

“FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE” November 10, 2020

Mural of Wisconsin Veterans

Madison, WI—A new mural celebrating Wisconsin veterans has been installed on the exterior of 30 W. Mifflin Street. The multi-panel mural celebrates veterans from Wisconsin’s black community and features faces of service members from multiple branches of service. The mural reflects the experiences of seven veterans from the Vietnam War to present day. Military veteran artists from around the country, as well as several artists with parents who served, provided the imagery. Traditionally, a project of this scope would involve extensive community engagement and in-person participation. Due to COVID restrictions, a more responsible and socially distanced approach was necessary to complete the project.

Army veteran and Veteran Print Project director Yvette M. Pino reached out to members of the community asking for recommendations of veterans to honor. She also sought community artists to collaborate with. Finally, she contacted her network of fellow veteran artists and asked if they would provide imagery that could be reproduced in Madison with a small group of local artists. In addition to the artwork, Madison’s Poet Laureate Emeritus, Fabu, generously agreed to share her poems that can be read alongside the murals. Fabu is the daughter of a Vietnam veteran and her mother was a civil rights activist in Memphis, TN. Local artist Jerry Butler is completing the final piece of the installation with a powerful mural illuminating the storytelling of Vietnam Veteran Peace activist and social justice advocate Will Williams. That panel will be installed by Thanksgiving.

Other featured veterans include Major General Marcia M. Anderson, the first black female to reach the rank of Major General in the US Army Reserve. Her portrait was created by local artist and daughter of a veteran, Portia Adney. Bryan Foster, retired Army Sergeant First Class, opened the first black funeral home in Madison history. His portrait was created by Scott Lenaway, US Army veteran. Carolyn Morgan, Madison’s first black VFW commander, shares a family legacy of Air Force veterans. She is a Gulf War veteran and mother of Joseph McGonigle, also an Air Force Veteran. Her father, Julius Morgan, served in the Air Force from 1956-1968 and passed away in December 2019. The family’s legacy was captured by Air Force veteran artist Shawn Ganther of Chili, Wisconsin. The artwork will remain up for the next several months.

Featured veterans and artists:

- Major General Marcia Anderson, US ARMY Reserve; Portrait by Portia Adney, Daughter of a veteran; lettering by Wade Lambriksen, USMC
- Bryan Foster, US ARMY; Portrait by Scott Lenaway, US Army Veteran
- Jon E. Smith, USMC; Self-Portrait from Vietnam
- James "Groovy" Cocroft, US NAVY, Portrait by A.H. Romero, US ARMY
- Carolyn Morgan, Julius Morgan, Joseph McGonigle, Verona Morgan, USAF Family; Portraits by Shawn Ganther, USAF
- Will Williams, US Army; Portrait by Jerry Butler

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For More information about the mural please contact Yvette M. Pino at veteranprintproject@gmail.com, www.veteranprintproject.com