**Department of Defense 2022 Black History Month Poster**

**Poster Description:** The 2022 Black History Month poster is a collage of images and black and white photographs recognizing the achievements of John Woodruff, a 1936 Gold Medal Olympian at Berlin, Germany and later U.S. Army Lieutenant Colonel, who served in WWII and Korea. Five photographs and images vertically align on the left side of the poster. These images take up about one quarter of the full poster. A single photograph (of John Woodruff (runner #745) crossing the 800-meter race finish line at the 1936 Olympics takes up the remaining three quarters of the poster’s right side. The photograph partially overlays the five photographs on the left side of the poster and a small red, rust-colored text box beneath the photograph.

The first photograph at the poster’s top left depicts five U.S. Olympic team members who won gold or silver medals at the 1936 Berlin Olympics: Mack Robinson, Dave Albritton, Jesse Owens, Cornelius Johnson and John Woodruff. Superimposed over the bottom center of this image is an image of a 1936 Olympic Gold medal. The gold medal depicts a seated female figure in flowing robes facing the viewer and holding flowers in her crooked left arm. She holds an olive branch wreath in her upraised right hand. To the right of the figure and situated above the top edge of a coliseum are the words, XI. Olympiade Berlin 1936.

Beneath the first photo and medal image is a partial news clipping reflecting the U.S. achievements at the Olympics. A partial headline in black text reads, “U.S. Captures 4 Events, Owens Sets Jump Record. Smaller partial text beneath it reads, Negro Beats 26 Ft. 5 In. to Win Title – Woodruff, Hardin, H… Score – American Team…”

Beneath the news clipping is a cutout photograph of Major John Woodruff in his U.S. Army uniform, circa 1950’s. It is situated on a red, rust-colored background. The image is courtesy of John Woodruff Scrapbooks, 1936-2009, UA.91.3, University Archives, Archives & Special Collections, University of Pittsburgh Library System.

To right of this photograph is another photograph of the base of an oak tree and a tarnished bronze plaque. The plaque reads, “Olympic Oak Won By John Y. Woodruff C.H.S. 35 Olympic Champion 800 Meters Berlin – 1936, Plaque by the Daily Courier. Each Olympian who won a gold medal at the Olympics was also presented with an English Oak sapling. The sapling given to John Woodruff was planted alongside the running track at Falcon Stadium on the campus of his high school alma mater, at Connellsville, Pennsylvania.

Beneath the picture of the oak/plague is another news clipping and two photographs of Woodruff as an older man. The title of the accompanying news article reads, “Winning the race.” The left photograph is captioned, “John Woodruff (above) displays a photograph of his victory in the 800-meter run in the 1936 Olympic Games. Woodruff is the lone surviving gold medalist from the 1936 U.S. men’s track team. The ring on Woodruff’s finger (right photo) is from the Track & Field Hall of Fame.” The right photograph depicts Woodruff prominently displaying his commemorative ring. A bottom tag line in black text beneath the photos reads, “Through good and bad, 1936 U.S. gold medalist John Woodruff has never lost faith in his country.”

The right three quarters of the poster consists of a photograph (of John Woodruff (runner #745) as he crosses the finish line for the 800 meter race at the 1936 Olympics. Woodruff is wearing a white running outfit with red, white, and blue accent striping and belt. Behind the leading Woodruff are five other trailing runners and stadium bleachers filled with fans observing the race. Superimposed in capitalized white text at the top right side of the image is the observance month, FEBRUARY. Immediately below in larger, bold, capitalized white text and spread across three lines is the observance title, BLACK HISTORY MONTH. Situated beneath the observance title in smaller, white title case is the observance theme, Black Health & Wellness.

At the base of this photograph is a red, rust colored text box. Situated on the box in white text is the name, John Woodruff. Beneath his name the text reads, 1936 Gold Medal Olympian. At the right side of the text box is a quick response code which links to the Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute (DEOMI) website, defenseculture.mil and the seals for the Department of Defense and DEOMI. Beneath the seals is another quick response code which links to a video of Woodruff’s captivating achievement.