



Torch Bearer



2017 Annual Chapter Newsletter

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

Celebrating "10" Years honoring the Tuskegee Airmen DOTAs from Kentucky

B.G.N.F.P. Members



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



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



Corp. Frank Weaver
Hangar Chief

Surviving Documented Original Tuskegee Airmen

Sgt. William (Wild Bill) Davis, Mechanic, Louisville/Houston
Cpl. Virgil Jewell, Crew-chief, Louisville
L/Col. Washington Ross, Pilot, Ashland/Detroit



LONELY EAGLES (Deceased)



- B/Gen. Noel Parrish, Versailles
 - Maj. Julius Calloway, Louisville
 - Capt. Morris Washington, Louisville
 - 1Lt Eugene Runyon, 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
- NonCommisioned/Enlisted Personnel
- S/Sgt Marcellus Smith, Louisville
 - Sgt. Harold Alston, Paducah
 - Pfc. Bill Cornish, Lexington
 - Pvt. Thomas "T.B." Miller, Winchester

Investing in the Future (go to page 10)

The second part of our mission is to support and assist in the education of our youths. We do this in several ways. Our primary focus is on the high school seniors of the current school year - who are planning to attend college in the fall after their graduation. Enclosed is the chapters's application (also on our website at <http://bgnfpchapter.weebly.com> for complete instructions). We assist these students through generous donations from individuals, corporations and our annual fundraiser. This program is only available to Kentucky students or members of the BGNFP Chapter of TAI.

2016-2018 BGNFP Chapter Officers



Ron Spriggs, President, is the Executive Director and Cofounder of RSETA, Inc. He's a charter member of BGNFP, an oral historian, keynote speaker and lecturer on Tuskegee Airmen history. Ron retired from IBM after 28 years of service in which he held 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" and lobbied the Kentucky General Assembly for the KY I-75 designation of the "Tuskegee Airmen Memorial Trail".



Charles Walker, Vice President and Education Co-Chair. Charles is a Heritage Member (*son of a Tuskegee Airman*) of B/Gen. Noel F. Parrish Chapter of Tuskegee Airmen Lexington, Kentucky. Charles has been with the BGNFP Chapter for six 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 Eastern Kentucky Univ. with a Degree in Applied Electronics Technology



Patricia Hayden, Treasurer is a graduate of the University of Kentucky and has served six years on the BGNFP Chapter of Tuskegee Airmen Board. She has diversified experience in business, state government, insurance administration, corporate and facilities. Patricia brings a wealth of experience in systems and application management, training facilitation, strategic planning and communications. She spent the majority of her career with IBM & Lexmark.



Robert E. Lewis III, Chaplain, was born and raised in Lexington Kentucky. He attended the University of Kentucky, for Business Management. Pastor Lewis is a third generation Pastor/Preacher at Community Christian Church in Lexington. Previous foster Care parent for over seven years. Pastor Lewis is currently employed by Tempur Sealy Intl.



John Croft Public Relations Officer, earned degrees from several colleges, culminating in a Master's of Divinity. He discovered his father was a B-17 Flight Engineer stationed in Foggia Italy during WWII. TSgt. Herman Edward Croft, Jr.'s 97th Heavy Bomber Group was escorted by the Tuskegee Airmen Fighter Group on a number of missions. In recognition of the Tuskegee Airmen's service to his father, John became a charter member of the BGNFP Chapter and has served in several roles as an officer.



Dan Wooten, 2nd-VP. and Education Co-Chair, is a Charter member of BGNFP since 2007. He is a retired Marketing Manager for Kentucky Education Television and a former small business owner of Prestige Printing. Dan is a graduate of Tuskegee University, Tuskegee, AL. and has work experience with NASA and IBM




Rev. Dr. William "Bill" McAtee, Parliamentarian, is a retired Presbyterian Minister after 23 years of active ministry. He graduated from the Louisville Presbyterian Seminary. Bill has served the BGNFP Chapter in many capacities during the past 10 years as the Chaplain, Chair of the Elections Committee, provided internal audits and the restructuring of our By-laws.

Chairpersons and Advisory Board Members

Membership Committee
 **Brandon Best**

Events Planning Committee
Andre' Wilson
Angelia Best

 **Ali Robinson**

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

The chapter needs and welcomes skilled and 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

What the Youth Members are saying and doing



Dear Tuskegee Scholarship Committee,

Thank you for the scholarship. I feel honored to have been selected to receive this scholarship. I will be attending Centre College in the fall and the money will be put to good use right away! Its truly an honor and a privilege. Thank you again,
Chloe Hutchins

Chloe's parent's sent to Mrs. Wilson, several text messages expressing their gratitude.

