

BRIG. GEN B.O. DAVIS, Sr.



Brigadier General Benjamin Oliver Davis, Sr. was the very first African-American General in the US Army. He received military training in high school in Washington, D.C. in Junior ROTC and served in the D.C. National Guard after graduation.

He volunteered in the Spanish-American War and later joined the regular army as a private in 1900. He fought in the Philippine-American War and WWI, and despite his obvious leadership skills, in keeping with Army policy was not allowed to have permanent rank as an officer.

His son, B.O. Davis, Jr. entered West Point in 1932 as the only African American enrolled there, and after suffering unbelievable prejudice, had a brilliant career in the US Air Force, retiring as a three star general.

Due to political considerations, in an effort to win favor with Black voters in 1940, President Franklin Roosevelt promoted Davis to Brigadier General.

During the first half of the twentieth century BG Davis served as a role model and an inspiration to many African Americans who sought to succeed in the military. Today he still serves as an example of persistence and resilience.

Go to the Internet to read the details of the life, military service, and accomplishments of this man who was a role model and an icon for so many.