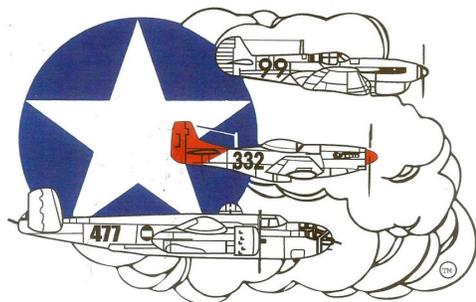




TUSKEGEE AIRMEN \*\*\* HELPING YOUTH FULFILL THEIR PROMISES

May-July 2017

# 2017 Pre-Convention Issue



## TUSKEGEE AIRMEN INC.

### 46<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention 2017

### Helping Youth Fulfill Their Promise



## Celebrating the Diamond Anniversary of the Tuskegee Airmen Experience

Tuskegee Airmen, Inc. (TAI) returns to the ‘Sunshine State’ when it gathers in Orlando for the 46<sup>th</sup> 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 will also celebrate 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 are all expected to attend to conduct business, network and engage in career developing workshops and seminars, and celebrate the legacy of the Tuskegee Airmen.

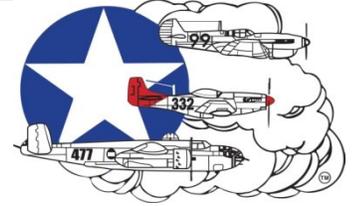
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## FROM THE DESK OF THE NATIONAL PRESIDENT



### TUSKEGEE AIRMEN, INC. National Office



Fellow Members,

We are fast approaching our 2017 TAI 46<sup>th</sup> National Convention and I hope to see many of you in Orlando. The theme for this year, "Helping Youth Fulfill Their Promise", speaks to our mission of youth engagement. I'm pleased to inform you that we have several corporate sponsors who will be supporting us this year. In April Leonardo DRS announced that if they are selected to build the new Air Force advanced trainer aircraft, it will be built at Moton Field in Tuskegee Alabama. Leonardo DRS, Honeywell and the Macon County Economic Development Authority have already committed and we're working to add additional sponsors. Our success in obtaining these corporate sponsors should be mirrored by the success of membership attendance and participation in convention activities. The sponsorships come with the expectation that the convention will be well attended. I have been working with the Department of Defense and Air Force Headquarters to significantly increase the military attendance at the convention also. We're developing a military training footprint that will parallel our meetings and justify the expenditure of government funds. That footprint may include a military Diversity Summit.

The TAI 46<sup>th</sup> National Convention will be held on August 3-5, 2017 in Orlando, FL. All information and registration can be found on the following website, [www.taiconvention.com](http://www.taiconvention.com).

Support of DOTA convention attendance is something each of us and our TAI Chapters needs to take a proactive role to accomplish. The convention registration contains an option for a TAI member or a supporter to pay a full convention registration for a DOTA or original widow. I also encourage those who wish to make a partial registration for a DOTA or original widow to do so. You cannot do this via the website. It can be done with a check made payable to: "2017 TAI Convention" with the words "DOTA or Original Widow Sponsorship" on the memo line. The mailing address is:

TAI Convention 2017/DOTA  
P.O. Box 830060  
Tuskegee AL 36083

As I have mentioned previously, if each TAI Chapter takes on the responsibility of sponsoring just one DOTA or original widow registration we should be able to cover 100% of the cost of registration for all DOTA and original widows who attend.

Membership remains a hot topic within TAI. The current process requires that Chapters utilize the new Form 2A for renewals and the Form 2 for new members. If you do not have the current Form 2A and/or the Form 2 templates, please contact your Region President or the National Office and you will be provided with the form. Chapter leadership should not wait and bundle their membership, but send them in as they are received at your Chapter. This avoids misplacing member checks and/or documentation. It will also speed up the turn around time for membership cards to be returned to the chapters. Members are usually unaware that the chapter is bundling the renewals and often call the National Office with complaints related to the delay of receiving their membership cards.

I look forward to seeing many of you in Orlando in August!

1941 ★ 2016

Sincerely,  
*Leon A. Johnson*

Leon A. Johnson  
National President  
Tuskegee Airmen, Inc.

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### What Tuskegee Airmen meant to someone from the projects of New York



*(Photo: Mickey Welsh / Advertiser)*

Growing up in the projects on the south side of New York City, Denise Kester only dreamed of one day meeting a Tuskegee Airman. She would escape her surroundings as a kid by reading books, traveling the world in her novels but never leaving Queens. One of those books, “Red Tails,” detailed the plights of the Tuskegee Airmen - the first African-American fighter pilots in World War II. Its message about how the airmen defied racial bias and became the most elite aviators of WWII stuck with her throughout the years.

“When you’re a kid on the South Side, stepping over crack vials to get to school [you think], ‘If they can overcome that, then surely I can find my way out of this,’” she said, jets flying behind her at the Maxwell Air Force Base Air Show. Her admiration for them continued to grow, to the point where the number one item on her bucket list was to one day meet a Tuskegee Airman. So when she crossed paths with Documented Original Tuskegee Airman (DOTA) James Harvey, originally from Mountain Top, Pennsylvania, class of 44-1-1-SE, tears automatically sprang from her eyes. “Walking up to him was like walking up to history. I’m seeing everything I ever read about and that became overwhelming for me,” she said.

All of the estimated 65,000 people at the airshow couldn’t have known they were walking by history when they passed Harvey. Some of them, though, recognized that Harvey played an integral role in that heritage. A steady stream of admirers stopped to take a picture with him or just shake his hand. “He’s a legend,” one father instructed his son as he ushered him up to Harvey.

Naturally, 93-year-old Harvey never imagined his service as a Tuskegee Airman would come to be seen as legendary, that he would one day be awarded a Congressional Gold Medal or that HBO would make a movie about them. “I was just there to learn to fly. That was it. Get my wings and go into combat. End of story. Never dreamed of ending up with something like this. I don’t think any of us realized it would turn out like this,” he said, sitting at the airshow that was organized to honor the 75th anniversary of the Tuskegee Airmen, the 100th anniversary of the United States’ entry into World War I and the 70th anniversary of the formation of the Air Force.

Decades would pass before the story of the Tuskegee Airmen was finally told and Harvey was finally recognized for his personal accomplishments. Harvey was one of three members on a team to win the propeller division of the first U.S. Air Force Weapons Meet at Las Vegas Air Force Base (now Nellis AFB) on May 2, 1949. It wasn’t until 1995 that Harvey and his teammates were acknowledged as the Air Force’s first Top Guns, he said.

Perhaps stories like this are part of the reason why Kester couldn’t help but cry when she saw Harvey, why his existence embodies a war against countries overseas and a war against bigotry at home. It’s the embodiment of a hero.

“For some people, it was President Barack Obama,” Kester said. “What I realized is there would never be a Barack Obama if there hadn’t been Tuskegee Airmen.”

*Taken from an article by Kelsey Davis, Montgomery Advertiser April 8, 2017*

### DOTA Buford A. Johnson, 89, dies

DOTA Buford A. Johnson 1927-2017, a Tuskegee Airman served as a mechanic and crew chief in the Army Air Corps and U.S. Air Force and spent his retirement years introducing new generations to the history of the first African-American aviators and support personnel, joins the Lonely Eagles Chapter. Johnson, of Highland, died Saturday, April 15. He was 89 and a retired master sergeant after an Air Force career that included World War II and the Korean War, according to his family obituary.

Johnson served from 1945 to 1966, starting with the famed 99th Fighter Squadron formed for African-American service members in Tuskegee, Alabama from 1946 to 1948. “They weren’t good. They weren’t very good. They were the best,” he liked to say of the Tuskegee group.

The Moreno Valley, California Chapter of the Tuskegee Airmen, Inc. bears his name, said Donald Fleming, president of the Buford A. Johnson Chapter of Tuskegee Airmen Inc. “He was the star of our show” Fleming said in an interview.

In March, Johnson was a panelist at a public forum put on by the Inlandia Institute and the Riverside African American Historical Society. Frances Vasquez, board president of the Institute, said in a letter to members, “We have lost a good, noble man. He will be dearly missed.” Johnson liked to tell the story that when he was drafted out of high school to the Navy, he didn’t want to be a cook — his likely role back then — so he joined the Army Air Corps, Fleming said. “He always wanted to work on planes. He could fix anything,” Fleming said of Johnson.

In a 2007 interview with the Sun of San Bernardino, Johnson said at the time he and the other Tuskegee participants weren’t concerned about making history. They just wanted to serve their country. “During the time it was happening, you were unconscious of it,” he said. “We were just going about our day-to-day existence,” he said. “Looking back on it now, I can see we were planting seeds, trying to right some wrongs. We felt our country needed us, and in spite of the way



**Buford Johnson served as a crew chief during the Korean War is seen here receiving a Congressional Gold Medal replica at March Field Museum. FILE PHOTO**

we were treated, we were dedicated to doing our best.”

