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The Parchman Band walks the "Str8line" toward rehabilitation; Debut album, book, and documentary out on February 26, 2027

Written And Performed By Inmates At The Mississippi State Penitentiary

November 12, 2026: In collaboration with esteemed nonprofit organization Music Maker Foundation, The Parchman Band has released their newest single "Str8line." The track is the latest to release off of their historic, self-titled debut album, due out on February 26, 2027, which was written and recorded by current inmates at the Mississippi State Penitentiary. The gospel-tinged "Str8line" captures the everyday grind of working toward personal betterment while serving time behind bars. Written by vocalist Michael Snell, the song is a personal ode to his family, remembering his mother's words for him to stay on the straight and narrow. "Str8line" is also dedicated to his children, for whom he wants to act as a role model. "While doing this time, I tell myself every day to just do right, and when the time comes there will be nothing holding me back," Snell says. "I wrote this song with the intention of letting everybody know that being in prison is not the end of the line, nor the end of your hopes and dreams."

Pre-Order/Pre-Save The Parchman Band

"Str8line" follows the release of lead single "Streets of Memphis," written by member Charles Glassco IV. It was the first song he wrote, capturing his own experience trapped in the cycle of addiction and selling drugs. When writing the lyrics, Glassco reflected on those he knew who didn't get a second chance that either passed away or remained in active addiction. "To be honest, the lifestyle I was living had me completely beaten. I thank God that he gave me a second chance and let me regain my mind, body, and spirit."



Parchman Band. ***(Photo Credit: Tim Duffy, Music Maker Foundation)***

A testament to the transformative power of music, The Parchman Band features intimate stories and striking imagery from deeply personal recordings and tintype sessions offering a front-row seat to a quiet revolution of faith, work, and community. It is living proof that even in a place long defined by suffering, music can foster profound healing, forgiveness, and human dignity. The album marks a significant new milestone in the prison's rich music history dating back nearly 100 years. Produced by Jimbo Mathus (Squirrel Nut Zippers) and recorded at Dial Back Sound, the album's nine tracks are a raw, emotional collection of all-original songs written and performed by the band's members, all currently incarcerated at Parchman: Houston Jones (keys/lead guitar), Leonard Stevenson, Jr. (bass/vocals), Lee Smith (lead guitar/vocals), Jakellsey Hollis (drums), Michael Snell (vocals), Charles Glassco IV (vocals), and Steven Chambers (vocals). Together, the newly-revived blues band penned deeply personal songs steeped in the history of the blues, mass incarceration, and restorative social justice.



Please see sports-Ent. 4

Poland's defense billions: Strengthening the Army or the state-owned giant?... from sports-Military 2

proximately €13.7 billion) were signed with its subsidiaries and consortia involving PGZ companies. These include orders for Borsuk infantry fighting vehicles, Krab self-propelled howitzers, and Rak self-propelled mortars. The largest contracts were negotiated directly between the Armament Agency and PGZ and its subsidiaries. Instead of an open bidding process, the authorities negotiated with contractors selected in advance. Of the six agreements, only one involved a consortium that included an independent private company. This approach limits competition in the supplier selection process and raises questions about whether private manufacturers have an equal opportunity to compete for major defense contracts. The government's preference for PGZ is also reflected in its official industrial policy. In February 2026, it identified the production and maintenance of military equipment, with PGZ playing a leading role, as one of its industrial priorities. The government is therefore doing more than purchasing weapons. It is actively shaping the defense market, placing its own holding company at the center of the industry. SAFE-funded purchases are supposed to follow Poland's Armed Forces Development Program for 2025–2039, although the document remains classified. The publicly disclosed orders reflect some of the lessons from the war in Ukraine, particularly the growing importance of drones, counter-drone systems, reconnaissance, and artillery. Still, the available information makes it difficult to assess whether the balance of these purchases fully meets the needs of modern warfare. Private companies are also among the contractors, including WB Group, which manufactures FlyEye reconnaissance drones and Warmate loitering munitions. However, there is no comprehensive breakdown showing how much of the procurement has gone to private companies versus state-owned firms.

The war in Ukraine has shown that military advantage depends not only on advanced weapons but also on innovation, production speed, and adaptability. Private companies can play a major role in all three, bringing more competition and accelerating technological development. Expanding Poland's defense industry is necessary, but it should not automatically mean giving preferential treatment to companies directly controlled by the government. Private manufacturers should be able to compete independently for major contracts rather than being limited to subcontracting for a state-owned giant.

