
- Bonita Jeffries (wife of cousin Mark-Anthony Jeffries)
- Glenn Williams
- Quanda Mitchell-Grasty

BIRTHDAYS

- Devin Reedy 3/8
- Jamar Quander 3/17
- Larryl Matthews 4/6
- Le Shaun Quander-Mosley 4/6
- Dee Smith Banks 4/6
- Kelci Reedy 5/8
- Tony Grimes 5/10
- Danielle Grimes 6/26
- Alicia Reedy 8/29
- Veronica Redmond 10/1
- Michelle Grimes 10/4
- Carolyn Branch 11/2
- Elaine Hutchinson 11/4
- Cortney Reedy 11/11

WUSA9 Documentary *Continued from Page 5*

Explaining to her that 1799 was the year of George Washington's death, the date was likewise the benchmark for the formal statement of freedom for his 123 then enslaved persons. Hockaday was enthralled and determined that this short feature should be expanded into much more. Indeed, the "much more" is now offered as a 7.5-minute documentary title, "The Quander Family – The Lasting Impact on Mount Vernon," which initially aired in podcast on March 28, 2023.

Jay contacted cousin Rohulamin and asked him to join the ongoing interview. Together they painted the larger picture, underscoring that North American slavery has a long legacy, and is in every sense of the word, true American History. They noted that efforts to ignore the adverse impact of this negative institution, and in denying the truth does much damage to our total history and culture, making the racial divide more serious.

The documentary includes several historical components which are generally known inside the family but less so beyond that group. For example, the documentary explains how the family surname apparently gravitated from "Amkwandoh" and related spellings to "Quander"; that there is more than one branch of the family, although all are related; that Washington's Last Will and Testament represented a hope of future freedom, but the said freedom was initially postponed until Martha's death; that although

Washington's 123 enslaved were the subject of the future manumission, that freedom clause was inapplicable to the 153 Custis enslaved people over whom Martha Custis Washington had no authority to free, and the many other enslaved persons who were rented from third parties.

Prominently included in the documentary was a photograph of Tom Quander, who worked as a gardener at Mount Vernon from 1893 to 1936, with a photo of him assisting Thomas Edison in planning an onsite tree. Also included was a photo of Gladys Quander Tancil, who served as Mount Vernon's first African American interpreter guide from 1975 to 2001. Throughout the documentary the message was both clear and repeated that enslavement of our Quander ancestors, as well as all others who were forced into involuntary servitude, was and remains America's Original Sin. Additionally, until our nation comes to grip with this prior injustice and all the continuing lingering adversities associated with that institution, we as a nation cannot and will not heal.

Still, our Quander family stands as a beacon for both us and others, emphasizing that we refuse to be controlled by the history of the harsh and adverse conditions that characterized our fears. Rather, we are strengthened by their examples, and determined to tell the whole and truthful stories of that critical past, to ensure that their contributions, both individually and collectively, will always be remembered, honored, and respected.

Quanders United Committees

We need your help!

An organization is only as good as its active members. We have several committees, old and new, that need your leadership, skills and time. When more of us help, it lessens the load for all.

Please consider actively participating in one or more of the following committees:

- **Communications**
- **Events (including a reunion sub-committee)**
- **Family Outreach**
- **Fundraising (sub-committee)**
- **Historical (formerly Archivist)**
- **Senior Advisory**
- **Youth Advisory**

Quander Family Members Recognized at the 82nd Annual Tuskegee Airmen Commemoration Day Program

Submitted by Rohulamin Quander

Throughout the United States the fourth Thursday in March of each year is recognized as Tuskegee Airmen Commemoration Day. Thus, on March 23, 2023, the 82nd annual event was held at the U.S. Air Force Memorial in Arlington, Virginia. Having previously served as a speaker during the 2020 commemorative program, which was held only on Zoom, due to the covid 19 crisis, cousin Rohulamin Quander was invited to be the keynote speaker for the 2023 event.

Present at the event were several dignitaries, including Documented Original Tuskegee Airman (DOTA) William Fauntroy, age 97, one of the last surviving original airmen. He was saluted by many others, including Jerry Burton, National President of the Association, Jerome Hodge, President East Coast Chapter, Rev. Marcia Norfleet, assistant pastor, Alfred Street Baptist Church, and several military and civilian dignitaries.

At the outset of his remarks, cousin Rohulamin declared how humbling and likewise pleasurable that he was selected to give recognition and honor to the more than 1,000 pilots and the several additional thousands of African American men and women who served our nation between 1941 until 1946, as part of the Tuskegee Airmen and support, to preserve democracy and our way of life, during the sustained period of World War II.

Noting that the formerly enslaved of this nation have served in the military since at least 1776 to the present, our family members, as well as many other Americans of color, have earned their deserved respective places in our nation's history by their individual and collective achievements. He referenced the words of a famous song, reciting, "We've come this far by faith, learning on the Lord, trusting in His every word!" Citing those words, he added that they are powerful, meaningful, and true, the collective nature of which has brought us Quanders

successfully through the many decades to where we are today, one of America's most respected and prominent families.

Citing Thomas Jefferson's words, "All Men are Created Equal ..." and James Madison's words, "We The People, ..." Rohulamin added that the Tuskegee Airmen and likewise Quanders who have served our nation militarily have taken those words to heart, to underscore that "Equality and Inclusiveness" indeed should and must include us all, not just the rich and famous, who also happened to be White Men of privilege.

Beyond recognizing several Tuskegee Airmen who distinguished themselves in the air as a component of the then U.S. Air Corp (the U.S. Air Force was not established until 1947), Quander took a personal privilege to highlight Quander family members who have served with distinction during World War II and up to the present time. Particularly referred as Tuskegee Airmen were Charles Johnson Quander (1925-2008), from North Brentwood, Maryland, an airmen flight officer who flew his B25 in service to the nation, and Donald Victor Quander (1917-2002), New York city, a mechanical wizard and ground support officer who is remembered as a mechanical wizard who, some said, "could make a tin can fly" and who likewise taught radio operations to the airmen.

During his comments Quander also gave recognition to the four Quander family generals whose distinguished service is more recently and still recognized from personal memories. They include: Gen. (Ret.) Leo A. Brooks, Sr., former city manager for Philadelphia; Gen. (Ret.) Leo A. Brooks, Jr., former Commandant (2002-2004) at the U.S. Military Academy, West Point; Gen. (Ret.) Vincent K. Brooks, former First Captain, West Point; and Gen. Mark C. Quander, current Commandant (2001-2003) at West Point. *Continued on Page 8*

82nd Annual Tuskegee Airmen Commemoration Day Program

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In closing his remarks, Quander thanked all military members present, both retired and still on active duty, for their service to our nation and for the roles they played in keeping us safe. His message underscored that all of us have a responsibility to encourage our youth, the forthcoming generation, by serving as role models and likewise to recruit them to serve, whether in uniform or in other ways. Many of the challenges of modern life are distractions and cause many of our youth to lose their way, or decide early that the challenges on the road to success are too difficult. And thus, they don't try.

But we must encourage them to stand on the shoulders of the ancestors, the men and women who stepped forward and said in Langston Hughes's words, "I Too Am An American!" and make that their mantra to carry all of us forward. Tell them as well that the 1,000 plus Tuskegee airmen pilots, their ground support and the subsequent auxiliary members, both men and women, were once in their shoes, asking themselves, can I do this, do I want to do this? And they answered in the affirmative. Tell them that today is their turn to ask the same questions, and then to answer the call.

Rohulamin Quander
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