

*The Sgt. Alfred B. Hilton Memorial Fund
Committee, Inc.,
in partnership with the
City of Havre de Grace
presents the*

*Sergeant Alfred B. Hilton
Memorial Unveiling*



Friday, November 4, 2022

11:00 AM to 12:30 PM

*David R. Craig Park
553-599 North Union Avenue
Havre de Grace, Maryland, 21078*



The Sgt. Alfred B. Hilton Memorial Fund Committee, Inc., welcomes you to the Memorial unveiling honoring our hometown hero! We are thankful for the support received from the Harford County community since our inception in 2016, and we are thankful that this monument is finally a reality.

As we gather today, I am reminded of the numerous soldiers who walked across this very location as it served as a waterway transportation hub in the 1800s. I think of the chance that quite possibly, Sgt. Hilton walked this very path.

On behalf of the Committee, we want to thank those in attendance who are currently serving or have previously served in all branches of the military. We appreciate your attendance and proudly say, "Thank you for your service!" It is our hope that you will get to know Sgt. Hilton as we share the history and accomplishments of this great American Soldier and Harford County native son.

Part of our mission is accomplished today with the unveiling of this memorial. In our attempt to educate the public, we have established a scholarship fund in Sgt. Hilton's honor, and in September of this year awarded \$1,000 scholarships to four deserving students at Harford Community College. Another aspect of our mission includes recognition of the over 185,000 USCT who fought in the Civil War. We have begun our efforts to locate the unidentified grave sites of Harford County related soldiers. Our goal is to identify and appropriately mark their final resting places here in the County. I am honored to have led the committee responsible for this endeavor.

Again, we sincerely thank you for being here today and ask for your continued support in helping us fully realize the mission of honoring our Great American Hero!

Respectfully yours,

Curtis Beulah, Chairman, Sgt. Alfred B. Hilton Memorial Fund Committee
Harford County Councilman, District F



Welcome

*Mr. James "Jim" Thornton Vice-Chairman, Sgt. Alfred B. Hilton Memorial Fund
Committee, Inc. & Master of Ceremonies*

Posting of Colors

(Please Stand)

Combined Color Guard

Harford American Legion Post No.39, Bel Air

Joseph L. Davis Post No. 47, The American Legion, Havre de Grace

Sgt. Alfred B. Hilton Memorial Post 55, The American Legion, Bel Air

National Anthem

Havre de Grace High School, Chamber Singers

Mr. David Tramontana, Director of Choral Music

Sopranos: Ellen Benner & Mia Benzon

Altos: Tenley Moore & Cecelia Tramontana

Tenors: Jay Baker & Scott Jones

Basses: Scott Adams & Brody Landwehr

Introduction of Dais

Mr. Jim Thornton

Opening Prayer

Rev. Ricardo Burns, St. James AME Church, Gravel Hill

Introduction of Dignitaries

Mr. Jim Thornton

Remarks

The Honorable William Martin, Mayor, City of Havre de Grace, MD

Mr. Bob Brown, Chairperson, Harford County James V. "Capt'n Jim" McMahan

Commission on Veterans Affairs

The Honorable Curtis L. Beulah, Harford County Councilman, District F, Harford

County, MD & Chairman, Sgt. Alfred B. Hilton Memorial Fund Committee, Inc.

Introduction of Guest Speaker

The Honorable Curtis L. Beulah

Guest Speaker

*Major General Robert L. Edmonson II
Commanding General U.S. Army Communications-Electronics
Command Senior Commander
Aberdeen Proving Ground*

Presentation of Gift

Councilman Beulah & Mr. Thornton

Remarks from Hilton Family Representative

Ms. Joi Hilton, Sgt. Hilton's Great, Great, Great Niece

Recognitions and Proclamation

Mr. Jim Thornton

Retirement of Colors

Combined Color Guard

Audience Moves to Designated Unveiling Area

Monument Details

Mr. Jim Thornton

Memorial is Unveiled

Laying of the Wreath

*Mrs. Arlene Allen, Post 55 Auxiliary President
Ms. Candi Bizoli, Post 47 Auxiliary President
Mr. Godfrey Clayton & Mrs. Evelyn Clayton
Sgt. Alfred B. Hilton Committee Founders*

