

THE RESILIENT

TUSKEGEE AIRMEN, INC.
P.O. Box 830060
Tuskegee, AL 36083
Vol 20210505

PRESIDENT’S NOTES TO CHAPTERS

National Board Notes:

Ms. Earnestine Lavergne was selected as the new Chair of the **Harry A. Sheppard Research Committee**.

The dates selected for the **2021 National Convention** is 16-18 September 2021. This will be a virtual Convention. More details will follow.

Civil Air Patrol (CAP) The CAP has approached TAI several times requesting to use the TAI logo for the back of some of their training materials. Additionally, they are going to open up their website to allow any chapter to access their training materials for free. CAP also plans to celebrate 13 DOTA – pilots and support personnel. Ted Lumpkin is one of them.

FAQ (Frequently Asked Question) of the Month

Q: How does TAI benefit from the USAA AMEX Credit Card?

A: USAA offers Tuskegee Airmen, Inc (TAI) American Express No-Annual Fee credit card to eligible customers. TAI receives a percentage of each purchase made with the credit card as well as when someone obtains the card.



Tuskegee Airmen Quarter by the US Mint.

Also, get the National Historic Site 2021 Uncirculated Five Ounce Silver Coin



<https://catalog.usmint.gov/tuskegee-airmen-national-historic-site-2021-uncirculated-five-ounce-silver-coin-21AJ.html>

Interested in Establishing a State-wide Tuskegee Airmen Commemoration Day?

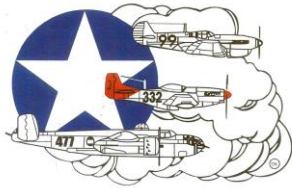
The Archer-Ragsdale Arizona Chapter did it! Contact Col. Richard “Dick” Toliver, USAF, Retired, ARAC President has shared their original proposal, their methodology, organizational partners, the press release, and the celebration event information.

Peggy Shivers

Video Ms. Shivers is the surviving spouse of Clarence Shivers, Tuskegee Airman and sculptor of the Airman’s statue on USAF Academy. She is featured in this Rocky Mountain Public Broadcasting video.



<https://www.rmpbs.org/blogs/rocky-mountain-pbs/iconic-colorado-springs-singer-recalls-collaboration-with-duke-ellington> about her collaboration with Duke Ellington.



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NATIONAL AERONAUTIC ASSOCIATION HONORS TUSKEGEE AIRMEN

April 7, 2021 By Alyssa J. Cobb, AOPA Senior Director of eMedia

The Tuskegee Airmen are being honored with the 2021 Clifford Henderson Trophy, an award bestowed by the National Aeronautic Association to recognize “a living individual, group of individuals, or an organization whose vision, leadership or skill made a significant and lasting contribution to the promotion and advancement of aviation and aerospace in the United States.”

The Tuskegee Airmen are being honored with the 2021 Clifford Henderson Trophy. Photo courtesy of the National Aeronautic Association.



“The Tuskegee Airmen are excited to be recognized with the presentation of the 2021 Clifford Henderson Trophy and to be a part of the long list of aviation pioneers recognized by the National Aeronautic Association,” said Tuskegee Airmen Inc. National President Jerry Burton. “The World War II record and accomplishments of the Tuskegee Airmen are legendary and this award will be a part of the legacy.”

The trophy, established in 1960, is named in honor of Clifford Henderson, who created and managed the National Air Races from 1928 to 1939. The trophy is included in a collection of the Smithsonian’s National Air and Space Museum. Other groups that have received the award include the U.S. Air Force Academy and The Ninety-Nines.

Tuskegee Airmen Commemoration Day Events:

A Tuskegee Airmen Commemoration Day Ceremony took place in Hampton, Virginia at the Virginia Air and Space Museum as a face to face event. [by T.J. Spann]

The City of Chicago has declared March 22, as National Tuskegee Airmen Day. [By James Warren]

Committee Reports:

The National Merchandising Committee is continuing to fulfil mask orders with the assistance of National Office personnel. Any chapter ordering 50 or more masks can do so for \$8.00 each.

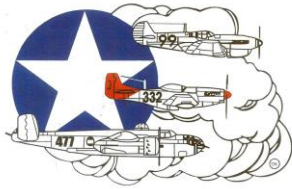
National Notes:

Sympathy & Condolences:

Send to former Harry A. Sheppard Research Committee Chair, Col. (ret) James Crump; 104 Burnt Creek Way, Folsom, CA 95630 - on the passing of his wife.

