



## Atlanta roadway renamed for Tuskegee Airmen

ATLANTA (August 1, 2008) - On Friday, July 31, Camp Creek Parkway in Atlanta was renamed Tuskegee Airmen Parkway. Several of the remaining legendary fighter pilots were present for the unveiling of the signs which will grace a 12-mile stretch from Fulton Industrial to I-85, near Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport, one of the busiest airports in the U.S.

"We were just a bunch of kids saying, 'I'm going to fly this airplane.' That's all that was on our minds," said Ray Williams, an airman, in an interview with Atlanta's CBS 46. "To have a street named after you... it's great."

Before World War II, blacks were denied the right to enter the U.S. Army Corps to train as combat pilots. Then, Tuskegee University- named Tuskegee Institute at the time - won a request to help the Air Corps train the first unit of black pilots, beginning in 1941. Tuskegee University's Moton Field served as the site for training the renowned aviators. The program was initially launched as an experiment to "prove" men of color couldn't handle the complex flight machinery. Many of the airmen remained steadfast to prove the world wrong, living in Tuskegee University Dormitories. Hundreds of the Tuskegee Airmen saw combat in Europe, the Mediterranean and North Africa, escorting bomber aircrafts on missions. Dozens died in the fighting, while others were held as prisoners of war.

"The whole program was designed to fail," said James H. Harvey III, another airman present at the Atlanta event. "We didn't let it fail."

The airmen will again be honored on Oct. 10, with a reconstructed National Historic Site located at Moton Field in Tuskegee, Ala. The day of celebration will include static aircraft displays, a ribbon-cutting ceremony, public guided tours, panel discussions and a Chapel service at the University. For more information about the Tuskegee Airmen National Historic Site at Moton Field, call [334-724-0922](tel:334-724-0922).