He made the comments in 2007, the same year that President George W. Bush presented the Congressional Gold Medal to the Tuskegee Airmen. The actual gold medal resides at the National Museum of African American History and Culture in Washington, D.C.; individual recipients received a bronze version, struck for the occasion. Johnson was one of five Inland men to receive the medal and received it in a ceremony at the March Field Air Museum.

Johnson also recalled the treatment he received in his early days of service, as he moved about the country he served. He recounted at a 2011 gathering for the Experimental Aircraft Association at Flabob Airport that when traveling with white servicemen in New Mexico and Indiana, restaurant employees scoffed at the group of four uniformed white airmen joined by one black airman. “They wouldn’t serve any of us,” Johnson remembered, and one establishment asked him to enter through the back. “So we went to the next restaurant. Before we started that trip I knew we were going to have that problem, so I wore my uniform.”

He also had to convince skeptical white counterparts that he was a skilled mechanic. At first, he said, he was (cont’d on next page)



**Memorial grove in East Oakland dedicated to DOTA Clyde H. Grimes**

Community members and family of former Tuskegee Airman Clyde H. Grimes Sr. gathered at the Glenn W. Daniel/King Estate Open Space Park under sunny skies on Saturday to dedicate an oak grove in his memory.

A longtime community activist who lived in East Oakland with his wife, Minnie, since 1987, he served as president of the Oak Knoll Neighborhood Improvement Association in the early 1990s and was instrumental in protecting the park. The Oakland City Council approved the park’s master plan in 1998, protecting the site from future development.

“He would have been very pleased, but very surprised, because he wasn’t a person who was after a lot of attention. It was one of his very favorite projects. It made me very



happy to see the dedication take place,” said Minnie Grimes, 89.

Grimes attended UC Berkeley after World War II and became an architect, working for the city of Oakland until he retired in 1991. Grimes, who also

was a member of the Bay Area Black Pilot’s Association, died Oct. 30, 2015, just days short of his 90th birthday.

The city of Oakland and its Recreation Advisory Commission approved naming of the oak grove in recognition of Grimes’ vital contribution to the King Estate Park. Minnie Grimes and Oakland sculptor Philip Dow designed the mosaic tile memorial plaque, which will be installed at ground level next to a hiking trail that climbs through an oak grove in the northeast corner of the park near the Greenly Avenue fire gate.

“Clyde was a wonderful neighbor, thoughtful public speaker, championed ideas that he felt would improve the neighborhood, and provided leadership when he felt it could be effective. He provided me with a lot of guidance, and he and Minnie have been great friends,” Dow said.

*By JANE TYSKA East Bay Times, edited by TAI NPRO*

**Teens Taken To New Heights**

Several teens from all over spent the afternoon at Brookley Aeroplex learning about careers in aviation. And after that, they got to take to the skies for a very special flight. For some today, it was a brand new experience.

“So your first flight ever...”

“This is my first flight ever.”

“Your first flight ever and guess what? You’re going to be the pilot on your first flight ever.”

“Can’t get better than that!”

Students from Mobile, Atlanta, and even Germany came together to share a love of aviation.

“I’m wanting to be a mechanic, I want to work on airplanes. And so I’m wanting to learn how to fly them too,” says Seth Anderson from Mobile.

“I love flight. And I always wanted to be a pilot. I want to be a fighter pilot, that’s my dream,” says Emari Hill from Atlanta.

“I wanted to come here ‘cause I was always interested in flying. And whenever I flew here from Germany, I had a lot of fun flying so I thought that would be great experience!” says Leigh Gerstenberger from Germany.

This one-day outreach program is designed to expose the youth to STEM and aviation careers. “So even though our focus is flying and becoming pilots, we also want to introduce them to the maintenance side of it, the engineering side of it,” says CSO Flight Instructor Captain Kenneth Thomas. Their aim is to expose kids early to their options and not wait until they’re in college or the workforce to realize their passion. And the coolest part about it? These kids got to be pilots for the day. “We flew up and then all around and we got to see Mobile Bay and a lot of things that I didn’t know we were as close as we were. Saw a lot of things I’d never seen before, it was a neat experience,” says Anderson.

“After you’ve flown a plane, there’s almost nothing that you can tell that kid they can’t do. So when I see these kids after they fly a plane, based on before they flew a plane, they’re kind of nervous, they go and fly—after that, their confidence just goes from here to here!” says Thomas. At the event, students also learned about the history of the legendary Tuskegee Airmen. The program is called “Eyes Above the Horizon” and was presented by the Legacy Flight Academy and the Mobile Airport Authority.

*By Ashley Knight April 29, 2017, WKRG News5 Mobile, Alabama*

### JOHN MULZAC

Did you know John Mulzac of the famed Tuskegee Airmen and a retired #FDNY [New York Fire Department] Lieutenant has two grandsons, Channing Frye and Tobias Harris, who are #NBA players currently playing for the #ClevelandCavaliers and #DetroitPistons respectively?

Channing shares the 'Center' of attention with his mother, Karen Frye, an Emmy Award winning journalist. Success runs in this #TuskegeeAirman family. Lonely Eagle Mulzac, Class SE-44-A, died at 91 in Brooklyn, NY on February 1, 2015.



through, he always felt this was the best country in the world," said son Henry Mulzac, a retired NYPD detective. "He was so grateful for what this country did for him and felt the service was worth it."

The pioneering pilot moved from manning flight controls to manning fire hoses when he became a smoke eater for the FDNY in 1947.

He also started a family with his wife Beatrice, who pinned on his pilot wings at his graduation from the Tuskegee Institute in Alabama in 1944.

When the country called on Mulzac again, he left the firehouse to fly missions in the Korean and Vietnam wars as a reservist.

He retired from the Fire Department in 1967 as a lieutenant, then worked as a sky marshal and as a U.S. Customs inspector before retiring for good, his family said. "He was a man of integrity and he loved his children, and in his life he wanted to see them all get an education and strive for the best," wife Beatrice Mulzac, 88, said. That drive was an inspiration for the success of his family. His son Robert Mulzac followed in his father's footsteps and is a retired FDNY lieutenant.



(NBA File Photo)

"They said that we could never fly airplanes, we're not capable of flying airplanes," Mulzac recounted to an auditorium of students at St. Saviour High School in Brooklyn in 2001. "But there were some people on our side."

"Despite the tough times of segregation he went

### DOTA Fred T. Johnson, educator, Lonely Eagle at 92



*(Photo: JENNIFER CORBETT/THE NEWS JOURNAL)*

Fred T. Johnson, Delaware's last surviving DOTA, member of the Alfonza W Davis Chapter, and a respected Wilmington educator, never considered himself a hero. Instead, he liked to say he was a part of history, a past rich with progress for African-Americans in the United States military and progress for African-Americans within the state of Delaware. Johnson joined the Lonely Eagles January 12, 2017 at the age of 92 after a battle with pneumonia and the flu.

The lifelong Delawarean was a part of the military's desegregation that began with the Tuskegee Airmen, a group of 992 fliers that graduated from a segregated pilot training program at Tuskegee Airfield in Alabama between 1941 and 1946. Though Johnson never went to

combat, he played a role in changing the military's perceptions of black Americans and became one of 16,000 African-Americans who are considered part of the Tuskegee Airmen.

He was the only commissioned black navigator from Delaware to serve in World War II. "He was like most Tuskegee Airmen," said retired Brigadier General Ernest Talbert, a friend and a former C-141 pilot who served 37 years on active duty and with the Delaware Air National Guard. Talbert was the state Air Guard's first black general. "If you ever meet them, they're all very modest yet personable types of individuals, men of great accomplishments in their own right, but they rarely ever brag about it."

His accomplishments were many, though, both in the military and in the world of education, where Johnson was a part of the initial faculty to staff the first high school for African-American students in Sussex County – William C. Jason High School – and later became the first black educator at Wilmington's Warner Junior High School. He worked there and eventually served as chairman of the science department until his retirement in 1981.

**Fred Johnson recounts his time spent as a Tuskegee Airman in this file photo taken at his home Wednesday, December 31, 2008. Johnson joined the military in 1943 and graduated Class 42C and was commissioned as a 2nd Lt. After his discharge, he went on to**

**teach various subjects. Here, Johnson appears with a group of photos of fellow airmen. He is second from the left, bottom row. (Photo: EMIL/Special to The News Journal/EMIL)**

"They loved him," said his wife, Margo, who was married to Fred for 38 years. "He always said you have to be firm, fair, and consistent. ... He didn't bring race into it. He was just a teacher. And he earned the respect of the children and of their parents." That was what made Johnson special, said his loved ones and friends. Despite race playing such an important role in the progress Johnson helped to foster, the man never boasted of his achievements or took much credit for them.



"We wanted to prove that we were equal, if not better, than a lot of people," Johnson told The News Journal in 2013 when he was given a replica of the Congressional Gold Medal that the Tuskegee Airmen

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## DOTAs proudly look back

The Tuskegee Airmen are a central part of Air Force history, and the subject of numerous books and movies. But when DOTAs Colonel (ret) Charles McGee, mechanic Pvt. Major Anderson, Cadet William Fauntroy and Cadet Walter Robinson gathered at an event hosted by the Air Force Academy Society of Washington, D.C., they reminisced with the easy camaraderie of old friends.

