



Willa Brown, Aviator



Col. Benjamin O. Davis, Jr.



Ground Support



Lt. Roscoe Brown and Sgt Smith



# Torch Bearer



Newsletter 2017 - 2018 Edition

The Brigadier General Noel F. Parrish Chapter of Tuskegee Airmen, Inc.



Remembering the past;  
Building the future

## Old soldiers never die; they just fade away



**Frank Weaver, DOTA**  
Sunrise: December 28, 1926  
Sunset: August 18, 2018

As we were preparing the final edits to our newsletter, we received the news of our own DOTA, on Saturday August 18, 2018, that Corporal Frank Weaver, Crew-chief and Hangar-chief at Tuskegee, during WWII had died after a long illness.

Mr. Weaver (aka "Uncle Frank" to many of us), has earned the Heavenly-wings of a "Lonely Eagle". With a heavy heart, we celebrate his transition along with fellow Tuskegee Airmen, M/Sgt James Shepherd, USAF-ret., Captain Bob Martin and others.

To be absent here on earth, is to be in the presence of the Lord. "Blue Skies", from here on out Eagles... TGBTG.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to:

First Baptist Church of Jefferontown  
in memory of Frank Weaver, where a memorial fund will be established towards education and community assistance.

# DOTAs from Kentucky

## B.G.N.F.P. DOTA Members



1/Lt. Frank "Doug" Walker  
P40 Pilot  
2013 *Lonely Eagle*



Flt-Off Alvin LaRue, Sr.  
B25 Bombardier/Nav.  
2014 *Lonely Eagle*



Cpl. Frank Weaver  
Hangar Chief  
2018 *Lonely Eagle*

## Surviving Documented Original Tuskegee Airmen

Sgt. William (Wild Bill) Davis, Mechanic, Louisville/Houston  
Cpl. Virgil Jewell, Crew-chief, Louisville



## LONELY EAGLES (Deceased)



- B/Gen. Noel Parrish, Versailles
- L/Col Washington Ross, Ashland/Detroit
- Maj. Julius Calloway, Louisville
- Capt. Morris Washington, Louisville
- 1LT Eugene Runyon, Richmond
- 1LT Frank "Doug" Walkler, Richmond
- 2Lt. Milton Hall, Owensboro
- 2Lt. John Sloan, Louisville
- 2LT. Jose Elfalan. Prospect
- 2LT Dudley Watson, Frankfort
- 2LT James McCullen, Frankfort
- 2LT Roy M. Chappell, Williamsburg
- 2LT. John Harris, Richmond
- F/O Thomas Smith, Lebanon
- F/O Alvin LaRue, Navigator, Louisville
- Cadet Herbert Glenn, Paducah
- S/Sgt Marcellus Smith, Louisville
- Sgt. Harold Alston, Paducah
- Cpl. Frank Weaver, Louisville
- Pfc Bill Cornish, Lexington
- Pvt. Thomas "T.B." Miller, Winchester

## Seventy-Seven Years Ago: Young, Proud and Ready to Serve

America entered into WWII on December 7, 1941, with the bombing of Pearl Harbor. In August of 1941, The Tuskegee Airmen Experiment began with its first class of 13 cadet students, in anticipation of being included in the action. Only five cadets completed their aviation classes in primary and advanced pilot training.

This is the 77th anniversary of both of these historical events. During the past 77 years, many WWII veterans have gone

on to Glory, with just a small percentage surviving. 16 million served during the Great War. It is estimated that less than 1 million are surviving or less than 5%.

Throughout their 75th year in 2016, there were many celebrations and observances of WWII; therefore, it is fitting that we should embrace and participate whenever we can. Twelve Kentucky Cadets completed their training at Tuskegee between 1941 and 1946. As commissioned officers, pilots served with the 332nd Fighter Group

while others served with the 477th Bomber Group.

While trained and operational, The 477th BG, did not see action in WWII due to the unit's stand against the Jim Crow military racism and bias treatment that resulted in the documented incident known as the *Freeman Field Mutiny*.

By the time investigations were completed, it was too late for the Airmen to return to duty because the war with Japan was ending. 101 flight crew members, had been put under house arrest

that resulted in a court-martial of the three "ring-leaders".

It is estimated that there was approximately an 18:1 ratio of ground support personnel to the nearly 1,000 cadets/pilots from Tuskegee.

We celebrate those surviving Kentucky DOTAs (Documented Original Tuskegee Airmen) who laid it on the line and – whose true legacy is, that they helped to defeat the Axis Powers of WWII and were an integral role to defeat racism in the Armed Forces.

# President's Remarks

## EDUCATION: OUR PRIMARY MISSION



As the president of the BGNFP Chapter, It is sometimes very hard to pick the best student - when in fact they are all outstanding students at every grade level.

I am very pleased to acknowledge our two Class of 2018 HS seniors, Trinity Wilson and Tarynn Grundy. Both were BGNFP Chapter winners. Ms. Wilson received a National TASF, the Lonely Eagle Award. Both she and Ms. Grundy received numerous awards and accolades for their scholastic achievements.

At our Fund raising and Honors Gala, this past May, Tarynn and Trinity along with their other classmates became part of the more than 40 students we have awarded scholarships to.

Our chapter is one of the youngest in the national organization and I am extremely proud of what our chapter has accomplished over the past five years. It is my hope that we will be able to obtain corporate support to match our base funds so that we can give out more scholarships to more Kentucky students.

Many of our student scholarships are given through the generosity of donors who are not even Kentucky residents. It is something of a concern that I am hoping will change in the near future where to our Kentucky family and BGNFP membership will take care of our own - first.

Our mission to support youths in their academic pursuits has several components. The Entire Education Program includes, the Scholarship program, partial assistance towards aviation camps. Reach back and community service. Your financial support to our education programs is vital towards the success and overall involvement in the second purpose of our chapter's mission.

Kudos to the BGNFP officers and our Events Committee for the outstanding job that they showed presenting our 5th Annual Gala. One of our main guest speakers was overheard saying that, "our event while modestly priced was better executed, than some \$500 dollar a-plate dinner" they had attended in the past.

