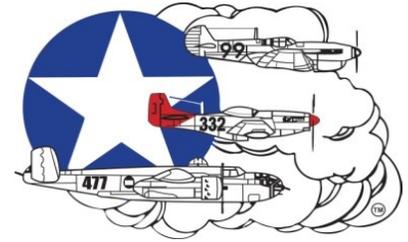


TAI

TUSKEGEE AIRMEN, INC. * NATIONAL OFFICE



2017 Post-CONVENTION ISSUE



Tuskegee Airmen, Inc. (TAI) returned to Orlando, Florida for the 46th Annual Convention under the theme “*Tuskegee Airmen—Helping Youth Fulfill Their Promise*”. In addition to continuing the tribute to the Diamond anniversary of the Tuskegee Aviation Experience, this year the organization celebrated the 70th anniversary of the United States Air Force. In commemoration of these great milestones, a vast array of attendees—surviving Tuskegee Experience participants, organizational members, military, and all levels of government personnel, as well as history enthusiasts and the general public attended to conduct business, network and engage in career developing workshops and seminars, and celebrate the legacy of the Tuskegee Airmen.



General Sessions/Workshops: In addition to the annual meeting of the membership of TAI, there were a series of skill-based leadership & development training sessions on topics facing chapters to enhance internal management, processes and procedures. DOTA Hardy makes a point (left) during a business session.

Special Events: Tuskegee Airmen, Inc. also hosted an array of special events during the convention with keynote speaker luncheons, multiple individual breakout sessions organized by topic tracks, movie screenings, and corporate,

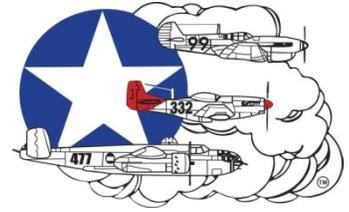
- President**
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TUSKEGEE AIRMEN, INC.
NATIONAL OFFICE



Ladies and Gentlemen,

We just concluded a very successful 2017 National Convention. Highlights included 30 individuals being honored and recognized as joining the Lonely Eagles Chapter during the Lonely Eagles Ceremony and 18 DOTA's were in attendance at the convention plus six surviving spouses.

New corporate sponsors in attendance:

- * Leonardo DRS, manufacturer of T100, one of the candidates to replace the US Air Force T-38 jet trainer. Leonardo DRS had a large-scale model of the T100 on display in the exhibit area . It was painted with a red tail and "Tuskegee" nose art. Leonardo DRS announced in March of this year that if they win the Air Force contract they will assemble the jets at Moton Field in Tuskegee.
- * Honeywell, manufacturer of the T100 engines, supplied a model of the F-124 turbofan engine on display in the exhibit area .
- * CAE, manufacturer of the simulator and training system for the T100, had a functional visual simulator in the exhibit area that all attendees who chose to could 'fly.'
- * Macon County Development Authority, County where Tuskegee is located, provided t-shirts for TAI Convention volunteers and sponsored the scooters used by our DOTA's during the convention. They are going to become Corporate Members of TAI.

A change to the footprint of the convention moved the entertainment to the Welcome Reception which was held in the Exhibit Area to allow attendees to mix and mingle with our sponsors. Melinda Doolittle, who was a finalist in the 6th season of American Idol and has become a very successful R&B performer, put on a show that had everyone in attendance rocking. We hope to have her join us in 2018 in Las Vegas.

Lieutenant General Stayce Harris, Assistant Vice Chief of Staff and Director, Air Staff, Headquarters, United States Air Force ,was the speaker at the Military-Diversity Luncheon. Since the convention, it has been announced that General Harris' next assignment will be as Inspector General for the Air Force.

There was a two-day Youth Program. On Day 1, the youth were divided into two groups, one went to NASA and the other to the Space Wing at Patrick Air Force Base. On Day 2 the Florida Wing of Civil Air Patrol (CAP) conducted a hands-on demonstration of several of their STEM Kits with the youth getting to assemble and work with the kits. We have invited the Nevada Wing of CAP to join us in 2018 to repeat this very successful youth activity. After the presentation, several of the youth expressed an interest in joining Civil Air Patrol. This was followed by a panel discussion/question and answer session featuring Southwest Airlines retired Captain Louis Freeman and Organization of Black Airline Professionals Board Chair, Vanessa Blacknall-Jamison.

Southwest Airlines retired Captain Louis Freeman spoke at the Youth Luncheon, which had over 150 youth in attendance. Hope Stevens represented one of our sponsors, Southwest Airlines. Captain Freeman gave an inspirational "Preflight Briefing" focused on the youth and how to have a preflight plan for life. The attendees were also given a briefing and slideshow of the 2017 TAI National Youth Program held at Tomorrow's Aeronautical Museum (TAM) in Compton CA.

FROM THE DESK OF THE NATIONAL PRESIDENT

The Heritage Luncheon featured Hope Stevens (Claude R. Platte Chapter) and Elijah M. Sampson (Student member and Pilot of Claude B. Govan Chapter) as speakers.

Life Membership Certificates and membership cards were presented to 20 individuals or to their Region President at the convention.

The winners of the Regional and National Awards were:

- * President's Award Michiko Williams (Atlanta Chapter)
- * President's Award Captain James Palmersheim (American Airlines)
- * President's Award Major Matt Quy (Donated Tuskegee Airmen Stearman biplane to Smithsonian)
- * Eastern Region Gabriel J. Christians Esq. (East Coast Chapter)
- * Central Region Leslie Edwards (DOTA) & Jacqueline Covington (Greater Cincinnati Chapter)
- * Western Region Lynda "Sunnye" D. Simpson (James B. Knighten Chapter)
- * Lemuel Custis Award Yvonne McGee (East Coast Chapter)
- * Noel Parrish Award Lt. Col. (Ret) Vorry Moon (Hubert L. "Hooks" Jones Chapter)

The recipients of the Tuskegee Airmen Military Awards were announced at the Military-Diversity Luncheon. Captain Lawrence V. Melnicoff was in attendance and his award was presented to him by Lt. General Stayce Harris and myself. Arrangements are being made to present the awards to the winners who were not in attendance at their duty station. Chapters near those locations will be able to participate in the presentation.