3rd Generation, Heritage Members



Whenever possible, we include the youths in our events. Last year, the 75th Anniversary of the Tuskegee Airmen, L to R, Grace and Trinity Wilson, granddaughters of Mr. Frank Weaver, and Mr. Julian Walker, grandson of the late, Lt. Frank :Doug Walker led us in the "Roll-Call" of all of the known Kentucky Tuskegee Airmen - as a tribute to their service and sacrifice, during WWII. Hopefully this year we can add a ringing of the bell and it will be a tradition in which we can continue at this annual function of remembrance and respect.

Trinity Wilson attends Louisville's duPont Manual Magnet High School where she finished her Junior Year in the Journalism & Communication Magnet. Trinity the Alumni Magazine's Business Manager and the Assistant Business Manager for their award winning Yearbook the Crimson.

A member of duPont Manual's 2017 Basketball Homecoming Court. Attended the Journalism Conference at Columbia University NYC, where her Magnet won numerous national awards.

One of 10 African Ameri-

can female high school students handpicked for a summer intern position at Glowtouch Technologies (software company) that offers training on website design and development, graphics design, search engine optimization skills (SEO), and helps connect students to small businesses within the community.

Chosen to attend and take classes at Murray State University and awarded the Gold Diversity Scholarship. 9th year nominated as a People to People International Ambassador for 2018 in Australia

Hello, my name is **Bradley Wooten**. I went to Lexington's aviation camp at the Aviation Museum of Kentucky. It was a two day camp experience learning and flying airplanes. My grandfather, Dan Wooten, paid for me to be a part of this amazing camp! I learned many things including navigation, the basic flight instruments, using flight simulators and flying the Cessna 172 Skyhawk. At the end of camp I won the Navigation Award for plotting my flight plan. In conclusion, it was a great camp and I am ready to boost my flying career.



From the Flight Camp Director, Ed Murphy:

At 10 years old, Bradley was a member of the Eagle Squadron. At the close of the camp during the awards program, Bradley was recognized as **the top student in his squadron** for the category of , 'Aeronautical Navigation'.

Criteria for selection to receive the award includes: focus during class, accuracy in measurements with the navigation plotter and successful completion of the assignment. I have attached two additional items including: - Navigation lesson worksheet and - Navigation flight plan. Using the navigation plotter and compass information, Bradley completed the navigation lesson worksheet that would enable the successful completion of the flight plan.

After a visit to Northern Kentucky University the Admissions Counselor recommended her to attend the Annual Multicultural Leadership Conference. This conference is an invitation only conference. Her group came in third place for their Leadership Presentation. Received an Academic Award at duPont Manual High School's Jr. Awards Ceremony.

Grace Wilson finished her third year at Newburg MST Middle School and received the following Awards at her

8th grade Ceremony: Vice Principal's Award, Newburg Scholar Award, JCPS Scholar Award, Final GPA 4.0, Served as junior. Secretary for B/G Noel F. Parrish Chapter of Tuskegee Airmen Inc, 3rd year to be nominated as a People to People International Ambassador for 2018 in Australia, Attending the University of Louisville's Math and Science Program.

Accepted into the Northwest AHEC Healthwise Program (Partnership with U of L's Medical School) for future health care professionals.

2017 BGNFP Scholarship Awards

The BGNFP Chapter was chartered in August of 2007 at the Annual Convention that was held in Grapevine Texas. Since that time of 9 years, we have passed out twenty Academic Assistance Awards.

In 2014, the chapter took a leap of faith and created its first fund raising event.. Approximately 250 tickets were sold and we showcased DOTAs, Dr. Alex Jefferson and Mr. Frank Weaver as special guests of honor.

When we first started out about six years ago, the chapter was new and had no formalized education program, we just passed the hat amongst our members to try and give away one \$500 Award.

In three years, two awards went to Black Achievers, one to a BGNFP Student. Later, two students were awarded \$500 by RSETA, Inc. and for the Graduating Classes of 2015 and 2016, a total of fifteen awards were give to graduating High-school seniors, who were enrolled in colleges for the following fall.

Each student is awarded through direct deposits into their student accounts from the BGNFP Education Fund. The awards are from the fund-raising activities that was started in September of 2014 and continue to this day

On October 28, 2017, our fourth fund-raising event will take place at the Hyatt Hotel in Louisville, KY.