DOTA Colonel (ret) Charles McGee, veteran of three wars and aviation legend, still clearly remembers the day he shot down an FW-190 German Luftwaffe fighter.

It was August 24, 1944. Then-1st Lt. McGee and 51 other pilots from the 332nd Fighter Group — the first and only unit to allow black airmen to fly in World War II — took to the sky in their distinctive red-tailed P-51 Mustang fighters. Their mission: Escort B-17s from the 5th Bomb Wing on a mission to strike Pardubice Airdrome in Czechoslovakia and the rail yards nearby.

"The [German] fighters tried to penetrate the bombers we were escorting, and my element was designated to chase them off," McGee said in a May 17 interview, wearing the distinctive bright red Tuskegee jacket that represents their planes' iconic red tails. "He took a dive for the ground, and fortunately, I was behind him. He made a turn that put him right in my gun sights. And that was it."

Between 1944 and 1968, McGee would fly 409

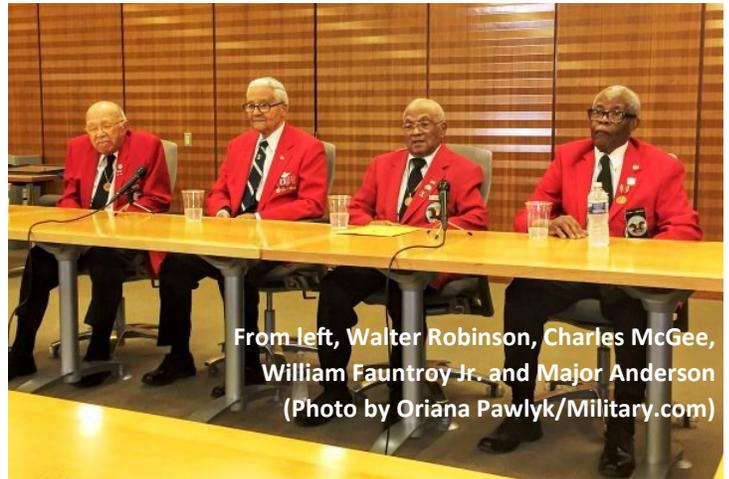
### Red Tail Legacy Comes Full Circle

#### Red-Tailed Fighter Jet Again Flying From Montgomery With The 332nd Fighter Group

Airmen assigned to the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing take great pride in the heritage created for them by the Tuskegee Airmen. Recently, a key piece of the wing's

history has once again returned to its flightline.

The legacy of the Tuskegee Airmen was born in Montgomery, Alabama, when the Tuskegee Institute's application to conduct civilian pilot training was approved by the Civil Aeronautics Administration in the fall of 1939.



From left, Walter Robinson, Charles McGee, William Fauntroy Jr. and Major Anderson  
(Photo by Oriana Pawlyk/Military.com)

combat missions in three different wars — World War II, Korea and Vietnam. 332nd Fighter Group's mechanics are credited with keeping the aircraft in the air and helping the pilots maintain their confidence.

The war ended before Fauntroy had a chance to be deployed. But the combat veterans who came back and instructed Fauntroy in aircraft like the AT-6 Texan trainer taught him well, he said, and if he had been deployed, he was sure that he would have been ready.

Robinson saluted mechanics like Anderson for keeping the planes in the air and keeping pilots confident. "If you didn't love your mechanic, you didn't understand what he was doing for you," Robinson said. Anderson said there were about 15 support personnel for each pilot — everything from mechanics to cooks to quartermasters to nurses and others.



About one year later President Franklin D. Roosevelt's administration announced the Army Air Corps would begin training black military pilots, and the place to do it was Tuskegee, Alabama.

Cont'd on next page

## TAI AROUND THE USA

**Red Tail Legacy** cont'd from page 10

So began the storied history of the Tuskegee Airmen. Flying their P-51 Mustangs, with tails painted bright red, the Airmen fought valiantly through World War II under the crest of the 332nd Fighter Group.

Now more than 75 years later, a red-tailed fighter jet from Montgomery again flies with the 332nd.

The lineage of the Tuskegee Airmen has been passed to Alabama Air National Guard's 187th Fighter Wing. An F-16 Fighting Falcon from the unit is currently flying with the 134th Expeditionary Fighter Squadron, which is one of the squadrons assigned to the 332nd AEW.

"It is well documented that our WWII bomber pilots would look out their windows and gain confidence from Red Tail fighters flying beside them. It has been stated they took comfort in knowing their chances for survival were higher with a Red Tail escort than from any other outfit in 12th and 15th Air Force," said Colonel David C. Lyons, the 407th Air Expeditionary Group commander. "Now we have one of those Red Tails on our flightline, once again flying with the 332nd and creating the next chapter of Red Tail history."

The mission of the unit is to support Operation Inherent Resolve in the fight against the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria by

providing air-to-ground combat airpower at the request of the combined joint task force commander.

The 134th EFS has been heavily involved in the fight, flying more than 500 missions, delivering more than 800 weapons, and making significant contributions to the fight in Mosul, Iraq, and Raqqa, Syria. "We are talking about liberating cities," Lyons said. "That is something we haven't talked about in this way since WWII."



The Airmen of the 134th EFS flying the missions to liberate cities in Iraq and Syria are deployed from the Vermont Air National Guard.

The red tail was provided to the Vermont ANG along with F-16s from the New Jersey and Wisconsin ANGs to ensure the squadron had enough capable aircraft to meet the short-notice deployment to support OIR.

At least one Airman from the Vermont ANG takes a special amount of pride in seeing the red tail on the flightline with his unit. During a formal dinner hosted by

the Vermont ANG, Chief Master Sgt. Brian Senecal, of the 407th Expeditionary Maintenance Squadron, had the opportunity to host Colonel (ret) Charles McGee. McGee is one of the Tuskegee Airmen and also holds an Air Force record for flying 409 combat missions in WWII, the Korean War and the Vietnam War. "Honestly it was the highlight of my whole military career to spend time with the guy – to meet someone who gave so much," Senecal said. "Most

Soldiers and Sailors were welcomed back from World War II with open arms and the Tuskegee Airmen had to come back to a still-segregated America."

Despite the discrimination the Tuskegee Airmen faced at the time, their trailblazing efforts have left a legacy of which all Airmen can be proud. "It is an honor to continue the tradition started by the original Tuskegee Airmen and to be carrying on their good name 75 years later," Senecal said.

Images provided with USAF news release)  
**FMI: [www.af.mil](http://www.af.mil)**

### Mural Celebrates Colonel Kenneth Wofford, Lonely Eagle

A piece of history has found a home at the Farnsworth Aerospace School Upper Campus. A mural celebrating Colonel Kenneth Wofford, a skilled Tuskegee Airman fighter pilot, class of 45-C-SE was installed and unveiled during a May 15 ceremony. The ceremony included remarks from those who knew Wofford and a performance by the Farnsworth Aerospace Concert Band

“He always lived the motto — every time I saw him, every time I met him — he was the model of the Tuskegee airmen. ‘Aim High,’” said Jill Wall, a former Farnsworth teacher and friend to Wofford.

Farnsworth Aerospace School, a pre-K through eighth grade St. Paul Public School focused on aerospace and engineering, had been visited by Wofford many times over the years. He would often have lunch with students, speak to them about his career in aerospace and emphasize the importance of education.

Wofford did not fly in World War II, as the war ended just before he was about to be shipped out to conduct missions near Japan. He later flew missions during the Korean and Vietnam wars. After 32 years of service in the U.S. Air Force, Wofford settled in the Twin Cities and worked at the Minnesota Department of Transportation as a manager in the Department of Aeronautics.

The mural, painted by Minneapolis artist Lili Payne, was originally commissioned by the Air Force Association of Minnesota, Rawlings Chapter, in 2014 to commemorate Wofford, who died in September 2010 at the age of 87. “Unfortunately, as often happens, somebody dies before we realize the contribution they have made and that they should be honored. That’s what happened with us with Colonel



**A mural celebrating the late Tuskegee Airman Colonel Kenneth Wofford has found a new home at the Farnsworth Aerospace Upper Campus building and was unveiled on May 15, 2017.**

Wofford,” said Julie Jensen, an Air Force Association member.

She said Wofford’s input was missed at regular meetings and the association realized how important his impact was on schools and education. It commissioned the mural and it hung in the officer’s club at the 934th Reserve Base at the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport. However, the officer’s club suddenly closed and AFA members asked the base commander if they could remove the mural. “We were very fond of the mural,” Jensen said. Reluctantly, the base commander allowed AFA members to begin a search for its new home. Many institutions, including the Tuskegee Airmen Museum in Alabama and the Minneapolis VA Hospital, expressed interest in having the mural.

