

TUSKEGEE AIRMEN INC



Giving History a Future

Tuskegee Airmen, Inc. Newsletter

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September 2016

45TH ANNUAL CONVENTION, INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA JULY 13-16, 2016



CONDUCTING BUSINESS...



...WHILE HAVING A GOOD TIME IN BETWEEN



1. Ted Lumpkin, DOTA
2. Dr. Ruth Jackson, TAI National Historian
3. Darlene DeFour and father DOTA Wilfred DeFour
4. Members of Detroit TAI, (front, center) DOTA Callie Gentry; (standing right) TAI Prez Leon Johnson
5. Nicolette Ballou, President LA TAI; Errol Lewis, LA TAI & Tuskegee Airmen Scholarship Foundation (TASF)

This year's theme was "Tuskegee Airmen — Beyond Expectations." The convention was the celebration of the 75th Anniversary of the Tuskegee Airmen Experience by saluting and honoring those heroes now known as the Tuskegee Airmen. The convention drew over 170 members and guests including about 20 Documented Original Tuskegee Airmen (DOTAs). This year's convention sponsors include Southwest Airlines, American Airlines, Leon Johnson and Rita Raines, Westin Indianapolis, Alaska Air, United Services Automobile Association (USAA), and the US Air Force.

Convention themed days were Welcome Day, Diversity/Military, Heritage, and Youth Day. Activities included business meetings, youth day, Chapter operations training, documenting history, and more. The Exhibit Hall was open to the general public featuring vendor displays of related products and services.

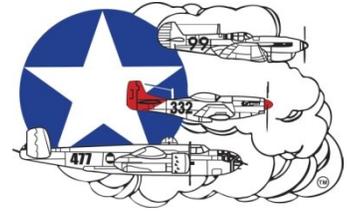
A Gathering of DOTAs: An Opportunity to Reconnect





TUSKEGEE ARMEN, INC.

National Office



Ladies and Gentlemen,

We just concluded a very successful 2016 National Convention. The highlights include:

- Twenty-three (23) DOTA's in attendance at the convention to be part of the 75th Anniversary Celebration of the start of the Tuskegee Airmen Experience,
- Presentation on U.S. Air Force diversity and demographics from Mr. Chevy Cleaves (Director of Diversity and Inclusion for U.S. Air Force),
- General Darren McDew, US Transportation Command Commander, speaking at the Military-Diversity Luncheon speaker
 - o General McDew is one of the 9 U.S. Combatant Commanders,
- Brigadier General C. David Turner, Commanding General South Atlantic Division Army Corp of Engineers, speaking at the Heritage Luncheon,
- Southwest Airlines bringing the students in their Continuing the Legacy Program and their parents to the convention,
- Herbert Kelleher Southwest Airlines Founder and President Emeritus being made an Honorary Member of TAI at the Youth Luncheon,
- Major General Stayce Harris, 22nd Air Force Commander, attending the Convention;
 - o Aug 26, 2016, Gen Harris was promoted to Lieutenant General and become the first Black female 3-star general in the Air Force;
 - o In her new assignment she will be the Assistant Vice Chief of Staff and Director, Air Staff, United States Air Force, Pentagon, Washington, DC.



Gen. Darren W. McDew, the U.S. Transportation Command commander, watches as former Women Airforce Service Pilot Pauline Cutler-White and retired Col. Charles McGee, one of the original Tuskegee Airmen, pin new rank on Lt. Gen. Stayce D. Harris during her promotion ceremony Aug. 26, 2016, at Joint Base Andrews, Md.

(continued on page 3)

This was an election year for both National Officers and Regional positions. The results of absentee and onsite balloting are on page 4. The results of voting from the mail out of resolutions from the 2015 Convention are on page 5.

The winners of the Regional and National Awards were:

- | | |
|--|----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Region | Frank R. Hatten Jr. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Central Region | Charles Bowers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Western Region | Thomas and Joyce Sherman |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lemuel Custis Award | Dr. Daniel E. Coon |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Noel Parrish Award | Lt. Col. (Ret) Glendon A. Fraser |

The recipients of the Tuskegee Airmen Military Awards were announced at the Military-Diversity Luncheon. None of the winners were in attendance; arrangements are being made to present the awards at their duty station. Chapters near those locations will be able to participate in the presentation.

- General Benjamin O. Davis Field Grade Officer Award
 - o Lt. Col. Raymond Daniel
 - o 64th Aggressor Squadron, Nellis AFB NV

- Captain Robert W. Williams Company Grade Officer Award
 - o Capt. Justin Mastrangelo
 - o 352d Special Operations Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, RAF Mildenhall, United Kingdom

- Chief Master Sergeant Fred Archer Senior Non Commissioned Officer Award
 - o MSgt Wakisha Humphries
 - o 99th Force Support Squadron, Nellis AFB NV

- Senior Master Sergeant Margaret Frances Barbour Non Commissioned Officer Award
 - o SSgt Chester McBride (Deceased in the Line of Duty)
 - o AFOSI Detachment 405, Maxwell AFB, AL.

Our 2017 Convention will be August 3-5, 2017 at the Hyatt Hotel in Orlando Florida. I hope to see many of you there.

Sincerely,

Leon A. Johnson

Leon A. Johnson, National President
Tuskegee Airmen, Inc.

2016 ELECTION RESULTS

NATIONAL OFFICERS

**President
Leon Johnson**



**1st Vice President
Randolph Scott**



**Executive Recording
Secretary
Amani Phillips**



**Treasurer
Cedric Flounory**



**Financial Secretary
Richard Baugh**



**Parliamentarian
Quincy Mosby**



REGIONAL OFFICERS

**Eastern Region President
Quincy Magwood**



**Regional Representatives
Virginia Hardy
John Gay
Willie Jones
Jerry Burton**

**Western Region President
Rodney Gillead**



**Regional Representatives
Lynda "Sunnye" Simpson
Clyde Jones Sr.
Chuck Hill
Karen Robinson**

**Central Region President
Marv Abrams**



**Regional Representatives
William Burnett
Maurice Ripley
Reuben Sparks
Hope Stevens**

RESOLUTION RESULTS

2015 Resolutions

	Yeah	Nay	Abstain	Total
Permanent Merchandise Committee	361	47	2	410
DOTA's Defacto Member of TAI Board	367	41	2	410
Utilization of Regions Presidents on Board of Directors	306	104	0	410
Elimination of Regional Representatives from Board	294	116	0	410
By Laws Changes to Articles III, VI, & X	297	107	6	410
Term Limits for TAI Officers, Region Presidents and Regional Representatives	338	66	6	410

All 2015 resolutions received the votes needed to pass and will be included in an updated version of the Bylaws

TAI Members: STAY CONNECTED AND INFORMED...

by Yolande Wood

This is your way to stay connected to what's happening at the national and regional level of TAI.