I cannot add any more than that as I look forward to the May, 2019 even, back in Lexington. As we continue to grow, the Class of 2018 event was one of our best events.

Until we meet again,  
Peace and Blessings.

## Sick & Shut-In

If we know of your personal or family member illnesses, the chapter will reach out to you for your needs and periodically we will send out cards to get well soon. For this issue we pray for the healing power of:

- Mrs. Millie McAtee
- Mrs. Marchelle Juliao
- Ms. Gloria Tompkins.

## TAPS & Home-going

- Mrs. Constance Lewis, beloved wife of our Chaplain, Elder Robert E.G. Lewis III.
- Cpl. Frank Weaver, DOTA, WWII veteran
- L/Col. Maurice "Rip" Ripley, USAF, ret. Central Region Past President, TAI

## FOR THE RECORD OUR SCHOLARSHIPS GIVEN

<u>Class of:</u>	<u>Students</u>	
Pre-2014	4	
2014	7	Lansdownne Club, Lexington
2015	7	Aviation Museum, Lexington
2016	8	The Galt House, Louisville
2017	6	Hyatt Regency, Louisville
2018	10	The Omni, Hotel & Spa Louisville
2019		The Mariott Hotel, Lexington
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>\$21,000</b>

*Just imagine how many more Kentucky students we could have helped with corporate or your individual support.*

COMING 2019

*to the*

**Mariott Hotel Suites**

Newtown Pike,

Lexington, Kentucky

Saturday,

**May 18, 2019**

at 6:00PM

**B.G.N.F.P.**

Annual Scholarship Honors and

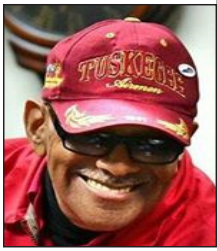
Fundraising Dinner Banquet

Mark Your Calendars

Dinner, Entertainment, Door Prizes,

Raffles and Guest Appearances.

# 2018-2020 Elected Executive Committee



**President, Ron Spriggs** is the Exec.Dir. and cofounder of RSETA, Inc. He's a charter member of BGNFP, oral historian, keynote speaker and lecturer on Tuskegee Airmen history. Ron retired from IBM holding management and staff positions and later the Director of Business Training for CVC. Ron served eight years in the U.S. Air Force, authored a book, "Amazing Management Styles" In 2007 and 2010, for the entire Kentucky I-75 corridor, designation of the "Tuskegee Airmen Memorial Trail".



**Vice President, Charles Walker** is a Heritage Member (*son of a Tuskegee Airman, Frank "Doug" Walker*) of B/Gen. Noel F. Parrish Chapter of Tuskegee Airmen Lexington, Kentucky. Charles has been with the BGNFP Chapter for eight years. He's a retiree from Webasto Roof Systems Lexington Kentucky after ten years in the Quality Dept. and also worked for IBM for 23 years. Charles graduated from E.K.U. with a Degree in Applied Electronics Technology.



**2nd Vice President, Andre' Wilson** is a Heritage Member (*daughter of a Tuskegee Airman, her dad Frank Weaver*) of BGNFP Chapter of TAI., is a native of Louisville, Kentucky and a graduate of the University of Louisville. Andre' was a former employee at the VAMC in Louisville where she was in service to our Veterans for over thirteen years. She has served as the Chairperson for the past three fundraisers, which supports her other passion, education.



**Treasurer, Patricia Hayden** has served seven years on the BGNFP Chapter Board of Tuskegee Airmen. She has experience in business, state and local governments. After retiring from IBM/Lexmark, Patricia is also serving as the treasurer for the Roots & Heritage Festival, Inc., Chairman of the MLK Youth Outreach Services Council, and Assistant to the Clerk at the Historic Pleasant Green Baptist Church, among other community volunteer services.



**Secretary, Marchelle Juliao** is a native of Pensacola, Florida. She began her career in the field of health care in the U.S. Army while stationed at Ft. Bragg, N.C. She was a nurse and paratrooper as a member of the 44th Medical Brigade attached to the 82nd Airborne Division. Marchelle has worked in the Medical Surgical Unit, Labor and Delivery, ER (trauma) and ICUs. She has a unique combination of nursing skills and education, to provide care in the field of Mental Health.