Two from Madison Central HS

Presenter Charles Walker, VP BGNFP



Charity Mack and Tonisha Clark receive scholarships from Vice-Pres Charles Walker

DuPont Manual High-school

Andre' Wilson, BGNFP Events Planner, with husband Joe Wilson, poses with Richard Wilson II



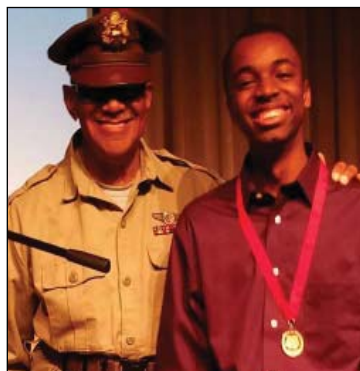
Henry Clay High-school

Presenter Ron Spriggs, President BGNFP

During May there were two Tuskegee Airmen award activities I attended. They were both very rewarding. The first was a \$500.00 Academic Scholarship to



isville. Ms. Woods also competed in the National Tuskegee Airmen competition and was one of 50 students granted an additional \$1,500 award.



Mr. Solomon Best of Henry Clay High School. Solomon was a very impressive young man. He's planning to attend University of Kentucky.

Dasia was an officer with the Henry Clay HS Army ROTC program and a black belt in the martial arts. Dasia and Solomon are both Honor students at Henry Clay - definite leaders of the future.

Solomon's classmate, **Ms. Dasia Woods** will be attending the University of Lou-



DuPont Manual is one of the chapter's highest achieving number of scholarships - mainly through the high energy put forth by our Events Chairperson, Ms. Andre' Wilson. From the class of 2017, are **Chloe Hutchins** and **Richard Wilson II**. All of our Student Honorees deserve our encouragement. Each are awarded our medallion of achievement, a certificate and are our guests of honor at our fund raising gala.

It is always a joy to have students in attendance.

Class of 2017 BGNFP, HS Honorees

Recipients of BGNFP Academic Assistance Scholarships



Solomon
Henry Clay HS,
Lexington, KY
University of Kentucky



Tonisha
Madison Central HS,
Richmond, KY
Eastern Kentucky University



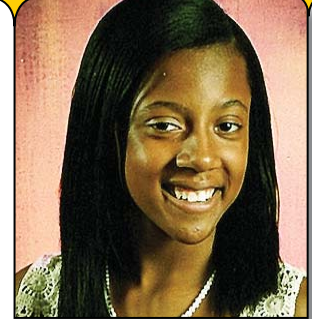
Choloe
Dupont Manual HS,
Louisville, KY
Asbury University



Charity
Madison Central HS,
Richmond, KY
University of Louisville



Richard
DuPont Manual HS,
Louisville, KY
University of Louisville



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

★ SPONSORS ★

The BGNFP Chapter of TAI, would like to recognize our heartfelt gratitude for the generous Individual and Business Sponsors to the Class of 2017. Each student received a certificate in the name of a donor below:

- ☆ M/Chief PO Jerry Stidam Scholarship by Dr Jeffrey Stidam
- ☆ Mrs. Ira Salls
McDonald's Franchisee
- ☆ Frank Weaver Scholarship by
First Baptist Church of
Jeffersontown
- ☆ Mrs. Cora "Tess" Spooner,
Past President of TAI
- ☆ Dr. Michael Scott and Dr. Linda
Larkin, Family Dentistry
- ☆ Herbert Vine Scholarship by the
Bluegrass Motorsports



Each student is presented during their school's "Senior Appreciation event", with a sponsored certificate and check deposited into their college student account. They also receive the above medallion and to be recognized as our "Academic Honoree Guests" at our Annual Education Fund raising Banquet.

10 YEARS: REMEMBERING THE PAST AND BUILDING THE FUTURE

by. John Croft
BGNFP Public Relations Officer

Following in the footsteps of our namesake, the Tuskegee Airmen (T.A.s), the Brig. Gen. Noel F. Parrish (BGNFP) Chapter has left quite a legacy over the past ten years. With 49 members strong and an undeniable presence, there's no doubt our footprint is bigger than many other chapters. But where did it all start and what have we left on our mission?

A young Ron Spriggs joined the U.S. Air Force to become an Airman 1st Class as a Meteorological Technician. He was Honorably Discharged after 2 tour year tours of duty. On a December 2002 trip to the U.S. Air Force Museum in Dayton, Ohio, Ron discovered his interest in Tuskegee Airmen history. He found there was little on display and few facts talked about in the presentation of the TA's history. Concerned about the scarcity of information, Ron decided to form R.S.E.T.A. (Ron Spriggs Exhibit of Tuskegee Airmen). R.S.E.T.A. is a traveling exhibit of Tuskegee Airmen artifacts. Later, he would add Keynote speaking and student lectures to round out the exhibit's presentation.