Closing Prayer

Rev. Dr. Marlon B. Tilghman, Ames United Methodist Church, Bel Air

Playing of Taps

Mr. Jay Baker





Major General Robert L. Edmonson II
Commanding General
U.S. Army Communications-Electronics
Command, Senior Commander
Aberdeen Proving Ground

Guest Speaker

Major General Robert L. Edmonson II assumed duties as the 17th Commander of the U.S. Army Communications-Electronics Command and Senior Commander of Aberdeen Proving Ground on August 6, 2021. As the commanding general for a 9,000-person, two-star global command and senior commander of a 28,000-person military base, Major General Edmonson serves as the U.S. Army's Command, Control, Communications, Computers, Cyber, Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance (C5ISR) and medical materiel integrator. He is responsible for enabling the U.S. Army's warfighting readiness by providing sustainable global C5ISR and medical materiel support. Major General Edmonson is a native of Willingboro, New Jersey.

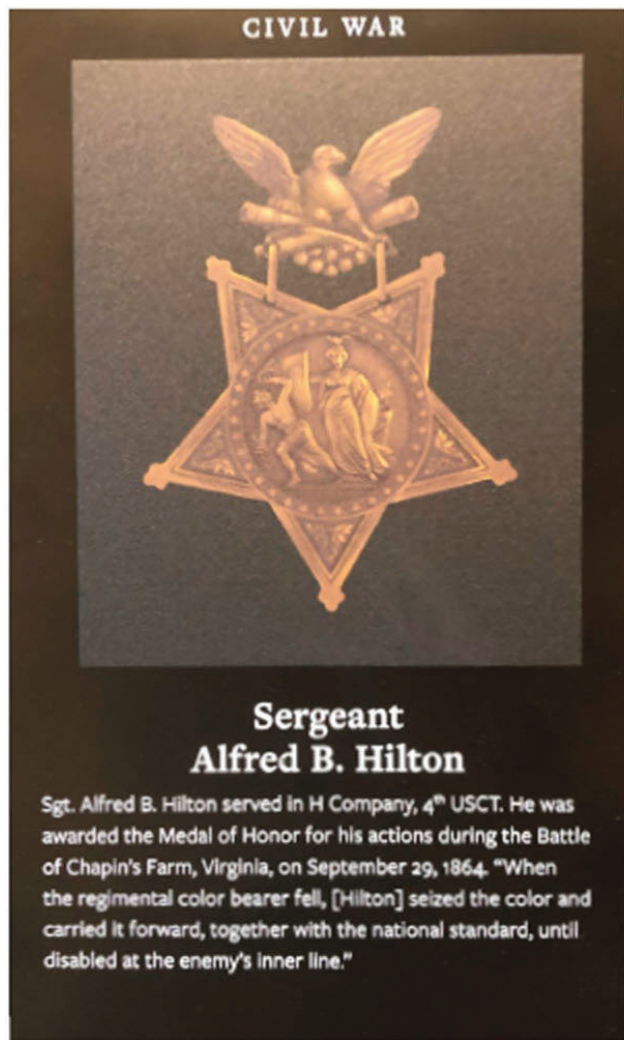
He graduated from Frostburg State University with a Bachelor of Science in Business Marketing and began his military career in 1991. He also holds a Master of Science Administration in Information Resource Management from Central Michigan University and a Master of Science in National Security Strategy from the National Defense University. In 2022, he received his Doctor of Humane Letters, Honoris Causa from Frostburg State University.

Throughout his 31-year career as an Army officer, Major General Edmonson has served in a variety of command and staff positions at the tactical, operational, and strategic levels. These include serving as Infantry Brigade S-6 within the 82nd Airborne Division where he deployed in support of Operation ENDURING FREEDOM and Operation IRAQI FREEDOM; G-6/CIO at U.S. Army Intelligence and Security Command; and Executive Officer to the Army G-6/CIO.

His notable command assignments include A Company, 82nd Signal Battalion; 63rd Expeditionary Signal Battalion; 35th Signal Brigade, XVIII Airborne Corps; and service as the 38th Chief of Signal/Commandant of the Army Signal School.