## 2018-2020 Board of Directors



**Dan Wooten**  
Education Co Chair



**John Croft**  
Public Rel Officer



**Ali Robinson**  
Events CoChair



**Eld. Robert Lewis**  
Chaplain

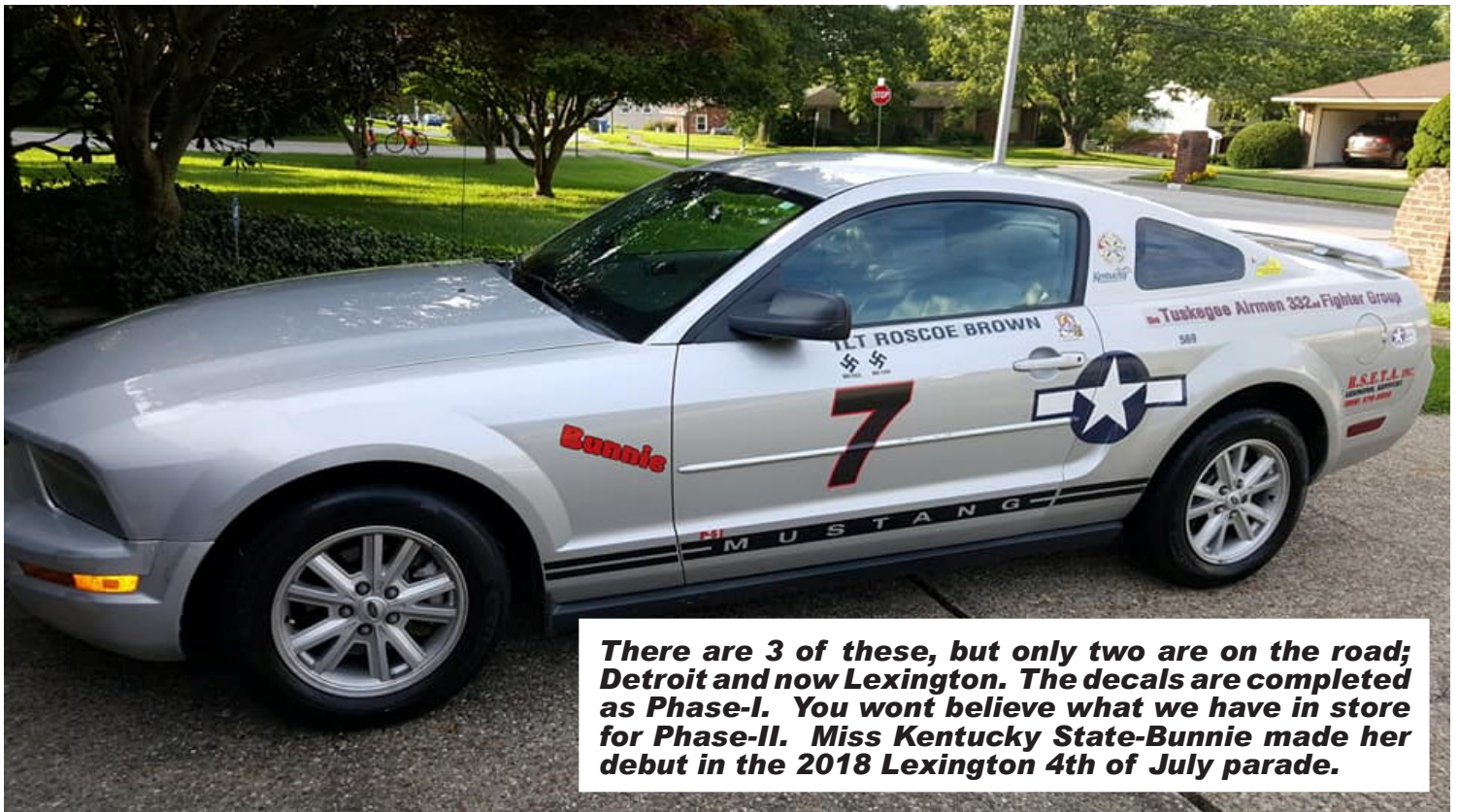


**Dr. Bill McAtee**  
Parliamentarian

Please consider joining our chapter to provide your skills and experiences.

We need and welcome skilled, motivated individuals to assist in the management of our chapter and to chair various committees.

Even parents of youths and students can apply. Most positions require just a nominal amount of time. Approximate time: one hour to an hour and a half per month



**There are 3 of these, but only two are on the road; Detroit and now Lexington. The decals are completed as Phase-I. You won't believe what we have in store for Phase-II. Miss Kentucky State-Bunnie made her debut in the 2018 Lexington 4th of July parade.**



The 4th of July Round-up. Whenever we are in a parade, any kid standing around and not moving, we'll snatch them up, stick a flag in their hand and make them part of our parade procession.

Here is our "borrowed kid crew", along with some BGNFP chapter officers and L/Col. Tim Mitchell providing escort duties. It was hot but in the end, all seemed to have had a good time.

Thanks gang; see ya next year.



# Just a few of Our Youth & Alumni Members

**Jacob and Bradley Wooten**, of Atlanta are preteen brothers and the grandsons of Dan Wooten, one of our founding



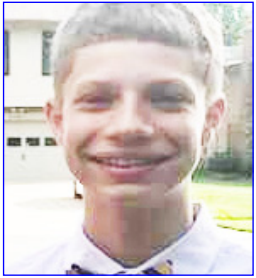
charter members. Both are “A” students. They play on various Basketball, Golf, Lacrosse and Baseball teams in Atlanta.

Their world is expanding, as evidenced by a visit with their uncle in New York City. They will probably become world class travelers!

Bradley attended Aviation Camp in Atlanta last month. He had the awesome experience of flying during camp! Even so, he says the Aviation Museum of Kentucky Camp in Lexington, Kentucky is better.

Kudos to Kentucky Aviation Museum for giving kids a premium aviation experience!

**Rashawn Walker**, HS Class of 2022, graduated from Middle School this past spring and is ready to get started in highschool. Shawn is a great well rounded kid, who plays football and



is an awesome fisherman, catching keepable bass, bluegills and croppies.

Shawn is a very good student and spirtitual youth at church. He has just undertaken the responsibility to learn how to video tape, church sermons for uploading to the internet.

**Grace Wilson** Class of 2022, participated in Northwest, Area Health Education Center for future medical professionals) this summer



and was accepted into Camp Cardiac at University of Louisville’s Medical School, for which she received a scholarship. Grace will be attending DuPont Manuel High School this fall. Through the years, Grace has been ever present in parades the BGNFP galas and other outings that represent her grandfather, DOTA Frank Weaver. Grace has been helpful with various administrative duties, filling in for BGNFP Secretary. Her charming smile and various hair styles are always a joy to see.

**Brianna Payton**, Class of 2019 is a hardworking black youth. Since she was younger she’s always tried to put in the best effort into everything she does whether it’s from education, working, or doing what she loves.



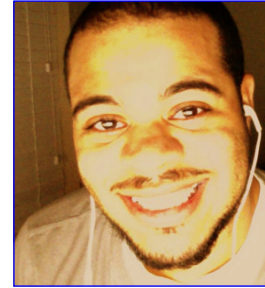
Brianna is also very good at saving money for things that are important to her. She tries to the best of her ability to make her dreams come true. Brianna has not always had things just handed to her so working hard has always been a part of her nature.

Brianna has said, “hardworking was incorporated in her life. For instance, I started working my first job when I was 16 years old at Kroger and they hired her right on the spot. Managers always tend to ask me to do a lot of things since I’m always dependable and hardworking”. And I always make sure the job is done well.

She feels that she has a blessing of participating in track and field for 6 years going on 7 I’ve had many accomplished in middle school, from being a city champs and breaking state records with my team.

Recently in my junior year of track I was a region champ in the 800 meters and came 4th in state of Kentucky.

## ALUMS



BGNFP Alum **Randall Spriggs**, Class of 2014, is considered to be a BGNFP Alumnus, having moved on from high school a few years ago to attend Valparaiso University in Indiana.