The One Drive is a cloud based storage system that allows individuals to access and share information. As your former NRS (National Recording Secretary) I have created a drive that can be accessed by you. You should have read only privileges.

You can access by going through Google Mail or by accessing One Drive. In each case you need to know that the account is attached to Tuskegeemember@gmail.com. And the password is [TAlmember](#). If you go through Google Mail, add, do not try to create a new account. To access you can use Tuskegeemember@gmail.com. The password is TAlmember. Look for the email from me, Yolande Wood. The email may also be identified by a star if no one has removed it. The email has a blue box. Click on that blue box and you will gain access. If you click above it on the words, Executive Secretary TAI files, you will still go to the same area. In the first case you will go to the file folder, the other will go to directly to the shared NRS folders. Those folders will be continually updated with new reports and approved submissions. If you see documents folder than look to your left and find the folder that says "shared". That is where you will find the 7 folders that you have access to.

The 2016 Convention folder has all the annual reports. You also have approved minutes both Board and Executive Committee, Letters from the President, Rosters and Calendar of Minutes. This list may grow upon request and here is where you will find that information. If you are a committee chair or committee member ask your committee chair for access to your committee folder. Committee chairs will be given read and edit privileges. This is a great spot to store your critical documents. Could also be used by chapters to store critical information.

45TH NATIONAL CONVENTION, INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA

First Major Convention Event: Lonely Eagle Ceremony

2015 LONELY EAGLES

Arthur Carter, Sr.
Frederick N. Lawrence
John Mulzac
Leslie Williams
James Harris
William A. Colbert Jr.
Raymond "Ray" Williams
Edward Woodward
Eldridge F. Williams
Edith Norle
McMillan Roberts
Robert Baker
William E. Broadwater
Cyril O. Byron, Sr.
William K. Gray
Calvin G. Moret
Calvin J. Spann
Amelia R. Jones
Fannie Gunn Boyd
David McPheeters
Milton P. Crenchaw
Malvin Whitfield
Delphine Stewart
Charles Harvey, Jr.
Everett Bratcher
Walter L. McCreary

This ceremony is held to commemorate recently fallen DOTAs designated as "Lonely Eagles." The Master of Ceremony (MC) was Sharon Nikolaus, President of the Hannibal Cox Chapter Tuskegee Airmen, Inc. Prior to going into the full ceremony Ms Nikolaus introduced the National President of Tuskegee Airmen, Inc., Brigadier General (Ret.) Leon Johnson who gave opening remarks. Johnson remarked that the Tuskegee Airmen experience was not black history per se; "it is American History" and all should be aware of that. Following the anthem, Reverend Samuel Murray rendered the invocation. The MC then remarked that our mission was to celebrate those members of TAI who have fallen. Ms Nikolaus then called on those familiar with any of the called Lonely Eagles to stand in honor of their friends.



45TH NATIONAL CONVENTION, INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA (THURSDAY 14-JULY)



Park Ranger Robert Stewart, National Park Service, updates the upgrades at Tuskegee.



Chevalier 'Chevy' Cleaves, SES, USAF (Director Diversity and Inclusion, HQ USAF, provides information on the Air Force Diversity and Inclusion.



Air Force Junior ROTC reports on the TAI AFJROTC Cadet Awards Program



Boy Scout Tim Molinari is lauded for his work in providing an historical marker in Seymour, Indiana commemorating the Freeman Field Mutiny.



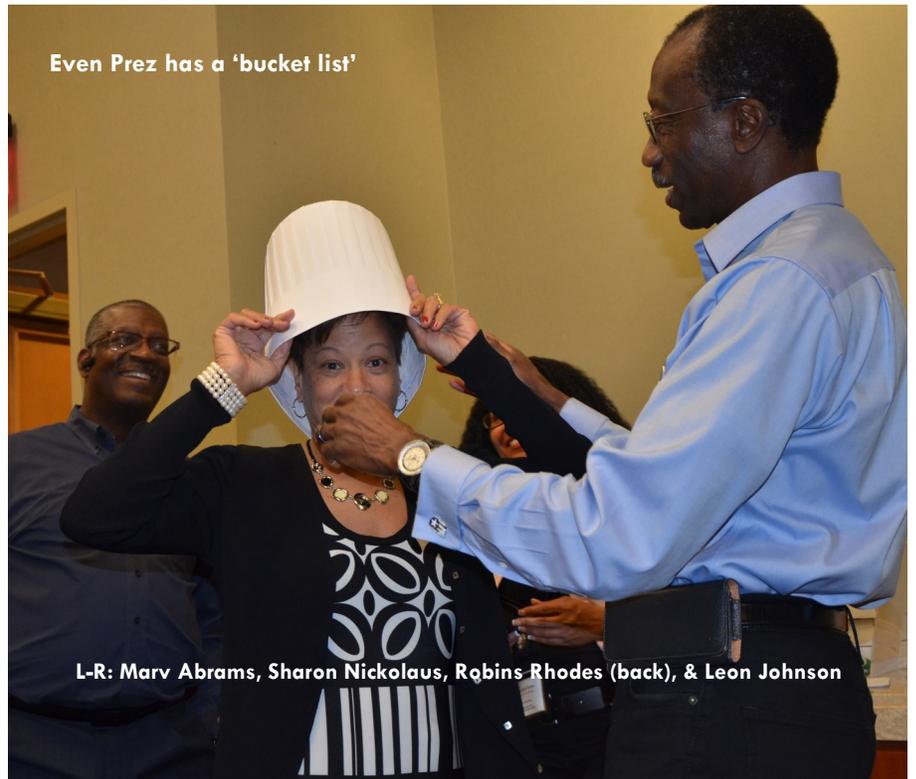
Convention coordinators Marv Abrams, Robin Rhodes, Jeffrey Wilson, President Leon Johnson, (front) Sharon Nikolaus, and Elaine Drummond take a break at the Registration Desk.



The Military/Diversity Luncheon featured speakers from various military units.



Brig Gen C. David Turner, US Corps of Engineers" (Commander, South Atlantic Division) was the keynote speaker at the Heritage Luncheon. Dr. Hardy and TAI VP Scott make the presentation.



Even Prez has a 'bucket list'

L-R: Marv Abrams, Sharon Nickolaus, Robins Rhodes (back), & Leon Johnson



Tuskegee Airmen Wives at Spouses Tea

Standing (l-r) Dorothy Thornhill; Dorothy Bynum; Helen Richardson; (unidentified) Seated (unidentified); Irma Platte; Faye McDaniel; Dianne Gray

45TH NATIONAL CONVENTION, INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA (FRIDAY 15-JULY)



Eastern Region President Quincy Magwood speaks to his regional constituents in a caucus.



