

# TUSKEGEE AIRMEN INC



*Giving History a Future*

## Tuskegee Airmen, Inc.

### Newsletter

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#### Western Region Representative

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Spring 2017

## MEET DR. RUTH MOORE JACKSON, TAI NATIONAL HISTORIAN & ARCHIVIST



Dr. Jackson is currently Emeritus University Librarian, University of California, Riverside, Co-Founder, Tuskegee Airmen Archive, University of California, Riverside, and Consultant. She holds a B.S. Business, Hampton University; MSLS, Atlanta University; Ph.D. Library and Information Science, Indiana University; Kinard Fellow, Southeastern Museums Conference Management Institute, Jekyll Island, GA. Her Areas of Expertise are Strategic planning and organizational strategies for change; management and organization of collections and information resources. Her affiliations have included Southeastern Library Association; Association of Research Libraries; American Association of University Women; American Library Association; Association of College and Research Libraries; Coalition of Networked Information.

Dr. Jackson was born in Potecasi, North Carolina and is the 4<sup>th</sup> of 6 children. She has held various positions during her career in library and information science, primarily in the higher education sector. One of her favorite sports in high school was girl's basket ball. Her first loves were science and archaeology. She is the proud mother of one son, Eric R. Jackson, a talented musician and who lives in Los Angeles, CA. Her hobbies include travelling to historical sites, collecting fossils and coins, and collecting comics that relate to science fiction.

We anticipate her primary responsibilities and emphasis as National Historian and Archivist to be as follows:

- Overseeing the compilation and maintenance of the historical records of events important to TAI National and its activities;
- Working with TAI National to establish procedures to systematically collect, process, maintain, preserve, and safeguard any banners, flags and /or other artifacts and materials which represent the historical record of TAI National;
- Serving as a resource to advise and identify for the Tuskegee Airmen and their families about avenues to deposit and preserve the history of the lives, contributions, and legacy of the individual airmen and women (depository programs such as reputable archives, museums, libraries, etc. for deposit and preservation of personal and military papers, memorabilia, printed materials by and about the Airmen, visual/multimedia materials of importance, etc.);
- Working with TAI chapters, their historians, and their public relations officers to develop viable means of maintaining, preserving, and making available the historical records of local chapters;
- Advising on the role of TAI National in ensuring the preservation and national communication of the history and legacy of the Tuskegee Airmen experience;
- Serving as a member of National's Harry A. Shepherd History Committee; and
- Answering questions and inquiries regarding the history of TAI National and/or the Tuskegee Airmen as a concept of major importance in American, aviation (aerospace), military, and civil rights history.

She can be reached at [951-544-8589](tel:951-544-8589) (mobile) or [jackson.ruthl@yahoo.com](mailto:jackson.ruthl@yahoo.com).

Save the Date!

REGISTER EARLY...

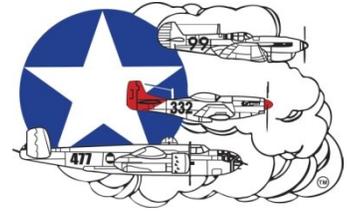


Hyatt Regency Orlando  
August 2-5, 2017



**TUSKEGEE AIRMEN, INC.**

**National Office**



February 1, 2017

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Happy New Year! I want to update you on our organization. 2016 marked the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the beginning of the Tuskegee Airmen Experience. In 2017 we should continue to celebrate 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary events like the first class of pilot trainees graduating on 7 March 1942.

Dr. Dan Haulman of the US Air Force Historical Research Agency is a member of the Tuskegee Chapter. He created and updates a “Chronology” of the activities of the Tuskegee Airmen and the units. This information can be found on our website under the ‘Explore TAI’ banner and the ‘A Brief History’ tab. You can also find details on all the recorded activities of the Tuskegee Airmen and the units by date.

In 2015 the TAI Board of Directors approved the creation of the Tuskegee Airmen Youth Aerospace and STEM Academy as a way of honoring the heritage and legacy of the DOTA’s in perpetuity and asked the Tuskegee Airmen Foundation (TAF) to raise the necessary funds. TAF is a separate IRS 501 (c) 3 whose purpose is to raise funds to support TAI and its chapters.

This Academy has the goal to simulate the efforts made beginning in 1941 that resulted in over 16,000 individuals being part of the Tuskegee Experience which proved that blacks could take on any and all aspects related to the field of aviation. The academy would be comprised of expanded Aviation Career Education Academies (ACE), a series of Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Academies, and a flight training program. To facilitate these year-round activities will be a speaker’s bureau, staffing and the necessary resources to support all the functions of the Academy. Fully funded this program has the potential to reach over 10,000 youth in the first five years. We need to do this to overcome the fact that too few youth, especially those in at risk communities aspire to pursue careers in aviation, aerospace, transportation, technology and the sciences.

2017 will feature many opportunities for chapters to continue the commemoration of 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary related events. This provides chapters a means to increase awareness about TAI and your chapter in your communities, recruit new members and fundraise for chapter programs.

Our National Convention will be in Orlando, Florida August 2 through 5, 2017. We encourage all TAI members to attend and participate in this upcoming convention as we will continue to celebrate our

DOTA's. We have commitments from key supporters to join us in Orlando; Lieutenant General Stayce Harris, US Air Force Assistant Vice Chief of Staff and Chevy Cleaves, US Air Force Director of Diversity. Information about the convention was recently added on our website and registration will open soon. Our goal is to have every chapter represented and to financially support the attendance of as many DOTA's and original widows as possible. I ask each chapter to take the initiative to sponsor just one DOTA or original widow to the 2017 Convention.

In 2017 the National Membership Committee will continue the membership drive initiated last year. They will be working with chapters on ways to gain new members, retain current members and return lapse members to TAI chapters. Membership is the life of our organization. We can use the synergy of the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary commemorations to reinvigorate our membership efforts. New members bring fresh ideas and energy to the organization and more hands to assist with our programs and activities.

As always Black History month will see a lot of requests for participation by chapters and DOTA's in events. There is a lot of information in our TAI Media Kit and in 'A Brief History' section on our website that answer many questions that frequently come up at these events. Lucasfilm created a 15 minute version of the documentary "Double Victory" which tells the Tuskegee Airmen story in their own words with historical footage. For events with a longer program there is also a 90 minute version of "Double Victory". The 15 minute version can be found on DVD disc of the movie "Red Tails" and the 90 minute version can be found on the "Red Tails" Blu-Ray disc, both can be shown using a DVD player.

**"..Black History month will see a lot of requests for participation by chapters and DOTA's ..."**

A revised version of the Procedures Manual was distributed last year and you should see another revision later this year. The Procedures Manual is a living document and will continue to be updated as new material is completed and approved by the Board.

I get asked a lot about where TAI is headed financially. Let me give you a little background. TAI has a trademark on our logo and the name of our organization. We have trademark agreements with a number of organizations to use our logo on merchandise and pay a royalty to TAI. If Amazon shoppers go to Smile.Amazon.com and register to support Tuskegee Airmen Inc., Amazon will donate a portion of all purchases by that person to our organization. Sale of TAI merchandise to members also brings in revenue. The Merchandise Committee will be distributing a pamphlet of the items available to the chapters in the near future. There will be a TAI Merchandise Committee booth at the convention with items for sale.