After graduating from “Valpo” with a BS and MS in Multi-media (Photography Video) productions, Randall is now employed with the University of Chicago as a Multimedia Production Designer

BGNFP Alum **Dasia Woods**, graduated from Henry Clay HS and is in the Class of 2017 BGNFP Chapter Scholarship Winners



Daisa was also a winner of the National Tuskegee Airmen (TASF) Scholarship Award, Entering her sophomore year, she continues to excel in her studies with a 3.8GPA at the University of Louisville.

BGNFP Alum ,**Tabitha Croft**, graduated from Dunbar HS, Class of 2017 and now attends Murray State College. Tabitha Croft, is a former youth member of the chapter



and finished her first year at Murray State Univ. with great success! She is pursuing her lifelong dream of becoming a veterinarian. having taken pre-Veterinarian classes, earning the Dean’s List for both semesters.

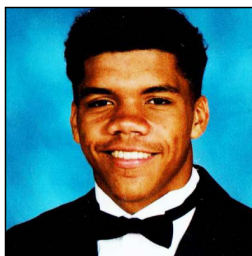
Like all of our student/youth members, Tabitha is doing very well in college .

# Class of 2018 Wall of Fame - High School Seniors

## Recipients of the BGNFP Education Scholarship Award



**Elijah Arthur**  
DuPont Manual  
Louisville, KY



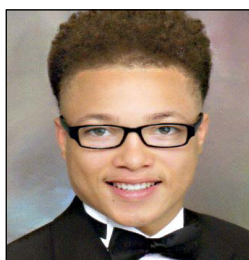
**Levi Gaskin**  
Madison Central Hs  
Richmond, KY



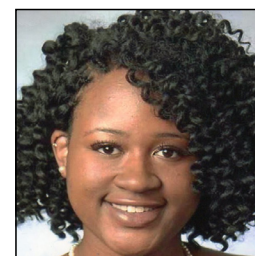
**James Gordon, Jr.**  
North Oldham HS  
Prospect, KY



**Tarynn Grundy**  
Henry Clay HS,  
Lexington, KY



**Matthew Jones**  
Southern Hs  
Louisville, KY



**Jocelyn Marables**  
J. Graham Brown Hs  
Louisville, KY

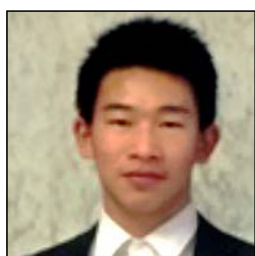




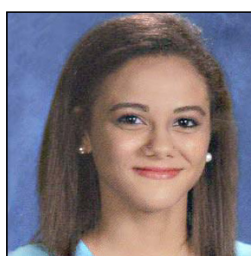
A winner of the  
2018 National  
Tuskegee Airmen  
Scholarship  
Foundation  
“Lonely Eagles”  
Scholarship Award



**Trinity Wilson**  
DuPont Manual  
Louisville, KY



**Angelo Ou**  
Madison Central Hs  
Richmond, KY



**Braelyn Rhodes**  
Apollo Hs  
Owensboro, KY



**Zion Walker**  
Garter G. Woodson HS,  
Lexington, KY

# **Class of 2017 BGNFP, HS Honorees**

## **Recipients of BGNFP Academic Assistance Scholarships**



**Solomon [redacted]**  
Henry Clay HS,  
Lexington, KY  
University of Kentucky



**Tonisha [redacted]**  
Madison Central HS,  
Richmond, KY  
Eastern Kentucky University



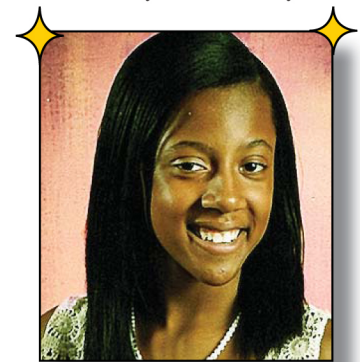
**Choloe [redacted]**  
Dupont Manual HS,  
Louisville, KY  
Asbury University



**Charity [redacted]**  
Madison Central HS,  
Richmond, KY  
University of Louisville



**Richard [redacted]**  
DuPont Manual HS,  
Louisville, KY  
University of Louisville



**Dasia [redacted]**  
Henry Clay HS,  
Lexington, KY  
University of Louisville  
*National Tuskegee Airmen  
Scholarship Foundation Award*



**Gordon Promoted to full Colonel**

Joyce Gordon, is the proud mother of Student Honoree James Jr. and is the husband to Captain, James, “Flash” Gordon. Mrs. Gordon, was pinned earlier this year and assigned the duties of JAG Commander for the Kentucky Air National Guard, out of Ft. Knox. The Gordon family have been long time supporters of the BGNFP Mission. Captain Gordon is a First Officer - Command Pilot and Instructor for UPS. Flash is the Past-president of OBAP.

**Thank-you Donors  
for making it possible**

*For the past 5 years, the following have continually supported our education mission and our scholarship program*

**Corporate & Individual Donors**  
Chrysler of Lawrenceburg  
Ira Salls, McDonalds of Louisville  
MGen. Richard & Tess Spooner  
Scott Larkin Family Dentistry  
Jeffersontown Baptist Church  
Bluegrtass Motor Sports  
Toyota on Nicholasville  
Dr. Jeffery Stidam  
Lucian Dillingham

**Ad Sponsors**  
Mt. Calvary Missionary Baptist Church  
1st Baptist Church of Richmond  
Pleasant Green Baptist Church  
Hawkins-Taylor Funeral Home  
Chicago DoDo Chapter of TAI  
DOTA, “Doug” Walker Family  
Roots & Heritage Festival  
CMsgt & Mrs. Q. Magwood  
Kroger of Richmond  
Knights Travel



# Our Community

## Battalion Chief Hayden Receives Award

Lee V. Hayden, not only was promoted to Botulin Chief, Lexington Fire Dept, but LV was also recognized with Lexington's Firefighters Cross for saving a citizen's life from a drowning situation.



LV, is a BGNFP member and Lexington firefighter by profession, who doesn't just leave the job at the door.