TAI National 1st Vice President Brig Gen (ret) Randolph Scott presides at an early business session.



Chauncey Spencer reports on the National Youth Program progress.



The Legacy of the Tuskegee Airmen Experience engages all.



DOTA Alex Jefferson's Luft Gangster movie is a sales hit. L-R Sisters Nadine "Toni" Barts and Michelle "Mike" Long, Christine Smith, (unidentified man in red jacket), Thomas Grey; (unidentified man in coral shirt); Mike Rott, producer of Luft Gangster



Renewing friendships. Standing Cedric Flournoy; seated on right (and below) Maurice "Rip" Ripley



DOTA Buford Johnson and escort listen intently to Business Session presentations.



Ms Faye McDaniel and her son, Kevin Lee Edmond greet eager Tuskegee Airmen fans.

45TH NATIONAL CONVENTION, INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA (SATURDAY 16-JULY)



Airline pilots spoke of the trail blazed for them by the Tuskegee Airmen.



Convention youth receive STEM brief from Adrian Dunson, Rolls-Royce aeronautical engineer.



A number of Youth were anxious to spend the day with the Tuskegee Airmen and learn about aviation.



Damien M. Long, III, Michelle "Mike" Long; Nadine "Toni" Barts, granddaughters, Kya Sledge and Jayla Ethridge enjoy Youth Luncheon



These Youth were presented as future professionals in science, technology, engineering and mathematics careers.



Convention Capstone: The Grand Reception and Gala.



Faye McDaniel presents inaugural Lemuel Custis Award to Dr. Daniel Coon.



Southwest Airlines co-founder and Chairman Emeritus Herb Kelleher gets the coveted Red Jacket.



Chuck Hill (in uniform) and David Cunningham (middle) peruse Silent Auction Tuskegee Airmen Art.



< Central Region Youth Chair Robin Rhodes greets DOTA George Hardy. DOTAs get all the love!

**LOVE STORIES AS TOLD BY TUSKEGEE
AIRMEN WIVES AND CHILDREN**

by Lynda “Sunnye” Simpson

The 2015 love stories were truly *unforgettable*, and I wish I could convey just how unforgettable they were, kind of like your first kiss or your mother’s sweet potato pie. We may forget exact details, but we rarely forget how our first kiss or mom’s sweet potato pie made us feel. Their stories of courtship, romance, and falling in love reminded me of how I felt when I fell in love. The stories from the 2015 wives included Sally Pratt, Faye McDaniel, Shirley Driver, Amelia Montgomery, Geraldine Lehman, Gwenelle Spann, and, from a daughter, Patt Terrelongue, who read a love letter written by her dad to her mother.

The 2016 stories were like “candles lighting the corners of our minds.” Many of us remembered feeling butterflies in our stomach, the thrill of flirting, the excitement when seeing our beloved’s face, and learning patience, *lots of patience*, and lessons about loyalty and commitment. The 2016 speakers were: Pearline Franklin (niece of Calvin Spann), Helen Richardson (wife of Dr. Eugene Richardson), Dorothy “Dotty” Thornhill (wife of Levi Thornhill) Lanelle Brent (daughter of George and Edith Roberts), Irma



Platt (surviving spouse of Claude Platt), and Darlene DeFour (daughter of Wilfred DeFour).

Pearline Franklin, niece of Calvin Spann, spoke of the love she witnessed between her uncle Calvin and his wife Gwenelle. Pearline shared anecdotes about the couple’s devotion to each

other, the challenges they faced being a May December couple, and how they overcame social, familial, and physical challenges.

Many may remember this event last year in Las Vegas, when Gwenelle Spann delighted the audience with titillating details of the courtship and marriage to Tuskegee Airman Calvin Spann. We laughed, we ooded and awed.

Helen Richardson, wife of Eugene Richardson, wowed us with their love story. The Dr. Richardson many of us have come to know and admire is a man of good counsel, courteous conduct, and regarded for his social and scholarly achievements. Helen’s portrait of her husband expanded our view to include the athlete, skier, yachtsman, manly man, and tiger! [She viewed him as her playmate with a vast age difference. She loved outdoors & joined ski group, which is where she met him. She described him as reserved and self-assured. She approached him and said she thought they should get to know each other without knowing he was a Tuskegee Airman. They got married and have had an amazing time together. Today he is 91 years old and still speaks to groups.]



When Dotty Thornhill, wife of Levi Thornhill took the spotlight there was standing room only. She painted a picture of a wonderful, charming, and devoted husband, which confirmed our observations and suspicions. Dotty shared that she did not know her husband’s age until their wedding day, and she was surprised! Mr.

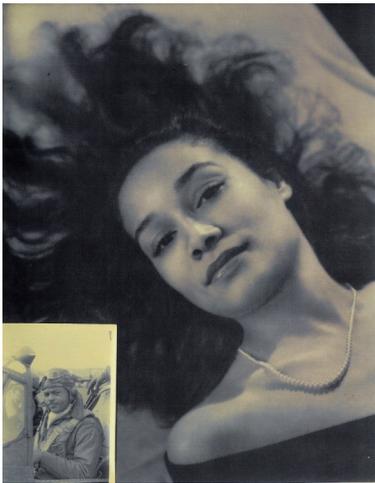


Thornhill was in the audience and during Dotty’s presentation he smiled at us, joked with us, and forever endeared himself to those present.



Lanelle Brent, daughter of George and Edith Roberts, told her parents love story. George “Spanky” Roberts graduated in the first class of five Tuskegee

cadets, and he and Edith were married immediately following the graduation. Lanelle sent a picture of her parents wedding day and a glamour picture of her mom that her requested while he was a cadet at Tuskegee.

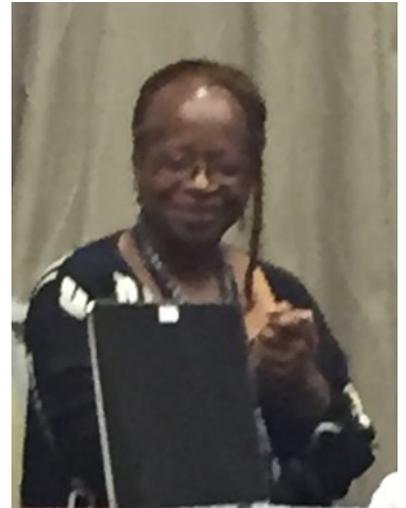


Roberts' daughter tells Spanky's story from her perspective. He met mom while in college at West Virginia State & decided to stay in college to keep seeing her. Mom viewed him as obnoxious at first. He took pilot training to impress her. Then he was accepted into Tuskegee Airman program and they were engaged when he received his wings [to her surprise] and they married March 7, 1942.