Serious research into the history of the Tuskegee Airmen started in 2003 at a Centennial Celebration of Flight and the Wright Brothers in Dayton, Ohio in which the Original Tuskegee Airmen were invited as honored guests. The first TA he met there was **Dr. Charles MaGee**.

In 2004 an interview with Documented Original Tuskegee Airman (D.O.T.A.) Lt. Col. Charles "A-Train" Dryden, Dryden dubbed Ron a torchbearer. In 2005 at an annual Tuskegee Airmen Inc (T.A.I.) convention, Ron met **Quincy Magwood**, Chief Master Sgt, USAF-retired and then Eastern Regional Vice President of Tuskegee Airmen Incorporated. Magwood encouraged Ron to start a chapter for Kentucky, which had none at that point.

Two years later, in July of 2007, a charter for the Kentucky chapter was issued by the National TAI and presented by **Dr. Florence Parrish-St. John** at the convention in Grapevine, Texas. At that same convention, the first **Tuskegee Airmen Memorial Trail Interstate Highway** sign for

Kentucky was revealed. The charter members were Glenn Brown, John Croft, Marilyn Dishman, Kaye Langer, Col. Steve Parker, youth member Ta'Jee Smith, Ron Spriggs and Dan Wooten.

Our chapter D.O.T.A.s have included Pfc. Thomas Miller of Winchester, F.O. Alvin LaRue Sr. of Louisville, 1/Lt. Frank "Doug" Walker of Richmond and Cpl. Frank Weaver of Louisville.

General Time Line

2007

- B/Gen. Noel F. Parrish Chapter of Tuskegee Airmen Inc. chartered.
- Tuskegee Airmen Memorial Trail Interstate Highway signs installed for Lexington.
- 1st Roots & Heritage Festival w/ annual representation after.
- Bill McAtee found DOTA William H. Cornish, John Croft interviewed, Ron Spriggs, RSETA presented him with a Congressional Gold Medal.
- John Croft presented Pensacola, FL DOTA, **Arthur Williams** with a Congressional Gold Medal at a ceremony where he was recognized by Florida House Representative, Jeff Miller. Due to color blindness Arthur Williams could not become a pilot but he entered the Army Air Corps Mechanic Training School in Lincoln, Nebraska and graduated 1st in his class in 1943, going on to serve the Tuskegee Airmen as a top mechanic.

2008

- First 4th of July Parade, Lexington

2009

- City of Lexington honored the TAs with Tuskegee Airman Day culminating in a ball game at the Lexington Legends.

2010

- Five Officers, Ron Spriggs, Dan Wooten, Bill McAtee, Charles Walker & John Croft passed the hat, to collect \$500 for the first scholarship, which was awarded to youth member Ta'jee Smith.
- Discussed the possibility of fundraisers and how to implement them.
- Tuskegee Airmen Memorial Trail expanded to Kentucky State Corridor from TN border to the OH River. This year President Ron Spriggs was able to lobby for the

passage of the expansion of the Tuskegee Airmen Memorial Trail along the entire Kentucky I-75 corridor of 192 miles.

- This unprecedented expansion was showcased during the 2010 Equestrian Games hosted by the City of Lexington, KY where tens of thousands of motorists and visitors saw these historic signs installed. Highway patrons will know that Kentucky honors its DOTAs for years to come.
- Representation at the African American Ball in Lexington.

2011



- "A Horse of a Different Color" P-51 Horse Project. The ongoing P51 Mustang Project called "Miss Kentucky State" is designed to be an instrument of education for all as we pursue sustaining the history of the Tuskegee Airmen.



- On the evening of November 12, 2011, Lt. Col. Washington D. Ross of Ashland Kentucky received the high honor of joining three other Kentucky Tuskegee Airmen - recognized for having "made significant contributions to fields of Aviation and Aerospace."

Col. Ross was enshrined in the Kentucky Aviation Hall of Fame. Ross was recognized as a member of the first African-American U.S. military pilot group, for his role in the 332nd Fighter Group's

nearly perfect record in long-range bomber escorts and as a founding member of the Tuskegee Airmen organization dedicated to training youth in the fields of Aviation and Aerospace.