We have the TAI-USAA credit card program that provides revenues to us based on purchases made using the card. Our convention, a business meeting for the Body, also provides a source of revenue. We have some of our money invested, the markets have been both up and down lately. Our investment advisors have been aggressive in adjusting our portfolio to compensate for the market trends. National

membership dues are an important source of funding. Donations to our organization from individuals and groups are also vital sources of support. In December of last year we had our first end of year donation request program, it will be repeated this year. Many individuals are unaware or don't take advantage of corporate gift matching programs that their employer has that matches donations to qualified nonprofit organizations like TAI. In summary here are the ways that TAI is funded:

- ◆ Trademark agreements
- ◆ Sale of TAI merchandise to members and the public
- ◆ Shoppers using Smile.Amazon.com
- ◆ TAI-USAA credit card program
- ◆ TAI National Convention
- ◆ Investment of funds
- ◆ Membership dues
- ◆ Donations from individuals, organizations and corporations

A "Wings of Pride" Donor Recognition Program was created in 2015 to acknowledge donors who support TAI. If you hover on the 'Support Us' tab on our website you will find two tabs. One gives details of the "Wings of Pride" program including the various recognition levels for the program. The other tab goes to the virtual 'Wall of Honor' that has the names and level attained by corporations, organizations and individuals who support TAI. Each donation level in the program has a lapel pin that is mailed out with a letter from me thanking the corporation, organization or individual.

***"Every member of TAI needs to be aware of the direction the organization is heading."***

Every member of TAI needs to be aware of the direction the organization is heading. The Board reviewed and revised the Strategic Plan and I want to give you a brief review of what it contains. The Strategic Plan identifies four strategic focus areas to serve as our core goals: (1) engaging members; (2) fund/friend raising; (3) branding & marketing TAI; and (4) development of a strong National, Regional and Chapter Infrastructure.

If you have not reviewed the TAI Strategic Plan, I encourage each of you to do so, as it should help to answer questions about the direction our organization has selected. An electronic version was sent to each chapter via the Region Presidents and will be posted on our website.

We still are in need of volunteers for consideration for the open position of Fundraising Committee Chair. If you have skills in this area, TAI needs you!

Since the 2016 Convention there has been a procedural disagreement between members of the Board of Directors. The center of the disagreement revolves around the methodology utilized to vote on the 2015 Convention Resolutions.

Working together we have developed a plan to move forward that addresses and resolves most of the concerns on both sides. The Resolutions and Bylaws Committees will insert into the appropriate places in the 2014 Bylaws the changes effected by the six Resolutions that were previously voted on by the Members. That revised language will be brought before the Body for those attending the 2017 Convention. After discussion and comment those attending the convention will vote on the new Bylaws language. This will allow you the members to see the differences between the old compared to the new Bylaws verbiage.

As the National President one of my roles is to look after the best interest of the majority. I have tried to do that by the way I have approached this matter. I want to thank the Region Presidents for their help in achieving a solution to this situation.

Sincerely,

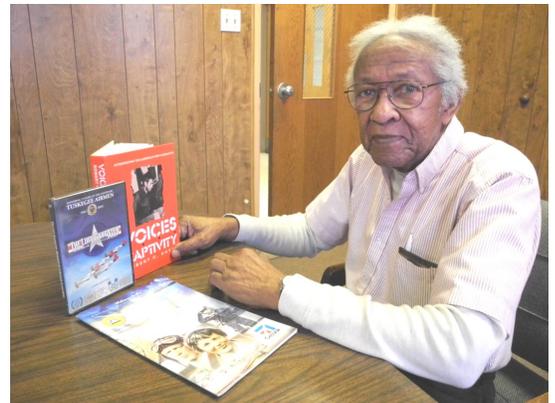
*Leon A. Johnson*

Leon A. Johnson  
National President  
Tuskegee Airmen, Inc.

## TAI NEWS FROM ACROSS THE USA

### PRESERVING THE LEGACY

Ambrose Bolling of Weirton, WV believes in “keeping history alive.” It began when he started attending the Tuskegee Airmen Conventions, back when there were many DOTAs alive and anxious to see each other every year. Bolling, a member of the Ohio Memorial Chapter in Columbus, OH and the Montford Point Marines group in North Carolina. He was reading about the Tuskegee Airmen nine years ago and took an interest in attending a reunion (Convention). The first one he attended had about 200 DOTAs in attendance -- in 2016 there were 23! “That is how fast they are leaving this earth,” he said of the Airmen. He went on to explain that along with the fighter pilots are the bomber crews. “But the pilots got all the glory,” Bolling said with a smile.



Mr. Bolling has numerous black history books. Here he is holding the book “Voices of Captivity” written by Robert C. Doyle, a history professor at the Franciscan University of Steubenville.

## TAI NEWS FROM ACROSS THE USA

### GEN. BENJAMIN O. DAVIS, JR. BARRACKS RIBBON-CUTTING CEREMONY



-----Original Message-----

From: Lanier, Robert K CIV USARMY MEDCOM KACH (US)  
Sent: Monday, September 26, 2016 8:44 AM  
To: TAI President  
Subject: Gen. Benjamin O. Davis, Jr. Barracks at the United States Military Academy  
Importance: High



Gen. Johnson,

I am the Public Affairs Officer at Keller Army Community Hospital at West Point, NY. I am also a GREAT friend of Mr. Byron Morris.

I was referred to you by him and am reaching out to you, as the National President, Tuskegee Airman, Inc., to provide you with information concerning the building/completion of the Gen. Benjamin O. Davis, Jr. barracks at the United States Military Academy, West Point, NY. I am sure you are aware of this, but if not, here is a link to the article

<https://www.army.mil/article/144562>.

In talking with Byron, he mentioned the possible involvement of the Tuskegee Airmen in the ribbon-cutting/dedication ceremony of the barracks. I wanted to pass on some timeline and point of contact information: USMA POC would be Dr. Don Outing, Chief, USMA Office of Diversity.

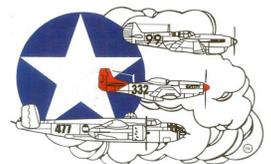
The completion of the barracks is scheduled for December 2016, and the ribbon-cutting ceremony is scheduled for Spring 2017.

I just wanted to make the connect so you have a POC in the event the Tuskegee Airmen would like to participate. If I can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully,

Robert K. Lanier  
Chief, U.S. Coast Guard, Retired

Mr. Lanier and Dr. Outing,  
It would be an honor to have Tuskegee Airmen Incorporated involved next spring in the ribbon cutting. Please keep me informed and we can work details once you have more information.



Leon Johnson  
TAI President



## HISTORIC FIGHTER FLIES AGAIN: TUSKEGEE AIRMEN TRIBUTE PLANE REPAIRED IN BEMIDJI

By **JOE BOWEN** ON DEC 16, 2016

BEMIDJI—A plane commemorating the United States' first black airmen was repaired in Bemidji and took its first test flight since it was renovated earlier this month.