General Benjamin O. Davis Jr Field Grade Officer Award

- * Major Christopher C. Henderson
Chief Standards and Evaluations; 366th Fighter Wing, Mountain Home AFB, Idaho

Captain Robert W. Williams Company Grade Officer

- * Captain Lawrence V. Melnicoff
MC-130H Instructor Pilot and Flight Commander of Plans and Exercises; 353rd Special Operations Support Squadron, Kadena Air Base, Okinawa, Japan

Chief Master Sergeant Fred Archer Senior NCO Award

- * SMSgt Maurice Muro
Pararescueman; 57th Rescue Squadron, Royal Air Force Base Lakenheath, Lakenheath, England

Senior Master Sergeant Margaret Frances Barbour NCO Award

- * TSgt Demetrius Owens
Flight Chief/MQ-1B Sensor Operator; 432nd Wing, Air Combat Command, Nellis AFB, Nevada

Our 2018 Convention will be August 9-11, 2018 at the JW Marriott in Las Vegas. I hope to see many of you there.

Sincerely,

Leon A. Johnson

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



military and vendor informational exhibits.

Exhibition Hall: Tuskegee Airmen, Inc. (TAI) hosted an Exhibition Hall throughout the convention that featured corporate, military, educational and informational exhibits and vendors displaying leading edge capabilities, information and merchandise. The Exhibition Hall was open each day of the convention.



Grand Gala Banquet: The crowning event of the convention was the Grand Gala. This formal multi-course dinner is attendee's most-highly anticipated event during which Tuskegee Airmen, Inc. honors individuals, organizations and companies for their exemplary support of TAI and its goals and objectives. The gala also included recognition of the organization's esteemed Brigadier General Noel F. Parrish Award honoree and the presentation of the newly established Lemuel R. Custis Outstanding Service Award. The Gala after-party included a live performance by American Idol finalist, Melinda Doolittle.



Other featured sessions included, "Getting to the Chapel," local TV DOTA interviews (1), ([DOTA Lumpkin](#)

[interviewed by John Davis of Orlando's Spectrum News 13](#)), Wealth Management Seminar; Welcome Reception in the Expo Hall featured another performance by Melinda Doolittle (2); Meditation/Stretching Session; Regional Caucuses; Spouses' Tea, of "Hidden Figures" screening; and Veterans & Survivors Benefits Seminar with Dennis Latta, Florida Department of Veteran Affairs. DOTAs and surviving spouse attendees gathered for a photo just before the Gala Reception (4 below).

Tuskegee Love Stories presenters included Peggy Shivers (3), opera singer and surviving spouse of Tuskegee Airman, Clarence Shivers, the sculptor of the Tuskegee Airman statue at The United States Air Force Academy. The audience included: Edward Grice, LATAI Chapter & TASF Executive Director; Clark W. Robinson, LATAI Chapter & TASF President/Board Chairman; Marvin Williams, past TAI National Parliamentarian, Spann Watson Chapter, among others.

Quoting Dr. Nancy Leftenant-Colon, "This was the best convention and I have attended 45 of the 46 TAI National Conventions."



TAI CONVENTION 2017 – YOUTH PROGRAM

Area youth were treated to a TAI-sponsored tours of Patrick Air Force Base and various National Air And Space Administration (NASA) installations.

At Patrick, the youth were treated to a security and rescue dog training demonstration (1) illustrating how attack-, drug-, and rescue-dogs and their handlers go through their paces. They were also escorted on a tour of the Air Force Technical Applications Center (AFTAC) whose main mission is to detect and monitor nuclear activity worldwide. They received an Heritage Room explanation of legacy technologies such as the spectrometer and seismometer. Later they received hands-on lab experiments with water-absorbent chemicals and liquid nitrogen.

The youth program continued at the convention site with an introduction by the Youth Program Chair & Heritage Member, Chauncey Spencer. Mr. Larry Olanrewaju, NASA Analyst, brought presentations, scientific quizzes, astronaut training videos, earth studies, NASA jobs, and NASA innovations such as robots and excavators.

The local Civil Air Patrol Unit leaders and cadets brought each youth their own challenging hydraulics experiment (4) which they had to understand, assemble and demonstrate—not a simple task.

A panel discussion (5) by Captain Louis Freeman, the first Black Southwest Airlines Chief Pilot and Ms. Vanessa Blacknall-Jamison, first female and non-pilot President of the Organization of Black Airline Professionals (OBAP) left the students with many things to remember such as:

- “Everyday is an interview (always be ready)”
- “There are no insurmountable challenges (you can do anything)”
- “Every life [and flight] needs a destination.”
- “If you’re spending time bragging, you’re probably not working.”

USMarine 2nd LT Sohrob Sullivan-Davachi (6) related to youth at the Youth Luncheon by saying “Be open to uncomfortable things and you’ll find less discomfort in life.”



‘LOVE STORIES’ AND ‘GETTING TO THE CHAPEL’ FROM THE MALE PERSPECTIVE. By Sunnye Simpson (Love Story photo by Patt Terrelongue)



Let the 46th Annual TAI Convention be the year men broke through the glass ceiling. Two TAI men stepped forward and shared their love stories with an exuberant audience of men and women, regular TAI members, original Tuskegee Airmen, Tuskegee Airmen wives, Tuskegee Airmen surviving spouses, and Heritage members. Marvin Williams, Spann Watson Chapter, and past National Parliamentarian, along with Rick Sinkfield, San Antonio Chapter, and National Public Relations Officer, stood before two audiences and

talked about love, marriage, and family. In both sessions, the audience laughed, sighed, and clapped loudly. We hung on to their words and enthusiastically showed our appreciation. Rick and Carolin Sinkfield have been married forty-three years. Marvin and Rosemary Williams have been married thirty-six years. Both couples are living rich fulfilling marriages. The messages they shared confirmed what many long married couples already know and that is that loving and joyful relationships really do exist.