Send to Dorina Ashby at 13909 Pennystone Dr., Sun City West, AZ 85375 on the passing of her husband, Tuskegee Airman Robert Ashby

“It is with a heavy heart and sadness that I report to you that we lost our Chapter member DOTA William Fuller. He was a long-time dedicated member of the Macon-Thomas Chapter of Tuskegee Airmen, Inc.” said Chapter President William (Bill) Burnett. Homegoing services will be at 1 pm, 11-May-21 at the Cole Funeral Home on West Schaefer Rd., Detroit, MI.



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Chapter Reports:

CENTRAL REGION:

Good News! The **Macon-Thomas Chapter** now has 100% paid rate for chapter dues for 2021. "Good Job Chapter Members, now let's roll up our sleeves and get to work saving our kids from illiteracy, drugs, and crime." says Chapter President Maj. William (Bill) Burnett, (Ret).

Documentary Film I have been invited by the San Antonio African American Community Archive and Museum (SAAACAM "say-CAM") to participate in an event. They will be showing a film "[When I Rise](#)" [Friday 7-May-21](#) based on my cousin, Barbara Smith Conrad's life and they have asked me to be a part of the Q&A after the film is shown. Barbara was in the first class to integrate the University of Texas and was given the lead role in the opera the school was putting on. This caused such a stir, it made national and international news. The state legislature informed the school that they would not get their usual funding if they let that "black gal" sing on the stage with the white students. She went on to become a world-famous opera singer. The film showing is free and will be held at the Arneson River Theater on the Riverwalk. [by Peggy Shivers, widow of DOTA Clarence Shivers, sculptor of the Tuskegee Airman Memorial at the USAF Academy]

Youth Art Contest The San Antonio Chapter has collaborated with the Dee Howard Foundation (DHF) and the University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA) to sponsor the [2020/2021 Aviation/Aerospace Art Contest- "Mission to Mars."](#) The Chapter provided volunteers for scoring and prizes (poster, US Mint coins, youth cap, etc.) for winners. [Dr. Carolin Sinkfield, Youth Co-Chair]

The Macon-Thomas Chapter (MI) Youth Drone Academy is staging the "**D is for Drones**" 10 am to 2 pm Sat., 15-May-21 at 19730 Ralston (across from the Amazon site) Detroit, MI 48203. It'll feature instruction and drone industry opportunities.



99th Flying Training Squadron Change of Command

On 14 May 2021 at 1000, Lt Col Eric M. Peterson will relinquish command to Lt Col Cory E. Henwood in Hangar 5 at Joint Base San Antonio Randolph. RSVP. by 3 May 2021 POC: Maj Marvin B. Haughton 210-652-0801

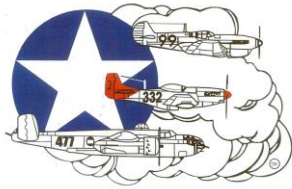
EASTERN REGION:

The East Coast Chapter awarded 21 \$1,000.00 SCHOLARSHIPS in 2020. Three students received a total of \$5,500.00 from the Tuskegee Airmen Scholarship Foundation.

Atlanta Chapter Tuskegee Airmen Aviation and STREAM Training (TAAST)

The goal of the Tuskegee Airmen Aviation and STREAM Science, Technology, Reading, Engineering, Art and Mathematics) Training Program or [TAAST](#) is to excite and motivate our youth to learn about the aerospace industry. The TAAST program endeavors to instill, in children, an appreciation for the academic skills, moral character, proper conduct, dedication and discipline necessary to succeed. More importantly, we want them to discover that learning can be fun when done in the context of aviation.

TAAST offers comprehensive training in various aviation disciplines. Our program targets students between the ninth and



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twelfth grade and, actual flight training is included. Students in the program explore the many career options available in aviation and aerospace. Classes are conducted in traditional classrooms, simulators, and airplanes. Instructions will cover aviation history (including the role of African-Americans in aviation), introduction to aerodynamics, meteorology, and navigation; flight simulator orientation, orientation flights with FAA-certified flight instructors; interaction with professionals in the aviation industry; and field trips to aviation museums, military bases, and Air Traffic Control Centers. To this point, all classroom materials, orientation flights, and field trip transportation are provided by TAAST through a grant from the Atlanta Chapter Tuskegee Airmen, Inc.