His military awards and decorations include the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Joint Service Commendation Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal, Global War on Terror Expeditionary and Service Medals, Humanitarian Service Medal, NATO Medal, Combat Action Badge, Expert Infantryman's Badge, Ranger Tab, Pathfinder Badge, Air Assault Badge, Master Parachutist Badge, Joint Staff Identification Badge, Army Staff Identification Badge, and Polish Jump Wings.

Major General Edmonson and his wife, Ellen, have two adult sons, Robert III and Alexander.



Images are courtesy of the
Smithsonian National
Museum of African American
History & Culture in
Washington, DC



Unidentified USCT soldier with wife and
two daughters believed to be from the
state of Maryland.*

*Library of Congress



This photo shows what remains of the original flag presented by the Colored Ladies of Baltimore to the soldiers of the 4th Regiment, United States Colored Troops (USCT), before they left for battle. This precious remnant is what remains of the flag carried by Sgt. Alfred B. Hilton during the Battle of New Market Heights, Virginia. The Maryland Center for History and Culture in Baltimore maintains this flag.

USCT soldiers awarded the Medal of Honor after New Market Heights

Pvt. William H. Barnes, 38th USCT
Sgt. Powhatan Beaty, 5th USCT
Sgt. James H. Bronson, 5th USCT
Sgt. Christian A. Fleetwood, 4th USCT
Pvt. James Gardiner, 38th USCT
Sgt. James H. Harris, 38th USCT
Sgt. Thomas R. Hawkins, 6th USCT
★ Sgt. Alfred B. Hilton, 4th USCT ★
Sgt. Milton M. Holland, 5th USCT
Corp. Miles James, 36th USCT
Sgt. Alexander Kelly, 6th USCT
Sgt. Robert A. Pinn, 5th USCT
Sgt. Edward Ratcliff, 38th USCT
Pvt. Charles Veal, 4th USCT.



Powhatan Beaty
Courtesy Library of Congress

Did you Know ... Getting to Know Alfred B. Hilton

- Isaac and Harriet Hilton raised their family on Gravel Hill Road, just outside of Havre de Grace, Maryland
- Harriet Hilton died in 1897 at the age of 102, then believed to be Harford County's oldest resident
- Alfred B. Hilton's age at enlistment in 1863 is not known for certain; one record indicated he was 21, another said 23, and a third cited 26
- Alfred B. Hilton officially enlisted in Havre de Grace, at one of several recruiting stations established across the state to recruit Black soldiers
- Two of Alfred's brothers, Henry and Aaron, enlisted in the Army along with Alfred on August 11, 1863
- No photograph of Alfred B. Hilton is known to exist, although his personal effects listed at his death included two ambrotypes of unidentified subjects
- Over 260 men with Harford County ties are believed to have been part of the United States Colored Troops during the Civil War
- Men with Harford County connections have been found to have served with all six of Maryland's Colored Regiments
- The greatest number of Harford County's Black soldiers served in the 39th USCT Regiment; the second largest group were in the 4th USCT
- Harford County related soldiers served in approximately 23 different Black regiments, including the famed 54th Massachusetts
- Sgt. Hilton served as regimental color bearer and later National color bearer for his unit

Sgt. Alfred B. Hilton's Medal of Honor citation reads:

"When the regimental color bearer fell, this soldier seized the color and carried it forward, together with the National Standard until disabled at the enemy's inner line."

Historical Highlights of The Sgt. Alfred B. Hilton Memorial Fund Committee, Inc.