The Lexington Herald Leader's Mike Stunson reported on February 12 of this year, that newly promoted "Lexington Fire Department Battalion Chief, Lee Hayden received the Firefighter's Cross award after rescuing a man from a lake when an outing turned dangerous."

Lee said of receiving the award, "It was kind of a shocker." He went on to explain that firefighters aren't often honored.

"Being a firefighter is a selfless job because we don't look for the accolades. We just do what we have to do, solve the problems and come back to the station for the next run. So to get noticed for something that we all do - that's our job - so for me, it wasn't just for me it was for firefighters all over because we don't do it for the recognition."

Chief Hayden, hopes that getting recognized will bring light to everyone in his profession as firefighters, "putting our lives on the line, not just on duty but off duty." He says you don't think about it, you just GO when you see someone in trouble and you help out.

Sometimes we jump in without thoughts of our own safety, even though we're trained to put safety first. When you see another human struggling or going through something you instinctively want to jump in and help try to save that person.

## Lexington's 4th of July Parade

There were three vehicles for this year's 4th of July Parade, including Dan riding with Ron in the new Ford Mustang P-51 car! Charles & wife drove the big red van. Pat drove Tim's car with granddaughter Leah, who was not able to walk with the other children due to being on crutches. We had seven other energetic young-sters, led by street commander Ali Robinson, to help. They marched at the front of the convoy carrying our banner in the parade..

Tim Mitchell could not be with his motorcycle group, the Lexington Barons, in the parade who opted not to participate because of the heat. Tim, however, was not deterred! He has been a member and strong supporter of the BGNFP for a number of years. Mounting his Harley Davidson motor-cycle, he darted and weaved back and forth between the cars and parade walker entourage - music blaring to beat the band!

He really got our team members grooving with his patriotic song selections and that...got the parade crowd going!

## Louisville's Pegasus Parade

This was our second year to participate in the Pegasus Parade - the kickoff to the Kentucky Derby Festival. This year's theme was "Throwback Thursday" alluding to a trip down memory lane.

In that spirit the Co-Grand Marshals were coaching rivals and basketball fan favorites Joe B. Hall and Denny Crum. The perennial team of Pat, Charles, Andre, DOTA Frank Weaver and Ron Spriggs were on hand for the parade.

Three nice lady volunteers escorted DOTA Frank Weaver in a silver convertible. The parade was attended by a throng of thousands. The journey lasted about an hour.

DOTA Weaver remarked, "I got worn out from all that waving!" The BGNFP was well received by the audience. Flyers on the gala event were passed out to parade goers.

## Mitchell Promoted to Lt. Col. USA, Res.

At our 2018 Gala, we honored Timothy Mitchell. Tim joined the United States Army Reserve as an enlistee.



In a ceremony January 17, 2018, Tim was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel. Surprised? Two things Tim did that allowed him to attain this amazing achievement.

First, he relentlessly pursued his education. Tim earned an A.S. in Electronics Technology from K.S.U. in less than three years. He went on to engineering school at U.K. and E.K.U. part time while working full time with the Postal Service, IBM and G. E.

After 13 years of hard work he received his B.S. Degree in Manufacturing Engineering Technology. It took a lot of tenacity to grind it out for that long!

Second, he enlisted in the Army National Guard. At G.E. friends told Tim he could become an officer with his degrees. Amos Mitchell, retired an E-8 Master Sergeant and Tim was proud of his dad's service. So, it was natural when he joined the Kentucky National Guard in 1997.

At Tim's commissioning his father had the joy of pinning him Second Lieutenant and rendering Tim's first salute. Tim said "he never said that he was proud of me. I just know that he was."

After a full work week, he drove long distances and pulled long hours on weekends. Tim left the Guard after 20 Years of service...and in January joined the Army Reserve.

Tim exemplifies what the Tuskegee Airmen stand for. He pursued his education relentlessly, upholds honor and integrity and is dedicated to the success of every mission while maintaining self respect. The spirit of the Tuskegee Airmen lives on in Timothy Mitchell.

This guy here.....! What a wonderful and honorable man! A man after Gods own heart! Most proud of you little brother! A soldier in his heart! I am so very proud of you and your accomplishments! Today i honor you! My favorite GI Joe! Timothy Mitchell! Happy Veterans Day, I truly Thank You for your service and all you do

## 2018 Roots and Heritage Festival

September 7th-9th is this year's 30th Annual Roots and Heritage Festival in Lexington. The BGNFP started participating early in our organization's history and we are proud to say we have been there 7 years running! We will be there to represent Saturday the 8th - that's the Saturday after Labor Day. We will retain our usual site right across from the Lyric Theatre. Ron hopes to have the P51 Ford Mustang P-51 completely outfitted for the event to bring attention to our cause and for photo-Ops with festival goers.

## The pilot is an American icon in a P-51 Mustang

An absolutely outstanding true tale.....  
*Thanks to Gale Wiolet and John Onda for the reprint*  
 Now don't cheat by immediately scrolling to the end to see who the Pilot was.

This 1967 true story is of an experience by a young 12 year old lad in Kingston, Ontario, Canada. It is about the vivid memory of a privately rebuilt P-51 from WWII and its famous owner/pilot.

In the morning sun, I could not believe my eyes. There, in our little airport, sat a majestic P-51. They said it had flown in during the night from some U.S. airport, on its way to an air show. The pilot had been tired, so he just happened to choose Kingston for his stop over. It was to take to the air very soon. I marveled at the size of the plane, dwarfing the Pipers and Canucks tied down by her. It was much larger than in the movies. She glistened in the sun like a bulwark of security from days gone by.

The pilot arrived by cab, paid the driver, and then stepped into the pilot's lounge. He was an older man; his wavy hair was gray and tossed. It looked like it might have been combed, say, around the turn of the century. As he passed by I noticed his flight jacket was checked, creased and worn - it smelled old and genuine. Old Glory was prominently sewn to its shoulders. He projected a quiet air of proficiency and pride devoid of arrogance. He filed a quick flight plan to Montreal ("Expo-67 Air Show") then walked across the tarmac.