The Commemorative Air Force "Red Tail" Squadron's P-51C Mustang "Tuskegee Airmen" fighter landed with its wheels up last February in Dallas, Texas, ruining its propeller, tearing off its gear case, and damaging a wing and a scoop underneath its radiator. Air Corps Aviation employees spent 3,000 hours over eight months meticulously repairing the plane, which is expected to rejoin the airshow circuit this spring and had its first successful test flight Dec. 1 at Bemidji Regional Airport. The military produced thousands and thousands of similar planes during World War II, explained Air Corps Historian Chuck Cravens, but made comparatively few P-51Cs. Only six of that model are in "flying condition," he said.

"That makes it a pretty rare airplane," he said of the fighter, which sat at a trade school in Billings, Montana after the Air Force deemed it "surplus" in 1945 and didn't fly again until it underwent a complete restoration in 2001. The plane never left the United States, Cravens added, and was presumptively used for training. Doug Rozendaal, a squadron founder who test piloted the plane

after it was fixed, said in a statement that there were no issues and "the aircraft flew great." The squadron is a nonprofit organization that aims to teach audiences at airshows, schools, and museums about the history and legacy of the Tuskegee Airmen, the unofficial nickname for the country's first black military pilots and the navigators, bombardiers, mechanics, nurses, cooks, and other support personnel who were trained in Tuskegee, Alabama.

The unit—officially the 332nd Fighter Group and the 477th Bombardment Group—was formed in 1941, when many military leaders believed African Americans were unqualified for combat duty and leadership roles but bowed to pressure from civil rights organizations and the "black press." The airmen saw their first combat in 1943 and went on to become a highly respected fighter group and an enduring symbol of triumph over racial adversity. Cravens said the plane—which is adorned with a

plethora of symbolic tributes to the airmen—is an integral part of the squadron's program, which emphasizes overcoming obstacles. The squadron is based in Red Wing, Minnesota.

<http://www.bemidjipioneer.com/news/local/4181878-historic-fighter-flies-again-tuskegee-airmen-tribute-plane-repaired-bemidji>



## DR. LUNA MISHOE, HONORED AS AN ORIGINAL TUSKEGEE AIRMEN

DELAWARE STATE UNIVERSITY \* CARLOS HOLMES; CHOLMES@DESU.EDU;  
POSTED: DECEMBER 14, 2016

A previous unknown chapter of the life of former President Luna I. Mishoe has come to light, as recent research has determined that the seventh president of Delaware State University previously served during World War II as one of the original Tuskegee Airmen.

After his first professional academic chapter as a professor of mathematics and physics at Kittrell College in North Carolina, the future president of then-Delaware State College was a Tuskegee Airman from 1942-1945 during World War II. It was during that conflict that he served as a photographic intelligence and communications officer for the all-black Army Air Force 99<sup>th</sup> Squadron, the legendary Tuskegee Airmen squadron that served with distinction in the WWII European Theater of Operations.

The Tuskegee Airmen part of Dr. Mishoe's life story was uncovered over the last year by Andre Swygert, the son of DSC alumni Arnold (deceased) and Peggy Swygert (classes of '78 and '62, respectively). An avid student of aviation and Tuskegee Airmen history, during the course of his ongoing research Andre Swygert discovered the name



Dr. Luna I. Mishoe

"Mishoe" in connection with the 99<sup>th</sup> Squadron and later substantiated that Dr. Luna I. Mishoe was indeed a part of that legendary aviation group. Apparently Dr. Mishoe was so reticent about that aspect of his World War II service, Mr. Swygert's discovery was also news to his surviving family. "We didn't know he was one of the original Tuskegee Airmen," said his daughter Dr. Wilma Mishoe. "He never told us about that." Mr. Swygert notes that was not unusual. "Some Tuskegee Airmen treated that as just another part of their life story and didn't talk much about it," Mr. Swygert said.

On Dec. 10, 2016, the John H. Porter First State Chapter of the Tuskegee Airmen held a luncheon celebration in honor of Dr. Mishoe and his newly discovered connection. In addition to receiving numerous posthumous recognitions from the City of Dover, the state governor the Delaware Senate, among others, the Mishoe family also received on behalf of their late patriarch a Congressional Gold Medal that other Tuskegee Airmen had been given in 2007. In addition to Dr. Wilma Mishoe (who is currently a DSU Board of Trustees member), also in attendance at the luncheon were the rest of

his children -- Bernellyn Mishoe Carey, Luna I. Mishoe II, Rev. Rita Paige, as well Henry C. Mishoe, a cousin who was raised by Dr. Mishoe and his wife Hattie at the President's Residence.

"This is important biographical information about Dr. Mishoe, because it reveals a developmental chapter of his life that contributed to making him the leader that then-Delaware State College would need him to be during his 27-year tenure," said current DSU President Harry L. Williams.



1st Lt. Luna I. Mishoe, who also served in the Tuskegee Airmen's 99<sup>th</sup> Army Air Force Squadron.

After his Tuskegee Airmen service ended, he was introduced to Delaware State College for the first time when he was hired to teach mathematics and physics from 1946-1948. He moved on to join the faculty at then-Morgan State College in Baltimore from 1948-1960. During that period, he earned a Ph.D. in mathematics from New York University in 1953 (only the 17<sup>th</sup> African American to do so in math) and did postdoctoral research at Oxford University in England during the 1955-1956 academic year.

Following his postdoctorate work, Dr. Mishoe returned to Morgan State where he was promoted to full professor and appointed chair of the college's Division of Natural Sciences. In addition, from 1952-1957, Dr. Mishoe worked during the summers as a research mathematician at the Aberdeen Proving Ground's Ballistic Research Laboratory; he would then serve from 1957 to 1960 as a consultant in math and ballistics for the same laboratory. It was in this work that he made a name for himself by creating mathematical methods for solving some of the problems faced initially by the United States in developing its first satellites. He also developed equations for missiles.

Dr. Mishoe left Morgan State in 1960 to become the president of Delaware State College, where he would build greatly on the pivotal leadership of his predecessor Dr. Jerome Holland, who is credited with saving the College from closure in the 1950s. Dr. Mishoe served as the DSC president for the next 27 years.

During his long DSC tenure, the institution would experience the greatest growth ever achieved under any presidential (continued on next page)

tenure in its history. Dr. Mishoe led a transformation that included greatly improving the relationship between DSC and state government; the construction 10 new buildings on campus and the upgrading of existing ones; and the significant expansion of the academic offerings including an increase in undergraduate degree programs from 18 to 70, as well as the establishment of the first three master degree programs. All of those developments contributed to and supported the prolific expansion of the enrollment from 368 to 2,327 students prior to his retirement.

With the recent revelations concerning Dr. Mishoe's service as an original Tuskegee Airman, Delaware State University historians now know of an additional force that contributed greatly to his leadership molding and worked with other life factors to produce one of the institution's greatest presidents.



**Wilma Mishoe and Rev. Rita Paige stand with a military photo of their father, former DSC President Luna I. Mishoe, and hold a Congressional Gold Medal replica that was recently presented posthumously after it was discovered that he had been one of the original Tuskegee Airmen during World War II.**

## GCCHAPTER REDTAILS DINNER-DANCE

The Greater Cincinnati Chapter recently held its Seventh Annual Redtails Dinner-Dance Fundraiser gala at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Blue Ash, with some 200 patrons attending. This year's theme was "Valor in the Face of Adversity" and honored the 75th Anniversary of the Tuskegee Airmen. Master of Ceremonies for this year's event was Mr. Darryl Shirley, Lt. Col. (Ret.), member of the Greater Cincinnati Chapter Tuskegee Airmen, Inc. The keynote speaker was Dr. Bluezette Marshall, Vice President of Equity of Inclusion at the University of Cincinnati. James Shaw, GCCTAI local president, was the evening's honoree. Recognition was also given to Leslie Edwards Sr. and Godfrey Miller, a DOTA who resides in Cincinnati.

