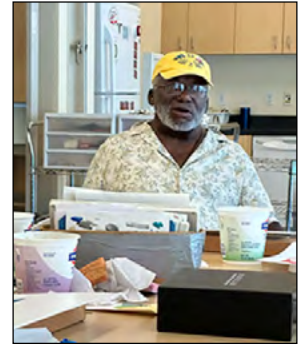




Community Outreach — Oakland Veterans

Art and History

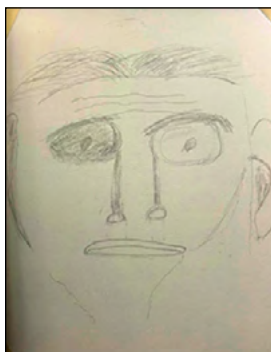
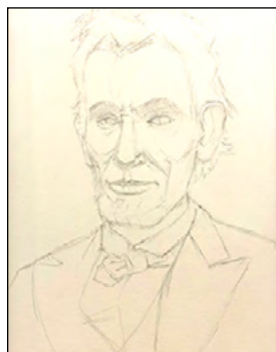


Art & History Our era is so unusual we thought the Oakland veterans might enjoy looking back in history and painting an outstanding person from our nation's past. We settled on a portrait of Abraham Lincoln at fifty-five years old photographed on February 5, 1865. Weeks later on April 11, the president gave a speech from a White House balcony on the nation's reunion, now that the war was over, Lincoln expressed support for "... some black men, including the 'very intelligent and ... those who serve our cause as soldiers' the right to vote." "That is the last speech he will ever make," one member of the crowd reportedly said. It was John Wilkes Booth, a Confederate sympathizer. Three days later, on Good Friday, Booth fatally shot the president. The Thirteenth Amendment to the Constitution was passed in Congress on January 31, 1865. It was ratified by the necessary three-fourths of the states on December 6, 1865.

13th Amendment

Section 1. Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction.

Section 2. Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.



The portrait of Lincoln and the history above was passed out to every vet at our gathering. The history was sobering to read and the group quieted down. Pat Moseuk demonstrated how to draw the portrait. As normal, our vets politely watched and listened, then pretty much did their own thing. When we reviewed our works, we were impressed the way our vets jumped into this project with watercolors. Others of us were still crafting our drawings. We had an unusually large group who shared memories of George Archibaque's outstanding qualities and how much we miss him.

Sheila Cain

Co-Director, Community Outreach

Reference book: *Emancipation Proclamation: Lincoln and the Dawn of Liberty* from the Coretta King Honor Winner Tonya Bolden