

# The Boulé Journal

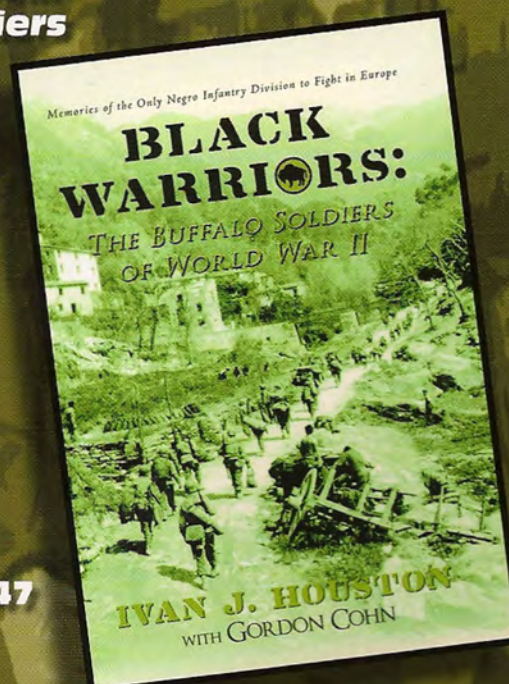
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# BUFFALO SOLDIER PENS BOOK



**Archon Ivan J. Houston signs copies of his book for Archousa Delois Maddox and Archon Herman Hendrix at the *Black Warriors* book signing in Eso Won Books at the annual Leimert Park Book Fair.**

**P**ast Sire Archon Ivan J. Houston of Xi Boulé, Los Angeles, has published *Black Warriors: The Buffalo Soldiers of World War II*, a riveting account of his service in the Army's all-black 92nd Infantry. The legendary Buffalo Soldiers were the first African American combat unit deployed in Europe during WWII, and while Spike Lee profiled them in his film *Miracle at St. Anna*, Archon Houston hopes to expose an even larger audience to the true story of these heroes who fought the Nazis and Italian fascists for nine months until Germany's surrender in May 1945.

Released in this sixty-fifth anniversary year of D-Day and the 92nd's first engagement of battle in August 1944, *Black Warriors* is the first book by Archon Houston. The former chairman and CEO of Golden State Mutual Life Insurance Co. and board member of such corporations as Kaiser Aluminum has been renowned for his civic leadership (he was chair of the Los Angeles Urban League) and his business acumen; now he will be distinguished for something few knew – that he is a decorated WWII veteran.

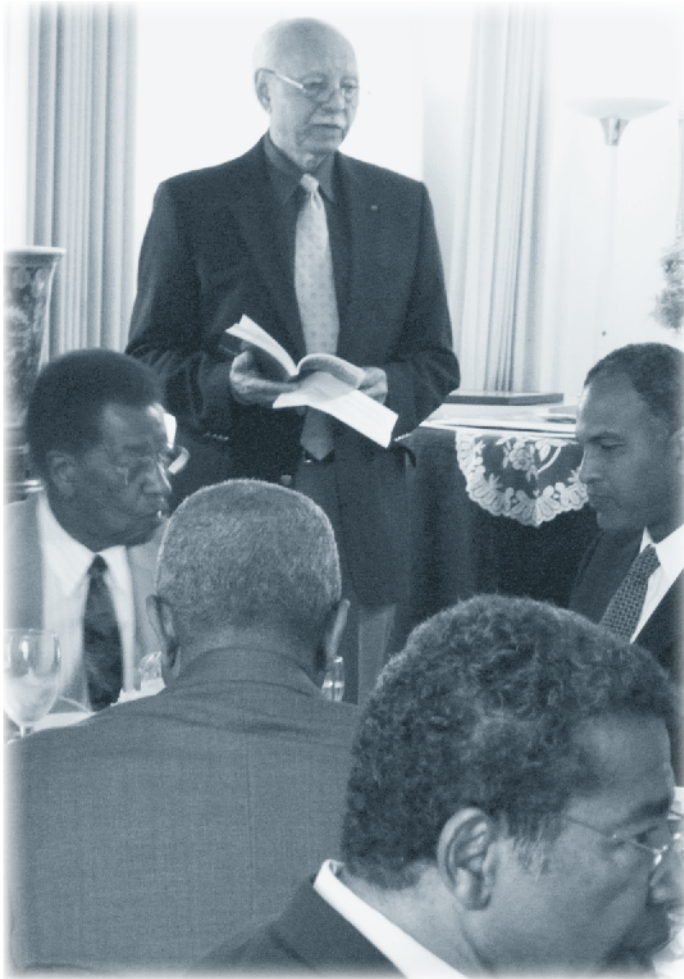
His forefathers were also soldiers: His father, the late Archon Norman O. Houston, was one of the few black

officers in WWI; great-grandfather Benjamin Franklin Talbot served in the Civil War and is listed on the Civil War Monument in Washington, D.C.; and great-great-grandfather Charles Dyde Hine was a member of the British monarchy's famed Life Guards in the early nineteenth century.