Surrounded by friends and family, Ross was presented to attendees by Aviation Museum of Kentucky Board Member and T.A.I. Brig. General Noel F. Parrish Chapter President Ron Spriggs.



Don Goodwin pays Jordan Bryson for an autographed copy of his book



Honoree SSgt. Ali Robinson, USAF in the receiving line.

2012

• February 2012 we hosted the premiere of the Red Tail Movie in Lexington at The Grand Theatre Brannon Crossing. Ta'Jee Smith and other youth ushered and handed out flyers.



BGNFP Youth members Jordan Bryson and Tabitha Croft with other young Red Tails premiere attendees.

Youth member Jordan Bryson authors his book on Tuskegee Airmen

Two Ceremonies to Honor Military Veterans



Pictured left back to front right: Don Goodwin, Charles Walker, Maj. Tim Mitchell, John Croft, Frank Weaver and Ron Spriggs.

At the 43rd Jessamine County Military Honors Ceremony on August 9th friends, family and fellow veterans were present to honor active, retired and fallen heroes at the First Baptist Church of Nicholasville, Kentucky. Chaplain Col. Brewer, US Army, ret. opened the ceremony to a packed house.

Among the honorees were BGNFP members Don Goodwin and DOTA Frank Walker, represented by his son Charles Walker. DOTA Frank Weaver and two other gentlemen were brought forward as special honorees.

At the 44th Jessamine County Military Honors Ceremony on November 8th at Edgewood Baptist Church in Nicholasville Kentucky T.A.I. members D.O.T.A. Dr. Julius Calloway and grandson Maj. Julius Calloway III, were honored for their rendered services.

BGNFP Chapter PubRel Officer, SSgt Ali Robinson also received awards and recognitions for her active duty service.

The committee gave special honors to Deceased Veterans with metal plaques designed especially for the occasion. Among them was TSgt. Herman Edward "Ed" Croft, Jr. US-AAC. Mr. Croft served in Foggia Italy as a B-17 Flight Engineer of the 97th Bomb Group, whom the Tuskegee Airmen escorted into battle on many missions. His son, BGNFP Vice President John Croft, walked the line to receive his father's awards.

• The BGNFP Chapter was invited to be the co-Grand Marshals of the 4th of July parade in Gatlinburg Tn., along with the Atlanta Chapter of TAI.

Gatlinburg has the distinction of being the first city in the nation to celebrate fourth of July, stepping off at 12:01 am. We received a tour of the city, including a ceremony at the Ripley Aquarium, proclamation from the State of TN, and key to city.

• Washington D.C., T.A.I. Convention attended by Ron Spriggs and John Croft.

2013

• Ron received an award for his work in getting the TA Trail into OH by the OH TA chapter. At that Gala fund raiser Ron saw how a fund raiser worked firsthand and asked how it was organized.

2014

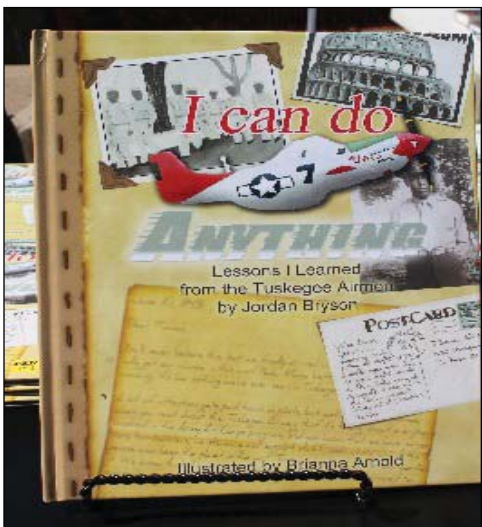
• 1st Gala Fund raiser held at The Signature Club of Lansdowne. The proceeds funded 6 scholarships.

2015

• The chapter voted to raise \$3,500 for 7 scholarships annually. The 2nd Gala was at the Aviation Museum of KY.

2016

• 3rd Gala headed by Ms. Andre' Weaver was held at the Galt House, Louisville. It was a rousing success!