TAI NEWS FROM AROUND THE USA

DOTA SSGT LESLIE EDWARDS INTERVIEW

Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson Public Affairs 10.14.2017

Army Air Corps Staff Sgt. Leslie Edwards, a Tuskegee Airman of the 617th Bombardment Squadron, tours the 302d Fighter Squadron at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska, Oct. 14, 2017. The 617th Bombardment Squadron was one of four Tuskegee Airmen bomber squadrons during World War II that made up the 477th Bombardment Group. In 2007, the 477th Bombardment Group became the 477th Fighter Group, bringing with it the legacy of Tuskegee airmen to Alaska.

Mr. Edwards received the royal treatment at JBER. He was escorted through the F-22 Raptor hangar, got to inspect the aircraft up close, and witnessed takeoff *real* close. He was also given a mechanic's viewpoint on F-22 maintenance, it's capabilities, and their procedures. He also received a

customized set of coveralls for the visit. About being an aircraft mechanic during WWII, Mr. Edwards recalled "They [mechanic's supervisors] went after stuff without any hesitation [and say] why is there any question about 'you wanting to scratch your head or shuffle your feet - NO - get it done!' Then [afterwards] we'd back away from it and enjoy a beer together and acknowledge how we got that thing done. But, we were having so much appreciation of each other as mechanics -- and then the order came down that we'd have to separate the Whites from the Blacks' That's one of the worst things that ever happened to me in my military service."

The full interview is at <https://www.dvidshub.net/video/558359/tuskegee-airman-ssgt-leslie-edwards-interview>



ITALIAN COMPANY EMBRACES TUSKEGEE LEGACY

Updated on Aug 05, 2017 at 10:04 AM CDT, Birmingham news

Officials from Alabama and a global company based in Italy are embracing the history of the Tuskegee Airmen as part of the effort to land an Air Force contract called a "generational game-changer."

Leonardo DRS, American subsidiary of Italian jet-maker Leonardo, chose Moton Field in Macon County for a proposed plant to build the next combat jet trainer for the U.S. Air Force. That was [announced in March](#). Since then, company officials and Alabama recruiters have worked to build the case for Leonardo DRS, which is bidding against Boeing and Lockheed Martin for the contract.

They have included the legacy of the Tuskegee Airmen in their efforts to build support for the bid. The airmen, the U.S. military's first African American pilots, trained at Moton Field.

Joe Turnham, director of the Macon County Economic Development Authority, sees a "cycle of life" quality in the project. During World War II, the Tuskegee Airmen were stationed in Italy and participated heavily in combat missions there. "The Italian people embraced them while they are there and inspired them to come back and fight for equal justice at home after the war," Turnham said. "And a lot of that's embedded in their Italian experience. And then the Italians embraced that history and come back 75 years later to Moton Field.

Leonardo DRS submitted its proposal to the Air Force in the spring. If selected for the contract, it would build 350 trainer jets to replace the T-38 Talon, which the Air Force has used since the Vietnam War era. A decision is expected late this year. The Leonardo DRS recruitment effort was visible at this week's 46th annual convention of the Tuskegee Airmen in Orlando. Leonardo DRS is one of the main sponsors of the event and displayed a 6-foot model of the T-100 trainer bearing the trademark red tail section of the Tuskegee Airmen.

The company also provided a video of one of the original Tuskegee Airmen, Ret. 2nd Lt. Jerry Hodges, operating the T-100 simulator at the convention. Michael Mount, a spokesman for Leonardo DRS, said the company chose the Tuskegee site for multiple reasons, including the incentives offered by state and local authorities and the proximity of Tuskegee University, the only historically black university with an accredited aerospace engineering program. "It's a unique area," Mount said. "The state has a great pool

of aviation talent to pull from. The Tuskegee area is also a unique area with its school and the aviation school there.

"For us it's a nice opportunity to be able to come to a region where there's a lot of potential for all sides to have success." The project would create 750 direct jobs and an investment of \$70 million, officials estimate. The state would provide \$18.6 million in tax credits payable over 10 years, a period during which the plant's payroll would be about \$240 million, Canfield said. The state would help recruit and train the workforce at an estimated cost of \$6.7 million over the life of the project.

The local incentives would total about \$50 million, Turnham said. They would come through a public-



private partnership and would include tax abatements, grants, roads and construction of the plant, which would be leased to Leonardo DRS, Turnham said. Honeywell Aerospace would build the jet engines in Phoenix. CAE USA, based in Tampa, Fla., would build the ground-based training simulators that are part of the T-100 integrated training system. Mount said Leonardo DRS has worked with those two companies for years.

Leonardo DRS would adapt its T-100 to meet the Air Force's requirements. The Air Force would use it to train pilots for the F-35 and the F-22, Mount said.

Italy, Israel, Poland and Singapore use the T-100. Mount said the fact that Leonardo is proposing to

ITALIAN COMPANY EMBRACES TUSKEGEE AIRMEN LEGACY (CONT'D)

build an established aircraft for the Air Force could strengthen its bid.

"There's not a lot of development costs going into the plane," Mount said. "It's already there. It's already built. It's proven. That can bring a lesser overall cost."

Alabama officials, including Gov. Kay Ivey, met with officials from Leonardo during the Paris Air Show in June. Canfield said his office is helping the company engage Alabama's congressional delegation in the recruitment effort.

Alabama Industrial Development Training, which trains workers for Alabama's auto assembly plants and other projects, would recruit and train employees for the T-100 plant, Canfield said.

"We'll be working very closely with community colleges and universities that are going to be educating the people that need certifications as well as advanced degrees in engineering and more technical degree skills when those are necessary," Canfield said. "It will have a wide pull. We'll pull employment from probably a five-county area."

Canfield said he likes the approach Leonardo DRS is taking against what he acknowledges is stiff competition. "Of course, they've got to have a product that satisfies the Air Force requirements and

they've got to do it at the best costs," Canfield said. "So those are issues that Alabama can't control. But we can certainly help them influence decision-makers as much as possible."

Canfield said landing the project would be an important addition to the already strong presence of the aerospace industry in Alabama. And it would benefit a section of state where the need for good jobs is substantial. Macon County's unemployment rate in June was 7.4 percent, well above the state's rate of 5.2 percent (the non-seasonally adjusted, which the Department of Labor says is most comparable to county rates). "I don't think that you could overestimate how important it would be for Macon County," Canfield said. "It's a county that for a long time, along with other counties has sometimes been challenged by projects coming their way. This project would really create a new opportunity for that whole region of the state."