This year's Charles O. Southern Educational Scholarship recipients are Mykal DeMarus, graduate of Taft IT High School, who plans to major in psychology and eventually obtain a doctorate in research psychology; Alan Dotson, a graduate of Purcell Marian High School, who plans to attend Tuskegee University to major in mechanical engineering and minor in East Asian studies; and Daniel Jett, a graduate of Mt. Healthy High School, who plans to study aerospace engineering at the University of Cincinnati



and eventually work for NASA after receiving his doctorate. Our recipient of the Tuskegee Airmen National Scholarships, also known as The Lonely Eagle Scholarship, is Aleeyah Nurredin who is a graduate of Mount Notre Dame and plans to attend Purdue University to major in chemical engineering. She also plans to continue her education and obtain a doctorate in pharmacy and utilize her earned degrees to develop cures for such medical conditions like lupus.

(The Cincinnati Times Herald.)

**DOTA Leslie Edwards attended.**



**Scholarship recipients are, from left, are grandmother of recipient Mykal DeRamus, speaker Dr. Bluezette Marshall, Daniel Jett and his mother, Alan Dotson, with his mother, and Aleeyah Nurredin with her mother.**

**Photo Provided GCChapter.**

**TUSKEGEE AIRMEN RESEARCHER DIES**

Regis Bobonis Sr., who became the first black Pittsburgh TV news reporter and spent the last 20 years documenting the region's Tuskegee Airmen, might never have wanted credit for breaking barriers. But barriers he broke. Mr. Bobonis, of Sewickley, PA died Nov. 25, 2016. He was 91.

Mr. Bobonis was the first black reporter at the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, where he covered ground-breaking stories such as the independence celebration of Nigeria and the first Ecumenical Council in Rome.

Former KDKA-TV reporter Harold Hayes, a friend of Mr. Bobonis', said he knew of Mr. Bobonis before ever meeting him. "I really didn't meet him until I was a reporter ... but his legacy was something I'd been aware of for quite a while," said Hayes, who retired in April after 40 years in journalism.

"It was one of those things where my mother would tell me, 'You pay attention to him because he is breaking ground. He's one of the first doing this in this field.'"



Recognizing his declining health in recent years, Mr. Bobonis asked Hayes to take over his own duties of making presentations about the Tuskegee Airmen.

Asking Hayes to present on the Tuskegee Airmen "came out of the blue," Hayes said.

"He did the research and then he had me make the presentation," Hayes said. "I tell you, he was physically starting to slow down, but his mind was still sharp. He had that history down. It was written to the letter."

Mr. Bobonis' journey to discovering that eight of the nearly 90 Tuskegee Airmen — the all-black Army Air Corps unit who served in the armed forces from 1941 to 1949 — from Southwestern Pennsylvania hailed from the Sewickley Valley began when he and other members of the Daniel B. Matthews Historical Society began studying black history in the Sewickley area.

"He fell into that by accident," friend Rich Dieter said. "He was researching other African-American veterans from Sewickley and in his research of other more historical veterans is when he stumbled on the number of veterans from Western Pennsylvania who were Tuskegee Airmen."

As founder and chairman of the Tuskegee Airmen Memorial

of the Greater Pittsburgh Region Inc., Mr. Bobonis spearheaded a \$300,000 project to install a memorial at Sewickley Cemetery to honor and recognize the region's Tuskegee Airmen impact.

The Tuskegee Airmen Memorial project took years of planning, researching, designing and fundraising before it was completed in September 2013. The memorial plaza features four mourning benches, a monument with a red granite "Red Tail" flanked by two towers with names of those from the region who were affiliated with the Tuskegee Airmen and a monument with a bronze relief of Western Pennsylvania airmen. Mitchell Higginbotham, who died in February, was the first Tuskegee Airman to be buried at the memorial.

"I am so grateful and so fulfilled. The whole thing is bigger than I ever thought it would be," Mr. Bobonis said during a dedication ceremony for the memorial. "If I have done anything worthwhile in my life, it was to be a part of this."

When the group dedicated the monument and an exhibit at the Pittsburgh International Airport, Dieter, who served as the memorial's project coordinator, said Mr. Bobonis was "in his glory."

"It was amazing to work behind the scenes with him," Mr. Bobonis' grandson Maurice Myers said of working with him on the Tuskegee project, adding that he and his twin, Michael, both 22, would make fliers and write letters to get the word out about the history of the Tuskegee Airmen as their grandfather worked on securing funding for the project.

"He was so happy. He was so full of joy," Maurice Myers said of Mr. Bobonis living to see the memorial completed. "He couldn't have been more proud."

After being honorably discharged from the Navy, Mr. Bobonis married his Schenley High School sweetheart, the late Hurlay Williams. They were married for 53 years before she died. It was after her death Mr. Bobonis focused his efforts on the Tuskegee Airmen.

Terry Bradford, who serves as president of the Daniel B. Matthews Society, said Mr. Bobonis was a great friend and mentor. "You could tell that it was just so important to him, that he took so much pride in talking about these men and their stories," she said.

"He was definitely one of the best influences in our lives, not just as an historian, but as a man. He kept our heads on straight," Maurice Myers said of himself, his two siblings and two cousins.

"He's definitely going to be missed, but his legacy will still live on."



Larissa Dudkiewicz is a Tribune-Review contributing writer. Kristina Serafini and Bobby Cherry are staff writers for the Tribune-Review. Former Sewickley Herald editor Dona S. Dreeland contributed.

**AIRFIELD MAY BE NAMED FOR TUSKEGEE AIRMAN**

POSTED DEC 29, 2016  
 BY KEVINISHA WALKER, STAFF  
 WRITER, HOUMA TODAY \*  
 TERREBONNE PARISH, LA



**2Lt Augustus G. Brown of Houma (right) stands with fellow pilot James Hurd**

The Houma-Terrebonne Airport's airfield could soon be named for the late Augustus Brown Sr., Houma's own Tuskegee Airman. Brown, who died in 1999 at age 78, was selected to train and fly with the Tuskegee Airmen, a group of black military pilots [and support personnel] who broke racial barriers while fighting in World War II. They were renowned for their success at protecting bombers. The effort has been a year in the making as Terrebonne Parish Councilman John Navy brought the idea up for discussion. "I just wanted to do something for a real hero. A lot of people know the history of the Tuskegee Airmen, and he was the actual real deal," Navy said. Initially, Navy wanted to rename the airport for Brown, said Houma-Terrebonne Airport Commission Executive Director Joe Wheeler. "I explained to him that it's a long and expensive project," Wheeler said. So instead, the airfield is proposed to be named in Brown's honor. Years ago the city wanted to recognize his achievements by naming a planned airport road Augustus Brown Road, but the road was never built. The proposal to name the airfield in his honor still needs to go for a vote before the council, but Wheeler said it's looking good so far. Should the council go forward with the idea, the Airport Commission will start working on a new airfield sign that will be on a podium north of the commission office.

