



CAF RED TAIL SQUADRON®

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Greetings friends and supporters!

We have been honored to participate in EAA AirVenture, the “World’s Greatest Aviation Celebration,” in Oshkosh, WI for many years. It is a weeklong event filled with countless aircraft and aviation enthusiasts from around the globe. It gives us the chance to meet up with old friends and make new ones, and broadcast our inspirational message about the Tuskegee Airmen to huge audiences.

This year we were again able to position the RISE ABOVE Traveling Exhibit at KidVenture, a spectacular location to attract kids and families. We are proud to report that our team welcomed 1,216 adults and 952 children, including 17 groups. We handed out our dog tags featuring the Six Guiding Principles, RISE ABOVE booklets and the interactive Flight Plan for Life activity sheets. We’ve been humbled by the rave reviews!

Read on in this month’s edition of Red Tail mail to see more of our exciting activities at AirVenture and the other places we have visited... and where we will be soon!

RISE ABOVE®
The CAF Red Tail Squadron® Team



Photo courtesy James Cooley

In This Issue - August 2018

- [Tour schedule at a glance](#)
- [Greetings from the Ambassador team](#)
- [Event photos](#)
- [CAF Cadet presents award-winning exhibit to Tuskegee Airman](#)
- [Our mission in action](#)
- [Profiles of Tuskegee Airmen: Woodrow Crockett](#)
- [Pentagon identifies remains of missing Tuskegee Airman](#)
- [Did you know](#)
- [Virtual Museum artifact spotlight](#)
- [Blue Skies](#)
- [In your words](#)
- [Filmmaker shares his love for the Tuskegee Airmen with Congress](#)
- [Archive photos](#)
- [Quote of the month](#)

Business News & Info

- [Join the Top Flight Club!](#)
- [Free RISE ABOVE Resource Kit](#)
- [Shop with us](#)
- [Thank you supporters](#)
- [Our Squadron in the news](#)
- [For more information](#)



Photo courtesy Scott Stephens



2018 RISE ABOVE: RED TAIL TOUR SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

[PLEASE CHECK OUR SCHEDULE ONLINE FOR UPDATES!](#)



DATE	EVENT	LOCATION
August 1-5	2018 Airport Days RISE ABOVE Traveling Exhibit & P-51C Mustang	Greenwood, IN
August 17-19	Terre Haute Airshow RISE ABOVE Traveling Exhibit & P-51C Mustang	Terre Haute, IN
August 22-23	Friends of Detroit City Airport RISE ABOVE Traveling Exhibit & P-51C Mustang	Detroit City Airport, MI
August 25-26	Thunder Over Michigan RISE ABOVE Traveling Exhibit & P-51C Mustang	Willow Run Airport Ypsilanti, MI
September 8	Red Tails Over Montgomery Airshow RISE ABOVE Traveling Exhibit & P-51C Mustang	Montgomery, AL
September 14-16	Eastern Townships Airshow P-51C Mustang	Bromont, Quebec
September 26-30	Ouachita Speaker Series RISE ABOVE Traveling Exhibit	Hot Springs Village, AR
October 3-7	University of Central Arkansas RISE ABOVE Traveling Exhibit	Conway, AR
October 17-21	Florida International Air Show RISE ABOVE Traveling Exhibit & P-51C Mustang	Punta Gorda, FL
October 25-28	4th Annual Harvest Festival Airshow RISE ABOVE Traveling Exhibit	Fredericksburg, VA
November 9-11	RISE ABOVE Community Outreach Event RISE ABOVE Traveling Exhibit	Richton Park, IL
November 13-14	RISE ABOVE Community Outreach Event RISE ABOVE Traveling Exhibit	Chicago Heights, IL



To bring the CAF Red Tail Squadron's [RISE ABOVE Traveling Exhibit](#) and [P-51C Mustang Tuskegee Airmen](#) to your event, contact Kristi Younkin, Senior Logistics Coordinator, at logistics@redtail.org or (479) 228-4520.

*Logistics Coordinator
Kristi Younkin*

“Our objective is to carry the lessons and legacy of the Tuskegee Airmen into every classroom in America!”

~Don Hinz, CAF Red Tail Squadron program founder



*Volunteer Coordinator
Melanie Burden*

We had the immense honor of Tuskegee Airmen pilots Col Charles McGee and Lt Col George Hardy joining us at the RISE ABOVE Traveling Exhibit at EAA AirVenture. They graciously gave of their time to sign autographs and visit with our guests, who of course drew many from near and far to come learn from our program.

I want to take this moment to say thank you to all of our volunteer CAF Red Tail Squadron Ambassadors that helped out while we wowed the audiences at AirVenture's special KidVenture area. Thank you to Ambassadors Mark Erickson, Alex Carouthers, Marianne Leary, Richard Calvert, Steve and Tracy Sorge, Jeannette Rooke, Hubert Looney, Gwen McNeal, Kevin Parks, Bruce

Hosking, Milton McGee, Claudia Harris, Mike Fialkowski and Andrew Madison. I also want to give a special thanks to Ron and Yvonne McGee, family members of Tuskegee Airman Charles McGee, who continuously helped out every day.