Canfield and Turnham said that although the initial contract would be for 350 jets, there is potential for more production, including orders from other countries. That's especially true considering that the F-38 has been in use more than 50 years, they said. "It could be a generational game-changer for this community," Turnham said.

DOTA RANDOLPH EDWARDS PASSES

Born May 19, 1927 in New York City, Mr. Edwards attended both public and Parochial schools in the city, sometimes as the only African American student, graduating from Rhoades Prep School in June of 1945. He was so anxious to get involved in the war effort that he did not even stay for his own graduation ceremony, but left NYC in June of 1945 to become an Army

Aviation Cadet at Keeler AFB, in Biloxi MS. He quickly proceeded from there to Tuskegee, where he joined class 46-D of the Tuskegee Airmen.

The war ended before he was able to complete this training, so he separated from the service later that year, proceeding out to California with friends to seek his fortune. He briefly attended USC and soon became involved in acting, and traveled with a Broadway theatrical production company for the better part of a year. He eventually returned to New York, where he attended college both in upstate New York as well as in NYC at Columbia University. He was recalled to active duty on two different

occasions, serving 18 months during the Korean conflict.

Upon his return home, he took several jobs in law enforcement, including the New York State police and the Highway Patrol. He eventually settled in for a full 27-year career with the NYPD, retiring in August of 1980. Always anxious to try new things, Mr. Edwards went on to become a photographer with a European Travel magazine, and spent nearly 10 years living and traveling overseas before returning to the U.S.



DANIEL JAMES, III MAKES OWN MARK IN HISTORY

The Tuskegee News 24-Aug-17

Retired Lt. General Daniel James III, son of the late General Daniel “Chappie” James Jr., and the late Dorothy Watkins James, has died of heart failure at the age of 71. He died on Aug. 1, 2017 his family has announced. He is survived by immediate family members: wife Dana; their son, Daniel Steven James; and the General’s brother, Claude “Spuddy” James.

Lt. Gen. James III was the director of the Air National Guard from 2002 to 2006. General James holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in psychology

from the University of Arizona (Tucson), graduated from the Air Command and Staff College in 1981 and the National Security Management Course in 1992.

He performed 500 combat flying hours in Southeast Asia and earned two Distinguished Flying Crosses. He was the first African-American to become the director of the Air National Guard. General James was also an airline pilot for Continental Airlines.

General James was born in Tuskegee on September 7, 1945.



WEST POINT DEDICATES BARRACKS TO B. O. DAVIS, JR.

Army Times Meghann Myers 18-Aug-17

West Point’s newest barracks, which opened with a ribbon-cutting ceremony August 2017 on the New York campus, is named after the trailblazer who once described himself as “an invisible man.”

Davis Barracks is a 6-story, \$186 million facility designed to house 650 cadets. It has a granite exterior matching the Cadet Chapel on a hillside above. The extra space will alleviate some crowding and allow West Point to shift around cadets as they modernize each of the current eight barracks.

“If you want to know what ‘Duty, Honor, Country’ look like, just read a little bit about Benjamin O. Davis Jr.,

and your jaw will drop because he is the epitome of what we want at a time when we didn’t know what ‘right’ looked like,” said Col. Ty Seidule, the head of West Point’s history department and head of the naming committee, after Davis’ name was chosen in 2015. “So it’s our chance to acknowledge one of our greatest graduates.”

Davis was virtually ignored while at West Point, treated similarly to the coordinated, unofficial punishment cadets carried out against those who had violated the honor code.

Lt Gen Stayce Harris along with DOTA Dr. Eugene Richardson represented USAF and TAI at the event .



DOTA ELBERT T. HUDSON DIES; CIVIC LEADER AND L.A. POLICE COMMISSION'S FIRST BLACK PRESIDENT WAS 96

Elbert T. Hudson, 96, died Aug. 8, 2017 at his Los Angeles home. Hudson was born in 1921 in Shreveport, La., the fourth of six children. He moved to Los Angeles when he was 3 because his father, head of the local NAACP chapter, was getting death threats. He attended the 28th Street Grammar School, John Adams Junior High and Polytechnic High. His childhood was steeped in the traditions of the civil rights movement.

During World War II, Hudson flew a P-51 Mustang as member of the Tuskegee Airmen, escorting bombers on 23 combat missions in the Mediterranean theater of operations. After the war, he obtained an undergraduate degree at UCLA and earned a law degree at Loyola University.

In 1963, Hudson was named to the Los Angeles Police Commission, where he became an outspoken advocate for the black community. When he was named the first black president of the panel in 1966, shortly after the Watts Riots, he did not hide his reservations about the position. "In view of the present tensions and conflicts that exist in our city today, I am not really sure whether I should thank you for electing me to the presidency," Hudson said in his acceptance remarks.

Back then, the names ringing out at Police Commission meetings were Leonard Deadwyler and Jerry Lee Arnie, both shot and killed by LAPD officers during Hudson's tenure. Hudson urged the LAPD to learn more about minority communities, and also counseled his own community against blaming police for things they had no control over.

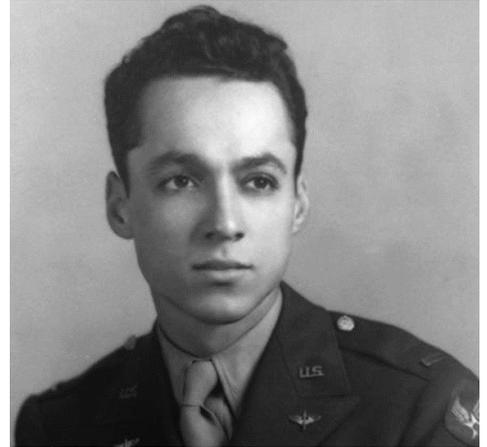
He criticized officers for not understanding "the day-to-day oppression under which black and brown people live."

He resigned his post as vice president of the commission in 1971 to take a position as head of the L.A. chapter of the NAACP. During a news conference announcing his resignation, he expressed reservations about the direction the department was taking. "I could not serve the best interests of the Police Department while serving the best interests of my organization and my community," Hudson said.

