

*This Tribute is dedicated to and honors all original members of the Tuskegee Experience (OTAs), with particular recognition of the following: the 99<sup>th</sup> Pursuit Squadron; the 332<sup>nd</sup> Fighter Group; the 477<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Group; Gen. Benjamin O. Davis, Jr.; Gen. Daniel “ Chappie” James and Gen. Noel F. Parrish.*

### **OUR CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL**

*Incredibly brave, outstanding young men --  
Impatient, anxious, for your battles to begin --  
You Red-Tail Tuskegee heroes entered the dim unknown,  
Conquering your enemy in his revered home.  
Pawns of Hatred responding to Freedom’s need,  
You answered the call with each valiant deed.*

*Ignoring all dangers, undeterred by death and pain,  
You plunged through God’s Heavens --  
Birds of War gone insane --  
Annihilating any enemy who posed a threat,  
Inflicting destruction he would never forget;  
Decimating his aircraft, exploding his jets,  
Sinking his destroyer with 50 caliber bullets!  
You helped ravage his factories and infrastructure (a holocaust)  
And escorted our bombers 200-plus times, without one loss!*

*So proudly, you added names to your long Honors list –  
After some, a Star – for Buddies you’d miss.  
For your illustrious casualties, immortality awaits;  
For you who returned, other challenges from Fate.*

*Through heroic actions you have attained your goals,  
Achieving a place on Man’s Highest Honor Rolls, and,  
By demanding equal rights  
In your oppressive, prejudiced world,  
Forced America to keep Freedom’s flag forever unfurled.*

*Now, six decades later and so well deserved  
From the doubting nation you so admirably served:  
The Esteemed CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL –  
THE HIGHEST HONOR OF THEM ALL--  
Because you, you, you, YOU ALL  
**SPECTACULARLY ANSWERED FREEDOM’S CALL!***

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