Our Website is:
<http://bgnfpchapter.weebly.com>
 Email: ronspriggs@aol.com

Snap Shots



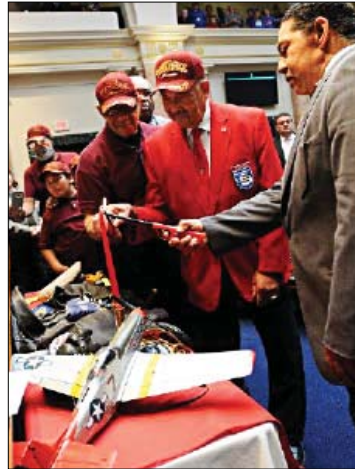
DOTA, L/Col. George Hardy Photo-Op with Julian Walker, BGNFP Youth Member at Knoxville Air Show

March of 2016, DOTA, Frank Weaver, Louisville representing the Tuskegee Airmen, accepts the recognition from the Kentucky General Assembly in 2016 honoring the Tuskegee Airmen's 75th Anniversary of WWII. The proclamation was later presented to the National Convention in Indianapolis, IN.

2017
 • Officers presented scholarships to this class of graduates from Louisville, Richmond and Lexington High-schools. For the first time the chapter presented medallions to the honorees - which some even wore at their graduations.

COMING SOON
4th Annual Fund-raiser

2017
 • The chapter's presence was invited to participate in the Pegas Parade in Louisville the week before the Kentucky Derby. While it had rained most of the parade, it did not dampen the spirits of the faithful few, including Uncle Frank Weaver from attending. We were suppose to be 20 strong with 6 vehicles and while our numbers were only about 1/3rd that size, it was still a good experience for us to make an appearance at this event.



"Uncle" Frank Weaver and Rep. Reginald Meeks lighting the "Candle of Remembrance"



Keynote Speaker
 Derek Anderson. Pro-basketball and University of Kentucky fame



At each celebration, we invite local ROTC units to participate

Fund-raising Gala Tickets are available online through BRUSHFIRE:
<https://tuskegeeairmen.brushfireapp.com/events/437495>



"Uncle" Frank being serenaded by the "Ladies of Liberty"

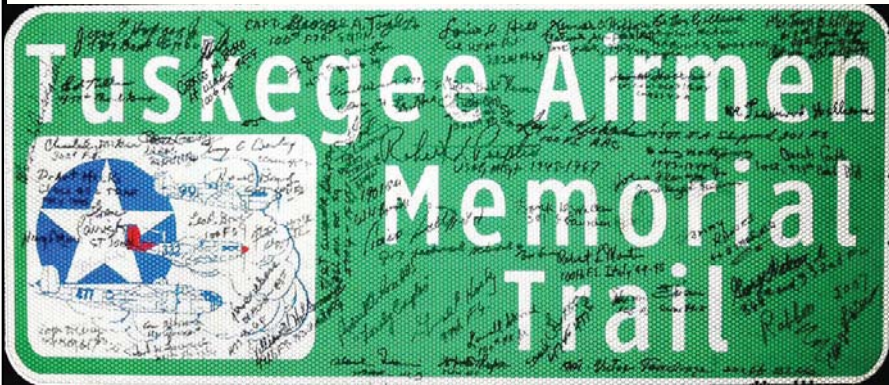


Louisville WLKY-TV Personality, Ann Bowdan our Emcee was outstanding



The officers who put on the Annual Education Fund-raising Galas

Also celebrating a 10th anniversary, is the passing of the Kentucky Legislative Bill, naming the Lexington portion of I-75, the **Tuskegee Airmen Memorial Trail**. Three years later, the I-75 corridor was extended 192 miles from Ohio to Tennessee, to become the first state in the nation to take such an historic step, leading other states to follow.



"Uncle" Frank Weaver and L/Col Alex Jefferson pose with our Events Coordinator, Andre' Wilson

HYATT HOUSE HOTEL
 Louisville, Kentucky
 Saturday, **OCTOBER 28, 2017**

B/Gen. Noel Parrish Chapter of Tuskegee Airmen Honoring and Remembering, 2017 Lexington Legends Military Appreciation Night



Bottom of the flag, left to right, Ron Spriggs, Julian Walker, Charles Walker and John Croft representing the BGNFP Chapter as part of the pregame activity on July 8, 2017 to honor all military veterans and retirees. Our chapter was invited to participate in the unfurling of the oversized field flag as part of the opening ceremonies. The crowd gave us a very warm reception of applause and acknowledgement as we marched on and was introduced on the field.

Community Presence

Honor Flight of Kentucky

Last year, I had the honor as a Viet Nam Veteran, to be invited as a guest by the Toyota MMFG of Kentucky on the much revered **Honor Flight to Washington DC.**

There is much I can say about this adventure but I don't want to spoil it for others. If you are a veteran from **WWII, Korea, Viet Nam or a wounded soldier** you can apply for this honor that so many corporations support. Kentucky Honor Flights operates from two cities, Lexington and Louisville. A veteran needs to do is apply online at: <http://HONORFLIGHTKY.ORG>. There is still plenty of time apply. There are two flights scheduled for early fall.

