



America's Black Forum Episode Synopsis

Episode Number: 23-17
Week of February 9, 2026

This week on **America's Black Forum**:

Black Vets Sue

A former US Marine is now leading the charge against the **Department of Veterans Affairs**. **74-year-old Conley Monk, Jr** says the VA has a long pattern of racial bias. Monk is suing, claiming the VA systematically discriminated against black veterans when they applied for medical benefits.

Black Owned B&B

Of the approximately 17,000 B&Bs in the United States, less than one percent is Black owned. **Monique Greenwood** is a former editor-in-chief of Essence magazine, author and now entrepreneur, operates three B&B's located in New York City, Philadelphia and the Pocono Region of PA. This story will concentrate on **The Mansion at Noble Lane** in the Poconos. Built as a Gilded Age Grand Dame for founders of the F.W. Woolworth Company, the opulent mansion sits on 22 lush acres near Honesdale PA and is now a boutique bed and breakfast resort hotel.

DC Architect Michael Marshall

Two percent of America's architects are Black. ABF meets **Michael Marshall, a builder with DC roots** who's designed iconic structures all over the Nation's Capitol and beyond. He's seeking to increase diversity in the field; one student and one plan at a time.