

CULTURAL
AWARENESS

OBSERVANCE

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

February

Cathay Williams enlisted in the Army under the name William Cathay in 1866. She informed her recruiting officer that she was a 22-year-old cook. An Army surgeon examined Cathay and determined the recruit was fit for duty, thus making her mark in history as the first documented Black woman to enlist in the Army even though U.S. Army regulations forbade the enlistment of women.



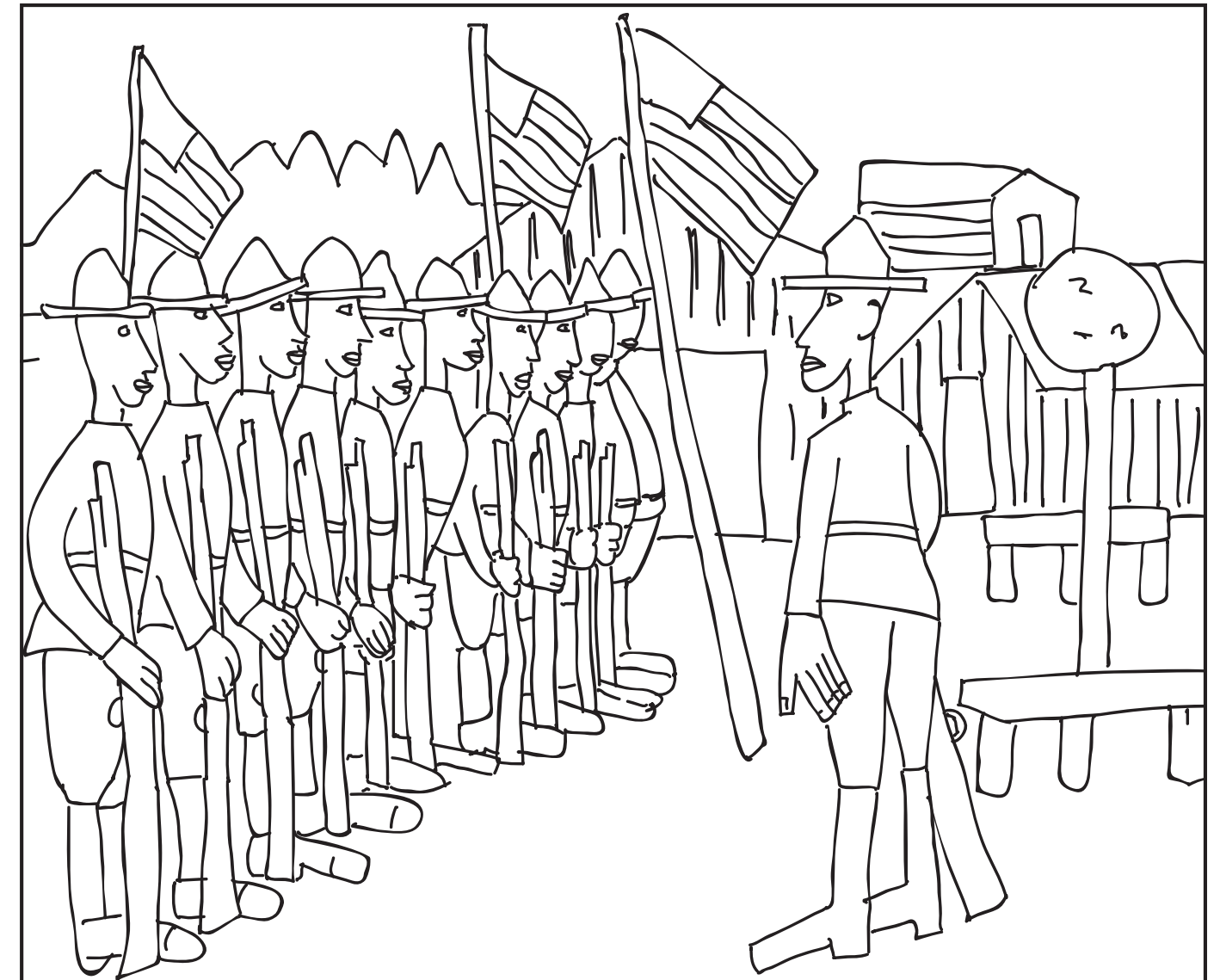
"The privileges of being an American belong to those brave enough to fight for them."

- Benjamin
O. Davis Jr.



Captain Bobby Charles Wilks held many firsts with the U.S. Coast Guard!

From the start of his Coast Guard career in 1955 until his retirement in 1986 he logged over 6,000 flight hours in 21 different types of aircraft.



*William H. Johnson, Soldiers Training, ca. 1942, oil on plywood.
Smithsonian American Art Museum, Gift of the Harmon Foundation,
1967.59.582*

Pearl Harbor inspired two government-sponsored art exhibitions in 1942, for which William H. Johnson painted scenes of African Americans involved in the war effort.