Because of the overwhelming interest, the AFA established a set of criteria for finding the mural’s new home. “We made the decision that it had to go where it was educational, where Colonel Wofford would be honored, where it was inspirational to people who saw it, that the public could view at anytime of the day or week, that it would probably be seen daily, and with that, suddenly Farnsworth came to light,” Jensen said. (‘Wofford’ cont’d on next page)

## TAI AROUND THE USA

### The City of Tuskegee celebrated Memorial Day early with its annual Fly-In

Hundreds attended the 50th Annual Memorial Day Fly-In at Moton Field in Tuskegee where original Tuskegee Airman trained. "We thought it would be a great opportunity for our kids to learn about the aviation industry. It's something they may be interested in,"

said observer Irvin Tolliver. Although everyone out here wasn't an aviation enthusiast, for the younger crowd it was a chance to see what they have learned in the classroom from a different perspective. "It is an eye-opening experience. I am really glad that I am able to do this," said observer Nelly Teta.

*WSFA 12 News Staff*



(Source: WSFA 12 News)

### Legends of Aviation Awards Dinner

On 19 May 2017, The Legends of Aviation Awards Dinner was held at Moton Field in Tuskegee Alabama. TAI National President Leon Johnson was presented the C. Alfred "Chief" Anderson Lifetime Achievement in Aviation Award. Roosevelt Lewis Tuskegee Chapter President was presented the Mayor's Award of Excellence. The dinner was held as the kickoff for the 50<sup>th</sup> Memorial Day Fly-In at Moton Field with a total of eight awards being presented. Attending the event were the senior leaders of the Alabama Aviation Council, Macon County, the City of Tuskegee and the National Park Service in Tuskegee. DOTA's

Val Archer and Thomas Bristow of the Atlanta Chapter were in attendance along with members of the Tuskegee Chapter and TAI Administrative Director Maggie Thomas.



### Wofford cont'd from page 12

"We are very pleased and the AFA membership couldn't be prouder and more happy to have it here at Farnsworth where it will be displayed," Jensen added. AFA president Larry Sagstetter added that the 934th base commander, after hearing the mural found a home at Farnsworth, was pleased to hear it would be more accessible to the public. Respect for teachers and education

"Certainly we were lucky enough to have Colonel Wofford visit us many times at Farnsworth Aerospace," said Wall, the former Farnsworth teacher. She said he not only would come to speak with students and have lunch with them, but she could ask him to write personal letters to students.

"He spoke a little bit about being a Tuskegee Airmen, but every time he spoke to the students about the

importance of education," Wall said. "He said to be prepared, you're going to have opportunities come your way and be prepared to take those opportunities, and that was the message he wanted students to hear." He also had a great respect for teachers, Wall said. Wofford would often address her as "Educator Wall."

"Colonel Wofford was just such an inspiration to teachers because he had this great respect for educators," she said. In the past, two teachers at Farnsworth, Josh Kohn and Wall herself, had been honored by the Air Force Association as Air Force Association Teachers of the Year. "[Wofford has] always been to our school, and many others, a role model, mentor and a hero," Kohn said.

*Marjorie Otto can be reached at 651-748-7816 or at eastside@lillienews.com. Follow her on Twitter at @EastSideM\_Otto.*

## TAI AROUND THE USA

### UNO archaeologist to lead excavation of possible site of downed Tuskegee Airman's plane

University of New Orleans archaeologist D. Ryan Gray is hoping to solve an historical mystery this summer when he leads a team of students and others to southern Austria, to investigate a site where they believe one of the famed Tuskegee Airmen went down near the end of World War II.



The site, close to the Italian border and the Austrian town of Villach, is near the last reported sighting of Capt. Lawrence Dickson, Class 43-C-SE, a pilot with the 332nd Fighter Group of the 100th Fighter Squadron. Just after midday Dec. 23, 1944, Dickson was flying a reconnaissance mission in his P-51D when he radioed his wingman, 2nd Lt. Robert Martin, Class 44-A-SE that he was having problems and was going to have to bail out.



Martin told authorities that he saw Dickson's canopy jettison but never saw Dickson's parachute, though possibly because it blended with the snow covering the ground. Since then, Dickson has been classified as missing.

Officials with the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency, whose mission is to account for all missing U.S. service members, won't confirm that the crash site Gray will be investigating is suspected to be Dickson's. But a review of documents, as well as accounts from locals who said they witnessed the crash, has led some experts to believe the site is worth exploring.

Gray said he is excited about the challenge of excavating an aircraft from World War II, something he's never done before. And there is the added bonus of perhaps being able to bring a war hero home. "We are hoping to resolve this case this summer," he said of a five-week dig season. Unlike typical archaeological excavations, which are painstakingly meticulous and intentionally slow in order to be comprehensive, this one has a different objective: to confirm the type of plane that crashed there and then identify any human remains that may be found. If that is accomplished, then the POW/MIA agency will begin the process of preparing a proper recovery.



Gray and the 13 UNO students will have ample help in their efforts. They will be joined by two students from the University of Innsbruck, in Austria, as well as academic staff there who have a special interest in World War II and aircraft archaeology. They also will get help from Tom Czekanski, a senior curator at the National World War II Museum in New Orleans who is an expert on P-51s, the plane Dickson flew.



Czekanski said he plans to look for the P-51's notable characteristics: a Packard-built Merlin engine, a type of propeller known as a Hamilton Standard or the type of wheels and struts that formed the landing gear. "Those are all distinctive for the P-51," he said.

Czekanski is excited about maybe finding the plane, but he is even more hopeful the team can bring closure to the 70-year-old case. "I think the most rewarding part will be if we can find the remains of an individual who's been lost and be able to bring him home," he said.

**Recognition of Tuskegee Airmen birthplace**

RANTOUL, Ill. (WCIA) -- The Tuskegee Airmen are having a birthplace celebration by honoring one of their own. Colonel (ret) Charles McGee is one of the last living member of the group. A video commemorating his service was played and the ceremony recognized the Wounded Warrior Center and Post 559 American Legion with Tuskegee Airmen signs. Although Memorial Day celebrates the nation's heroes, this is a chance to remind the public to remember them every day of the year.



*Taken from an article By: Kaitlyn Connolly May 24, 2017 Nexstar Broadcasting, Inc.*

**Springfield's Tuskegee Airman honored with memorial at airport**



A memorial was dedicated at Abraham Lincoln Capital Airport, Springfield, Illinois Wednesday to honor the late Lyman L. Hubbard Sr., the only Springfield resident to graduate from pilot training at Tuskegee Army Air Base in class 45-H-TE during World War II and flew the B-25 bomber.

Hubbard was born in

Springfield May 17, 1926, and spent much of his youth on the family farm. He graduated in 1944 from Feitshans High School, where he was an "A" student and a star athlete in basketball, football and track. He volunteered for the Army.

Hubbard grew up in a single-parent family. His father did not acknowledge him or his brother. They grew up poor and hungry. It was a tough time. He found his balance in the Boy Scouts where he earned the rank of Eagle Scout. That was the cornerstone for the rest of his life in terms of improvising and overcoming. He knew how to survive according to his son, Lee Hubbard.

Hubbard. The U.S. military was segregated during World War II, which meant the Tuskegee Airmen flew in squadrons made up entirely of black pilots, mechanics, ground crew and other support personnel. President Harry Truman issued an executive order on July 26, 1948, to desegregate the military.

Despite the unequal treatment of black servicemen during World War II, Lyman Hubbard was a patriot, his son said. "He loved America when America didn't offer him full status. He knew the difference. You really have to love your country and believe in the Lord, and that's what he did. He grew up with that strength. I'm lucky to be his son."

Lyman Hubbard eventually became an instructor pilot in the B-25 bomber and was discharged after WWII. He was recalled during the Korean War and remained on active duty, including combat tours in Southeast Asia. He retired from the Air Force in 1970. He died at home on the family farm on Jan. 12, 2012. He was 85.

*from an article by John Reynolds: #JohnReynoldsSJR.*



**Lyman L. Hubbard Jr. (center), is joined by (from left) Springfield Mayor James O. Langfelder, son Lee Hubbard, Maj. Gen. Richard J. Hayes, Illinois Adjutant General, Sangamon County Administrator Brian McFadden, and Executive Director, Abraham Lincoln Council, Boy Scouts of America Mr. Dan O'Brien cut the ribbon on the Lyman L. Hubbard Sr. memorial at Abraham Lincoln Capital Airport.**

## Special memorial in Ohio honors Tuskegee Airman and B-17 bomber pilot's special bond

A special dedication was held at a local school in Cincinnati to unveil a memorial courtyard honoring two remarkable World War II combat pilots – 1st Lt. John H. Lehr (Lonely Eagle Mar-2015), who flew the iconic P-51C Mustang, and 1st Lt. Herbert M. Heilbrun, a B-17 bomber pilot. These two pilots would discover later in life how their paths had crossed in a most unique way.



They both attended a school once named North Avondale Elementary School, where they were both third graders in 1928. However, because of racial issues and divisions in America, they never got to be friends.