- 1990** Mr. Roswell Dorsey, a volunteer at the Historical Society of Harford County, discovered a document identifying Sgt. Alfred B. Hilton as a recipient of the Medal of Honor
- Mr. Dorsey contacted Mr. Jim Chrismer, historian, who was researching the role of Black Soldiers in America's wars, and Chrismer began to research Sgt. Hilton
- 2000** Chrismer wrote Harford Historical Bulletin No. 86, Titled "*Above and Beyond: The Civil War Careers of Alfred B. Hilton and Charles E. Phelps,*" published by the Historical Society of Harford County
- 2015** Mr. Chrismer worked with Harford County Parks and Recreation as Gravel Hill Park was renamed in honor of Sgt. Hilton
- 2016** Mr. Jerome L. Hersl, Jr. developed and introduced Harford County to Campaign 42, with weekly to bi-weekly pamphlets on local Black citizens. *Pamphlet No. 4* introduced us to Sgt. Alfred B. Hilton
- Mr. Hersl met with Mrs. Evelyn Clayton, former American Legion Post 55 Auxiliary President, informing her about Sgt. Hilton. Mrs. Clayton took the information to Post 55 leadership, where discussions began about how to best honor Sgt. Hilton. The Sgt. Alfred B. Hilton Memorial Fund Committee was formed shortly thereafter
 - Dr. Stephen P. Smith joined with Mr. Hersl to educate elected officials and others, seeking greater recognition for Sgt. Hilton
 - Hersl & Smith spearheaded the 1st Annual Memorial Luncheon in Sgt. Hilton's honor held at Ames United Methodist Church, Bel Air. They also led the charge to have a portion of Route 22 (over I-95) named in Sgt. Hilton's honor
- July 15, 2017** The Memorial Fund Committee Incorporated and started raising funds for a Memorial to honor Sgt. Hilton
- Dec. 1, 2017** American Legion Post 55 was renamed "Sgt. Alfred B. Hilton Memorial Post 55, The American Legion"
- 2021** The Committee made contributions to Old Post Road and Edgewood Elementary schools to provide students with school supplies
- County Executive Barry Glassman dedicated a playground in Alfred B. Hilton Park on Gravel Hill Road in Havre de Grace
- August 2022** With the generous support of the Drescher Foundation, the Committee awarded four \$1,000 Sgt. Alfred B. Hilton Memorial scholarships to deserving students at Harford Community College
- November 4, 2022** Unveiling of the Sgt. Alfred B. Hilton Memorial, David R. Craig Park, Havre de Grace, Maryland

THE SERGEANT ALFRED B. HILTON MEMORIAL SPONSORS

This Memorial would not have been possible without the generosity of our Sponsors. We are grateful for your contributions and the donations of our many supporters in Harford County and beyond.

Grants Provided By:

State of Maryland Capital Grant (\$50,000)

Harford County Government (\$50,000)

Maryland Historical Trust, African American Heritage Preservation Program (\$25,000)

The Drescher Foundation (\$10,000)*

Sgt. Alfred B. Hilton Medal of Honor Level Sponsors (\$5000)

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City of Havre de Grace, Maryland

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Jones Junction

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ACE Electronics Defense Systems

Snee, Lutche, Helmlinger & Spielberger, PA

Water's Edge Events Center

* Indicates for Scholarships


The Sgt. Alfred B. Hilton Memorial Fund Inc. Board of Directors:

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Mr. Hank Allen
Mrs. Evelyn Clayton
Mr. Godfrey Clayton
Mr. Lawrence Diggs
Mr. Owen Fowlkes
Ms. Helen Edwards
Mr. Dwight Perry

To learn more, please visit:

www.sgtalfredbhiltonfoundation.com

or

Sgt. Alfred B. Hilton Memorial Foundation 

Thank You!

The Honorable Bob Cassilly, Senator, State of Maryland

The Honorable Barry Glassman, Harford County Executive

The Honorable Bill Martin, Mayor, City of Havre de Grace

*Mr. Steve Gamatoria, Director of Administration, City of Havre de Grace
Havre de Grace City Council*

The City of Havre de Grace

The Honorable Teresa Walter, Chief, Havre de Grace Police Department

Mr. EJ Millisor, Director of Public Works, City of Havre de Grace

Mr. Mike Shipley, Mr. Dave McGlaughlin, Mr. Ethan Krone &

Mr. John Allen, Havre de Grace Department of Public Works

The Hilton Family

The Harford County Health Department

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*Mr. David Craig, Former Maryland State Senator, Former Maryland State Delegate,
Former Harford County Executive & Former Mayor, City of Havre de Grace*

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Maryland Center for History & Culture

Mr. Bill Watson, Elementary Design

Mr. Steve Sheppard, Office Center

Harford American Legion Post No. 39, Bel Air

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