There will also be a memorial with a fighter jet and seating surrounded by flagpoles, and a plaque with Brown's name and brief history engraved. Other than a section at the Regional Military Museum, the parish hasn't recognized the

Tuskegee Airman for his time served in World War II or his place in history as the first black principal at Ellender Memorial High School in Houma. There are also plans to build a bronze statue of Brown and place it in front of Ellender.

"I got with (School Board member) Roosevelt Thomas and in the next budget, we'll try to collaborate with the school and get a bronze statue of Augustus Brown. We want the kids to see who this man is and get the history behind him," Navy said. Brown perhaps is the only Houma resident ever awarded the highest civilian honor bestowed by the government, eight years after his death. On March 29, 2007, President George Bush presented the ... Tuskegee Airmen ... with the Congressional Gold Medal.

Even though Brown was part of one of the most iconic groups in American military history, his son Augustus Brown Jr., said his father rarely talked about his accomplishments. "It just wasn't him. He didn't want to brag. But I know he would be as humbled as we are regarding this recognition," Brown said. "We never were looking for anything, but we are very pleased and happy that others have the desire to recognize and honor my father."

**2016  
 LONELY EAGLES**



- Samuel Wesley Henderson**
- Charles Feaster**
- Mitchell Higginbotham**
- Eddie E. Marcy**
- Alfonso L. Harris**
- Roscoe C. Brown Jr.**
- Norris Connally**
- Clarence Finley Jr.**
- Julius T. Freeman**
- Frank C. Goldie**
- Dabney Montgomery**
- Leo R. Gray**
- Wilbur G. Mason**
- George L. Shade**
- Shade M. Lee**
- Audley Coulthurst**
- James B. Williams**
- Ivan J. McRae Jr.**
- Thurman E. Spriggs**
- Robert Lee Harvey, Sr.**
- William H. Thompson Sr.**

**LEO R. GRAY JOINS LONELY EAGLES**

Leo Roger Gray, 92, passed away peacefully at home Friday, September 23, 2016 in his Coconut Creek home. He was born May 30, 1924 in Boston, MA. He was 92.

Retired Lt. Col. Leo Gray who fought in the skies over Europe during World War II, died Friday September 23, 2016

Gray, a Boston native, enlisted after high school when the U.S. military was segregated and began training in 1942 at Tuskegee Army Airfield. He was part of Class 44-G-SE and became an active-duty pilot.

He was then stationed in Italy, where he flew 15 combat missions as a pilot with the 100th Fighter Squadron, 332nd Fighter Group, which protected Allied bombers. He flew the P-51 Mustang, also referred to as a "Red Tail," logging 750 flight hours. "He said he never got a chance to shoot down any Germans, but he was ready to," said Gray's friend, Maj. Nate Osgood of the Broward Sheriff's Office. "[The Tuskegee Airmen] were true pioneers of the civil



Cadet Gray

rights movement."

In 2013, the Broward Sheriff's Office recognized Gray, along with Col. Eldridge Williams and Judge Richard Rutledge, for serving their country while battling racism and bigotry.

After the war, Gray earned his bachelor's and master's degrees in agricultural economics and became an executive with the U.S. Department of Agriculture until his retirement in 1984. Gray played a leading role in the Tuskegee Airmen Inc.

organization, which provides scholarships to minorities studying aviation and aerospace. He served as president of the Miami and East Coast Chapters.

"I'm very proud of him and what he's accomplished," said his son, Roger Gray, who served in the Navy and in the Air Force reserves. Gray's youngest daughter, Kathryn Bryant, has fond memories of many summer road trips the family would take when Gray had to travel for work.

"He was an awesome dad. He was our hero, and not everyone can say that about their dad," she said. "He was very supportive. He was proud of his children."



**BILL TO RENAME POST OFFICE AFTER DOTA**

December 2, 2016 8:00 AM

THE BRONX - The US House of Representatives approved A bill to rename the Morris Heights post office after former Tuskegee Airman and Bronx Community College President Dr. Roscoe C. Brown Jr. has made its way to the Senate. The bill, proposed by Congressman José Serrano, won in the House Thursday by a voice vote. Brown was a member of the Tuskegee Airman, the first African-American group of men to serve in the Air Force during World War II. Brown passed away in July 2016.

A bill to rename the Morris Heights post office after

former Tuskegee Airman and Bronx Community College President Dr. Roscoe C. Brown Junior has made its way to the senate. (12/2/16)



**LESSONS LEARNED FOR THE NEXT GREATEST GENERATION**

On Saturday, December 3, 2016, Tuskegee Airman, Lt Col. Robert J. Friend was a participant on the Reagan National Defense Forum Panel: 75 YEARS AFTER PEARL HARBOR - Other participants were General Robert B. Neller, Commandant of the U.S. Marine Corps, Congresswoman Susan Davis, U.S. House of Representatives (California), and Honorable. Deborah Lee James, Secretary of the Air Force. The Reagan National Defense Forum (RNDF) brings together leaders and key stakeholders in the defense community - including members of Congress, civilian officials and military leaders from the Defense Department, industry, and administration officials - to address the health of our national defense and stimulate discussions that promote policies to strengthen the U.S. military. In an era of economic uncertainty where the threats to our national security are increasing in number and complexity, RNDF allows senior leaders from the defense community to come together

with viewpoints on how best to deal with these challenges. Though President Reagan left office many years ago, the United States military continues to benefit from his



commitment and vision for a strong defense. Recognizing that today's decisions will affect our military capabilities for years to come, RNDF charges leaders from current and past Administrations and Congress to look beyond the immediate issues facing our armed forces and explore how we can build peace through strength for the future.



**DAYTON MAN WHO TRAINED WITH TUSKEGEE AIRMEN DIES AT 97**

EXTRACTED FROM AN ARTICLE BY [BARRIE BARBER](#), STAFF WRITER, DAYTON DAILY NEWS, WEDNESDAY, DEC. 21, 2016 DAYTON

Robert L. Harvey Sr., was in training with the group of pioneering African American airmen when the war ended in Europe, according to the Tuskegee Airmen Inc. He died December 18, 2016. Harvey was a member of the Ohio Memorial Chapter of the Tuskegee Airmen in Columbus. In a 2014 interview with this newspaper, the 1937 Dunbar High School graduate said he avoided being drafted in the Navy to join the Tuskegee Airmen. "There was no advancement for black people in the Navy at the time," he said in the interview. "None."

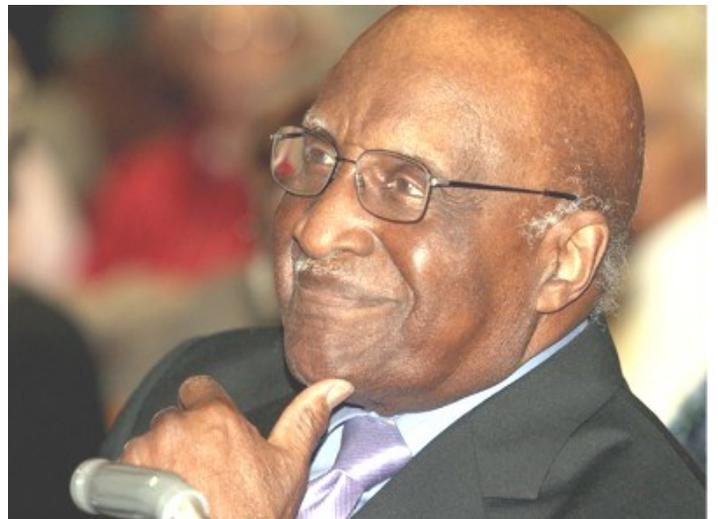
The pioneering airmen flew in racially segregated units in Europe battling Nazi Germany and escorting U.S. bombers on dangerous wartime missions. "It's sad but it's also humbling to know he made an impact at a time where segregation was high," said Coya Mobley, 60, a cousin who lives in Harrison Township, OH.