All I will say is that this is and will forever be, a memorable occasion. This one day journey will be over before you know it - but will leave an indelible mark upon your heart forever. If given a chance, I would do it again. Don't let this opportunity get away.

R.L.(Ron) Spriggs

Louisville Pre-Derby "Pegasus Parade"



The Chapter's first appearance in the Pegasus parade was supposed to have six cars and 20 walkers. When a few drops of rain was in the forecast, our numbers dwindled to six, stout and faithful bunch including our DOTA, Mr. Weaver. Even though we only had two vehicles with our banners, we made our debut in Louisville. We have been in a number of rainy-day parades before; nothing new to us. We still had a great time.



**B/GEN. NOEL F. PARRISH CHAPTER of TUSKEGEE AIRMEN
SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION**

Return Completed Application **POST MARKED NOT LATER THAN March 1st of the School Year**

To: Mr. Charles Walker; PO Box 353; Richmond, KY 40476
ATTN: EDUCATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

Read thoroughly and 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 B/Gen. Noel F. Parrish Tuskegee Airmen Scholarship.

Title _____ First Name: _____ Last Name: _____ D.O.B. ____/____/____

Mr. or Ms.

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:

Participated in Aviation Camp Space Camp Flight Program Civil Air Patrol

Scouts: BSA, GSA, or Explorer Junior ROTC Program Civic Club/Other _____

Signature of Student Applicant _____ Date: ____/____/20____

PART II (To be completed by student applicant's Parent, Parent in Loco Perentis, or Guardian)

Title: _____ Address: _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Dr., Mr. or Ms.

Number of members in immediate family: _____ Number of other family members currently attending college: _____

Telephone: (____) _____ - _____ Cell Phone: (____) _____ - _____ E-mail address: _____

I certify that the above information is correct. Signature: _____ Date: ____/____/20____

PART III

High-School name: _____ Address _____ City/Zip _____

Check list: *(To be completed by High School Official)*

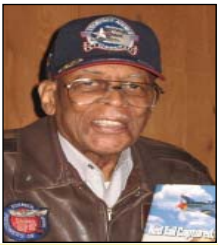
GPA# ____-____ *(Insert GPA or Weighted)* **Check following:** 3-Letters Transcript HS Senior Class of: 20____

I certify that: _____ is a current member of the student body and is in good standing.

(Student Name)

Signature: _____ Title: _____ Telephone: (____) _____ - _____ Date: ____/____/20____

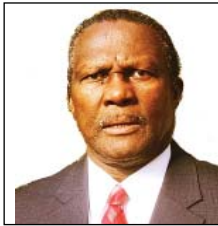
Counselor/Advisor/Principal.



Alexander Jefferson, DOTA, L/Col, USAF-ret. ,On Tuskegee Airmen Day in 2009 at the Lexington Legends ball park: “It was a great feeling that someone would take the time to honor me in such an excellent manner.” “Spriggs is doing a tremendous job and the Noel Parrish chapter is pushing on the legacy in a positive way. Dr. Jeff is no stranger to Kentucky having made several trips for some of our events. He attended the inaugural fund-raising gala back in 2014.



Cora “Tess” Spooner, Past President of TAI. “I thought it was honorable to name the chapter after Brigadier General Noel Parrish because he didn’t have a racist bone in his body. His only concern was helping the men in the program to succeed.” Dr. Parrish-St. John is one of their mentors. She brought framed photos of her husband for the National Headquarters conference room in Arlington, Virginia. Herself accomplished, Tess is one of the very few female African-American Engineers of her time. “When Ron started the chapter with only ten members I thought he was crazy! Well, look at them now!”

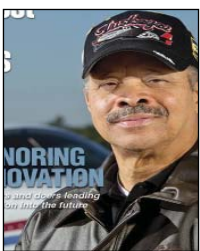


Quincy Magwood, CMSGT, USAF ret. and Eastern Region President, He encouraged Ron to start a chapter for Kentucky and promised he would do everything he could to support Ron. I am pleased to add my “Welcome!” to the 10th Anniversary Celebration of the B/GEN Noel F. Parrish Chapter . To-

night, your chapter gathers to continue it’s support of bright young students by enhancing their educational futures.