Also, thank you to our tireless volunteer Ambassador Ken Mist who kindly escorted the Tuskegee Airmen around in spite of their hectic schedules! And lastly, thank you to Alex Carothers, President of the Albuquerque Chapter of Tuskegee Airmen, Inc. who offered to spontaneously volunteer at a time when we were short staffed.

For those of you thinking about becoming an Ambassador, we still have plenty of opportunities left in the year! Please check out our [schedule of events](#), then complete and submit the [Volunteer Application](#) on our website. You will then hear directly from me and I will send you the Ambassador's Handbook to read about what we do as Ambassadors and how YOU can be a part of this fantastic team!



Alex Carouthers



Andrew Madison



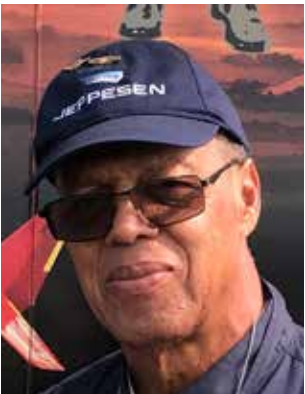
Bruce Hosking



Claudia Harris



Gwen McNeal



Hubert Looney



Kevin Parks



Marianne Leary



Mark Erickson



Milton McGee



Richard Calvert



Ron McGee



Yvonne McGee



Steve Sorge



Tracy Sorge



Ken Mist

EAA AirVenture Oshkosh 2018 marked my 3rd year assigned as escort for the Tuskegee Airmen who join us at the CAF Red Tail Squadron RISE ABOVE Traveling Exhibit. This year, Col Charles McGee and Lt Col George Hardy spent a hectic week signing autographs at the Traveling Exhibit at KidVenture and attending numerous events around the sprawling AirVenture grounds.

Charles McGee is 98 and George Hardy is 93. I, on the other hand, am a “young” 66 but it was me that looked exhausted by the end of the week while the Airmen continued to meet and greet with huge smiles and boundless energy. Graciously, no request for an autograph or a photograph was refused by either gentlemen, and it was left to Col McGee’s daughter Yvonne, son Ron and me to make sure that we got to the next stop.

The term “the greatest generation” is thrown around so much that it borders on cliché, but spending any time with the surviving Tuskegee Airmen clarifies exactly what that means. Shunned by many during the War, and forgotten by most when they returned, the Tuskegee Airmen provide an example to young and old that ordinary men and women who answered the call could extraordinary things. I am always so honored to be able to spend time with them.

~Ken Mist, CAF Red Tail Squadron Ambassador



With Jerry Burke at “Plane Talk” in Boeing Plaza



Visiting with Kermit Weeks



At “Warbirds in Review” being interviewed by David Hartman



RISE ABOVE Traveling Exhibit at KidVenture

Photos from AirVenture, Oshkosh, WI | Photos courtesy Ken Mist



Thanks you Veterans Airlift Command! CAF Red Tail Squadron Leader Doug Rozendaal, Kim Pardon, Pilot Mark Holt, Tuskegee Airman Lt Col George Hardy and Diane Holt pose by the *Millennium Phenom*. Mark flew Hardy to and from AirVenture in the aircraft.





Photos courtesy Terry Hollis





Photos courtesy Ron McGee taken from the helicopter ride he took with his dad, Col Charles McGee

Photos from our visit to the 2018 Airport Day at the Indy South Greenwood Airport