Some of Harvey's fellow airmen had qualms about flying, but he never did. "I just felt a sense of jubilation," he said in the 204 interview. "There's nothing like being up there by yourself."

In 2007, Harvey attended a Washington, D.C., ceremony

President George W. Bush presented the Tuskegee Airmen in which a Congressional Gold Medal. "We weren't surprised," said Harvey, who kept a bronze replica at his home. "We just wondered why it took so long."

Harvey had a 45-year career at the U.S. Postal Service, where he rose through the ranks to become a director of customer relations. He attended Miami University and the University of Dayton. He also was married to his wife, Cora, who preceded him in death. The couple had three adult children.



**VISITING WITH MAJOR JOE GOMER**

...was Lt. Col Hiram Mann and me (Nathan Thomas) a year before his passing. He has a statue erected to him in the Duluth Airport, Minnesota. You will see Retired Command Sergeant Major Steve Campos, myself and Lt. Col Hiram Mann standing in front of Major Joe Gomer's statue. We knew he was in failing health so we went to see him in Duluth, the weather was terrible -16 below and freezing cold. It took three (Toni & Dennis Behling, Steve Campos, and I supervised...smile) of us to lift Lt Col Mann's wheelchair up just four steps to Major Gomer's house. After scarred knees and bruised hips we were able to get buddies to see each

other. The conversation was outstanding with me being able to listen in as old friends who had not seen each other since their time at Morton Field, Alabama. I am always amazed at the laughter and emotion that is poured out in these conversations. I have seen it time and time again at the conventions, get-togethers, picnics and local events. Many people from his neighborhood including his daughter who was visiting were there. We ordered pizza and had a great time. The conversation between the two of them lasted until the wee wee hours.

Nathan Thomas

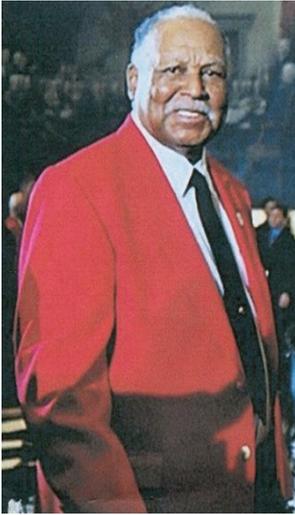
Photo by Dennis Behling



**REMEMBERING A TUSKEGEE AIRMAN — but first, a father and a friend John Lundy - 11/17/2013** In an emotional and celebrative service, family, friends, veterans and admirers remembered the life of Tuskegee Airman Joe Gomer on Saturday afternoon. Although Gomer had been honored in recent years with statues depicting him in flight gear at the Duluth International Airport and in his hometown of Iowa Falls, Iowa, the people who nearly filled the sanctuary of Duluth's First United Methodist Church clearly remembered him for much more than his exploits in World War II. "Joe had the ability to make everyone feel special," Carl Crawford, a longtime friend of Gomer's, said during the service. Gomer, who died on Oct. 10 at Ecumen Lakeshore at age 93, had lived in Duluth since 1963, and he and his wife, Elizabeth, who died in November 2012, raised their family here. Along with Crawford, both of Gomer's daughters — Tanya Rice and Phyllis Douglass — spoke during the 80-minute-long service, and granddaughter Ashtyn Douglass read a poem. There was military pomp for Gomer, who retired from the military as a major in 1964. The 148th Fighter Wing, the Minnesota Honor Guard and the Duluth Combined Honor Guard participated. As the service closed, each of the daughters was presented with a U.S. flag. The attendees then were ushered outside the church where the honor guards and flag-bearers were waiting in the steady rain. They fired a three-volley salute and a bugler played taps. Weather conditions prevented a planned flyover from taking place. As much as his military service was honored, those who knew him best talked on Saturday

about Gomer as a husband and father, about his humility, his love for the outdoors and his commitment to education and youth. Allison Lockett, 32, of Duluth, who read Psalm 23 from Gomer's Bible during the service, first knew the Gomers from Hillside United Methodist Church. She was 7, she said, when the Gomers offered to accompany her to Grandparents Day at school because she had no grandparents living nearby. They remained her "adopted grandparents" from then on. But she was in college before she learned that Joe Gomer had been a Tuskegee Airman, she said. "Joe didn't really talk about it," Lockett said. "That's just how Joe was. He was very humble and didn't really say anything about it." In his talk, Crawford said the Tuskegee Airmen were considered legends in the home where he grew up in California. When he first met Gomer outside the Duluth YMCA and was told the older man had been one of the famed airmen, "I was in awe," he said. "Knowing the impact his generation had on my generation was immeasurable," said Crawford, who is the coordinator of the Intercultural Center at Lake Superior College. "I was surprised when we met because in my mind the Tuskegee Airmen were larger than life. But there stood an amazing, humble man." But both Phyllis Douglass and Rice said they remembered him as their dad — the man who woke them up by singing, took the family on long trips, loved to go shopping for clothes with them and insisted above all that they get a good education. "He was my hero in more ways than one," Douglass said. "Well before I had any knowledge of the Tuskegee Airmen, he was simply my daddy."

**TUSKEGEE AIRMEN SERVES AS WILLIAMSBURG PARADE GRAND MARSHALL**



The Greater Williamsburg (VA) Chamber and Tourism Alliance organization hosted its 51st annual Williamsburg Christmas Parade where Documented Original Tuskegee Airman and former Army Air Corps Sergeant/Dr. Harry Quinton served as its Grand Marshall. The event was grand and facilitated an opportunity to have a great historical story shared with the citizens and visitors of Williamsburg, VA.

SGT/Dr. Harry Quinton completed Basic Training at Keesler Field, MS, he was assigned to the 477<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Group, 602<sup>nd</sup> Air Engineering Squadron at Godman Field, KY, where he served as an airplane mechanic. While assigned to the all white commanded 477<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Group as a Private First Class (PFC), PFC Quinton observed the racial tension,

disharmony and distrust that plagued the Group. Though he was not at Freeman Field, IN, to participate in the “Battle at Freeman Field”, he knew it was going on and recognized that he did benefit from it directly.

Over 2,000 civilians were on-hand and along the parade trail acknowledging Dr. Quinton and the historical significance of the Tuskegee Airmen’s sacrifices during World War II. All branches of service in the Hampton Roads area, which is comprised of 7-cities, such as Williamsburg, Newport News, Hampton, Norfolk, Virginia Beach, Chesapeake and Portsmouth, were represented along the parade trail. Numerous rendered salutes and Dr. Quinton happily returned them.