After taking several minutes to perform his walk-around check, the tall, lanky man returned to the flight lounge to ask if anyone would be available to stand by with fire extinguishers while he "flashed the old bird up, just to be safe." Though only 12 at the time I was allowed to stand by with an extinguisher after brief instruction on its use -- "If you see a fire, point, then pull this lever!", he said as he smiled.. (I later became a firefighter, but that's another story.)

The air around the exhaust manifolds shimmered like a mirror from fuel fumes as the huge prop started to rotate. One manifold, then another, and yet another barked -- I stepped back with the others. In moments the Packard - built Merlin engine came to life with a thunderous roar. Blue flames knifed from her manifolds with an arrogant snarl. I looked at the others' faces; there was no concern. I lowered the bell of my extinguisher. One of the guys signaled to go back to the lounge.

Several minutes later we could hear the pilot doing his pre-flight run-up. He'd taxied to the end of runway 19, out of sight. All went quiet for several seconds. We ran to the second story deck to see if we could catch a glimpse of the P-51 as she started down the runway.

Then a roar ripped across the field, much louder than before. Like a furious hell spawn set loose -- something mighty this way was coming. "Listen to that thing!" said the controller.

In seconds the Mustang burst into our line of sight. It's tail was already off the runway and it was moving faster than anything I'd ever seen by that point on 19. Two-thirds the way down 19 the Mustang was airborne with her gear going up. The prop tips were supersonic. We clasped our ears as the Mustang climbed hellishly fast into the circuit to be eaten up by the dog-day haze. We stood for a few moments, in stunned silence, trying to digest what we'd just seen.

The radio controller rushed by me to the radio. "Kingston tower calling Mustang?" He looked back to us as he waited for an acknowledgment. The radio crackled, "Go ahead, Kingston." "Roger, Mustang. Kingston tower would like to advise the circuit is clear for a low level pass." I stood in shock because the controller had just, more or less, asked the pilot to return for an impromptu air show! The controller looked at us. "Well, What?" He asked. "I can't let that guy go without asking can I?? I couldn't forgive myself!"

The radio crackled once again, "Kingston, do I have permission for a low level pass, east to west, across the field?" "Roger, Mustang, the circuit is clear for an east to west pass." "Roger, Kingston, I'm coming out of 3,000 feet, stand by." We rushed back onto the second-story deck, eyes fixed toward the eastern haze. The sound was subtle at first, a high-pitched whine, a muffled screech, a distant scream.

Moments later the P-51 burst through the haze. Her airframe straining against positive G's and gravity. Her wing tips spilling contrails of condensed air, prop-tips again supersonic. The burnished bird blasted across the eastern margin of the field shredding and tearing the air. At about 500 mph and 150 yards from where we stood she passed with the old American pilot saluting. Imagine. A salute! I felt like laughing; I felt like crying; she glistened; she screamed; the building shook; my heart pounded. Then the old pilot pulled her up and rolled, and rolled, out of sight into the broken clouds and indelible into my memory.

I've never wanted to be an American more than on that day! It was a time when many nations in the world looked to America as their big brother. A steady and even-handed beacon of security who navigated difficult political water with grace and style; not unlike the old American pilot who'd just flown into my memory. He was proud, not arrogant, humble, not a braggart, old and honest, projecting an aura of America at its best, **that America will return one day! I know it will!**

*The late JIMMY STEWART (1908-1997), Actor, real WWII Hero (Commander of a US Army Air Force Bomber Wing stationed in England), and a USAF Reserves Brigadier General.*

## The Cool Fool

Flack shot out one of the bombers engines. The young white pilot struggled to feather the engine that was producing drag on the plane. Falling behind his squadron he was vulnerable to attack by German fighters.

The young bomber pilot sent up a call for help. "May Day; May Day.

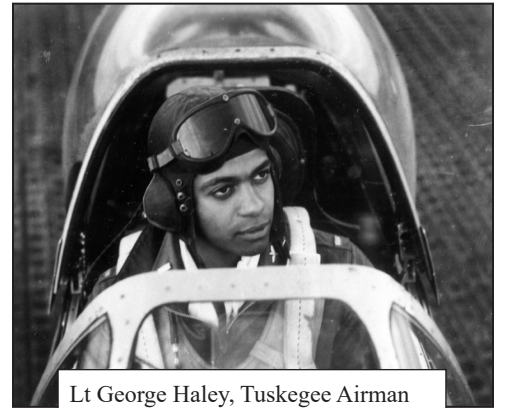
Within seconds, a response came over his headset and in the crackling static, he hears "we sees you white boy; we sees you".

Where are you he replied?

The response was, "we're just above you; and within seconds, a pair of red tail painted P51 Mustangs swooped down and flanked the bombers wings and turned the plane around into friendly airspace over the Adriatic Sea.

The starboard side of the painted red tailed plane revealed a black face pilot with a broad grin as he peeled off and saluted.

The markings on the side of his plane was named the "Cool Fool" flown by a Tuskegee Airman, Lt. George Haley, of Bath New York.



Lt George Haley, Tuskegee Airman  
 Photo Compliments of Craig Huntly

Lt. Haley went on to become a career officer in the USAF, retiring as a Lt. Colonel.

The bomber pilot later confessed - that life-saving gesture in spite of his rearing in Paducah, Kentucky that we are all the same.

The two pilots never saw each other again.

The TAI, BGNFP 2019 Membership Renewal Program has begun. All new and renewals are due in by **December 31, 2018**. Please do not wait until the end of year to conflict with your holiday schedule.

