



Willa Brown, Aviator



Col. B.O. Davis, Jr.



Ground Support



Lt. Roscoe Brown and Sgt Smith

BGNFP

Torch Bearer

BGNFP

"We Dare Not Fail"

We are making Kentucky history...

The Brigadier General Noel F. Parrish Chapter of Tuskegee Airmen, Inc.



Brigadier Gen. Noel Parrish Chapter of Tuskegee Airmen, Inc., became the 52nd Chapter of Tuskegee Airmen, Inc., was chartered in August of 2007 with the help of a small dedicated group of history buffs and aficionados of Tuskegee Airmen history.

General Parrish was born in Versailles, KY in 1909; he died in 1982. As a pilot, Captain Parrish went on to become the Commandant of Cadet Training at Tuskegee Institute in Alabama. While he was one of the few white Tuskegee Airmen associated with the "Experiment at Tuskegee", it was his compassion and fairness that made him a highly respected leader with the Tuskegee cadets during their months of training. To this day, many years after his ascent as a "Lonely Eagle" he is fondly remembered by many Tuskegee Airmen pilots.

General Parrish is enshrined in the *Aviation Museum of Kentucky's Hall of Fame* along with Willa Brown, Major Julius Callo way, USAF-ret., Louisville and Lt/Col., Washington Ross, USAF-ret. of Ashland, KY.



The late Dr. Charles "A-Train" Dryden, L/Col. USAF-ret., said "Parrish was referred to as the Great White Father". The cadet aviation program at Tuskegee was expected to fail, but the then Col. Parrish was determined to make it a success.

There were 992 cadets graduated as pilots; with a 18-to-1 ratio. It is reasonable to expect that there were nearly 200 ground support personnel from all over Kentucky. They were part of the Tuskegee Airmen experience under the leadership of Colonel Benjamin O. Davis, Jr.

Willa B. Brown, a biracial Black/Native-American female was born in Glasgow Kentucky, who later became America's first African American woman to be issued a U.S. Pilot's

License. She also went on to receive a license as a certified aviation mechanic. Willa and her husband, Cornelius Coffey successfully operated an aviation school in Chicago and are credited with instructing some 2,000 pilots of which a good number went on to become pilots and instructors in the Tuskegee Airmen Cadet program.

Kentucky has a rich history in black aviation where twelve cadets graduated and received their wings. Some were assigned to the 477th Bomber Group as Bombardiers and Navigators of the twin engine B25 Mitchell. Flight crews and ground support personnel came from all over Kentucky, as far west as Paducah to Williamsburg; to Ashland, Louisville, Frankfort, Richmond and Owensboro.

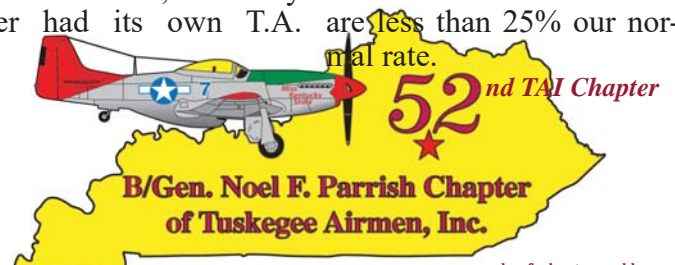
As of 2015, there are 55 active Tuskegee Airmen chapters across the U.S. Until 2007, Kentucky never had its own T.A.

chapter and there had never been one honoring a non-minority. We felt it was time that both of those conditions were corrected.

Our mission is to align itself with the tenets of the National TAI Organization in helping to keep the Tuskegee Airmen history alive and to encourage the youths of today who seek a career in aviation to meet those goals. Membership is open to the general public, students, youths and military personnel without regard to race or gender.

Most members will be designated as an Associate Airman. There may be some members who have direct blood relations and will be designated a "Heritage" member. All original Tuskegee Airmen are identified as DOTAs, "Documented Original Tuskegee Airmen".

We maintain an open membership and welcome from all walks of life, those who wish to join, especially students whose annual dues are less than 25% our normal rate.



www.bgnfpchapter.weebly.com