Because SAFE is financed through loans that must eventually be repaid, the government has a particular responsibility to ensure the money is spent effectively. Suppliers should be selected primarily because of equipment quality, delivery schedules, reliability, and price, but not whether they are state-owned. SAFE's success will be measured not by the billions directed to a dominant state-owned holding company, but by how much it actually strengthens the combat capabilities of Poland's armed forces.

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Marine Corps Lt. Col. Ernest Calvin Williams receives Medal of Honor from sports-Military 2

July 19, 1932.

•Battle of Saint-Mihiel, Sept. 12-26, 1918, a successful offensive, where he earned a second Silver Citation Star.

•Meuse-Argonne Offensive, Sept. 30-Nov. 11, 1918, where he earned his third Silver Citation Star. The offensive ended with the Nov. 11 armistice, while the Treaty of Versailles formally ended World War I, June 28, 1919.

•Champagne/Blanc Mont Offensive, October 1918, where his actions resulted in Williams being awarded the Navy Cross Medal, the second-highest award for valor.

Williams' Navy Cross citation states that "he led his battalion with bravery and skill, attaining all objectives on time, keeping his troops close to the barrage, through heavy machine-gun and artillery fire from the enemy. After reorganizing on the third objective, he pushed forward strong patrols for exploitation, securing and maintaining a strong line for the night and the two succeeding days."

In early 1919, Williams returned to Marine Barracks, Quantico, where he led officer training. After 14 years of service, he medically retired March 17, 1921, at the rank of lieutenant colonel. He married Frieda Katherine von Essen, April 28, 1923, and in 1935 the couple took up residence in Seneca Falls, New York.

Williams died July 31, 1940, at the age of 52. He was buried in Woodlawn Cemetery in Indianola, Illinois.

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This article is part of the Department of War series called "Medal of Honor Monday," in which the DOW highlight one of the more than 3,500 Medal of Honor recipients who have received the U.S. military's highest medal for valor.

U.S. Sen. Hagerty introduces Pres. Trump's nominee for District Judge for the Eastern District of Tennessee... from sports-Military 2

ery below:

"It is my privilege to introduce Samuel Adkisson—President Trump's nominee to be District Judge for the Eastern District of Tennessee. Hailing from the mountains near Chattanooga, he brings exceptional intellect, broad litigation experience, and the character we expect from our federal judiciary.

Sam is a distinguished graduate of my alma mater, Vanderbilt University. He was an All-American on the mock trial team, graduating summa cum laude. He then attended Yale Law School, where he served on two law journals and received the top prize for excellence in trial presentation. Although Yale doesn't utilize a standard grading system, 'Honors' marks in 21 out of 22 graded courses speaks volumes.

As an advocate, Sam has practiced law at elite firms. He's played key roles in high-stakes litigation, including billion-dollar bankruptcies and civil liberties cases. Importantly, in his current role as Special Assistant and Associate Counsel to the President, Sam has played a key role supervising the mountain of litigation involving the federal government the last two years.

Sam's experience isn't limited to above-the-fold cases. Consider his law review article, titled, 'System-Level Standards: Driverless Cars and the Future of Regulatory Design.' We need judges who, like Sam, can adeptly apply our law not only to yesterday's problems, but also to the problems of tomorrow.

Sam is bright, consistent, and demonstrates a steady hand. His impressive resume shows he's ready to be a district judge.

But let me put this in a more personal context. You're about to meet a Vanderbilt and Yale graduate who clerked for the Chief Justice and two outstanding circuit judges, and now is counsel to the President. You're expecting to meet someone who's learned, hard-working, and brilliant. Yes, Sam is all of those things—but much more besides. He is honest, quick to laugh, humble, and devout. He is devoted to his wife and their three children.

Public service has placed high demands on their family, and Sam's gratitude for their unwavering support is apparent. His pastor back home in Tennessee said that 'Sam is the epitome of a servant-hearted man.'

Sam understands the proper role of a judge: that the Constitution's original meaning is binding, and that the law must be applied as it is, not how he or anyone else would like it to be. I urge you to quickly advance his nomination. Thank you."

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