Dr. Quinton received a Bachelor of Science degree in Accounting and completed some graduate studies at Hofstra University. In CY2012, Dr. Quinton and 4-other DOTAs in the Tidewater Chapter Tuskegee Airmen Inc. organization, were awarded honorary Doctorate degrees in Humane Letters by Old Dominion University. Dr. Quinton retired from the United States Treasury Department and now resides in Williamsburg, VA.

**VIRGINIA BEACH VETERAN AND MEMBER OF THE TUSKEGEE AIRMEN DIES AT AGE 95**

Taken from an article by Brock Vergakis and Amir Vera — The Virginian-Pilot—Dec 15, 2016

**Thurman Spriggs**, Virginia Beach veteran of the Tuskegee Airmen was one of the first black servicemen chosen to fly combat aircraft during World War II as part of what later became known as the Tuskegee Airmen has died. Born April 29, 1921, Thurman Spriggs passed away at his home at the age of 95 December 12, 2016.

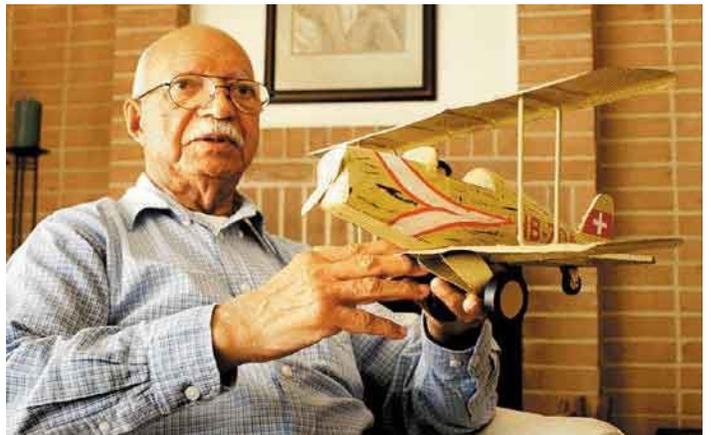


Spriggs was part of Class 45-H-SE at Tuskegee trained to fly and maintain combat aircraft. “The whole thing [The Tuskegee Experience] is something that young people should know. There is a huge difference between what things were like then and now,” Spriggs said in a 2008 Virginian-Pilot interview. Spriggs and 11 others were inducted into the Iowa Aviation Hall of Fame in 2006 for their military accomplishments and battles against racism. Spriggs was an accomplished track athlete who left Des Moines, Iowa, to join the Army in 1941. He first served in the 9th Cavalry, nicknamed the Buffalo Soldiers. He joined the Tuskegee Airmen in 1944 and graduated from flight school as a fighter pilot who flew single-engine aircraft. He served with the unit for two years, although he was never

deployed overseas. He left the Army in 1946.

Spriggs later earned a doctorate in theoretical nuclear physics from The Catholic University of America and devoted his life to education. He lived in Norfolk off and on from 1946 to 1969 and taught electrical engineering and physics at Norfolk State University.

“I think that he was a model for a person who tried to live his life the right way. He was a man of character and integrity and he always carried himself that way,” daughter Patricia Spriggs said. “He didn’t have to preach that because he lived it. The way he conducted himself was a model for us to live by.” He retired from the Norfolk State University in 1986 as Assistant Dean of what was then known as the School of Health Related Professions and Natural Sciences.



**DOTA IVAN JAMES MCRAE JOINS THE LONELY EAGLES**

Ivan James McRae, Jr., age 93, passed away peacefully on November 29, 2016, at his Dix Hills home of 47 years. Ivan was born August 19, 1923, in Harlem, NY to Ivan James Sr. and Laura Orinthia



McRae (nee Magnus), both of whom emigrated from Kingston, Jamaica in 1916.

Ivan attended Roosevelt High School in Yonkers, NY, graduating in 1941. He continued his education at Columbia University, graduating in 1948 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering.

Ivan is a veteran of World War II where he earned his wings as a twin-engine bomber pilot with the famed Tuskegee Airmen and was attached to the 477th Bombardment Group where Benjamin O. Davis Jr. was appointed as commander.



Ivan's service to this country did not end with World War II. Continuing to keep our country safe, he spent his entire career in the defense industry on Long Island. Among other companies, he worked in engineering management roles for Bulova, Litton Industries, Fairchild Space and Defense Systems, and Gould Simulation Systems.

Ivan was a devoted family man, avid photographer, naturalist, and role model to those who knew him.

**JAMES B. WILLIAMS, M.D. OF LAS CRUCES PASSES NOVEMBER 23, 2016 IN LAS CRUCES, NM**

Published in Las Cruces Sun-News on Nov. 30, 2016

James Williams was born in El Paso to Jasper B. and Clara Belle Williams on May 28, 1919. He joined the U.S. Air Corps in 1942 as a 1st Lieutenant. He was one of 101 Tuskegee Airmen officers who protested the whites-only officer's club facilities at Freeman Field, Indiana. After their initial arrest for refusing to agree to the segregated club, they were released. The protest is viewed by many as an important step toward the desegregation of the armed forces. He attended school in El Paso, earned his B.S. from New Mexico A&M, 1947; his M.D. from Creighton University School of Medicine, Omaha, 1951; and his MS in Surgery, from Creighton Medical School, 1956. He married Willeen Brown on May 30, 1951 in Omaha, NE.

He was a general surgeon. He and his brothers, Jasper and Charles, both physicians, established the Williams Clinic and served the Southside of Chicago for 30 years. He served as chief of surgery at St. Bernard's Hospital, Chicago and as president of the Creighton

University Surgical Society and the Cook County Physicians. Dr. Williams was one of a contingent of African- American physicians who met with President John F. Kennedy to support passage of legislation that withheld federal funds from hospitals that practiced racial segregation and discrimination. He attended the March on Washington and was the doctor for Dr.



Martin Luther King when he was in Chicago. He and fellow Tuskegee Airmen were invited guests to the inauguration of President Barack Obama, the nation's first African -American president. Dr. Williams was the recipient of numerous awards and a lifelong member of the N.A.A.C.P.

## TROWELL-HARRIS CHAPTER VISITS THE NEW AFRICAN AMERICAN MUSEUM

by Stephan Wilkinson

The new National Museum of African American History and Culture has been perhaps Washington's most popular visitor attraction since its opening in September 2016. At the time of the Maj. Gen. Irene Trowell-Harris Chapter's visit, on 11 November 2016, admission was only by prior reservation, and the museum was booked solid through April 2017. Thanks to our Tuskegee Airmen status, chapter president Glendon Fraser was able to arrange special permission for us to attend in a group of 15 teenage members of our Lee A. Archer Red Tail Youth Flying Program plus two dozen chapter members and friends.

It was a remarkable occasion, well worth the 10-hour charter bus round trip from our classroom complex at Stewart International Airport in New Windsor, New York.

The museum has been built on the last piece of ground available on the Washington Mall, and it looms fiercely as an exception to the shiny limestone, granite and marble of most other Mall buildings. Did Tanzanian-born lead architect David Adjaye intend to evoke the image of a slave ship? Perhaps not, but the stark, barge-like zigurat



**Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture collections include a vintage, open-cockpit biplane—one used at Alabama's renowned Tuskegee Institute to train African American pilots for Army Air Corps service during World War II.**

work.

