



STATE OF NEW YORK  
OFFICE OF GENERAL SERVICES

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## **CELEBRATION OF BLACK HISTORY MONTH TO HONOR AFRICAN AMERICANS' SERVICE TO THE UNITED STATES**

The Office of General Services (OGS) announced today that a program celebrating Black History Month will be held at noon on Wednesday, February 23, 2011 on the South Concourse at the Empire State Plaza. The event will pay tribute to the role of African Americans in the military. The New York State Museum exhibits, *Citizen Soldier* and *Black Capital: Harlem in the 20's*, will also be open for viewing.

The following individuals and organization will be presented with New York State Community Distinction Awards during the ceremony:

- Sergeant Deon L. Taylor, New York Army National Guard (Posthumous);
- Major General Rosetta Burke, United States Army National Guard (Retired);
- Colonel Stephanie Dawson, New York Army National Guard, 369<sup>th</sup> Sustainment Brigade;
- Command Chief Master Sergeant Hardy Pierce, Jr., New York Air National Guard (Retired);
- Master Sergeant Carl A. Patterson, United States Marine Corps (Retired); and
- New York National Guard Yellow Ribbon Re-integration Program.

In addition to the awards presentation, representatives from OGS, Division of Veterans' Affairs, Department of Education and Department of Health will provide remarks.

The annual event was developed with the cooperation of New York State agencies including OGS, Department of Education, Department of Health, Office of Mental Health, Division of State Police, Department of Correctional Services, Department of Motor Vehicles, and Thruway Authority.

Additional Black History Month activities include an African American cultural exposition themed, *Discovering the African American Legacy*, will be held in the South Concourse of the Empire State Plaza on February 23 and 24 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Activities will include African American crafts, food, and musical performances.

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