They didn't meet until Mr. Heilbrun, in his eighties, decided to attend a Tuskegee Airmen event in downtown Cincinnati to thank any Tuskegee Airmen he could meet. During the war, he credits the Tuskegee Airmen for "once saving his butt." He was directed to Mr. Lehr and he gladly got his opportunity to say "thank you." Over time, they discovered that they had lived in the same community about a mile apart. After looking at old school photos, there they both were -- in Miss Pitchell's 3rd grade



Heilbrun and Lehr sharing their story with children in years past

class picture!

Most importantly, by fate it would seem, it turned out that Mr. Lehr was the actual Red Tail pilot who had escorted Mr. Heilbrun back to his base where he could safely land his B-17 Bomber! When they compared their logbooks, they discovered that 1st Lt. Lehr had escorted 1st Lt. Heilbrun on two separate occasions. The most notable was the time when Mr. Heilbrun's B-17 had been hit. That's when Mr. Lehr escorted him safely back to his base.

They became close friends and enjoyed telling stories of their military experiences. For years they spoke to many audiences, sharing their unique friendship with people of all ages. They were even the subject of a book *Black and White Airmen: Their True History*.

For several years, it had been the vision of DOTA Leslie Edwards – Flight Chief with the 477<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Group – to create a permanent marker at the school in honor of these two veterans. As members of the Greater Cincinnati Chapter of Tuskegee Airmen, Inc., Ms. Diane Hamm and Ms. Jacqueline Covington assisted Mr. Edwards with fundraising and the dedication ceremony.



Jacqueline Covington, CAF Volunteer, original Tuskegee Airman Leslie Edwards and Diane Hamm.

At the event, a 6<sup>th</sup> grade student from the school led us in the Pledge of Allegiance, which was followed by a 21-gun salute and taps played in honor of Mr. Lehr. Mr. Heilbrun, at age 96 years, was present at the dedication ceremony and was the first to sit on the memorial bench especially made to honor him and his former classmate. Students from the school, staff and many people from the community participated in the event.

*from an article by TAI volunteer Jacqueline Covington*

## DOTAs get Honors at Pueblo School

It was a day to honor, and to offer a spiritual expression of healing, for those who continue to carry on a history-making military legacy. Friday at East High School, social studies students, faculty and staff, local dignitaries and fellow veterans paid tribute to the famed Tuskegee Airmen, represented by DOTA retired Air Force Colonel James Randall and retired Chief Master Sgt. Loran Smith of the Denver-based Hubert L. "Hooks" Jones Chapter of the Tuskegee Airmen.

Through the combined efforts of East, the Martin Luther King Jr. Cultural Center and the Native Thundering Voices Community, the ceremony included the reading of an Airmen-honoring proclamation and a video presentation that touched on the history of the nation's first all-black military pilot group and support personnel.



**Retired Chief Master Sgt. Loran Smith addresses the students and staff at East High School. [Chieftain Photo/John Jaques]**

For these gallant Air Force legends, World War II was not only a battle against the Axis Powers but currents of racism that, unfortunately, flowed freely during that era. But this day, at least in the eyes of Randall and Smith, was more about education and less about personal glory and accolades.

While the distinguished guests offered a summary of their long, achievement-filled military careers -- including hundreds of combat missions in both Korea and Vietnam (Randall) and dispersion, from bomber planes, of propaganda leaflets, money and other items during the Vietnam War (Smith) -- their larger concern was one of edification. "It's a pleasure being with the young kids," Randall said, "to get out and talk



**DOTA retired Air Force Col. James Randall and retired Chief Master Sgt. Loran Smith (back) get a military welcome by the East High School AFJROTC cadets and Color Guard as they arrive. [Chieftain Photo/John Jaques]**

to the people. I don't know how history is being taught in schools today, but as I understand it, it's not very heavily delved into. So things like this, the video we saw today, that's history to them . . . and it's important."

Added Smith, "As an ex-teacher, my thing with students is, 'Go to high school, and go to college. And the key to success is three things: education, education, education. I try to preach that to these kids: that in order to get ahead, you have to get an education. So I'm proud to be here and do that.'"

After a drum tribute and prayer, led by Tomas Monroe of the Native Thundering Voices Community, Randall and Smith were presented with a set of immaculately crafted sacred healing staffs, imbued with the "prayerful intentions" of both East students and veterans from the Oakshire Gardens assisted living facility. The staffs were adorned with a feather from a red-tail hawk, a nod to the famous Red Tails that marked the aircraft of the original Tuskegee Airmen. These staffs, along with sets of moccasins, will be distributed among the Hubert L. "Hooks" Jones Chapter members as a token of the community's respect and honor.

Taken from an article BY JON POMPIA The Pueblo, Colorado Chieftain, Apr 28, 2017

### A proper 'thank you'



Vernon "Bo" Sigo ('40s picture, above left) flew a Boeing B-17 bomber. DOTA George Hardy (right) flew a P-51 Mustang as a Tuskegee Airman. While the two retired Lieutenant Colonels had never formally met, their planes may have flown in the skies over Germany together during World War II sometime between 1941 and 1945. That's according to Rick Wobbe, who does community outreach for the Collier County Honor Flight (CCHF). "We think there's a 99 percent probability they flew wingtip to wingtip," Wobbe said.

When Sigo, 92, learned it was the Tuskegee Airmen who had protected him during his dozens of missions through enemy territory, he made it his goal to meet one and personally thank him. During the Honor Flight trip, Sigo said to Wobbe, "I'd like to sometime in my life thank a Tuskegee Airman for keeping us alive up there." Two years later — after much research, calls and emails — Wobbe found a former Tuskegee Airman living in Sarasota; Hardy, 91.

Hardy, a Documented Original Tuskegee Airman (DOTA), class 44-H-SE, was one of the first African-American servicemen to serve as a pilot in the U.S. Armed Forces. As part of the job, he flew heavy bomber escort missions to protect B-17's like the one Sigo flew. "In World War II, we were completely segregated," said Hardy, 91, who lives in Sarasota. "We rarely ever met a white pilot, because we were on separate bases. And segregation was the way it was."

The two met for the first time. It has been a lifelong goal of Sigo's to meet a Tuskegee Airman. "I've been wanting to do that for 72 years," said Sigo, 92, of Cape Coral, Florida. The CCHF hosted an event where the two vets shared their stories about wartime and flying and answer any questions. "We want these men to feel like heroes in our little town," Wobbe said.

Hardy grew up in Philadelphia in a racially divided America. The United States Army Air Corps was no exception. "But you got used to it," Hardy said about segregation in the military. "As a unit, you thought you were as good as anybody else and just flew the missions." He flew more than 100 combat missions during World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War.



**Lt Col George Hardy answers a question alongside Lt Col Vernon 'Bo' Sigo during a special reunion for the two veterans. [Nicole Raucheisen/Naples Daily News]**

Sigo, a self-described country boy from Indiana, said he always had a love of flying and was in his early twenties when he got inside a B-17 cockpit. He flew 48 missions, all in a B-17 plane, flying over almost every part of occupied Europe. Sigo said he might not have survived had it not been for the brave men flying the P-51 planes by his side. "I just want this to be an official 'thank you,'" he said.

*Taken from articles written by Patrick Riley and Ashley Collins, Naples Daily News, Naples, Florida, May 2017 and edited by TAI NPRO*

**2017 TUSKEGEE AIRMEN INC.  
NATIONAL CONVENTION INFORMATION & HOTEL REGISTRATION**

*TUSKEGEE AIRMEN  
HELPING YOUTH FULFILL THEIR PROMISES*



**Tuskegee Airmen Inc. 46th Annual Convention Celebrates Diamond anniversary of the Tuskegee Aviation Experience**

Orlando, Florida – 26 April 2017 – Tuskegee Airmen Inc. is set to host its 46th Annual Convention, August 3-5, 2017 at the Hyatt Regency Orlando Hotel. An exciting double treat is celebrating both the Diamond anniversary of the Tuskegee Aviation Experience along with the 70th anniversary of the United States Air Force. Distinguished Honorees – Documented Original Tuskegee Airmen Honored for a Lifetime Legacy of Valor will be in attendance.

Pilots, nurses, mechanics, ground crew, air traffic controllers, meteorologists, stenographers, armorers and other support personnel saw the activation of the first black combat aviation unit at Tuskegee Army Air Field and other locations. March 22, 2017 marked the 75th anniversary of the inauguration of the U.S. Army Air Corps 99th Pursuit Squadron on March 22, 1941. The official date of the founding of the US Air Force is September 18, 1947. Through the years history has shown the wisdom and foresight of the creation of a separate Air Force.