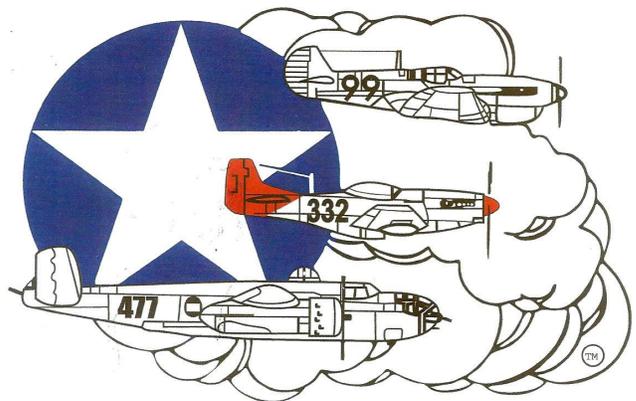
The love story shared by Irma Platt, surviving spouse of Claude Platt, took us on a journey few of us expected, it was fun, funny, powerful, and it demonstrated that it sometimes takes a village to marry a Tuskegee Airman *and* it sometimes requires a lot of patience.



Within seconds of Darlene DeFour, daughter of Wilfred DeFour, sharing her parents story the room erupted with laughter. Her dad, sitting a few seats away from her, waved to a packed room of people standing along the side and back walls. Darlene brought along pictures of her mom and dad, which she passed around the room.



The audience included wives, husbands, surviving spouses, sons, and daughters. There were married and unmarried women, married and unmarried men. There were Tuskegee Airmen and friends of Tuskegee Airmen. There were nieces and nephews, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, girlfriends and boyfriends, mothers and fathers. We were there to listen and to learn from women who took a vow to love, in sickness and in health, in lean times and in fat times, until death they do part.



OKLAHOMA SENATE HONORS TUSKEGEE AIRMEN

On March 30, 2016 members of the Charles B. Hall Chapter of Tuskegee Airmen Inc. and the Oklahoma Senate came together to adopt Senate Resolution 52, authored by Senator Anastasia Pittman. The Resolution was created to honor the 75th anniversary of the Tuskegee

Airmen and honor three Oklahoma families of Tuskegee Airmen. The ceremony honored the families of Charles B. Hall, Faythe McGinnis, and Robert C. Smith. Representing Maj. Charles B. Hall was his two daughters Kelly Hall Jones and Sherri Hall Harris. Dorothea Smith, the widow of Lt. Robert C. Smith and her son Ronald Smith represented Lt. Robert C. Smith. Mr. Dennis Wilhite, a volunteer who found the gravesite of Faythe McGinnis in 2015 in Muskogee Oklahoma and decorated it for Veterans Day, represented Lt. Faythe McGinnis. All families were presented the replica Congressional Gold Medal, presented to the Tuskegee Airmen collectively in 2007. Said by Charles B. Hall Chapter President Mr. Mahlon Smith, "this was the honorable thing to do for those who supported, those who sacrificed for our good".



SAN ANTONIO DOTAS RECEIVE QUILTS OF VALOR



The mission of the Quilts of Valor Foundation is to cover service members and veterans touched by war with comforting and healing Quilts of Valor. All SA DOTAs were awarded by the Military City Quilters at the San Antonio Chapter's Membership meeting 6-Jul-2016 at JBSA Randolph's Kendrick Club.



DOTA James Bynum receives his quilt and certificate. He is joined by SACTAI Member Grady Robinson



**1. DOTA James Kelly receives his quilt
2. DOTA Dr. Eugene Derricotte receives his quilt
3. (DOTAs on Front Row) Theodore Johnson, Dr. Granville Coggs, Mr. Thomas Ellis, Mr. James Bynum plus Ms Dorothy Bynum; (Back Row) Members and donors of the Military City Quilters**

DEDICATION - TUSKEGEE AIRMEN MEMORIAL PLAZA SEYMOUR, INDIANA

September 6, 2015

Brigadier General Johnson, Mr. Leslie Edwards, Mr. Strickland, Mayor Ludeman, Ms. Douglas, all veterans, guests from various Tuskegee Airmen Chapters around the country and ladies and gentlemen. Thank you for attending.

I wanted to construct this memorial not to simply record the history of what happened here, but for Freeman Army Airfield to be a historical focal point and a place of inspiration that inspires future generations of young Americans. What happened here changed the course of our nation's history. How honored those men who walked these grounds so long ago would be, if they knew that 70 years later, we would be honoring their sacrifices by our presence here today. As those young officers walked to that officer's club on a late afternoon strong in their beliefs but not knowing their fate, they could have never known how far reaching



their actions would become. Their actions contributed to a more just and better way of life for millions of Americans. Generations of Americans have benefited



from their perseverance and today are presented with opportunities back then never imagined.

I would like to thank all 22 service organizations, businesses and individuals who contributed their time, talent and treasure into making this memorial a reality. Their spirit and generosity radiates throughout the memorial.

The red tint of the concrete of the memorial represents the red soils of Alabama where the first units of Tuskegee Airmen were formed. The photograph of smiling airmen represents all Tuskegee Airmen from across our nation showing them in a positive light who equally shared in the burden of discrimination. And the text of the memorial represents the 477th bombardier group who served here at Freeman Army Airfield and whose actions we honor here today.

Let it be known to the world today that from this place, inspired by the strength of their character, we honor the members of the 477th and all Tuskegee Airmen not only for their service to our country but for showing us that a few committed people guided by a divine God and a righteous moral compass, can alter the course of history, achieve great things and make life better for others who follow.

Thank you.

(Remarks by Timothy Molinari Eagle Scout at Tuskegee Airmen Memorial Dedication)

MESSAGE FROM TIM MOLINARI

August 26, 2016

Tuskegee Airmen Chapter Members and Friends,

Warm greetings from Seymour, Indiana. My name is Timothy Molinari and I am the Eagle Scout who built the new Tuskegee Airmen Memorial Plaza at the Seymour Municipal Airport as my Eagle Scout Project. Freeman Municipal Airport is the site of the former Freeman Army Airfield during WWII where one of the more significant events effecting the Tuskegee Airmen and the United States Military took place. This event known as the "Freeman Field Mutiny" or "Incident," helped lead towards the eventual desegregation of the United States Military.



It was an tremendous experience for me to meet so many of you this past July at the Tuskegee Airmen's National Convention in Indianapolis and as well at the dedication of the of the Memorial Plaza last September. All of you are such special people doing extraordinary things through your chapters as part of Tuskegee Airmen, Inc. It was an honor to have the opportunity to speak at your National Convention this year and then a big surprise for me that evening to receive the President's Award. You sure know how to make a Boy Scout feel special.

As nice as the current monument in Seymour is, we would like to add a couple of additional elements to it to match the historical significance of the event that happened at Freeman Army Airfield in April of 1945. What we are proposing is the addition of two life size faux bronze statues of Tuskegee Airmen dressed in flight gear looking out over the airfield. This is a

\$26,000.00 addition to the memorial.

