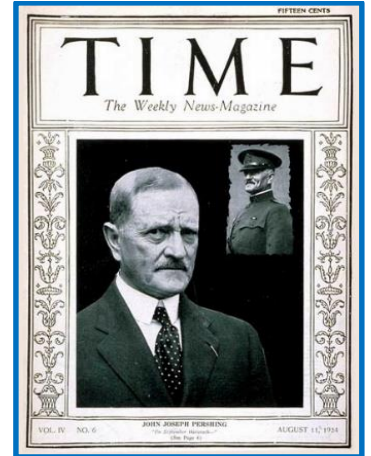
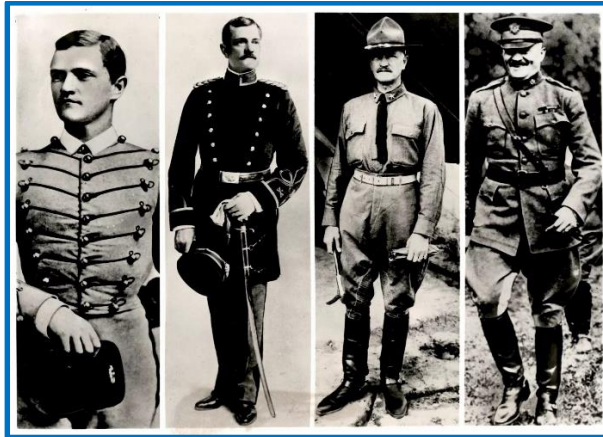
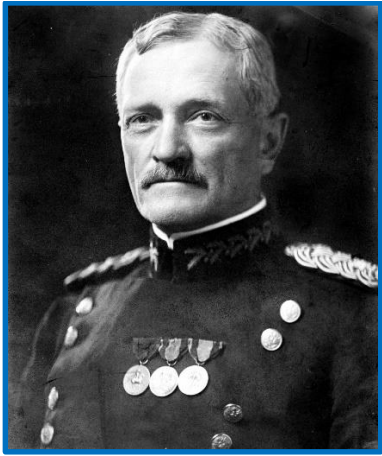


General John J. Pershing (They Called Him “Black Jack”)

Program Presented by Randy Jaye



Learn the incredible story of John Joseph Pershing (1860-1948), one of the most important yet little known military leaders in the history of the United States. He is one of only three people to ever achieve the rank of General of the Armies of the United States (unofficially referred to as a six-star general). Pershing held this rank while actively serving; the other two, George Washington and Ulysses S. Grant, were promoted posthumously.

Pershing led an army of more than one million men during World War 1 where he was credited for directing the U.S. Army into the modern era. Pershing’s proactive leadership of the American Expeditionary Forces (AEF) in the European Theater’s Western Front was criticized for many of his actions and decisions; however, he undoubtedly played a crucial role in the defeat of Germany and ending the “Great War.”

Pershing’s personal life, complex relationship with Black troops especially during his command of the “Buffalo Soldiers” (10th Cavalry Regiment) - which led to his nickname of “Black Jack,” battles and wars, his rise to the highest rank possible in the U.S. Army, his Pulitzer Prize winning book: *My Experiences in the World War*, and his later life will be explored during this program.

Brief bio of Randy Jaye



Randy Jaye has recently researched and nominated 5 properties that have been successfully added onto the National Register of Historic Places. He is the author of several recent books including: *Flagler County, Florida: A Centennial History (2017)*; *Perseverance: Episodes of Black History from the Rural South (2020)*; *Jim Crow Era Propaganda, Artifacts and Upheavals in Florida (2022)*; *Florida Prohibition: Corruption, Defiance and Tragedy (2024)* and *Florida Flashpoints: Extraordinary Moments from Spanish Colony to the Space Age (2025)*. He also writes history articles for various journals, newspapers, magazines and online publications. He earned both a Master’s degree and a Bachelor’s degree from California State University.