**TAI 46th Annual Convention – “Helping Youth Fulfill their Promise”**

This year’s 3-day convention will feature a “Welcome Day”, “Heritage Day”, “Diversity/Military Day”, and “Youth Day” intermingled throughout TAI organizational business meetings, training seminars, historical documentation, and more. Rounding out the convention and celebration will be the Tuskegee Airmen Grand Gala on Saturday, July 16, 2017 from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

**About Tuskegee Airmen Inc.**

Tuskegee Airmen, Inc. (TAI), headquartered in Tuskegee, Alabama with 56 chapters in major cities and military installations across the U.S., was established over 40 years ago to educate the public **and keep alive the legacy of those who were part of the Tuskegee Experience during World War II**. Membership in TAI is open civilians, veterans, active duty and retired military from all service branches. For more information on TAI and a brief history of the Tuskegee Airmen of World War II, download the TAI Media Kit at <http://tuskegeearmen.org/wp-content/uploads/2014-TAI-Media-Kit.pdf>

**2017 TUSKEGEE AIRMEN INC. NATIONAL CONVENTION REGISTRATION**



August 3-5, 2017 hyatt regency orlando

**CONVENTION 2017  
REGISTRATION FORM**

Page 1 of 3

TAI Member  Yes  No \* First TAI Convention:  Yes  No \* Military Member:  Yes  No

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_ First \_\_\_\_\_ Middle Initial \_\_\_\_\_ Last \_\_\_\_\_ Suffix \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Day \_\_\_\_\_ Evening \_\_\_\_\_

Chapter/State: \_\_\_\_\_ Region:  Eastern  Central  Western

DOTA\*  Heritage Member  If widow  Life Member (# \_\_\_\_\_)

National Officer  Region Officer  Region Representative

Chapter Officer  Member  If Student Member  Honorary Member

\*If DOTA, Tuskegee Experience Unit of Assignment \_\_\_\_\_/Service Dates: \_\_\_\_\_

Military Status:  Active  Guard  Reserve  Retired  Civilian

Grade/Rank: \_\_\_\_\_ Branch of Service: \_\_\_\_\_

Guest Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Special Requirements/Needs (Dietary, Physical Constraints, Escort, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact: \_\_\_\_\_ Relation: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Day Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Contact Evening Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

TAI reserves the right to deny or restrict event registration, attendance or volunteer opportunity; based upon but not limited to current or previous conduct, criminal record or background check information, as deemed in the best interest of the organization and to protect its social, institutional and legal liabilities and responsibilities.

**General/Military Registration Fee: \$375 until June 15, 2017  
(Late: \$460 now June 15-July 31, 2017 then On-site Only)**

**Registration Includes :** Credentials, Tote, Journal, One Ticket each-Welcome Reception, Heritage, Military/Diversity & Youth Luncheons and Gala (Reception-Age 18 and over)

**Admin Registration (Badge & Tote Only) \$175  
(June 15-July 31 \$225)**

*Mail-in registrations MUST be postmarked on or before July 15, 2017 to avoid no-action return.*

**Individual Event, Luncheon and Gala Tickets  
Available on Form or On-Line**

**LIMO & SCOOTER SERVICE**

DOTAs/Widows will be provided no-cost service. All others may contract discounted service at their own expense and coordination.

- For Limos/Shuttle, contact Mears Transportation at 855.MEARS-NOW
- For Scooters, order through TAI on-line or by mail registration NLT July 15!!!

# 2017 TUSKEGEE AIRMEN INC. NATIONAL CONVENTION REGISTRATION



## CONVENTION 2017 REGISTRATION FORM

Page 2 of 3

Registration Type	Registration Fee Late Fees apply after June 15, 2017*	Quantity	Amount
<b>Full Registration</b> Convention Bag/Journal/Badge plus one ticket to each event (Includes DOTA self-registration)	\$375.00  (\$460. after June 15, 2017)*		
<b>Youth Registration (Ages 12 /under)</b> Convention Bag/Journal/Badge plus one youth ticket to each luncheon event and gala	\$125.00  (\$150. after June 15, 2017)*		
<b>Convention/Admin</b> Convention Bag/Journal/Badge Business Sessions Only	\$175.00  (\$225. after June 15, 2017)*		
<b>DOTA Sponsorship</b> Full Convention registration purchase for one Documented Original Tuskegee Airman (DOTA)	\$375.00  (\$500. after June 15, 2017)*		
<b>Chapter Group/Admin</b> Convention Bag/Journal/Badge plus one Welcome Reception ticket for five (5) chapter representatives	\$625.00  (\$750. after June 15, 2017)*		
<b>ALA CARTE TICKETS (Additional)</b>			
<b>Welcome Reception (Age 18# and above ONLY)</b>	\$65.00  (\$80. after June 15, 2017)*		
<b>Military/Diversity Luncheon</b>	\$75.00  (\$90. after June 15, 2017)*		
<b>Heritage Luncheon</b>	\$75.00  (\$90. after June 15, 2017)*		
<b>Youth Luncheon</b>	\$75.00  (\$90. after June 15, 2017)*		
<b>Grand Gala</b>	\$150.00  (\$175. after June 15, 2017)*		
<b>NEW Mobility Scooter (Weekly Rate Only)</b> (Not required for DOTAs/Widows)	\$125.00  (\$150. after June 15, 2017)*		
<b>Registration Total</b>			

*Visit [www.taiconvention.com](http://www.taiconvention.com) for Information on Corporate Sponsorships, Vendor/Exhibit Booths, and Souvenir Journal Advertisements*

# 2017 TUSKEGEE AIRMEN INC. NATIONAL CONVENTION REGISTRATION



## CONVENTION 2017 REGISTRATION FORM Page 3 of 3

Table Purchase (10 Seats Each)	Price Per Table Late Fee after June 15, 2017*	Number of Tables	Amount
Military/Diversity Luncheon	\$750.00 (Late \$900.00)*		
Heritage Luncheon	\$750.00 (Late \$900.00)*		
Youth Luncheon	\$750.00 (Late \$900.00)*		
Grand Awards Gala	\$1500.00 (Late \$1750.00)*		
<b>Table Total</b>			
<b>Grand Total</b>			

**FORM OF PAYMENT:** [ ] Money order [ ] Check # \_\_\_\_\_ (payable to TAI Convention 2017)  
 Checks/Money orders accepted for pre-registration only (Not On-Site Registration)  
 [ ] VISA [ ] MASTERCARD [ ] AMEX [ ] DISCOVER

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Card Number                      Expiration Date                      Security (CWV) Code  
 Name on Card (Print) \_\_\_\_\_ Authorized Signature \_\_\_\_\_

I (Full name) \_\_\_\_\_ authorize TAI to process the above credit card for the amount shown as Grand Total Payment.

If unable to complete the on-line registration process, complete form and mail with credit card, check, or money order to:  
 TAI Convention 2017/REG  
 P.O. Box 301  
 Schertz TX 78154

Registration Questions: 210.421.2485 or E-mail: [info@taiconvention.com](mailto:info@taiconvention.com)

**Registration Cancellation/Refund Policy:**

- All refund requests **MUST** be in writing. Telephone cancellations will not be accepted.
- Cancellations postmarked on or before May 15, 2017 eligible for full refund, less \$50 administration fee.
- Cancellations postmarked May 16-Jul 31, 2017 will be eligible for 50% refund, less \$50 administration fee.
- Cancellations/refunds will **NOT** be made for requests postmarked after July 31, 2017. No exceptions.
- All refunds will be processed/issued four to six weeks after convention in the form of a TAI check.
- Chargeback to registrant debit/credit card is **NOT** available due to implemented PCI/DSS precautions.

# 2017 TUSKEGEE AIRMEN INC. NATIONAL CONVENTION REGISTRATION

**TAI**  
aeronautics  
aviation  
stem

**2017**  
46<sup>th</sup> annual  
convention

August 3-5, 2017 hyatt regency orlando

## TAI 46<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CONVENTION 2017 "Helping Youth Fulfill Their Promise" Hyatt Regency Hotel, Orlando, Florida **SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

### August 1

<u>Tues</u>	<u>"Preparation Day"</u>	<u>Room</u>
9:00 am/4:00 pm	TAI Registration Setup	Gulf
9:00 am/4:00 pm	TAI/Military On-Site Reg. Setup	Plaza Foyer
9:00 am/4:00 pm	Military Cmd Post/Protocol Setup	Winter Park 52
9:00 am/4:00 pm	Public Relations/Media Setup	Winter Park 51

### August 2

<u>Wed – Day 1</u>	<u>"Welcome Day"</u>	<u>Room</u>
8:00 am/4:30 pm*	Military Cmd Post/Protocol	Winter Park 52
8:00 am/1:00 pm	Exhibit Hall Setup	Plaza Ballroom G
8:00 am/5:00 pm*	TAI Reg./Exhibits/Volunteers	Gulf
8:00 am/5:00 pm*	TAI/Military On-Site Reg.	Plaza Foyer
9:00 am/5:00 pm*	Public Relations/Media	Winter Park 51
1:00 pm/2:00 pm	Awards Committee	Discovery 44
1:00 pm/2:00 pm	Membership Committee	Discovery 45
1:00 pm/2:00 pm	Heritage Committee	Discovery 46
1:00 pm/2:00 pm	Public Relations Committee	Discovery 47
1:30 pm/4:00 pm	TASF Board of Directors	Discovery 8
2:30 pm/3:30 pm	Noel Parrish Committee	Discovery 44
2:30 pm/3:30 pm	Resolutions Committee	Discovery 45
2:30 pm/3:30 pm	Harry Sheppard Research	Discovery 46
2:30 pm/3:30 pm	Finance Committee	Discovery 47
4:00 pm/5:00 pm	Development Committee	Discovery 44
4:00 pm/5:00 pm	Bylaws Committee	Discovery 45
4:00 pm/5:00 pm	Youth Committee	Discovery 46
4:00 pm/5:00 pm	Nominations Committee	Discovery 47