As president and CEO of Broadway Federal Bank in South Los Angeles, Hudson focused less on profits and more on growing minority neighborhoods, his daughter said. Loans from Broadway Federal Bank helped establish Ward African Methodist Episcopal Church, the Second Baptist Church and the Lewis Metropolitan Christian Methodist Episcopal Church and several black neighborhoods in South Los Angeles.

When the headquarters of the Broadway Federal Bank in South Los Angeles burned down during the 1992 L.A. riots, Elbert T. Hudson knew exactly what to do: rebuild. He and his son Paul C. Hudson re-established the bank, founded by Hudson's father, in a trailer across the street from the ruins of the old building. "We weren't going to let a building get in the way of the bank's mission," Paul said.

An outspoken advocate for black issues, Hudson strove to be an agent of change for his community, his daughter Karen said. During his tenure as president and CEO of one of the first black-owned banks in Los



Angeles, he extended loans and job offers to black, Asian and Latino people who were discriminated against by other banks. He mentored dozens of black youth and served as the head of the Los Angeles chapter of the NAACP.

"He was firmly steeped in not only civil rights and community service, but the idea that for all your blessings you have to give something back," his daughter said. On Sundays, after church, he helped his father sell NAACP memberships, Karen said. "He felt like he had a lot to live up to," Karen said.

His father, H. Claude Hudson, founded one of the first black-owned banks in L.A. in 1946, and Hudson took over the bank in 1972. His friends and family remember a man of humility and quiet strength who strove to be a role model for those around him. He was a highly disciplined man who woke up for a 5 a.m. walk around the neighborhood every day, maintaining the regimen well into his 80s. "He was so much to so many," Paul said. "From war hero to civil rights activist, from legal advisor to community banker, from friend to mentor. But to me, he was everything."

11TH GRADER NIAMANI KNIGHT AND FOUNDER OF S.T.R.E.A.M. KIDS EXPO FEATURING ATLANTA CHAPTER TUSKEGEE AIRMEN

Story & photo by Stan Coleman, Atlanta Chapter Tuskegee Airmen Inc.

The S.T.R.E.A.M. Kids Expo was hosted by the South Fulton Arrow Youth Council and Harvest Rain Academy at Langston Hughes High School in the metro-Atlanta area on July 21, 2017.

Niamani Knight is the founder of the expo. She is the grandniece of Ron Hutchison, a Member with the Atlanta Chapter Tuskegee Airmen Inc. She recognized the struggle of students with some of the basic educational skill sets required for success.

Ms. Knight (Ron Hutchison's grandniece) is an 11th grader who recognized the struggle of students with some of the basic educational skill sets required for success. In response to her observation she created S.T.R.E.A.M. Kids Expo™. S.T.R.E.A.M. emphasizes Science, Technology, Reading, Engineering, Arts and Manufacturing. According to Ms. Knight's website her vision for her initiative is to create a memorable experience for kids, schools and communities by way of interactive learning and industry expert mentorship



The Atlanta Chapter Tuskegee Airman Chapter Members share a photo opportunity with Niamani Knight, founder of S.T.R.E.A.M. Kids Expo (TM). Left to right are Chapter Members Glenna Calvin and Don Chapman; Jarod Logan, Tariq Daily, Chapter Member Ron Hutchison, Ms. Knight, and Chapter Member Rev. Thomas Holt.

and exposure. Ms. Knight also wants to increase access to S.T.R.E.A.M. programs in underprivileged and low performing neighborhoods and encourage a movement where youth are empowered to reach their highest potential. Exhibitors at the Expo included Lockheed-Martin, PPG Industries, and Owens Corning to name a few. "I'm very proud of my grandniece," said Mr. Hutchison. The Atlanta Chapter displayed various Tuskegee Airmen memorabilia in support of the expo.



Ms. Niamani Knight (center), founder of S.T.R.E.A.M. Kids Expo, and grandniece of Ron Hutchison--an Atlanta Chapter member of the Tuskegee Airmen--shares a photo opportunity with Lockheed employees. Ms. Knight is an 11th grader who founded and organized the expo in support of providing a memorable experience for kids, schools and communities by way of interactive learning and industry expert mentorship and exposure. (Photo by Niamani Knight) (Lockheed-Martin is also a supporter of the Atlanta Chapter's Tuskegee Airmen Aviation Career Training program for youth)

ACTAI DOTAS SIGN TUSKEGEE AIRMEN TRIBUTE CAR

This 2010 Chevrolet Camaro Military Tribute Car (pictured right) is a two-year project created by Randy Gallop of Clayton County Georgia. It was featured at the Peachtree-Dekalb Good Neighbor Day Open House

Airshow, June 10, 2017, right next to the Tuskegee Airmen table hosted by Atlanta Chapter members Piper Burks, Gregory Grant, and DOTAS Val Archer and Rev. Thomas Bristow.

Mr. Gallop invited each military



member to sign their signature onto the military tribute car to the Tuskegee Airmen. This car is a tribute to the Tuskegee Airmen's P-40 Warhawk fighter aircraft," said Gallop. "It has the famed shark-teeth grill and the famed Red Tail fin (which later appeared on the P-51 Mustang)."

After purchasing the original burned out, wrecked Camaro for \$500.00 Mr. Gallop invested nearly \$70,000.00 and two years worth of weekends to complete the project.

According to Gallop, the Camaro has a large "78" which is the same number flown by U.S. Air Force Col. (Ret.) Charles McGhee. The car bears the same nickname McGhee gave to his wife-- "Kitten."

The Camaro also bears the signatures of several ACTAI members. W.O. Smith (a retired Air Force veteran); Milton Crenshaw--a deceased DOTAS who resided in Clayton County; Stan Coleman (retired Air Force Reserve veteran) and Gregory Grant. U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. (Ret.) Edgar Lewis', also an Atlanta Chapter member, signature can be found on the Red Tail of the car. At present, according to Gallop, the Camaro tribute car has 1,300 signatures.