Your commitment to generation of youth reflects the legacy of your distinguished namesake, B/GEN Noel F. Parrish. Warmest regards and best wishes for an enjoyable evening. “I commend Ron for bringing the chapter to force. We saw value in having a chapter in Kentucky, as did Roscoe Brown. My hats off o the charter members who have worked hard to bring things to fruition.”

Ken Rapiet, Chief Pilot and President of the Chicago “DODO” Chapter, Tuskegee Airmen Inc. hereby congratulates the Noel Parrish Chapter of Tuskegee Airmen Inc. on their Tenth Anniversary. The Noel Parrish Chapter, under the leadership of Ron Spriggs lead the charge to establish the first Tuskegee Airmen Memorial Trail on I-75 through all of Kentucky. Their sharing of their legislative template lead to the further establishment of Tuskegee Airmen Memorial Trails



and Highways in several other states, thereby affording the Tuskegee Airmen some of the recognition they so rightfully deserve.

The Noel Parrish Chapter must be commended on their efforts to provide local scholarships for college bound youngsters in Kentucky. It is through continued dedication

such as this that the legacy of the Tuskegee Airmen will continue on, ad infinitum. Keep up the good work as we celebrate this landmark with you!



Paul Love, Sr., Tuskegee Armen Historian and RSETA Dep. Exec. Dir. Congratulations to the Noel Parrish Chapter on its tenth year Many project have been completed including the naming of highways in many states, namely Kentucky and Michigan, in honor of the Tuskegee Airmen. Well done!!!



Frank Weaver, DOTA, Corporal US Army, WWII. Uncle Frank, was one of the first two DOTAS that joined the BGN-FP Chapter in 2007. He has been a faithful supporter of the BGNFP mission. “Ron got the chapter started and is a good president”, said Mr. Weaver. The chapter has done a great job spreading the word about the Tuskegee Airmen history. “Keep up the good work”. Mr. Weaver said, “he has enjoyed the many events he has attended honoring the Tuskegee Airmen”. He has sponsored his granddaughters with their Heritage memberships so that they too can pass on the Tuskegee Airmen history.



Kaye Little Langer, School Psychologists, CoFounder and Exec Sec.-RSETA, Inc. As one of the charter members of the BGNFP Chapter of TAI, I am pleased to see the progress that has been made in both membership and the scope of the activities representing the Tuskegee Airmen. We are an active participant in community-wide events such as parades, festivals, and special television interviews on the local channels in the Lexington area. The story of the Tuskegee Airmen continues to be shared at school assemblies and in classrooms so that the story of the Tuskegee Airmen will not be lost to this next generation.

. We look forward to the next 10 years as we continue with our current impact in the community and forge ahead with new opportunities to tell the story of our courageous Tuskegee Airmen.



Mr. Craig Huntly, SCPO, USN-ret, Historian and Data Expert, Collector of Tuskegee Airmen History. I acknowledge and applaud the members of the Noel F. Parrish Chapter of Tuskegee Airmen Inc. for their unwavering efforts in perpetuating the legacy of the Tuskegee Airmen over the past 10 years. Members and Officers have contributed greatly to the overall success and accomplishments.

They have diligently worked hard to get I-75 renamed The Tuskegee Airmen Memorial Highway and they have initiated an annual Fund-raising Gala for High School seniors attending a college of their choice in the fall.

Each year they have participated in parades to expose and promote the legacy of the Tuskegee Airmen. Last year they received a Proclamation form the Kentucky General Assembly in recognition of the 75th anniversary of the Tuskegee Airmen. Well Done..



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.

Brigadier 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.



B/Gen. Noel Parrish

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.

The 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 L/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.

Willa Beatrice 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.

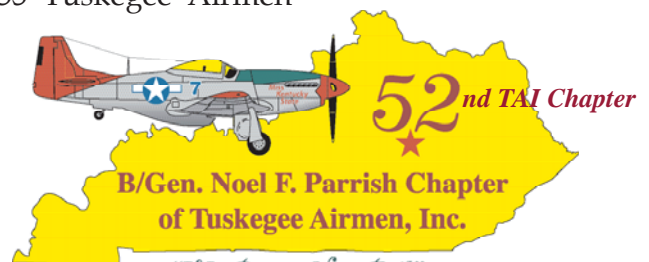
Kentucky has a rich history in black aviation where twelve cadets graduated and received their wings. Some were assigned to the 477th Bomber Group as Bombardiers and Navigators of the twin engine B25 Mitchell. Flight crews and ground support personnel came from all over Kentucky, as far west as Paducah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

As of 2017, 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.

Our 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 Associate members. 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 Dare Not Fail"

www.bgnfpchapter.weebly.com