### August 3

<u>Thurs – Day 2</u>	<u>"Diversity/Military Day"</u>	<u>Room</u>
8:00 am/9:00 am	Lonely Eagle Ceremony	Plaza Ballroom H
9:00 am/9:15 am	Exhibit Hall Opening	Plaza Ballroom G
9:00 am/6:00 pm*	Vendor/Exhibit Booths	Plaza Ballroom G
9:15 am/11:30 am	TAI/General Session 1	Plaza Ballroom H
9:15 am/9:30 am	Agency Info Brief (NPS)	Plaza Ballroom H
9:30 am/11:30 am	Military Session/TBA	Plaza Ballroom F
12:00 pm/1:30 pm	Military/Diversity Luncheon	Florida A/B*
2:00 pm/3:00 pm	TAI – Tng 1A (Financials)	Plaza Ballroom C
2:00 pm/3:00 pm	TAI – Tng 1B (Public Relations)	Plaza Ballroom D
2:00 pm/3:00 pm	TAI – Tng 1C (By-Laws/Proc.)	Plaza Ballroom E
2:00 pm/3:00 pm	Military Session – TBA	Plaza Ballroom F
2:00 pm/3:30 pm	Veteran/Survivor Benefits	Plaza Ballroom H
2:30 pm/3:00 pm	Meditation/Stretching Session	TBA
3:30 pm/5:00 pm	Military Session – TBA	Plaza Ballroom F
3:15 pm/4:15 pm	TAI – Tng 2A (Membership)	Plaza Ballroom C
3:15 pm/4:15 pm	TAI – Tng 2B (Youth Prog)	Plaza Ballroom D

### August 3

<u>Thurs – Day 2</u>	<u>"Diversity/Military" (Cont.)</u>	<u>Room</u>
3:15 pm/4:15 pm	TAI – Tng 2C (Chapter Funding)	Plaza Ballroom E
3:30 pm/4:30 pm	"Getting to the Chapel"	TBA
4:00 pm/6:00 pm	Wealth Management Seminar	Plaza Ballroom H
2:30 pm/4:00 pm	Gathering of DOTAs	TBA
6:00 pm/8:00 pm	Welcome Reception	Plaza Ballroom G

### August 4

<u>Fri – Day 3</u>	<u>"Heritage Day"</u>	<u>Room</u>
7:30 am/8:45 am	President's DOTA Breakfast	Fiorenzo
8:00 pm/8:30 pm	Meditation/Stretching Session	TBA
9:00 am/11:00 am	TAI/General Session 2	Plaza Ballroom H
9:00 am/9:15 pm	Agency Info Brief (AFJROTC)	Plaza Ballroom H
9:00 am/11:00 am	Military Session/TBA	Plaza Ballroom F
11:30 am/1:00 pm	Heritage Luncheon	Florida A/B*
1:30 pm/2:30 pm	Military Session/TBA	Plaza Ballroom F
1:30 pm/3:00 pm	TAI/Regional (East)	Plaza Ballroom C
1:30 pm/3:00 pm	TAI/Regional (Cent)	Plaza Ballroom D
1:30 pm/3:00 pm	TAI/Regional (West)	Plaza Ballroom E
3:00 pm/4:00 pm	Military Session/TBA	Plaza Ballroom F
3:00 pm/4:00 pm	Spouses' Tea	Fiorenzo
4:00 pm/5:00 pm	Tuskegee "Love Stories"	Fiorenzo
7:00 pm/9:00 pm	Screening – "Hidden Figures"	Plaza Ballroom H

### August 5

<u>Sat – Day 4</u>	<u>"Youth Day"</u>	<u>Room</u>
7:00 am/9:00 am	TASF Management Meeting	Discovery 44
9:00 am/1:00 pm	Vendor/Exhibit Booths	Plaza Ballroom G
9:00 am/12:00 pm	TAI/General Session 3	Plaza Ballroom H
9:00 am/9:15 am	Guest Agency Info Brief (TAF)	Plaza Ballroom H
12:00 pm/12:15 pm	Exhibitor Thank You	Plaza Ballroom G
12:30 pm/2:00 pm	Youth Luncheon	Florida A/B*
2:15 pm/3:00 pm	TAI/General Session 4	Plaza Ballroom H
2:45 pm/3:00 pm	Convention Close-Out	Plaza Ballroom H
2:00 pm/4:00 pm	Youth Breakout Sessions	Discovery 46
2:00 pm/4:00 pm	Youth Breakout Sessions	Discovery 45
3:00 pm/4:00 pm	Healthy Life Briefing	TBA
5:15 pm/5:45 pm	DOTA Official Photo	TBA
6:00 pm/7:00 pm	Reception	Grand Foyer
7:00 pm/9:00 pm	Grand Gala	Florida A/B

# 2017 TUSKEGEE AIRMEN INC. NATIONAL CONVENTION HOTEL REGISTRATION

## Hotel Reservation Information

**REGISTRATION FOR THE TAI 46TH NATIONAL CONVENTION AT THE HYATT REGENCY ORLANDO HOTEL IS OPEN!!!**

**You can reserve your room by phone(1) or Online(2)**

### 1. Hotel Registration by phone is open 24/7 - 888-421-1442

- Hotel room registration for the "Tuskegee Airmen" Convention.
  - Hyatt Regency Orlando Hotel
  - Hotel room rates are good for three (3) days prior to the Convention and three (3) days after the Convention based on availability.
  - CONVENTION DATES: August 3 - 5, 2017
- GROUP CODE: TUSKEGEE AIRMEN

### 2. Hotel Registration Online - <https://aws.passkey.com/go/tuskegee2017>

- Hyatt Regency Orlando Hotel
- [COMPLETE ON-LINE REGISTRATION HERE](https://aws.passkey.com/go/tuskegee2017)

#### TAI CONVENTION ROOM RATE:

Single/Double: \$115/night (includes mandatory \$10 resort fee) plus tax  
State, local and district taxes exclusive.



#### SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Don't miss this stellar opportunity of sponsoring the Celebration of the Tuskegee Aviation Experience in Orlando, Florida and aid the efforts of Tuskegee Airmen helping our nation's youth fulfill their promise in pursuing education and careers in aviation, and science, technology, engineering and math (STEM)". An anticipated 1,000 attendees – surviving participants of the Tuskegee Experience, organizational members, military, federal, state and local government personnel, as well as history enthusiasts and the general public are all expected to attend to conduct organizational business, network and engage in career developing workshops and seminars, and celebrate the legacy of the Tuskegee Airmen.

Multiple sponsorship opportunities are available for the convention, individual events and other special opportunities. Please download the Business Opportunities Information Guide below to learn more about the options and benefits, then follow the steps at <https://www.taiconvention.com/sponsor/> to register.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Facebook: [www.Facebook.com/TAINational](http://www.Facebook.com/TAINational)  
(@TAINational)

Twitter: [www.Twitter.com/TAINational](http://www.Twitter.com/TAINational)  
(@TAINational)

Instagram: [www.Instagram.com/TAINational](http://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.

### 2017 National Youth Academy

Hosted by Tuskegee Airmen, Inc. National Office

24-28 July 2017

At Tomorrow's Aeronautical Museum

961 W. Alondra Blvd.

Compton, CA 9022

Apply at

<http://tuskegeearmen.org/2017-national-youth-academy/>

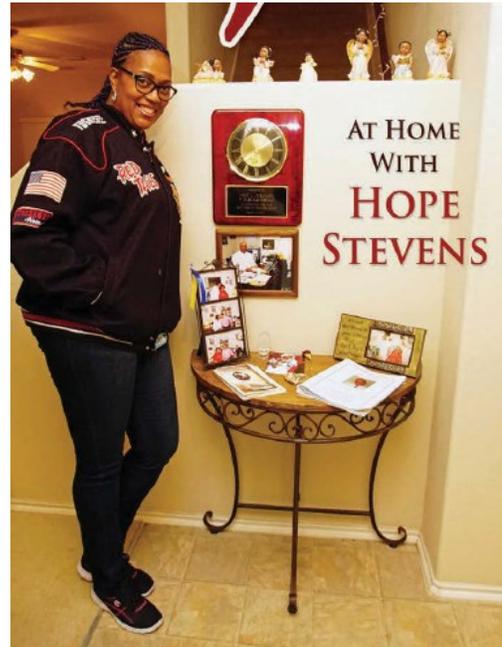
### "Wings for This Man"- 1945

Check out this WWII Documentary video of the Tuskegee Airmen on eBaum's World!

<http://www.ebaumsworld.com/videos/wings-for-this-man-1945-documentary-of-the-tuskegee-airmen/82263756/>

Cameos by Lonely Eagle Armour G. McDaniel

Claude R. Platte Chapter's Hope Stevens is featured in a premiere Texas magazine. Search "Southwest NOW Magazine" for the March 2017 issue on Facebook to see her home where she shows off her Tuskegee Airmen garb and artifacts.