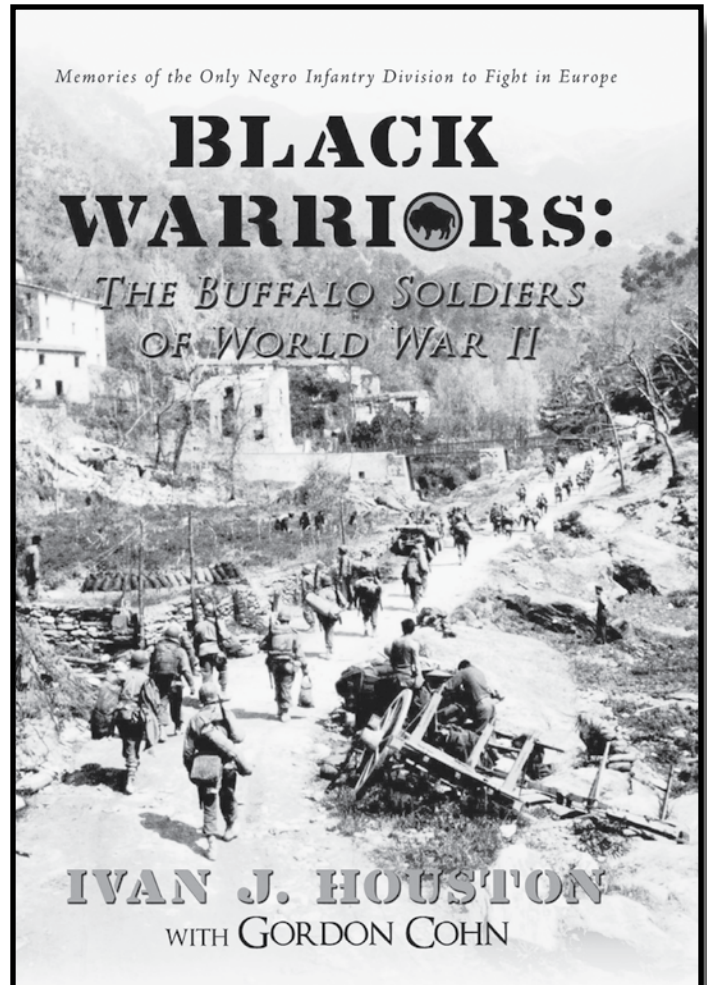
A student at the University of California, Berkeley, when he enlisted at 19, Archon Houston was one of the youngest members of the 3rd Battalion of the Buffalo Soldiers' Combat Team 370, which had 4,000 men. They entered combat on August 23, 1944. In the enthralling pages of *Black Warriors*, Archon Houston reveals his personal journey as a black infantryman with the regiment in Italy; their mission was to cross the Arno River and break through the Germans' 170-mile Gothic Line.

Archon Houston, who received the Purple Heart and a Combat Infantryman Badge, is a member of the Military Order of the Purple Heart, the American Legion, the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the Disabled American Veterans.

He had several book signings in June, including one at Los Angeles's famed Eso Won Books and a presentation to Xi Boulé. In addition, *Black Warriors* has been part of the 2009 national BookExpo America and New Title Showcase (newti-



**Archon Ivan J. Houston at the book signing and presentation for Xi Boulé**



tleshowcase.com). It has also been exhibited at two major annual literary conferences this year, those of the American Library Association and the California Library Association.

Dr. Ronald H. Bayer, chair of Georgia Tech's School of History, Technology and Society, noted, "[Houston] narrates a fascinating history of the military actions against the Germans and African Americans' daily battles in a Jim Crow army... This book is an excellent source for anyone interested in WWII and African American history."

Featuring WWII maps and archival photos, the book is available online through Amazon.com, Barnesandnoble.com, Iuniverse.com and the book's Web site, blackwarriors-book.com. It may also be ordered through bookstores.

Archon Houston and his Archousa, Phillipa, have three children: Pamela, Kathi and Archon Ivan A. Houston, also of Xi Boulé. Archon Houston's brother, the late Archon Norman B. Houston, of Xi Boulé, was also a WWII veteran.

Here is an excerpt from the book:

As the 3rd Battalion began its offensive, we moved through the villages and towns of Lugnano, Uliveto, Caprona, and Asciano, all on the north side of the river east of Pisa. All along the way, hundreds of starving and cheering Italians surrounded our vehicles. They threw

flowers at us and shouted, "Viva Americani!" They had been living behind German lines for months without adequate food. Even though they were allies of the Germans, they did not like the "Tedeschi," the Italian word for Germans. Except for a few fascists, most of the people we encountered were truly happy to see us: they were free. Celebrations in each community seemed to grow as the morning progressed. At a hamlet just north of the Arno, the citizens greeted us with more cries of "Viva Americani!" "Buon giorno!" and phrases that were beyond our limited vocabulary. Others just waved happily. Some of the women could be seen crying. The excited civilians clung to our vehicles and showered the soldiers with grapes, flowers and fruit. Some ran along, pouring wine for all who would accept it, while others of both sexes and all ages paid their tribute with hearty kisses. They had every guy in the column feeling like a conquering hero. Even today I smile and feel good when I recall those scenes. Here were white Italians greeting Negro Americans as liberators and showering us with love, while in our own country we remained second-class in all respects.

*Archon Harold Haizlip  
Grapter, Xi Boulé*