

## The Moses Williams Youth Buffalo Soldier Award – \$1000.00



Moses Williams (no relation to Cathy Williams) was born in Carrollton, Louisiana on October 10, 1845. Williams was born into slavery and was illiterate. In October 1866, he enlisted in the US Army joining the newly formed 9<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Regiment in New Orleans, LA. He trained and fought by day and attended school by night, learning reading, writing and math. In 1867, he was promoted to 1<sup>st</sup> Sergeant of Company F. (Most people don't know, but this was the original "F Troop" made famous by the 1965-67 TV sitcom, however, with an all-white cast.) Williams' unit was sent to San Antonio, Texas where it provided protection to stagecoach stations and mail delivery from raids by Comanche and Kiowa, among other dangerous missions. He was awarded the Medal of Honor for his

actions in the Indian Wars. He was one of the first African American Ordnance Sergeants at Ft. Stevens, Oregon. Williams retired on May 12, 1898, after 32 years of active-duty service. He was 53. Moses Williams died August 23, 1899.

Our Youth Awards honor these two Buffalo Soldiers for their courage, service in the face of innumerable odds, and dedication to community and country. Winners of these awards will receive a check in the amount of \$1000, and a certificate.

Applications can be obtained by email or at any public event where our unit is present. Send email requests to:

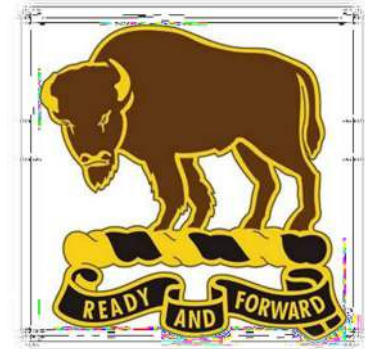
[norcalbuffalosoldiers@gmail.com](mailto:norcalbuffalosoldiers@gmail.com).

Completed applications may be submitted at this email address, or USPS mail to:

Buffalo Soldiers 10<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Co. G of  
Northern California  
P.O. Box 292131  
Sacramento CA, 95829

Also, please tell family and friends about our fundraising efforts in support of this program.

Direct all questions to:  
[norcalbuffalosoldiers@gmail.com](mailto:norcalbuffalosoldiers@gmail.com)



## Buffalo Soldiers 10<sup>th</sup> Cavalry, Co. G Of Northern California Youth Award 2026

The Buffalo Soldiers 10<sup>th</sup> Cavalry, Company G of Northern California presents its Youth Awards program. Two awards – the Cathy Williams Youth Buffalo Soldier Award for college-age females, and the Moses Williams Youth Buffalo Soldier Award for college-age males – seek to provide a \$1000.00 payment for each category to help college-bound students achieve their educational goals. **Applications must be received by 12am on May 31<sup>st</sup>.** Winners will be announced June 30<sup>th</sup>.

Both the **Cathy Williams Buffalo Soldier Youth Award** and **Moses Williams Buffalo Soldier Youth Award** will recognize participants exhibiting the following qualities and characteristics:

- 1) Individuals working to achieve the higher good
- 2) Dedication to community through service
- 3) Overcoming challenges
- 4) Knowledge of Buffalo Soldier history
- 5) Mission statement (college degree, life goals, etc.)
- 6) Pursuit of higher educational goals such as Associate's/Bachelor's degree, Trade school diploma/certification, or similarly quantifiable achievement

Applicants must submit a completed and signed application package by midnight of the aforementioned deadline. Applicants will be graded on the following: a typed, double-spaced 500-word essay detailing the above qualities, characteristics, and aspirations (proper grammar, spelling, and punctuation are crucial to your grade); proof of attendance at, or letter of acceptance from federally recognized & nationally accredited

institution of higher education; verifiable community service (church, volunteering, civic group membership, etc.); demonstration of good character (references). The decision of the awards committee is final. Although not a requirement, membership in the Buffalo Soldiers 10<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Co. G Northern California is open to anyone 8 years and older and highly encouraged. **Youth Awards are open to 17–22-year-olds only.**

#### **Award honoree's descriptions**

##### **The Cathy Williams Youth Buffalo Soldier Award – \$1000.00**



Cathy Williams was born in Independence, Missouri in September 1844, to a free man and an enslaved mother. It is rumored that Williams may have served during the Civil War as early as 1862 under the name Finis Cathay as a member of the 32<sup>nd</sup> Missouri Infantry, but this rumor is unconfirmed. Following the war, Williams desired to serve as a Buffalo Soldier, but since women were not allowed to serve in

the military at that time, she disguised herself as a man, changed her name to William Cathay and, after a cursory medical examination, enlisted in the 38<sup>th</sup> US Infantry Regiment on November 15, 1866. Only two others—her cousin and a trusted friend—were aware of her true identity. While on active-duty service, Private Cathay participated in no less than six troop marches covering hundreds of miles. Among numerous other duties, she helped protect miners and immigrants from Apache attacks. Joining the US Army allowed her to achieve a level of financial independence most women could only dream of. During assignment in New Mexico, she contracted smallpox. Possibly due to the effects of smallpox, the New Mexico heat, or the cumulative effects of years of marching, her body began to show signs of strain. She was frequently hospitalized, and her secret identity was discovered by the post surgeon who informed her commanding officer. She was honorably discharged on October 14, 1868. She applied for pension and disability payments, but her application was rejected. Cathay Williams died in 1893, the exact date is not known.