DOTA Val Archer adds his signature to the Red Tail fin of the 2010 Camaro Military Tribute Car designed by Randy Gallop under the observing eye of Piper Burks, a Trailblazer with the Atlanta Chapter. (Photos by Stan Coleman)



DOTA Thomas Bristow motions for silence while adding his signature to the Red Tail of the 2010 Camaro Military Tribute Car rebuilt by Randy Gallop (right) of Clayton County, Ga. The car has nearly 1,300 signatures.

MESSAGE FROM THE LOCKBOURNE MAYOR & COUNCIL

Christie Ward, Village View, Lockbourne, Ohio, October 2017

Lockbourne is a town where striving for perfection is deeply rooted in our history as exemplified by the Tuskegee Airmen who served right here after World War II.

Beginning in March 1946, the first Tuskegee Airmen arrived at Lockbourne Airfield (known today as Rickenbacker Air National Guard Base) and enjoyed total independence—unlike other bases where Black service members could only work the immediate supervision of whites. The new independence led by Charles Dryden, a former Tuskegee Airman, to say “Everywhere on the base there was evidence of striving for perfection.

[Lockbourne was] ‘our’ base to run—from top to bottom and all in between, by ‘us.’”

Almost 60 years later, this pride is still alive today. Recently, we were approached by the 121st Air

Refueling Wing asking us to partner in the cleaning up and making over the Tuskegee Memorial, located on Rickenbacker.

The renovation was made possible with the collaboration of the Ohio Memorial Chapter, 121st refueling wing, the Columbus Regional Airport Authority, the Village of Lockbourne, and Boy Scout Troop 526.

Although this update was a result of the combined efforts of those mentioned above, there is one person who deserves individual recognition: Boy Scout Wyatt Wade. Without his leadership and guidance, the makeover would not have been as successful as it was! So thank you Wyatt.



Before



After

DOTAS, CODE TALKERS, YOUNG EAGLES, AND BOMBER PILOTS

by Larry Jackson, President, Archer Ragsdale Arizona Chapter (ARAC)

The Chapter was involved with a fund raising effort for the Flagstaff, AZ EAA Chapter's Young Eagles program at the Grand Canyon - Valle Airport August 2012. As I was about to introduce Tuskegee Airmen Bob Ashby, Asa Herring and Howard Williams when Dorina Ashby (wife of Bob) approached me and said that there was a gentleman in the back of the room who said that



he was a member of a Bomb Group escorted by the Red Tails in WW II. I went back and got his story. Well, during the introduction of the Tuskegee Airmen, I also introduced S/SSgt James E. Deaver of Flagstaff

AZ, a WW II member of the 450th Bomb Group, 47th Bomb Wing, 15th Air Force. S/SSgt Deaver, a gunner aboard a B-24, gave an account of a mission in which they lost two engines in battle and was escorted to safety by the Red Tails. In his remarks he publicly thanked the Tuskegee Airmen. The standing room only audience really appreciated his heartfelt remarks.

Our Tuskegee Airmen's presentations were well received. Another crowd pleaser was Peter MacDonald, Sr., a WW II Code Talker and former Chairman, The Navajo Nation. There is a gold mine of information at their web site: [Official Home of the 450th BG Association](#).

The Young Eagles fund raiser was a huge success. ARAC donated the proceeds from the merchandise sold that afternoon to the EAA. John Seibold, owner of Valle Airport and founder of Scenic Airlines was a very gracious host. A great time was had by all.

WASHINGTON DUBOIS ROSS LTC, USAFRES, RET JOINS LONELY EAGLES OCT., 2017

Born March 4th, 1919, in Mound Bayou, Mississippi he moved to Ashland, KY and attended Booker T. Washington Elementary School in Ashland, Kentucky and Ironton High School in Ironton, OH.

He received a BS Degree in Education from Hampton Institute (now Hampton University, Hampton, Virginia). Through his participation in the Civilian Pilot Training Program (CPTP), he received his Private Pilot's License. He completed his undergraduate degree with honors in 1941. He also attended the University of Detroit earning an MA degree in The Teaching of Mathematics. He also had a BBA and an MBA from D'Etire University (in Detroit, Michigan).

After graduation he was ordered to report to Tuskegee for Aviation Cadet Training as part of class 43-1. Graduating as a Fighter Pilot with the rank of Second Lieutenant. In October of 1943, he was sent to Selfridge Field, MI, for overseas training and then went overseas as replacements

for the 332nd to Oran, Algeria and then on to Naples, Italy. There he flew patrol in P-39s. And eventually transferred to the 15th Air Force, flying P-47s, and finally, P-51s on long escort missions protecting bombers. He flew a combination of sorties and missions

for a total of 63 missions. After my active military service, he joined the United States Air Force Reserves (USAFRES) where he served for twenty years in a number of assignments and retired from the USAFRES with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. I earned the Air Medal, American Campaign Medal, the Armed Forces Reserve Medal, and the Congressional Gold Medal. He was inducted into the Kentucky Aviation Hall of Fame in 2011 and into the Michigan Aviation Hall of Fame in 2012.



DR. JAMES ROBERT WILLIAMS SR., 93 JOINS LONELY EAGLES AT 93



Dr. James Robert Williams Sr. was an accomplished physician and Tuskegee Airman, died on Saturday, Sept. 9, 2017, at Bryn Mawr Extended Care. He was born on April 21, 1924 to the late James and Willie Mae Banks in Bryn Mawr. He graduated from Muhlenberg College in 1951 with a Bachelor of Science. Williams then attended Meharry Medical College where he earned his medical doctorate in 1955. Williams served in the military from 1943 to 1973. His

service is historic as he was a part of the pioneering Tuskegee Airmen, Class 45-G-TE, earning his navigator, bombardier and twin-engine bomber pilot wings in 1945. He ranked as a first lieutenant at his discharge in 1946 and from 1967 to 1973 he served as a Lieutenant Colonel in the Air Force Reserves. His service with the Tuskegee Airmen also inspired many as he made speaking engagements at schools and events.

DOTA JAMES WELLINGTON PRYDE, SR. JOINS LONELY EAGLES AT AGE 90

Mr. James W. Pryde joined the Army Air Corps and in 1944 entered aviation school. Instead of becoming a pilot, Mr. Pryde became a radio operator with WWII's famous Tuskegee Airmen. He then joined the Armed Forces Security Agency in 1950 as a communications clerk and was assigned to the mailroom. When it was discovered he could read automatic Morse tape, he was transferred to a signals analysis section, where he became a telemetry analyst.