We are confident that we will find the funds somewhere, but we also know that some of you as individuals and chapters would want to participate financially in some way in this historic monument. We understand that your chapters and Tuskegee Airmen, Inc. need funds as well and we do not want to detract from that but we did not want to deny anyone the opportunity to participate in this historic project either. So for those of you who would like to participate, we would be honored to have your support. You may submit a check made out to:

Freeman Municipal Airport, P.O. Box 702, Seymour, Indiana. In the memo line on your check please designate your donation to the **Tuskegee Airmen Memorial Plaza**.

Thank you in advance for your contribution. Your contributions contribute towards valuable seed money for this project. We will keep all of you up to date as we progress towards completing this important memorial for those very brave officers whose actions 70+ years ago contributed greatly towards a better America.

Warm Regards,
Timothy Molinari
TBMOL93@FRONTIER.COM



DOTA ROSCOE BROWN PASSES AWAY

Brown had fallen critically ill over the winter and had a pacemaker installed. He was trying to get back into exercising when he was interviewed in May. Not one for idleness, Brown completed the NYC Marathon nine times!

Capt. Brown commanded the 100th Fighter Squadron known as the Tuskegee Airmen, after World War II. He flew 68 long-range missions from August of 1944 to March of 1945.

He's credited with being among the first 15th Air Force pilots to shoot down a German jet fighter on March 24, 1945 while escorting bombers near Berlin. It was the longest 15th Air Force escort mission to take place in the war.

Brown's airplane, a P-51 Mustang named "Bunnie" was named for his eldest daughter, Doris, born while he was fighting overseas.

The Airman earned multiple awards

for his actions in WWII including:

The Distinguished Flying Cross and the Air Medal with eight Oak Leaf Clusters.

His father, Dr. Roscoe C Brown, Sr. (1884-1963), was a dentist and an official in the United States Public Health Service.

Prior to his wartime service, he graduated from Springfield College, Springfield, Mass., where he was valedictorian of the Class on 1943.

After the war, Captain Brown resumed his education. His doctoral dissertation was on exercise physiology and he became a professor at New York University and President of Bronx Community College. In 1992, Brown received an honorary doctor of humanics degree from alma mater Springfield College.

On March 29, 2007, Brown attended a ceremony in the U.S. Capitol rotunda, where he along

with other Tuskegee Airmen were awarded, as a group, the Congressional Gold Medal in recognition of their service. He resided in Riverdale, New York, until his death in 2016. He was also a member, and past president, of



the 100 Black Men of America New York Chapter. He was a professor of Urban Education at the CUNY Graduate Center.

Brown died on July 2, 2016 at a hospital in the Bronx, NY after breaking his hip in a recent fall. He was 94.

DOTA SHELBY WESTBROOK JOINS LONELY EAGLES

In March 1943 Westbrook enrolled in aviation cadet training at Tuskegee Army Air Field. He knew he didn't want to be in the infantry despite the fact he had never been in an airplane before.



Lieutenant Westbrook trained in single-engine fighter planes. Westbrook was attached to the

99th Fighter Squadron of the 332nd Fighter Group. After further training in South Carolina, the 99th Fighter Squadron was sent to Italy in July 1944. As a combat pilot he flew 60 missions over 12 countries in Europe. Westbrook was promoted to First Lieutenant, and served in the 332nd Fighter Group from July 1944 to May 1945. On his 31st Mission, his P-51 Mustang developed engine trouble. Westbrook was forced to land in Yugoslavia with his wingman, and was rescued by a group of Marshall Tito's Partisans. About one month later he was back on duty. Westbrook was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Air Medal with five Clusters, the Presidential Unit Citation, the

15th Air Force Certificate of Valor, and five Battle Stars, as well as an air-to-air victory over a German Me-109 fighter on October 4, 1944. In 2007, On November 8, 2013 Westbrook was presented the French Legion of Honor for "extraordinary bravery in liberating France during WW II."

Westbrook was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Air Medal with five Clusters, the Presidential Unit Citation, the



DOTA NORRIS CONNELLY TRANSFERS TO THE LONELY EAGLES

Norris Connelly was an Atlanta native and a Morehouse College student chosen to become part of the first class of Tuskegee Airmen and was sent overseas during World War II. He was part of the 99th Fighter Squadron that arrived in Morocco in April 1943. A year later, they joined the 100th, 301st and 302nd squadrons in the 332nd Fighter Group that was stationed at Ramitelli, Italy. He served as a mechanic, prop specialist, engine specialist, technician and crew chief on seven types of aircraft. One of those was the famous P-51 Mustang, distinguishable by its bright red tail.



Connelly's aviation experience began when Army Air Corps recruiters came to the Morehouse campus in 1941 looking for recruits. He and 79 others from various local black schools signed up and were sent to Chanute Field in Illinois, where they learned how to prepare and maintain airplanes. Because he earned

high honors on the Air Corps examination, Connelly was placed in charge of the group. He appeared well on his way to becoming a fighter pilot – until the group returned to Alabama a few months later. That's when

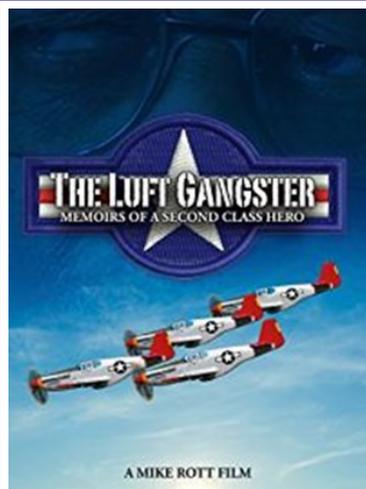
only five earned their wings. The other 75 were made part of the ground crews, including Connelly. "That was one of the most disappointing things that happened to me," he said, "because I had wanted to fly since I was a little boy."

Upon his return to the U.S. in 1946, Connelly was told he passed the flight officer's exam and that he could report for flight training. A staff sergeant at the time, Connelly sternly declined. When I wanted to fly, y'all wouldn't let me fly," he said during a Park Service interview. "I'm going back to college."



Those around him say Connelly was always proud of being a DOTA — Documented Original Tuskegee Airman. He had said the experience prepared him for the rest of his life. "The Army Air Force helped me develop how to get along with people, how to deal with people, and so did the field training I got," he said during the Park Service interview. "So all of it was very valuable in helping me with my career."

After the war: Connelly returned to his studies at Morehouse and later attended Atlanta University. He then went to work at Atlanta Life Insurance Co. and remained there until 2002, retiring as senior vice president, general auditor and vice chairman of the board of directors.