Through the partnership between Atlanta Chapter Tuskegee Airmen Inc. and the Aviation Career Enrichment (ACE), the Chapter is capable of providing flow through the opportunity to students who wish to continue their aviation experience upon completion of the summer program.



The 2021 TAAST summer camp will take place at the Clayton County North West Branch Library located at 6131 Riverdale Rd, Riverdale, Ga 30274. The dates for the 2021 Summer Program will be June 1 thru June 5.

Western Region:

Rededication of the Tuskegee Airmen Statue is scheduled at 1130AM MDT 7-May-2021. The event will be limited to a wreath laying, with remarks from Gen Clark, USAFA

Superintendent. For more information, contact Mr. John Porche, Hubert L “Hooks” Jones Chapter,

Military News:

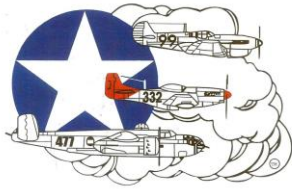
Red Tail Red Hawk The T-7A Red Hawk advanced military training jet has officially entered the production line, according to an announcement from Boeing on Tuesday. The aircraft, originally called the T-X, was designed entirely using the company’s 3D model-based definition and data management systems. It is intended to replace the U.S. Air Force’s 60-year-old T-38 fleet and it has been reported that the Navy is also interested in the T-7A as a replacement for its T-45 trainers.



Image: Boeing

“This is an historic moment for the program and industry,” said Chuck Dabundo, Boeing vice president of T-7 programs. “The build process leverages full-size determinant assembly, which allows technicians to build the aircraft with minimal tooling and drilling during the assembly process. The digital process accounts for a 75% increase in first-time quality.”

The T-7A, which Boeing developed in partnership with Saab, flew for the first time in 2016. As previously reported by AVweb, Boeing was awarded a \$9.2 billion contract for 351 new combat training jets and 46 simulators in July 2018. T-7A simulator production began last December. [Kate Oconnor, AVweb]



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DOTAs from the Past

DOTA Felix Kirkpatrick received his first flight training through the Civilian Pilot Training program at Harlem Airport in Chicago in 1941. He entered the Army Air Corps as an Aviation Cadet in 1942 and received his Wings in May 1943. As a single engine combat fighter pilot with the 332nd Fighter Group in Italy, he flew 70 long range escort missions, and has one enemy aircraft to his credit. For his service he has been awarded the Air Medal with the five Oak Leaf Clusters and Distinguished Flying Cross.

Mr. Kirkpatrick remained with Air Force until 1950. In the private sector he worked for the Pabst Brewing Company in Chicago. He also worked in real estate. At the time of this interview, circa 1987, he was serving as TAI Central Region President.

Quotation from Felix Kirkpatrick interview in the TAI Chronicle, *"Molding A Black Legacy"*: "The Tuskegee Experience was the incubation of the long-term civil rights struggle in this country. The Tuskegee Experience and accompanying performance of the Tuskegee Pilots in combat certainly had a marked influence upon the decision by President Truman to integrate the Armed Forces.

The relevance of TAI history is a milestone to our younger members and to young black Americans. TAI history gives the young America an anchor which he can use as a basis for his growth and ambitions. He can point with pride and say, 'they made it so that I can make it. They made it under adverse circumstances so that I would have the opportunity to make it under much improved circumstances.'"

Footnote: Felix Kirkpatrick joined the Lonely Eagles February 18, 1999. [courtesy of Sunny Simpson, TFAM editor]

ESTABLISH A TUSKEGEE AIRMEN COMMEMORATION DAY IN YOUR STATE

The Archer-Ragsdale Arizona Chapter of the Tuskegee Airmen, Incorporated (ARAC/TAI) proposed that the State of Arizona set aside the fourth Thursday in March each year to honor and perpetuate the legacy of the men and women who participated in the Tuskegee Experience from January 1941 through July 1949. The date was chosen to commemorate the date President George W. Bush awarded the Tuskegee Airmen as a unit the Congressional Gold Medal in 2007.

The open paper touts notable African-American warfighters, abolitionists, aviators, civil rights advocates of US history. It also cites various laws and programs that enacted non-discriminatory actions to open up aviation and the military.

The paper stakeholders, and process is listed as a roadmap for other Chapters/States to follow. For additional information, please contact David Toliver, President, ARAC, at toliversrd@cox.net.

Please send articles (write-ups and pictures on all interesting or significant Chapter events or activities to tai-publicrelationsofficer@tuskegeeairmen.org.