Mr. Pryde then spent two years on detail to the staff of the Assistant Secretary of Defense. He served as the Director of the Defense Special Missile and Astronautics (now Aerospace)

Center (DEFSMAC) from 1978 to 1980. While at DEFSMAC, he became a member of the Intelligence Community's Guided Missile Astronautic Intelligence Committee. In 1980, Mr. Pryde served as the NSA representative to the Department of Defense and in 1981 served as Assistant Deputy Director of Administration at NSA.

During his tenure, Mr. Pryde served as an advocate for NSA African-Americans. Through his efforts he helped promote a diverse workforce within NSA, and has striven since to remind the current generation of the struggles waged by their predecessors for equality. Mr. Pryde retired from NSA in 1981,



but continued to serve NSA interests as a member of the National Cryptologic Museum Foundation. DOTA Pryde passed 10-Aug-17.

CHAPTER NEWS

CHRISTMAS GALA & FUNDRAISER

By the Ohio Memorial Chapter, TAI (OMCTAI)

Social Hour Noon to 1:00 p.m.

Gala 1:00 pm to 5:00 p.m.

Saturday December 2, 2017

At the Airport Marriott

1375 North Cassady Avenue

Columbus, Ohio 43219

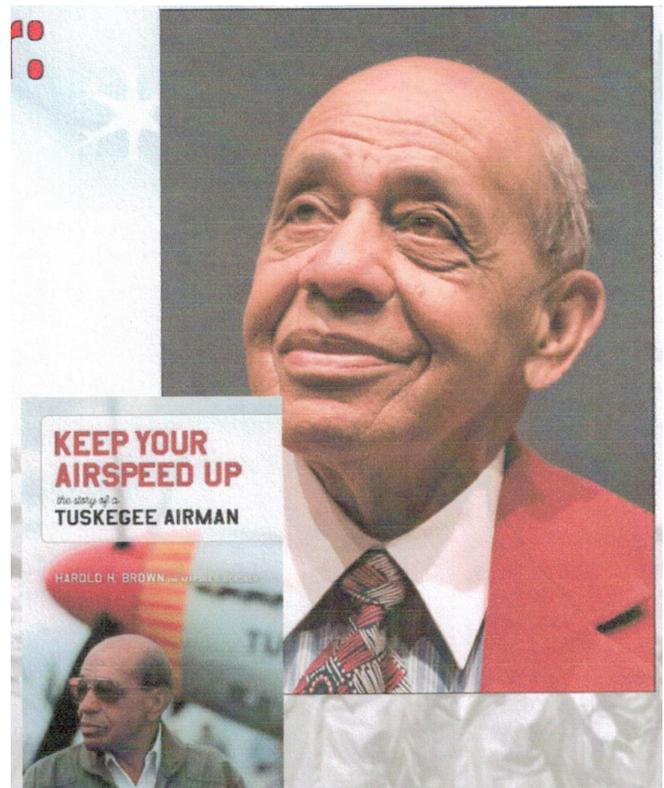
\$75 per person

All proceeds go to the OMCTAI

Keynote Speaker:

Dr. Harold Brown, DOTA and

Dr, Marsha Bordner Author of "Keep Your Airsped Up—Story of a Tuskegee Airmen



PREMIERE OF "VETERANS OF COLOR" FB post by Arit Essien

Atlanta and East Coast Chapter Tuskegee Airmen Inc members joined Radio One/TV One President Cathy Hughes and more than 300 leaders and military members for the premiere of "Veterans of Color" Aug. 21, in Silver Spring, MD. The film highlighted the challenges of African-American veterans following service abroad during WWII and the Korean and Vietnam Wars; highlighting many untold stories of heroism and patriotism.

From left to right: ECC TAI member Norm Artis, ECC William Wilson standing with the White Cap; ECC PR Officer Jerry Burton in the Black Suit, up front next to him is Original Tuskegee Airman Major Anderson and Original Tuskegee Airman William Fauntroy is on far right. Ladies names are unknown.



DALLAS-FORT WORTH CHAPTER PARTICIPATES AT HOLOCAUST MUSEUM

FB post by Hope Stevens, Claude R. Platte Chapter

DOTA Robert McDaniel and Miss Erma Bonner-Platte were the very special guests attending "Fighting for the Right to Fight" Opening Night and Exhibit at the Dallas Holocaust Museum/Center for Education and Tolerance. Interviewing them was J. Todd Moyer, History Professor at University of North Texas.

The exhibit highlights African American achievements and struggles during World War II both abroad and at home and explores how the war served as a catalyst for the Civil Rights Movement. It includes personal accounts of those who served, including an eight-minute video on the Tuskegee Airmen. Founded in 1984, the Dallas Holocaust Museum/Center for Education and Tolerance is dedicated to teaching the history of the Holocaust and advancing human rights to combat prejudice, hatred and indifference.

See video <https://www.dropbox.com/s/lc1yj3mufbt6584/Fighting%20for%20the%20Right%20to%20Fight%20Speakers%202017-09-11%20version1.mp4?dl=0>



AN INVITATION TO TAI

From Allison Minto, [516-680-9292](tel:516-680-9292), allisonminto@yahoo.com

I am student photographer from Queens, NY currently working on a project about African-Americans in the field of Aviation and was wondering if I can ask your help. Below is a description of the project: "As a young, black identified, mixed-raced female photographer I feel compelled and motivated to continue to uncover and tell black stories.

Imagery profoundly impacts people of color and how they come to understand their value and position within the broader hierarchy of American culture. Friends, family, and members of my community have expressed how their careers, social standing, and politics are all deeply influenced and affected by a kind of representation that has been outside their control. I have a responsibility to create a new kind of visibility and

tell the stories of my community.

My project, "To Fill the Air with Black Wings" will focus on African-Americans in all aspects of aviation. It recently dawned upon me that when I fly out of airports, I am hardly ever greeted by a black pilot let alone a female black pilot when boarding the plane. This left me asking, "Where are all the black pilots?" My goal is to represent black stories in a way that will resonate with all audiences and create social and representational change for people of color through ever more powerful visual stories."

