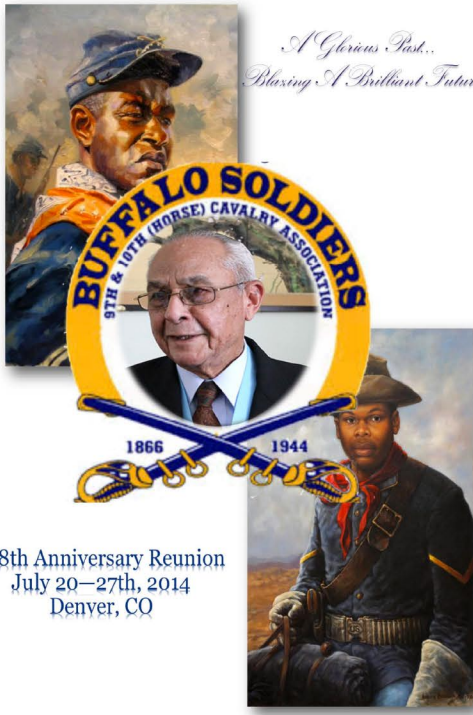


*A Glorious Past...  
Blessing A Brilliant Future*

## *Trooper Albert Curley*

Albert Curley enlisted in the regular army at Ft. Riley Kansas, as a recruit assigned to Troop A 9th (Horse) Cavalry. Also served in the 2nd (Horse) Cavalry School Detachment, Fort Riley, Kansas.

148th Anniversary Reunion  
July 20-27th, 2014  
Denver, CO



A Purple Heart, Bronze Star, World War II Victory Medal and numerous other decorations line the walls of an otherwise unassuming basement in Junction City. It is the home of retired 1st Sgt. Albert Curley. He served on tours of duty in Italy, Japan, Germany, Korea and Vietnam during his 28-year career in the Army. Curley earned his Purple Heart while fighting in World War II as a rifleman with the 371st Infantry Regiment, 92nd Infantry Division. He was wounded in action while clearing an enemy machine-gun nest. He was sent to a hospital, recovered and returned to the front. "I got wounded fighting the Germans. They evacuated me to the hospital, a field hospital - and then I went to the major hospital for surgery. Then after three months, they shipped me back to the front". As the war in Europe ended, fighting in Japan continued to rage on. Curley went directly from Italy to Japan to finish out the war before returning to the United States and Fort Riley in 1947.

Curley first came to Fort Riley from Helena, Arkansas when he joined the Army 1940. Drawn in by a sign hanging in the post office that advertised a wage of 50 cents a day, Curley and several friends went to the recruiter. Curley, fresh out of 11th grade, had to get parental consent to join. "My mother wouldn't - she refused to sign, saying I shouldn't go to the Army, I should finish high school, but my older brother signed the papers," Curley said. "He forged my mother's signature, she chewed him out but it was too late then."

As a member of Troop A 9th Cavalry Regiment he became one of the storied Buffalo Soldiers, a member of one of the all African-American cavalry and infantry units activated between the late 1800s and the mid-1900s. "The Indians gave them the name the Buffalo Soldier because the buffalo was hard to kill and the horse cavalry - the Soldiers - was hard (to kill)... and because their hair was similar to the manes on the buffalo". He hopes to inspire others to work hard and seize opportunities to better themselves. "The opportunity is there if you're qualified," he said, "Nothing is given to you. You've got to earn it." Curley retired from the Army in 1969 and continues to live in Junction City with his wife Connie.

Trooper Curley received numerous awards and recognitions throughout his military career.