THE LUFT GANGSTER: MEMOIRS OF A SECOND CLASS HERO

Starring: DOTA Alexander Jefferson

Movie Runtime: 1 hour, 9 minutes

At 93 years old, DOTA Lt. Col. Alexander Jefferson recalls his trials and tribulations from early childhood racism in America to his segregated military experience and overseas combat deployment in WWII. He tells of his stay as a P.O.W. in Nazi Germany and recalls his sobering walk through Dachau Concentration Camp, which was liberated only 2 days earlier. After heroically serving his country in the world's worst war, Alex joyfully returned home only to be greeted by racism, bigotry and segregation.

Get your copy at www.amazon.com/Luft-Gangster-Memoirs-Second-Class/dp/B01EKABT3W

DOTA JULIUS T. FREEMAN SPOKE TO YOUTH

Julius Freeman, a Springfield Gardens resident who served with the legendary Tuskegee Airman in World War II, died on July 22. He was 89.



Freeman, a Kentucky native, became a fixture at schools and civic organizations in Queens and Nassau County, where he discussed his days as a medical technician attached to the segregated group of fighter

and bomber pilots who had to fight their own government for their right to fight against Germany in the skies over Nazi-occupied Europe in the 1940s. "As long as there is breath in my body, I will work to keep the legacy of the Tuskegee Airmen alive," Freeman said back in May when he was the guest speaker at the monthly meeting of the 113th Precinct Community Council.

It hadn't always been that way. Getting off a troop ship in 1945, Freeman received a slap in the face from his country that friends had died serving. "There were two signs telling men where to go," he said in May. "'White' and 'Colored.' I took off my uniform and threw it away." It was not until 2007 that friends convinced him to speak of his time in the service, and

of the men with whom he carved out a place in military and civil rights history.

Freeman also spoke in May of his lifelong love of cars, and his decades in the automobile industry as a salesman and innovator. An obituary obtained through Freeman's family said he was the first African-American car salesman in the state of Ohio, and once demonstrated the old Hudson Hornet on local television.

Moving to Brooklyn in 1954, Freeman visited numerous auto dealerships only to find that no black salesmen were wanted. He was forced to take a custodial job on the overnight shift at the Empire State Building.

But, "being a determined Tuskegee Airman," he persevered and finally did land a position at another Hudson dealership. He would go on to work 63 years in the auto industry. In 2015 he made a television commercial for Honda of Valley Stream in Nassau County. Clients over the years included entertainers Sammy Davis Jr., James Brown and Wilson Pickett, humorist Dick Gregory and several members of the New York Knicks of the National Basketball Association.



DOTA FRANK C. GOLDIE JOINS THE LONELY EAGLES

Frank C. Goldie 95, passed away August 3, 2016 at Advanced Specialty Hospital of Toledo. A native of Toledo, he was a graduate of Woodward High School and a member of their 'Hall of Fame'. He went on to study Education and Engineering at University of Toledo. Frank married the former Cleo Taylor in 1942. They were married 70 years when she preceded him in death in 2012.



Frank served in the U.S. Army during World War II, as a member of the Tuskegee Airmen 477th Composite Group 318th AAF performing duties as a radio gunner on a B-25 medium bomber and was honorably discharged in 1946. Frank then began a long and successful career with the US Post Office on September 17, 1947 in Toledo, OH as a distribution clerk, progressing through many promotions until May 2, 1972 when he was appointed MSC Manager/Postmaster of Toledo, OH. He directed all postal services in 8 counties in Northwest Ohio. Five years later he was promoted to Postmaster of Chicago, the largest Post Office in the world under one roof that included a budget of over \$600 Million dollars and over 20,000 employees including operations in Gary Indiana.

DOTA DABNEY MONTGOMERY LOVED MOTIVATING YOUTH

DOTA **Dabney Montgomery**, who marched with Martin Luther King Jr., died 3-Sep-16. He was 93. Born in Selma, Alabama 18-Apr-23 to Lula Anderson Montgomery and Dred Montgomery, he relocated to Harlem after the war and became an educator and civil rights activist.

He attended the Alabama Lutheran Academy and then Selma University High School, graduating in 1941. After high school, he joined the U.S. Army in 1943 and was sent for basic training at Keesler Field in Biloxi, Mississippi. After that, Montgomery was sent to Quartermaster Training School at Camp Lee, Virginia (outside of Petersburg), where he received special training in supplies. He was assigned to the 1051st Quartermaster Company of the 96th Air Service Group, attached to the 332nd Air Fighter Group and deployed to Italy. He served as a ground crewman there until the end of World War II.

In 1946, after returning to the United States, Montgomery entered Livingstone College in Salisbury, North Carolina. Montgomery became a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity and graduated with his B.A. degree in religious education in 1949. He briefly studied economics at the University of Michigan and Wayne State University before going to Boston, Massachusetts, where he



enrolled at the Boston Conservatory of Music, studying dance. Montgomery later studied dance with the New York City Metropolitan Opera Dance School before an injury forced him to end his career. In 1955, he began working for the city, first as a Social Service Investigator in the Department of

Social Services and later for the Housing Authority. He retired in 1988. Montgomery was active in the civil rights movement, serving as a bodyguard to King during the famous 1965 Selma to Montgomery march. His widow says the heels of his shoes and the tie he wore on that famous march with King will be part of the permanent collection at the new National Museum of African American History and Culture in Washington, D.C. After retirement, Montgomery worked as a Social Outreach Worker for Project FIND assisting older adults. Montgomery was also very active with Harlem's Mother African Methodist

Episcopal Zion Church, on the Parks Committee and Harlem's Interfaith Committee.

Montgomery remained active until his final weeks, frequently visiting schools to talk to children about his experiences growing up in Alabama, serving in the war and marching for civil rights. "He just loved motivating young people to be somebody," Amelia Montgomery said. "That was his joy.

MAYCIE HERRINGTON HELPED PRESERVE THE TUSKEGEE LEGACY

Longtime Long Beach, CA resident **Maycie Herrington**, a social worker, community activist and African-American history conservator known for her work in helping to preserve the history of the Tuskegee Airmen, died at Long Beach Memorial Medical Center 24-May-16. She was 97.

Herrington's daughter, Kay Marie Anthony, said her mother was "a force to be reckoned with. My mom always helped out the underdog. She was tenacious about it," said Anthony, 59. "She was someone you didn't want to fool with. If she felt there was an injustice, you didn't want to be the person pushing it. She wouldn't have it."

As an historical conservator, she was active in keeping alive the legacy of the Tuskegee Airmen. When her husband died in 1995, she kept his membership in the



Tuskegee Airman organization and eventually became secretary in 1998. Among other things, she helped create a set of Tuskegee Airmen trading cards, including photos and biographies of Tuskegee Airmen.