I was wondering if you would point me in the right direction of individuals who would be interested in my taking their photo. Samples of my work can be found here and at <http://grantpad.com/user/view/Emerging%20Artist%20Scholarship/14879> Thank You.



WWII VETS FILM

From Chris Dennett, c.m.dennett@gmail.com, 447-841-437-898

My name is Chris Dennett and I am a 29 year old British historian and film maker. I was advised to contact you by the Japanese American Veterans Association and seek your assistance.

Driven by the concern that the generation who served/lived through the Second World War is fading away and that no one is noticing, I have taken it upon myself to meet as many veterans who are alive today, to interview them, record their sacrifices/stories and present their lessons

in a way that is relevant to my generation and those to follow. I am not a journalist, but simply someone trying to do a good thing. My project is picking up incredible momentum and I will soon be heading to the US to cover the American perspective.

It is extremely important to me that the Afro-Caribbean experience is represented in my film. With WW2 documentaries predominantly being a Caucasian affair, it is my goal to counter this by making my project globally encompassing of all veterans, no matter their race, complexion or creed. The Tuskegee story is fascinating, and in parallel with

the Japanese American experience, shows how men and women fought the common enemy abroad, and discrimination at home.

I wanted to know if there are any DOTAs who may be willing to participate in my film, or at the least, point me in the right direction of where to find them. Furthermore, given the work that your organisation does, perhaps there is someone who would be willing to be interviewed in the coming months which would give your organisation more exposure to a younger audience.

-Kind regards, Chris

The Continuing the Legacy in Aviation

10.26.17 – 10.29.17 • Dallas, Texas



Tuskegee Airmen, Inc.®



Giving History a Future!

Tour Southwest Airlines headquarter campus: pilot and flight attendant training centers, technology, emergency command center, maintenance and network operations control facilities • Visit the Frontiers of Flight Museum • Meet Documented Original Tuskegee Airmen, Southwest Airlines Leaders, and Aviation Hall of Fame Enshrinees • Attend the National Aviation Hall of Fame Enshrinement Dinner (subject to change)



Southwest Airlines invites 16 – 21 year old students (accompanied by a parent) to become a participant in a hands-on-aviation experience at Southwest Airlines headquarter campus in Dallas, TX. Airfare and hotel accommodations are provided.

MEMBERSHIP PROCESS CHANGES

By Marv Abrams abramsmk@aol.com

Changes to our membership process and forms were discussed, reviewed and approved at our most recent convention. Since then, your Membership Committee at the National level (to include your regional representatives) has completed required actions to implement the procedural changes to track how you - the member - wants to be contacted by TAI.

WHAT'S BEEN DONE:

TAI membership application forms (TAI Form 2 and TAI Form 2A), as well as the membership database, required updates.

-- Revised Form 2 now have additional checkboxes for new members (or members making changes) to identify which of their provided addresses (Home or E-Mail) they wish to have used to receive notifications from TAI National.

-- Revised Form 2A now have checkboxes added to allow renewing members to identify which address to be used.

-- Membership Database will be updated to collect and retain the desired contact address selections made.

WHAT WE NEED YOU TO DO:

In order for all current members to confirm their provided addressees are correct, a current regional membership roster has been distributed to Presidents and Membership Chairs. Find your chapter and confirm or have each chapter member confirm their address information or make corrections to the information for an update to the National Membership database. We will ask for your progress immediately. Once all information is reviewed:

-- NEW members will be required to complete a (revised) TAI Form 2 identifying their preferred contact address (Home or E-Mail)

-- Renewing members WITH changes to their personal and/or contact information will be required to complete the (revised) TAI Form 2

-- Renewing members with NO changes to personal and/or contact information will complete the (revised) TAI Form 2A annotating their preferred contact address (Home or E-Mail).

TAI ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dear TAI readers

The following message was forwarded to TAI National President Leon Johnson from Carmen Haywood 29-Sep-17...

My sister and I are alive and well. We have not had communication with the majority of the Chapter members due to limited communications services. We will continue to try and make contact with them.

St. Croix was devastated by the hurricane. The infrastructure is as destroyed as imaginable. Supplies and resources are limited. Strict curfews are in place with only a 4 hour window (12 noon to 4 p.m.) to be out.

We have a roof over our heads, a generator for power (which we use sparingly), and clean drinking water. We are blessed to have those resources, as many people don't. Municipal power is not expected for months.

There is much cleanup required on our property. But, we're managing. It will take time, and time is the only thing we have plenty of. Despite the challenging conditions, things are

starting to look better as debris is being removed from the roads and they become more passable.

Our one and only hospital was destroyed and patients were evacuated to the States. There is a modular temporary hospital set up.

Each day when I rise I am mindful to thank God for my blessings. It's depressing and stressful some days, but this can only make me stronger.

*Thank you so very much for checking on us. **Please keep us in your prayers.***

Carmen Heywood
-Virgin Islands Chapter



Hello TAI Family,

Presently, the Virgin Islands is without municipal power, therefore internet access is not working. I have a list of "Needs" from the president of the Virgin Islands Chapter, TAI Ms. Carmen Haywood

Batteries (D, C, AA, AAA); Lanterns (with Batteries), Hand Sanitizer, Baby Wipes, Mosquito and bug spray Cell phone chargers/ power packs, and mosquito nets. Cash to be used to purchase ice, ice coolers, lanterns fuel, water, disinfectant. Small battery operated transistor radios.

Boxes should be sent to Virgin Island Chapter, Tuskegee Airmen, Inc.,; P.O. Box 26493 Christiansted VI 00824-2493. Please use the U.S. Postal Service Priority mail for shipping Checks can be made out to: Virgin Island Chapter, Tuskegee Airmen, Inc. Disaster Relief Fund. Your donation is "tax deductible."

What ever we can do to help our family members in need is a blessing. We need your Help.

Quincy Magwood
President
Eastern Region, TAI
845-304-1740

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@tuskegeearmen.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 NATIONAL PUBLIC RELATIONS TEAM

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TAI MISSION

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.

Unless otherwise noted, photos by:

Sunnye Simpson
Jerry "Hawk" Burton
Chris Smith