



Brian Sandoval  
Governor

## STATE OF NEVADA OFFICE OF THE MILITARY

Office of the Adjutant General  
2460 Fairview Drive  
Carson City, Nevada 89701-6807



WILLIAM R. BURKS  
Brigadier General  
The Adjutant General

February 1, 2012

Awards Committee  
National Guard Association of the United States  
One Massachusetts Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20001

Dear Committee Members:

It is with great pride that I endorse Air National Guard Colonel Ondra Berry for the Garde Nationale Trophy.

Colonel Berry is a phenomenal individual who epitomizes our citizen-soldier ethos. Colonel Berry has been highly recognized by his community, state, and national level for his contributions and work in the area of diversity. Recently, Colonel Berry was recognized by the NAACP and the Roy Wilkins Renown service award for his dedicated work.

Please direct any questions to Captain John Brownell who can be contacted at [john.e.brownell@us.army.mil](mailto:john.e.brownell@us.army.mil) or (775)887.7227.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Wm R Burks".

William R Burks, Brig Gen, USAF  
Adjutant General, NVMD

## Individual Award Nomination Form

**Award Nominated to Receive:** Garde Nationale Trophy

**Name:** Colonel (P) Ondra Berry

**Nominated By:** Brigadier General William Burks, Nevada Adjutant General & Lieutenant Colonel Jeff Zupon, NNGA President

**Years in the National Guard:** 25

**Justification for the Award:**

Colonel Ondra Berry's passion for a better understanding of people ignited in him as a young man. He learned that every human being is under construction, with unlimited potential, and this principle has inspired him to influence those within his sphere of influence. He has dedicated his life to helping others realize and actualize their hidden potential. Colonel Berry has been a champion of leadership, diversity, and organizational change for more than 25 years. He is committed to challenging the status quo in human potential.

Colonel Berry is a founding partner of Guardian Quest, a company committed to unleashing the untapped potential of individuals and organizations. Their mission is to provide world-class training solutions to world-class people. As a change agent in personal and organizational transformation, Colonel Berry's vast leadership and training experience spans public and private sectors. Colonel Berry's well-rounded leadership style served him well as an Airman, police officer, and educator.

Colonel Berry accredits his ability to teach and understand the human potential to several factors throughout his career.

Colonel Berry's served with the Reno Police Department for more than 25 years and early on recognized that he should work promoting diversity. He understood that change in oneself would reflect change in one's community. He localized national programs like the Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE), the Gang Resistance Education and Training (GREAT), and Weed and Seed programs. Colonel Berry knew that focusing on children, providing life skills to help them make informed choices, reducing youth gang activity, and avoiding delinquent behavior and violence, was a positive method of problem resolution. To enhance these programs, Colonel Berry added diversity and leadership training to both the children and the police officers he worked with. With a mutual understanding of differences, a new synergy was born and resulted in more officers focusing on mentorship and community policing. The city of Reno saw significant reductions in student drug use, gang activity, and graffiti.

As a Guardsman, Colonel Berry continued his public service. After a wide variety of positions within the Nevada Air Guard, he currently serves as a Special Advisor to the Chief of the National Guard Bureau on Diversity and Leadership.

Colonel Berry has consistently demonstrated professionalism and dedication to the National Guard through the long hours spent developing the National Guard's diversity and leadership initiatives. He has been instrumental in leading the way to develop and implement a new diversity strategic plan for the nations' National Guard units.

Colonel Berry is currently an advisor to the National Guard's Joint Diversity Executive Committee. His expertise in diversity and leadership streamlines "Champions Training" curriculum that is being taught nationwide in and out of the military.

He has also delivered his expertise at the joint level. He was the keynote speaker at the first annual Army National Guard Diversity Conference and spent many hours helping design and deliver to troops the Nevada Army Guard's diversity program. As a result of Colonel Berry's years of efforts, the Nevada National Guard is steeped in a culture of diversity, cognizant of the benefits that result from operating in an environment that embraces diversity, and one in which the principles of diversity are firmly ingrained in our Guardsmen's hearts and minds.

Colonel Berry didn't just stop with his civilian and military employers. He developed cultural awareness and support for local diversity efforts. Colonel Berry spearheaded Nevada's annual Martin Luther King, Jr. dinner, focusing on the contributions the activist made for equality. The dinner, which consistently draws hundreds of civic and local dignitaries, has grown and thrived for more than 20 years.

He is also the founding president of the Northern Nevada Black Cultural Awareness Society (NNBCAS). Under his leadership, the society obtained a federal grant to mentor at-risk males. Through both of these achievements, Colonel Berry fostered a creed which encourages individuals to learn about each other and appreciate their differences. Through, NNBCAS, the Reno resident started an essay contest now used by a majority of Washoe County schools, where children have the opportunity to write about the achievements of Martin Luther King, Jr. and the impact he had. Winners receive college scholarships.

Merging his career and his passions yet again, Colonel Berry developed a partnership between the Nevada National Guard and NNBCAS, and today the Nevada Guard sponsors the essay contest. Synergies like this positively promote the National Guard and ensure the community understands the depth of the National Guard's diversity efforts.

Colonel Berry's dedication to education has been reflective in a number of academic achievements. He holds a Masters of Public Administration and is a graduate of Harvard Executive Leadership Development program. He is a Franklin Covey Certified Seven Habits instructor and has worked as a certified assistant instructor with Rapport Leadership International.

He is a co-owner of Guardian Quest, where he maintains extensive client lists including Fortune 500 companies, military and federal agencies, non-profits, schools and universities. Onda clearly invests his energies and passions to develop and deliver cutting edge training solutions in the topics of diversity, leadership and organizational change. Colonel Berry is often sought after as a business leader and a keynote speaker, even to NGAUS national conferences like this one. Colonel Berry was recently recognized by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) as one of its National Image Award recipients for 2011.

Additionally, in 2011, Colonel Berry's published "Ayoba: The Spirit of Awesomeness". The book communicates the richness of the slang South African term to express amazement.

Colonel Onda Berry truly exemplifies the true spirit of the Citizen-Soldier – a true champion of the community and the world we live in. His work has expanded beyond the borders of the United States, making him a true diplomat and representative of what it takes to serve in the National Guard.

**Proposed Citation:**

Colonel Ondra Berry is an advisor to the National Guard's Joint Diversity Executive Committee and co-owner of Guardian Quest. In both roles, he oversees publication, policy, direction, training and implementation of diversity initiatives for more than a half a million National Guardsmen and civic leaders. He developed a model joint Diversity Council policy for implementing diversity within the 54 states, territories, and the district. His expertise in diversity and transformational leadership produced a curriculum of diversity, leadership, and teambuilding called Diversity Champions. The program is taught nationwide in the military and civilian sectors. Colonel Berry is a consummate role model with a strong commitment to self-improvement. He is a mentor, educator, and leader who continually delivers diversity messages across the National Guard, Department of Defense and civilian communities. He is also a champion of individual excellence and aspires to ignite passion in those he teaches to accomplish greatness. The lifetime achievements of Colonel Berry reflect great credit upon himself, the National Guard, and the State of Nevada.

**Adjutant General Endorsement:** Yes

**Supporting Documents:** N/A