In 2007, she was recognized along with other Tuskegee Airmen with the Congressional

Gold Medal for her civilian role in supporting the Tuskegee Airmen and working at the Tuskegee Airfield during World War II. Herrington is survived by her two daughters, Ann Stewart and Kay Marie Anthony.

DOTA CLARENCE FINLEY ENCOURAGED YOUNG PEOPLE

Clarence Finley was the fourth of six children. His father abandoned the family when Finley was 11, and his Norwegian-born mother struggled to raise her children without public assistance.



Finley was a good student. When he graduated at the age of 16, he was offered two college scholarships, but he refused both so that he could stay home and help his ill mother. He enrolled at a local junior college, working his way through by delivering newspapers, cutting lawns, cleaning basements, and doing other odd jobs.

After graduation, Finley found a job as a file clerk for Charm Tred, a carpet manufacturer. In 1943, Finley, who had a pilot's license, volunteered for an experimental fighter pilot program preparing black men for combat. He received 27 of the top 30 awards and was commissioned a second lieutenant. A member of Class 45A – SE, he graduated from flight training March 11, 1945 from Tuskegee Army Airfield in Alabama. He was executive officer of the 99th Fighter Squadron, one of four all-black squadrons that formed a special unit known as the Red-Tails, a daring and reliable escort for bombers in Africa and the South Pacific.

After the war, Finley returned to Charm Tred, where he was promoted steadily. At the same time, Finley earned an accounting degree from Northwestern University. He studied law at John Marshall Law School." For six or seven years, I worked full time six days a week, and went to school at night," he says. "It was tough on my family."

In 1959, Charm Tred was acquired by Burlington Industries, and Finley stayed on as comptroller. By 1974, he was made Burlington's corporate group vice president, a post he held until his retirement in 1987. When Finley received his Horatio Alger award in 1978, Burlington was the world's largest manufacturer of textiles, and Finley was responsible for six divisions

of the company.

Finley and his wife Emma moved in 1990 to Southern California, where he is involved with several volunteer organizations. Much of his time is spent heading the finance committee of the Tuskegee Airman Scholarship Fund. He also served for 16 years on the NAACP Legal Defense Fund and as a director emeritus of that board. Finley believed successful black business people have a responsibility to encourage young people of their race. "There are so few of us who have achieved some level of influence," he says. "It is incumbent on us to help." In addition

to his volunteer activities, Finley enjoyed keeping himself physically fit by walking and swimming. He also discovered the joys of gardening. Although Finley built his career with a single corporation, he thinks that entrepreneurial opportunities that abound today should be pursued. "At one time you could come out of school and think in terms of a career in management," he says." Today,



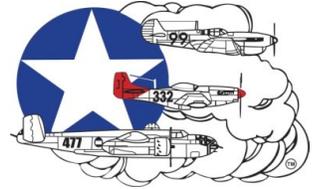
22 Tuskegee Airmen Class 45A, Receiving their pilots wings at Tuskegee Army Air Base 11 March 1945. Clarence Finley is 4th from the left on the 2nd row

you can't really look at a single company, no matter how large, and say, 'There is my career path.' Finley, who was honored by his Horatio Alger award, says young people should never settle for the status quo. He resided in Los Angeles, California, at the time of his passing.



TUSKEGEE AIRMEN, INC.

National Office



Ladies and Gentlemen,

We have been struggling with the issue of getting bio's on all of our DOTA's. We find

ourselves rushing to put something together to meet a media request or for an event. We need to get out in front of this by working to create high quality bio's on all of our DOTA's. Most of the information attached to this was put together by the National Public Relations Officer in 2011. Not much has changed, so I'm sending it out to ask that you continue to encourage chapters to accomplish this task.

TIPS FOR WRITING A BIOGRAPHY

A biography is a written account of the series of events that make up a person's life.

Here are a couple of things you need to consider before you get started. The first information you should gather in your research will include biographical details and facts. Each biography will include the following basic details: (Reference DOTA Bio Worksheet)

- * Photo
- * Date and place of birth (and death, if Lonely Eagle)
- * Family information
- * Lifetime accomplishments
- * Major events of life
- * Effects/impact on society, historical significance

Use a trustworthy resource to ensure that your information is accurate.

Use interesting statements, a little known fact, or really intriguing event. During your interview, listen for a good quote.

Fill the body of your biography with material that gives insight to your subject's personality such as traits or events that motivated him/her to embark on such a monumental exercise.

Questions to consider in your biography:

- * Was there something in your subject's childhood that shaped their personality?
- * Was there a personality trait that drove them to succeed or impeded their progress?
- * What adjectives would you (or they) use to describe them (selves)?
- * What were some turning points in their life?
- * What was their impact on history?

As always, proofread your work and check for errors. Items to include in your biography:

- * Name
- * Nickname (if available)
- * Date of birth, place of birth, mother and father, siblings,
- * Place (city) where raised
- * When were they assigned to Tuskegee (or Tuskegee Experience unit/base)?
- * What career field - pilot, mechanic, admin?
- * Where did they serve during their military career, and dates of assignment?
- * If aviator/mechanic, what type/model of aircraft?
- * What year did they separate or retire, and at what rank?
- * Military Awards
- * Civilian occupation?
- * When did they retire from their civilian occupation?
- * Any civilian awards
- * Organization affiliations
- * Spouse's name, number/names of children/grandchildren
- * **Denotes mandatory items that must be included in all bios**



Announcements

Tuskegee Airmen Memorial
of Western Pennsylvania presents:

The 4th Annual Golf Outing

Diamond Run Golf Club
132 Laurel Oak Drive
Sewickley, PA 15143

Monday, October 17, 2016

8:00 AM Registration and Breakfast

9:45 AM Outing Instructions and Rules Review

10:00 AM Tee Off

3:00 PM Cash Bar, Dinner, Acknowledgments,
Selection of Raffle and Silent Auction Winners

Pre-Register for Golf
by calling 412-275-0226

TUSKEGEE AIRMEN, INC. IS ALL IN ON SOCIAL MEDIA:

Facebook: www.Facebook.com/TAINational
(@TAINational)

Twitter: www.Twitter.com/TAINational
(@TAINational)

Instagram: www.Instagram.com/TAINational

Find shared images, conversations, upcoming events, stories, files, friends, and keep up with all the goings on in TAI-world. Thanks to Mr. Michael J. Barnes, East Coast Chapter who facilitated many of these technical changes.

Commemorating its 40th Anniversary with a Black Tie Gala and Fund Raiser

Commemorates its 40th Anniversary with a Black Tie
Gala and Fund Raiser

6:00PM Saturday, October 15, 2016

Atlanta Airport Marriott Gateway
2020 Convention Center Concourse
Atlanta, Georgia 30337

Guest Speaker: Lonnie George Johnson is an African
American inventor and engineer who holds more than
80 patents. Johnson is best known for inventing the
Super Soaker water gun.

