

Central Florida companies sponsor luncheon to honor Tuskegee Airmen

Jerry W. Jackson | Sentinel Staff Writer
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The famed Tuskegee Airmen all-black group of World War II pilots will be honored this month in Orlando during the third annual Legacy Luncheon.

And the keynote speaker this year is special for many reasons: She is Vernice Armour, a former U.S. Marine Corps captain from Chicago who became the nation's first female African-American combat pilot, when she flew a SuperCobra attack helicopter during the 2003 invasion of Iraq.

Hosting the event at 11 a.m. on May 31 in the Rosen Centre Hotel is the Central Florida-based Gen. Daniel "Chappie" James Jr. Chapter of The Tuskegee Airmen Inc. Proceeds from the event will benefit the local chapter's educational fund for Florida students.

Armour has appeared on the Oprah Winfrey show, CNN, Tavis Smiley, National Public Radio, the Tyra Banks show and in Newsweek magazine. This year's luncheon and recognition event will be hosted by WKMG-6 news anchor and recent Emmy Award recipient Jacqueline London. Entertainment and jazz will be by Erly Thornton.

The Legacy Luncheon is sponsored by Blue Cross Blue Shield of Florida, HZ Construction Inc., Lockheed Martin and Orlando/Sanford International Airport. The 2008 honorary co-chairs are Larry A. Dale, president and CEO of Orlando Sanford International Airport and Sterling A. Powell, director of business development for HZ Construction. Inc.

Sponsorship opportunities, tables and tickets are available. For more information, call: 407-716-0396, email: info@floridatuskegeeairmen.com or visit: www.floridatuskegeeairmen.com