

Magic and History



The softness of his style was loud as an exclamation point and if you didn't listen, greatness will have passed you by. Such was the feeling of the moment when Lloyd Gregory entertained the Soldiers and staff of Parks Reserve Forces Training Area during their Black History Celebration. It was a lesson in history and a lesson in cool.

The moment did not reveal who Gregory was, but when he spoke, it was clear. He modestly mentioned BB King, Aretha Franklin, and Stevie Wonder as artists that he had the pleasure of knowing. But

after hearing his guitar you just knew he was as good as or, does one dare say, greater than the ones he so eloquently said "taught me a thing or two".

When he played a rendition of "Little Wing" by Jimmy Hendrix a small crowd of instant fans formed around him trying to catch every note. It was, for the few that knew the tune, a special treat because they were face to face with a connection to history.

His guitar was a Eastman, he had a simple setup with a Fender speaker and an effects pedal. One would think, surely not enough to entertain the crowd, but it was all he needed. In fact he could have entertained a full concert hall.

After his mini-recital Gregory sat and spoke with Soldiers, staff and special guest of the event. Also, a sample of Soul Food was served but it didn't matter if only a few got their fill, everyone left fulfilled.



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Black History Celebration, Feb. 15th, 2011