Guest Hostess: Renowned Atlanta television
broadcast journalist, Monica Kaufman Pearson

When I Grow Up, I Want To Be an Astronaut, Pilot,
Physicist, Mathematician, Engineer, Scientist...

SHADES OF BLUE E-LEARNING WEBCAST

Signup by 30-Sep-16

The SHADES OF BLUE E-Learning Webcast is an interactive online presentation that is in harmony with the SHADES OF BLUE STEM educational initiatives that engage and educate students. This exciting "Question & Answer" session streamed live via the internet to our goal of over **10 million children nationwide** will expose students and instructors alike to Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) 'subject matter experts' including Tuskegee Airmen, astronauts, public policy makers, scientists and other professionals.

*Maj. General (USMC-Ret.) Charles Frank Bolden,
Jr. NASA Administrator*

*Colonel (Ret.) Benjamin A. Drew, Astronaut, NASA
Brig. General (USAF Ret.) Leon Johnson, Tuskegee
Airmen Inc., National President*

*Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton (D),
Washington, DC*

*Col. (Ret.) James Shipley, Documented Original
Tuskegee Airmen (DOTA)*

Dr. Valerie Thomas, NASA (Ret.) Mathematician

*Dr. Felton Williams, President, Council of the
Great City Schools*

*Mr. Eddie Zavala, Program Manager,
Stratospheric Observatory of Infrared Astronomy
(SOFIA)*

And others

Dates & Times

Wednesday, October 5, 2016

10:00 a.m. PST / 1:00 p.m. EST

Thursday, October 6, 2016

10:00 a.m. PST / 1:00 p.m. EST

Friday, October 7, 2016

10:00 a.m. PST / 1:00 p.m. EST

[Sign up at http://www.ourshadesofblue.org/webcast/](http://www.ourshadesofblue.org/webcast/)

YOUTH IN THE NEWS

By Chauncey Spencer

Tomorrow's Aeronautical Museum hosted a one week program to introduce the students to the historical impact of the Tuskegee Airmen experience, the basics of how math and science are applied in aviation, aviation careers, and social studies and language arts.

Tomorrow's Aeronautical Museum provided a 5-day curriculum from July 25-29 that includes introduction/orientation, homework/lesson assignments, field trips, aviation orientation, and team presentations.

The 2016 National Youth Academy objectives are tied directly to the mission and goals of Tuskegee Airmen, Inc., are to provide multiple opportunities for youth participants to:

- (1) Develop or expand an awareness of the impact and contributions of lesser-known pioneering minority aviators on international history;
- (2) understand the roles of aviation in affecting everyday life and community;
- (3) Gain exposure to the field of aviation and careers in the aerospace industry;
- (4) Explore fields in aviation and technology as a catalyst for advanced and continued education; and

(5) Gain an appreciation of the story and lessons of America's first Black military aviators, the legendary Tuskegee Airmen and their legacy of determination, education, perseverance and patience as necessary skills in achieving success in the face of overwhelming obstacles.

Participants had the opportunity to enjoy hands-on interaction, behind the scenes exposure, in-depth discussions and a planned introductory training flight, as well as experience a cost-free week of fun, mentorship, and camaraderie! The target age group is 12-17 years.

The Tuskegee Airmen National Youth Committee in concert with its Strategic Initiative and Operational Plans is committed to providing (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) focused assistance to economically disadvantaged youths in the pursuit of education preferably leading to careers in the field of aviation, aerospace technology and/or expanded opportunities in other technical related careers. This effort will create an aviation oriented education program with Tuskegee Airmen, Inc. It would hopefully allow them to discover more about aviation and its impact on the world.



ISAIAH COOPER, 16, BECOMES YOUNGEST BLACK PILOT TO COMPLETE CROSS-COUNTRY FLIGHT

posted in African-American Firsts, Commemorations, Community, News, Records/ Prizes, Teens, U.S. by goodblacknews article via nbclosangeles.com



A teenage pilot from Compton arrived home in Southern California on Monday, capping a flight across the nation in preparation for what he hopes will be a record-setting around-the-world trip.

Isaiah Cooper, 16, touched down at Compton airport (to see video, [click here](#)) after a roughly two-week flight around the country, becoming the youngest African American pilot to complete the cross-country flight. A flight instructor accompanied him.

Cooper's 8,000-mile flight was not without difficulty. Bad weather forced him to make a hard landing that heavily damaged his original plane in Wyoming. "He was able to execute the emergency procedures flawlessly, got it on the road, landed, didn't damage the houses, the schools, the construction crew, nothing. I mean, he got out of that thing safely," said flight instructor **Robin Petgrave**.

But Cooper has a much larger goal. He hopes next year to become the youngest black pilot to fly around the world solo. He will be 18 years old when he takes off on the planned flight.

On a GoFundMe page, Cooper wrote that he began attending the youth aviation program at Tomorrow's Aeronautical Museum in Compton when he was 5, but he dropped out when he began spending time "with the wrong crowd" and doing "seriously self-destructive things."

He said he hopes his attempt to break a world record will inspire other kids to turn their lives around and work to achieve their goals. "There's a higher power that's always there trying to have you focused so whatever you want to do, you can do it. Just put your mind to it," Cooper said.



Isaiah Cooper, 16, hugs flight instructor Robin Petgrave upon return from record-setting journey. (Screenshot via abc7.com)

Tuskegee Airmen, Inc. (TAI)
P.O. Box 830060
Tuskegee, AL 36083

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED
DELIVER TO:**



**Tuskegee Airmen, Inc. (TAI)
National Office**

P.O. Box 830060
Tuskegee, AL 36083
(334) 421-0198 * Fax: (334) 725-8205

Administrative Director

Maggie Thomas mthomas@tuskegeeairmen.org

"Tuskegee Airmen" refers to all who were involved in the so-called "Tuskegee Experience" — the Army Air Corps program to train African Americans to fly and maintain combat aircraft. The Tuskegee Airmen included pilots, navigators, bombardiers, maintenance and support staff, instructors, and all the personnel who kept the planes in the air.

TAI MISSION

TAI NATIONAL PUBLIC RELATIONS TEAM

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Honoring the accomplishments and perpetuating the history of African-Americans who participated in air crew, ground crew and operations support training in the Army Air Corps during WWII.

Introducing young people across the nation to the world of aviation and science through local and national programs such as Young Eagles and TAI youth programs and activities.

Providing educational assistance to students and awards to deserving individuals, groups and corporations whose deeds lend support to TAI's goals. TAI also supports the Tuskegee Airmen Award presented to deserving cadets in the Air Force Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps Program.

Photos by:

Rita Raines
Roddray Walker
Martin Hassel