### B.O. Davis Barracks Grand Opening

17 August 2017

West Point, NY

RSVP to TAI POC Mr. Reynard Burns,  
[reyburns@verizon.net](mailto:reyburns@verizon.net) \* Claude B. Govan Chapter

Article at [https://www.army.mil/article/187912/us\\_military\\_academy\\_new\\_cadet\\_barracks\\_stands\\_for\\_one\\_of\\_its\\_own](https://www.army.mil/article/187912/us_military_academy_new_cadet_barracks_stands_for_one_of_its_own)



## TUSKEGEE AIRMEN INC. AWARDS

The Tuskegee Airmen Inc. Awards are given as the organization's expression of appreciation, gratitude and pride for the action or performance of the awardees in furtherance of the principle objectives of TAI. Recognition deemed worthy is extended to members for achievement within the organization, and to persons in other social or humanitarian endeavors closely related to the aims of TAI. Awards include, but are not limited to:

**Brigadier General Noel F. Parrish Award** is presented annually by his widow, Mrs. Florence T. Parrish-St. John. The award honors and perpetuates the memory of General Parrish for his intrepid stand against racial barriers and exemplifies the "Tuskegee Spirit" of integrity, perseverance, moral courage and performance excellence. Each chapter may submit one nomination.

**Tuskegee Airmen Inc. Aviation Hall of Fame Award** is granted to an individual or organization who/which demonstrated extraordinary continuous service and/or support covering a period of at least five (5) years. This support or service must have been clearly outstanding, better than average, and directly related to or have a continuous impact on the Tuskegee Airmen Inc. goals and objectives.

**General Daniel James Jr. Distinguished Service/Achievement/Leadership Award** is presented to individuals or organizations that performed in an outstanding manner in significant positions within the Tuskegee Airmen Inc. organization structure. The awardee must have clearly presented exceptionally distinguished service and must have demonstrated meritorious accomplishment, leadership, unusual competence, and significant in scope and impact.

**The Captain Lemuel Rodney Custis Award** is presented to an individual who exemplifies the "Tuskegee Airmen Experience" by demonstrating perseverance, determination and motivation. The nominee must have exemplified good citizenship and community involvement; advanced a program for disadvantaged youths and/or young adults aspiring to be part of the work force; created an educational program for youth to inspire them to and guide them through an aviation career or education related to science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM); provided significant opportunities for youth college scholarships, inspiration to study and or pursue aerospace and/or military careers; and inspired youth to complete high school, pursue advance education or training in an economically employable skill.

**Regional Awards.** Each Regional President will nominate an individual for the Regional Award who has been a full participant in his/her Chapter's Regional or National programs, and should be responsible for significant achievements during the calendar year (from August, following the convention, to July 30 of the next year) that reflect positively not only on the individual, but also on his/her Chapter in membership, finances, youth education and TAI public relations.

For more information, additional nomination requirements and submission deadlines, contact the National TAI Awards Committee Chairperson, Mrs. Faye McDaniel at email: [fjmcdaniel@comcast.net](mailto:fjmcdaniel@comcast.net)

## TUSKEGEE AIRMEN INC. MILITARY AWARDS

These awards are presented to outstanding military members (Active, Reserve or Guard), from every branch of the service who have demonstrated exceptional competence, leadership, achievement and outstanding performance in both professional and community service; regardless of race, color, religion, national origin, gender.

**General Benjamin O. Davis, Jr. Military Award:** Named for our esteemed leader who has been an inspiration to all those who have followed and served under him; this award goes to a *field grade officer* (O4-O6).

**Captain Robert W. Williams Military Award:** Named for the pioneer aviator who spearheaded the Tuskegee Airmen movie project; this award goes to a *company grade officer* (O1-O3).

**Chief Master Sergeant Fred Archer Military Award:** Named for one of the first blacks to achieve the highest enlisted grade; this award goes to a *senior noncommissioned officer* (E7-E9).

**Senior Master Sergeant Margaret Frances Barbour Military Award:** Named for SMSgt Margaret Frances Barbour. This award goes to a *noncommissioned officer or airman* (E1-E6).

## 2017 TUSKEGEE AIRMEN INC. MILITARY AWARDS PROCEDURES

SUBJECT: Solicitation Message 2017 Tuskegee Airmen Incorporated National Military Awards

Suspense: All submissions must be received by 1700 CST 31 May 2017

1. The purpose of this solicitation message is to request nominations for the 2017 Tuskegee Airmen Incorporated National Military Awards.
  2. Award recipients will be recognized August 3 - 5, 2017 at the 46th Annual Tuskegee Airmen National Convention at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Orlando, Florida.
  3. Eligibility: active component, reserve or guard members serving in any Branch of the US armed services. Awards will be presented to outstanding military members regardless of race, color, religion, national origin or gender.
  4. Nominations will be accepted by wings or wing equivalents (brigade level for US Army and US Marine Corps, or wing/strike group for Navy). Pentagon three letter offices will be considered wing equivalents (AF/A3O, SAF/AQA, etc.).
  5. Nomination packages will include the following:
    - A. Endorsement memorandum. The endorsement letter must include the following statement: "A records check was conducted on (date) and revealed no information that would bring discredit to the award or the U.S. Air Force." This review may be accomplished by the Director of Staff (HAF 3-letters), A1 Director (MAJCOM) or the Wing Commander (Unit) or their designated representative. This may be a scanned or PDF document. Address signed nomination letter to: Tuskegee Airmen Inc. Military Awards Committee: taiawards@tuskegeeairmen.org
    - B. Justification page format: All submissions will be on plain bond paper, 8.5x11 inches; utilize bullet format, 12-font, Times New Roman text. Submit the write up with the following categories: Professional Achievement (15 bullets), Professional Development/Self Improvement (5 Bullets) and Community/Public Service (5 bullets).
    - C. The individual should be fully identified, along with job title, organization, mail address, commercial and DSN phone number, fax number, and email address. Please include contact information for both the recipient and the nominating supervisor.
    - E. Packages will be forwarded by email to Military Awards Committee at taiawards@tuskegeeairmen.org. The award period is 1 May 2016 - 30 April 2017. Please email each package VIA SEPARATE EMAIL with the following format: Subject: Tuskegee Airmen Military Award – "Category" (e.g. FGO, NCO, SNCO or CGO), nominee last name, first initial. The Word document should be saved using following naming schema--"Category" (i.e. SNCO, CGO), nominee last name, First Initial.
- SAMPLE E-MAIL SUBJECT: Tuskegee Airmen Military Award –SNCO, Johnson, T
- SAMPLE FILE NAME: SNCO\_Johnson\_T
6. We will only accept four nominees (one per category) per organization (respective wings or wing equivalents, Air Staff 3 letters; MAJCOM and NAF 2 letters; Brigade level for US Army and US Marine Corps, or wing/strike group for Navy). Services headquarters may elect to forward their top package for each category.
  7. The four categories for the subject award are the following:
    - A. General Benjamin O. Davis, Jr. Military Award: Named for our esteemed Leader who has been an inspiration to all those who has followed and served under him. Awarded to a field grade officer (O4 - O6) who has exhibited outstanding performance in both professional and community service.
    - B. Captain Robert W. Williams Military Award: Named for the pioneer Aviator who spearheaded a movie project about the Tuskegee Airmen. He spent 43 years pitching his story and was turned down by every movie and Television studio until home box office accepted the project in 1995. It became a worldwide success and earned 3 Emmy awards, a Peabody, a Cable Ace and 2 NAACP Image Awards. This award goes to a company grade officer (O1 - O3) who has exhibited outstanding performance in both professional and community service.
    - C. Chief Master Sergeant Fred Archer Military Award: Named for one of the first blacks to achieve the highest enlisted grade. He served with the Famed 99th pursuit squadron as a weapons specialist. In his distinguished 35 year career, he was nominated three times to serve as chief master sergeant of the Air Force. This award goes to a senior noncommissioned officer (E7 - E9) that exhibits outstanding performance in both professional and community service.
    - D. Senior Master Sergeant Margaret Frances Barbour Military Award: Named For SMSgt Margaret Frances Barbour. This award goes to a noncommissioned Officer or Airman (E1 - E6) that exhibits outstanding performance in both professional and community service.
  8. For additional information on the Tuskegee Airmen National Convention please go to <http://tuskegeeairmen.org> or contact the Military Awards Committee/ at taiawards@tuskegeeairmen.org.

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

"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

## **TAI MISSION**

### **TAI NATIONAL PUBLIC RELATIONS TEAM**

**Rick Sinkfield**

National Public Relations Officer (NPRO)  
rixsink@gmail.com

**Ron Lacey**

Western PRO; rlaceyconsult@yahoo.com

**Evelyn Kelley-Antoine**

Central PRO; kelleyantoine@gmail.com

**Jerry Burton**

Eastern PRO; hawknati@hotmail.com

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

**Photos by:**  
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