



BIOGRAPHY

A DOCUMENTED ORIGINAL TUSKEGEE AIRMAN

TUSKEGEE AIRMEN INC. PUBLIC RELATIONS, P.O. Box 830060
TUSKEGEE, AL 36083

MAJOR LOUIS ANDERSON II (1925 ~ 2021)



*Private Major L. Anderson, U.S.
Army Air Corps*

*Training to be a gunner prior to
the end of WWII*



Major Louis Anderson II was born in Jacksonville, FL on March 5, 1925 to Rev. Major L. Anderson, Sr. and Minnie Louise Anthony Anderson. The fifth of seven children, he had six siblings—Hercules, Pearl, Elmer, Mildred, Jewell, and Jackie. He was the last surviving member of his immediate family.

Major, who usually introduced himself with, “That’s my name, not my rank,” followed by a chuckle, was drafted at the age of 18 in 1943 and entered the Army Air Corps. He received basic training at Keesler Air Field in Biloxi, MS and trained as an aircraft sheet metal worker at the Air Force Technical School at Chanute Field, IL.

His assignment was to repair aircraft bodies, bullet hole punctures, and other damage to B-25 bomber aircraft. He was scheduled to begin gunner training on 50-calibre machine guns when World War II ended. He had served for 30 months and was honorably discharged in 1945, as he says, "at the convenience of the government". He was also awarded the World War II Victory Medal in 1945.

He attended Howard University in Washington, DC on the GI Bill, studying Mechanical Engineering until his marriage in June of 1948 to the former Lurlene Booker, whom he met at a women’s basketball game in 1947. He earned his Bachelor’s degree in Business Administration from Federal City College (now the University of the District of Columbia, Washington, DC) in 1973.

Major was employed as a Postal Police Officer at the US Postal Inspection Service from 1951 until his retirement in 1984. During retirement, he worked as a school bus driver for the Prince George’s County Public Schools from 1985 to 1996. He enjoyed interacting with the students and driving various routes in the county. Among other civilian awards, Major received a Certificate of Recognition in 1990 from the Board of Education of Prince George’s County for his work with young people. He knew his way around the DC Metro Area very well and usually gave better directions than any GPS.

Major served for three years as a member of the DC Government Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC) for his River Terrace neighborhood. He was an active member of the East Coast Chapter of the Tuskegee Airmen, Inc. (ECCTAI) since he joining in 2008. He was an oft-requested speaker and offered the Invocation at the monthly chapter meetings and at many other ECCTAI events. He particularly enjoyed speaking to young people, where he shared his belief in hard work and obedience to the Lord. He ended many of his talks by saying, “To God be the glory.” He attributed his long life to being blessed, getting regular exercise, and to eating plenty of chicken and vegetables.

Since he joined ECCTAI after President Bush’s 2007 Congressional Gold Medal Ceremony at the Capitol in Washington, DC, Major received his replica of the Tuskegee Airmen Congressional Gold Medal from DC Delegate Eleanor Holmes Norton at a special ceremony held in his honor on Veterans Day in 2013.

In 2017, his legacy was further cemented with the establishment of the Major Anderson Tuskegee Aviation Maintenance Academy (MATAMA) in Glen Burnie, MD. This school is dedicated to training future aviation mechanics by offering a two-year program to continue the tradition of the exceptional work done by the mechanics of the Tuskegee Experience who kept the pilots flying during World War II.

He and his wife Lurlene (d. 1987) had two sons, Major L. Anderson III and Keith Byron Anderson, who gave them four grandchildren: Antione, Kendra, Major IV, and Kendrick. He has one great-grandchild, Davien. The family gathered on Father’s Day Weekend, 2020 to celebrate the wedding of grandson Kendrick. He was honored on the occasion of his 96th birthday with a Motor Parade in front of his home, featuring his extended family, ECCTAI members, neighbors, and friends. He referred to it as the “best day” of his life.

MILITARY LOCATIONS / ASSIGNMENTS

Keesler Field, MS
Chanute Field, IL

CAMPAIGNS / WARS

World War II

MILITARY AWARDS / DECORATIONS

World War II Victory Medal

CIVILIAN AWARDS / HONORS

Congressional Gold Medal (awarded collectively)



Major L. Anderson II at age 89

DOTA Major L. Anderson II is listed on page #6 of the “Known Participants” of the Ted Johnson Database