Dues	Membership Type
\$65	Adult non-student
\$30	Military under O4
\$15	Students/Youths

Make Payable and Mail to:  
**BGNFP Chapter - Membership**  
**PO Box 12467**  
**Lexington 40583**

# 2018 Gala Class of Student Honorees



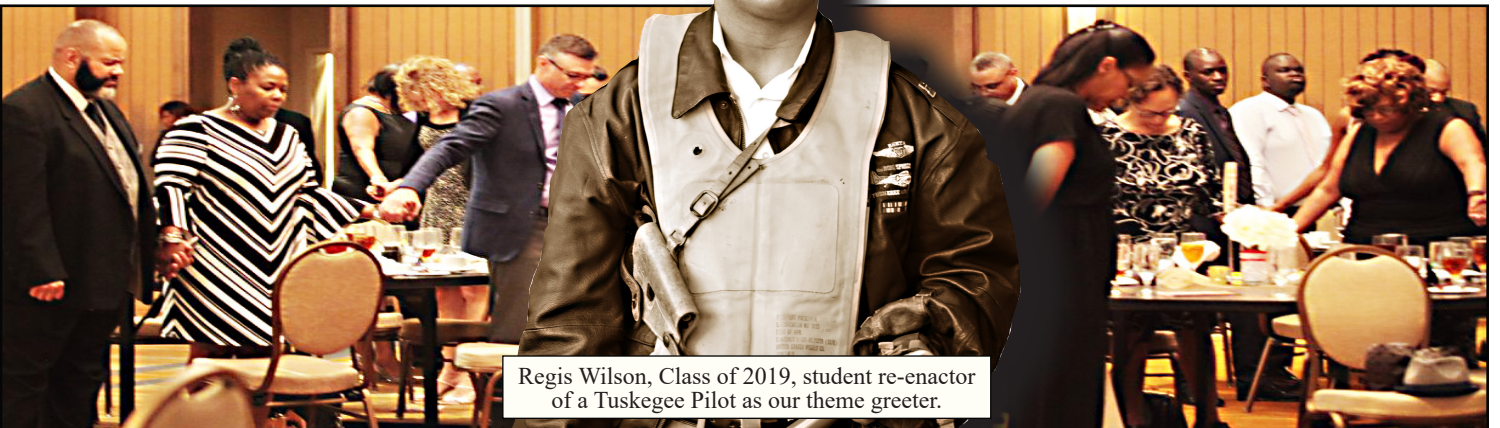
Six of the ten 2018 Student Honorees pose with DOTA Frank Weaver at the Gala.



Hardworking officers enjoying a free moment at the Gala. (L to R) John Croft, Andre' Wilson and Patricia Hayden.



We always encourage and include our youth members and volunteers to be escorts and greeters.



Regis Wilson, Class of 2019, student re-enactor of a Tuskegee Pilot as our theme greeter.

**Tarynn Rae Grundy**, Class of 2018 is a winner of a 2018 BGNFP Scholarship and the Lexington, Kentucky Alumni Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc. Sorority and Debutante Queen which prepares young women to be introduced into society through a six month process. The young ladies participate in several activities, such as volunteering as pages for the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. program at Rupp Arena.

These proceeds went toward a scholarship for each Debutante. Tarynn was awarded \$7500.00. In addition to this, she was also awarded the Yavon Griffin Leadership Scholarship based on her GPA, leadership, and civic activities through the year. Tarynn was awarded a book scholarship from the Harambee Club, a community service club, at Henry Clay High School, of which she was the president. Lastly, Tarynn was awarded The Porter Scholarship from the University of Louisville, where she will attend.

She is a 2018 graduate from Henry Clay High-school, Lexington, KY.. Tarynn is a very gifted actor and singer - amongst her many talents. Through the years she with the support of her mother and father have made numerous appearances to sing the national anthem, the Negro National Anthem and other spiritual songs at many events for the Tuskegee Airmen.



Going back to 2010, at age 11, Tarynn sang a Negro Spiritual that really stirred the crowd. Former KY Governor Steve Breshear remarked as he followed her to the podium, that he was in a very difficult position after her riveting performance. His exact words were, that ***“she was a very hard act to follow”***

As a past member, Tarynn has

always without reservation answered the call to showcase her talents in support of our chapter’s needs.

Kudos to this aspiring lawyer - and the support of her parents.

**Acknowledgement:** Through the years, The BGNFP Chapter has been honored with many notable members in its chapter - persons who believe in our mission to sustain the Tuskegee Airmen legacy as we attempt to assist young folks with their educational pursuits. They range from Civil servants, to elected public officials, corporate executives, lawyers, pilots - you name it. The following are just a few outstanding members who have contributed selflessly through the years. I will also acknowledge other outside of Kentucky and a few corporate folks who also support us with their generous gift giving. My thanks to all.  
*Ron Spriggs, President*

**Trinity Michelle Wilson**, has been a member of the BGNFP Chapter since 2012 and will be attending Bellarmine University, where she received a full scholarship and is a distinguished scholar at the university. Trinity also received full scholarships at Murray State University, and the Universities of Kentucky and Louisville.

Trinity received almost \$600,000 in scholarships and is the second student member of BGNFP and first student in the city of Louisville to receive the Lonely Eagles Memorial Scholarship from the National Tuskegee Airmen Scholarship Foundation (TASF) as well as receiving the BGNFP Chapter Scholarship awarded by the First Baptist Church of Jeffers town in honor of her grandfather DOTA Frank Weaver.

Trinity also received the McDonald’s Black History Makers of Tomorrow Scholarship and the Delta Sigma Theta’s Mary Alice Dearing Hasty Education Scholarship Award.

Trinity was a nominee for GE’s Stem Co-op program and was one of 10 females selected for the Mayor’s Summer Works Program in a paid position at Empowered, where she developed and produced websites for clients, learned and applied HTML and CSS coding on multiple professional projects.

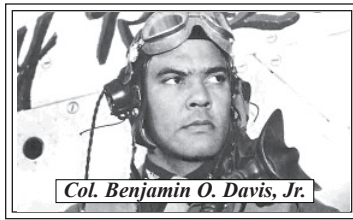
Trinity attended duPont Manual High School which is ranked in US News and World report as Kentucky’s number 1 high school. There she was Business Manager the Alumni Magazine and Assistant Manager for Crimson their yearbook which has received national awards.

While all of these achievements are great her pleasure is working with the youth of her church and volunteering with the BGNFP Chapter of the Tuskegee Airmen, both are tributes to her grandfather, DOTA Frank Weaver





Willa Brown, Aviator



Col. Benjamin O. Davis, Jr.