Much of the museum is below ground, and any meaningful tour must begin with an elevator descent to the windowless bottom level, where the story of the slave trade begins. The interior is dark and somber, and again, it's hard to resist the feeling that you're in the bottommost hold of a slaver. There's a paucity of artifacts--lots of audiovisual material to tell the grim story, though--but after all, how many slaves kept memories of their terrible journey? Yet there is poignant meaning in the rusted chains and leg shackles that were recovered from sunken slave ships--particularly the tiny, child-size leg and wrist irons. The museum's single most moving artifact is on a higher floor--the open-face casket of Emmett Till, whose mother Mamie so bravely chose to leave his mutilated body on display at his funeral, so the world could see what Southern racism had done to her son.

As ramps and stairs lead the visitors upward, the story of African-American culture grows increasingly through the plantation era, the Civil War, Reconstruction, the Harlem

Hellfighters and Tuskegee Airmen, the years of Jim Crow, the Civil Rights Movement, and ultimately a

(CONT'D ON NEXT PAGE)



**The group is shown here in front of the Smithsonian's Udvar-Hazy National Air and Space Museum Annex near Dulles airport**

succeeds in doing so. The dark-bronze filigree-work that covers the entire multi-decked exterior is in fact an homage to the African American ironworkers of Charleston and New Orleans who crafted such tortured yet lovely decorative

## YOUTH IN THE NEWS

triumphant celebration on the topmost floor of the black men and women who changed so much of our country's music, sports and performing arts.

"The museum was full of sorrow but hope....Hope for something better and hope for happiness," wrote one Red



**NAACP Civil Rights Convention**  
**Davis, Benjamin O. Jr., American, 1912 - 2002**  
**Louis, Joe, American, 1914 - 1981**  
**Marshall, Thurgood, American, 1908 - 1993**  
**Adams Lampkin, Daisy Elizabeth, American, 1883 - 1965**

Tail student after the trip. "Freedom was their dream, and that's what they fought for."

"The words that the Civil Rights activists spoke were everywhere," wrote another, "and they spoke to the minds of all who read them."

And so on. "A sign said, 'Only Whites Drinking Facility.' People can be so cruel that their deeds actually become inhumane."

"I saw a quote as soon as I entered the Civil Rights section. 'We will not turn around for anyone.' That really spoke to me. The courage it takes to stand up to authorities and negativism is astounding."

"The courage these young men and women had to fight back and reclaim the freedom that was stolen from them...they fought out of a love for liberty, and they were true patriots." Lessons were learned that day in November that will stay with these young people for the rest of their lives.



**Flight jacket worn by Lt. Col. (DOTA) Woodrow W. Crockett on display.**

### **No better time than now to give ...**

Consider giving a year-end gift that gives for a lifetime — a donation to the Tuskegee Airmen Scholarship Foundation (TASF) gives deserving students an opportunity to achieve their dream of earning a college education. For almost 40 years the Tuskegee Airmen Scholarship Foundation has been awarding scholarships to exceptional students. By doing so, we honor the brave American patriots, who when called

upon, served gallantly for the ideals of freedom and demonstrated outstanding courage and valor in the face of unbeatable odds. Show your gratitude by making a memorial gift in the name of a loved one. Or, you can make a sustaining gift that extends the legacy of the Tuskegee Airmen and supports their mission to motivate and provide access to careers in aviation, aerospace, STEM, and beyond. Checks can also be mailed to our corporate address.



### **Young 2016 TASF Scholarship Winner**

Christian Young is a freshman attending University of Nebraska - Lincoln and is a double major in Math and Computer Science. "Thus far, I'm thoroughly enjoying my experience as a Husker! I would like to thank the Tuskegee Airmen Scholarship Foundation and their donors for their financial support. I'm glad for the opportunity to further my education, and I look forward to what my education brings in the future."



### **12 WINNERS AT THE MAJ. GEN. IRENE TROWELL-HARRIS CHAPTER'S ANNUAL TUITION-ASSISTANCE AWARDS GALA**

have been announced. The Chapter has been granting the \$1,000 scholarships to deserving area high school seniors since 1998. Including the current awards, the Trowell-Harris Chapter has distributed nearly \$200,000 to local scholars. The education assistance awards will be presented at the Chapter's annual gala at Anthony's Pier 9, on Route 9W between Cornwall and Newburgh, on Saturday, February 4, 2017. The public is welcome. Original Airmen, local dignitaries, members of the Trowell-Harris Chapter, the tuition-award winners, and teenage members of the chapter's Lee A. Archer Jr. Red Tail Youth Flying Program are scheduled to attend. (Go to [www.tai-ny.com](http://www.tai-ny.com) for tickets.)

## Announcements

### DD-214 DISCHARGE PAPERS NOW ONLINE.

The National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) has provided the following website for veterans to gain access to their DD-214s online: <http://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records/>  
 This may be particularly helpful when a veteran needs a copy of his/her DD-214 for employment purposes. The NPRC is working to make it easier for veterans with computers and Internet access to obtain copies of documents from their military files. Military veterans and the next of kin of deceased former military members may now use a new online military personnel records system to request documents. Other individuals with a need for documents must still complete the Standard Form 180, which can be downloaded from the online web site. Because the requester will be asked to supply all information essential for NPRC to process the request, delays that normally occur when NPRC has to ask veterans for additional information will be minimized. The new web-based application was designed to provide better service on these requests by eliminating the records centers mailroom and processing time.

### Shoppers :

Designate [#TuskegeeAirmen](#), Inc. at Amazon Smile. as your charitable organization. Portions of the eligible purchases will be donated to @TAINational. Use your existing or create a new Amazon sign-in account ([smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com)) to start shopping today.



A mini-P-51 makes an appearance at the 2017 Rose Bowl Parade. See it in action at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xUy2MDRRsHU>

**OBAP elects its first African American woman** and first non-pilot, Vanessa Blacknall-Jamison, to head the 40-year old Organization of Black Aerospace Professionals.



### TUSKEGEE AIRMAN STATUE

The Howard Baugh Chapter has undertaken a project to erect an 8-foot statue of Petersburg native, decorated WWII Fighter Pilot, and Original Tuskegee Airman LTC Howard Baugh (1920-2008). This statue will be placed in the Petersburg, VA area and forever serve to recognize and commemorate the WWII American heroes known as the "Tuskegee Airmen". This undertaking will cost approximately \$100,000 and rely solely on the charitable contributions of individuals and organizations that support this cause. We have raised 75% of our financial goal. We would like your Chapter and/or its individual members to consider helping us raise the balance by the end of our 75<sup>th</sup>

Anniversary year. No donation is too small or too large...and all are needed and much appreciated. To make a tax-deductible donation to the **HBC-TAI Statue Fund** by credit card, check or money order, please visit [www.hbc-tai.org](http://www.hbc-tai.org) and click "Donate". Your generosity will help provide an everlasting salute to our beloved DOTAs, the legendary "**Red Tails**".

Thank you for your consideration. Howard L. Baugh, President, HBC-TAI, [pres@hbc-tai.org](mailto:pres@hbc-tai.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

**Administrative Director**

**Maggie Thomas** [mthomas@tuskegeeairmen.org](mailto:mthomas@tuskegeeairmen.org)



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**Photos by:**

Rita Raines, Roddray Walker, Martin Hassel

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

## TAI MISSION

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.