Ground Support



Lt. Roscoe Brown and Sgt Smith

# Torch Bearer

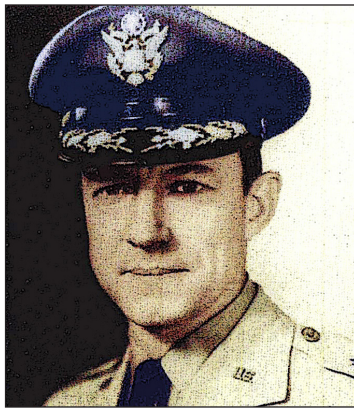
## We Dare Not Fail...

*The Brigadier General Noel F. Parrish Chapter of Tuskegee Airmen, Inc.*

**B**rigadier Gen. Noel Parrish Chapter of Tuskegee Airmen, Inc., became the 52nd Chapter of Tuskegee Airmen, Inc., was chartered in August of 2007 with the help of a small dedicated group of history buffs and aficionados of Tuskegee Airmen history.

General Parrish was born in Versailles, KY in 1909; he died in 1982. As a pilot, Captain Parrish went on to become the Commandant of Cadet Training at Tuskegee Institute in Alabama. While he was one of the few white Tuskegee Airmen associated with the "Experiment at Tuskegee", it was his compassion and fairness that made him a highly respected leader with the Tuskegee cadets during their months of training. To this day, many years after his ascent as a "Lonely Eagle" he is fondly remembered by many Tuskegee Airmen pilots.

General Parrish is enshrined in the *Aviation Museum of Kentucky's Hall of Fame* along with Willa Brown, Major Julius Calloway, USAF-ret., Louisville and Lt/Col., Washington Ross, USAF-ret. of Ashland, Kentucky.



**T**he late Dr. Charles "A-Train" Dryden, L/Col. USAF-ret., said "Parrish was referred to as the Great White Father". The cadet aviation program at Tuskegee was expected to fail, but the then Col. Parrish was determined to make it a success.

992 cadets graduated from Tuskegee as pilots; there was approximately a 17-to-1 ratio of ground support personnel to pilots. It is reasonable to expect that there were nearly 200-ground support personnel from all parts of Kentucky. They were all part of the Tuskegee Airmen experience under the leadership of Colonel Benjamin O. Davis, Jr.

**W**illa B. Brown, a biracial Black/Native-American female was born in Glasgow Kentucky, who later became

America's first African American woman to be issued a U.S. Pilot's License. She also went on to receive a license as a certified aviation mechanic. Willa and her husband, Cornelius Coffey successfully operated an aviation school in Chicago and are credited with instructing some 2,000 pilots of which a good number went on to become pilots and instructors in the Tuskegee Airmen Cadet program.

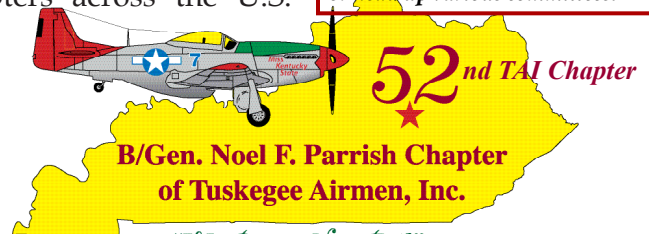
**K**entucky has a rich history in black aviation where twelve cadets graduated and received their wings. Some were assigned to the 477<sup>th</sup> Bomber Group as Bombardiers and Navigators of the twin engine B25 Mitchell. Flight crews and ground support personnel came from all over Kentucky, as far west as Paducah to Williamsburg; to Ashland, Louisville, Frankfort, Richmond and Owensboro.

**A**s of 2015, there are 55 Tuskegee Airmen chapters across the U.S.

Until 2007 Kentucky never had its own T.A. chapter and there had never been one honoring a non-minority. We felt it was time that both of those conditions were corrected.

**O**ur mission is to align itself with the tenets of the National TAI Organization in helping to keep the Tuskegee Airmen history alive and to encourage the youths of today who seek a career in aviation or attend college to meet those goals. Membership is open to the general public, especially students whose annual dues are less than 25% of our normal rate. Most members will be designated as an Associate Airman. There may be some members who have direct blood relations and will be designated a "Heritage" member. All original Tuskegee Airmen are identified as DOTAs, "Documented Original Tuskegee Airmen".

*We meet monthly and also welcome and need persons who wish to chair or head up various committees.*



*"We Dare Not Fail"* [www.bgnfpchapter.weebly.com](http://www.bgnfpchapter.weebly.com)



**GENERAL NOEL F. PARRISH CHAPTER of TUSKEGEE ARMEN  
TUITION ASSISTANCE APPLICATION**

Return Completed Application **POST MARKED NOT LATER THAN March 1st of the School Year**  
to: Mr. Charles Walker; P.O. Box 353; Richmond, KY 40476  
Attn: EDUCATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

**Refer to the reverse side of this application form for the required attachments**

**PART I (To be completed by Student Applicant)** I hereby apply for the Brig. Gen. Noel F. Parrish Tuskegee Airmen Scholarship.

Title \_\_\_\_\_ First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_ D.O.B. \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of College or University: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Intended Major: \_\_\_\_\_ Minor: \_\_\_\_\_ Career Objective: \_\_\_\_\_

*Place a Check mark on all that applies below:*

- |  |  |   |   |
|--|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Participated in Aviation Camp | <input type="checkbox"/> Space Camp          | <input type="checkbox"/> Flight Program         | <input type="checkbox"/> Civil Air Patrol |
| <input type="checkbox"/> BSA, GSA, or Explorer Scouts  | <input type="checkbox"/> Junior ROTC Program | <input type="checkbox"/> Civic Club/Other _____ |   |

**Signature of Student Applicant** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

**PART II (To be completed and signed by student applicant's Parent, Parent in Loco Parentis, or Guardian)**

Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of members in immediate family: \_\_\_\_\_ Other Family Members currently attending college: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

**I certify that the above information is correct. Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

**PART III (To be completed and signed by High School Official)**

High School Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_

**Insert GPA**[\_\_\_\_. \_\_\_\_] **Check the following:** Transcript [\_\_\_\_] **HS-Senior** [\_\_\_\_] **Currently Enrolled** [\_\_\_\_]

I certify that the weighted GPA and Transcript are correct, and this person is a current member of the student body in good standing.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_