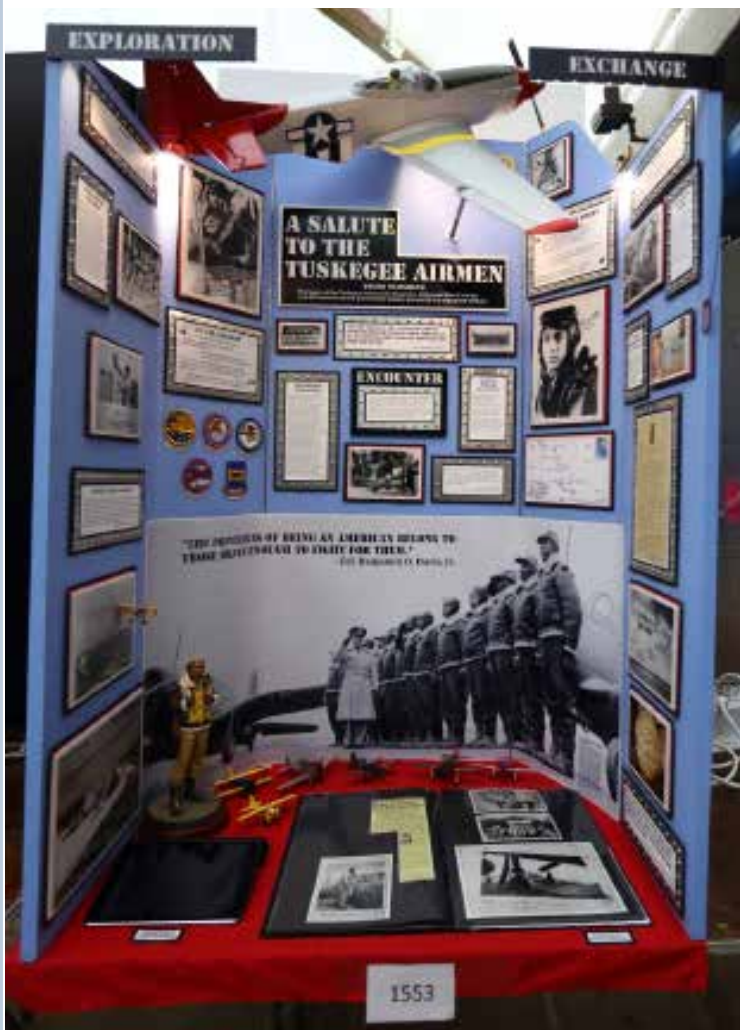


CAF CADET PRESENTS AWARD-WINNING EXHIBIT TO TUSKEGEE AIRMEN

A youth cadet from the Commemorative Air Force (CAF) Florida Wing, Trevor Simoneau, presented his award-winning exhibit “A Salute to the Tuskegee Airmen” to Tuskegee Airman pilots Lt Col George Hardy and Col Charles McGee at KidVenture Tuesday, July 24th.

Simoneau’s work was one of the Junior Individual Exhibit winners of the 2016 Florida History Fair, where over 50,000 Florida students competed for the awards. He spent 10 months studying and collecting materials for the project, which included interviews with Lt Col Hardy as well as the late Tuskegee Airman Lt Col Leo Gray and trips to historic sites such as the Tuskegee Army Airfield in Tuskegee, Alabama and Chanute Field in Rantoul, IL. Both sites are important landmarks in the groundbreaking program that trained the first African American military pilots of World War II.

“A Salute to Tuskegee Airmen” will be on permanent display at the CAF National Airbase in Dallas, Texas.



Lt Col George Hardy and Col Charles McGee pose with Trevor in front of the “A Salute to Tuskegee Airmen” display.

Bill Shepard then took Trevor up for an experience of a lifetime for a ride in the P51-C Mustang!

OUR MISSION IN ACTION

Check out these student tributes to the Tuskegee Airmen!

Dear Tuskegee Airmen,

I couldn't thank you enough for your service for this country.

Coming from someone who's majority of family is currently still or have been enlisted, I have seen well enough that you don't often return the same person you once were when you left. I personally will most likely never experience half of what you have, but I know what you've been through has made each individual one of you stronger than most. You have inspired me and many others with your perseverance and rising above what others stated you could or could not do. You to me, are a prime example that the world may try to knock you down, but it's your decision on whether or not you let it or decide to rise above it. Not only do I thank the Tuskegee airmen for your courage and service but, also the ladies behind it. Not only did some start this program but they made gear for these pilots. Your presentation has showed many that anything is possible and that they are not just what people say.

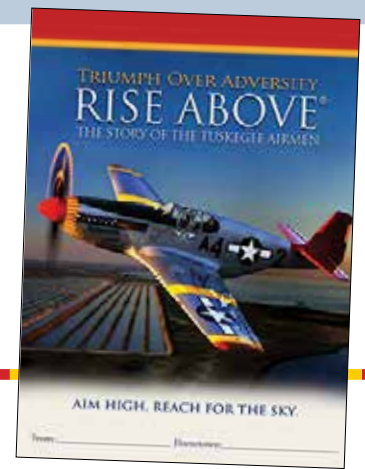
Thank you, not only for your time and effort but also for inspiring us all and keeping us safe.

Sincerely,

Mikaylee Tucker

I use the [Triumph Over Adversity – RISE ABOVE: The Story of the Tuskegee Airmen](#) booklets as a hand out in my Law & Ethics Capstone course at Miami University in the module involving bias and equal opportunity. They are a terrific catalyst to facilitate understanding and respect for fellow men and women as well as contributions to society.

~Dr. Karen Meyers



Order a set of 20 [Triumph Over Adversity – RISE ABOVE: The Story of the Tuskegee Airmen](#) booklets for only \$20 or call (888) 928-0188 for custom quantities.

Also check out the [Inspiration Pack](#) to receive **50 dog tags** and **50 Triumph Over Adversity – RISE ABOVE: The Story of the Tuskegee Airmen** booklets for only \$95!!!



FREE RISE ABOVE RESOURCE KIT



Looking for some guidance to integrate the lessons of the Tuskegee Airmen into your classroom or motivational program?

Download the free [RISE ABOVE Resource Kit!](#)

You'll get access to a treasure trove of digital materials to start using right away.

Want to go a step further? [Check out all the affordable supporting educational materials available!](#)

What teachers and parents say about using the RISE ABOVE Resource Kit

Question

How did your students benefit?

Answer

The curriculum activities were a great resource and really added depth to our unit study. The students benefited by being able to engage more detailed facts and deeper understanding of the Tuskegee Airmen and their historical impact.

PROFILES OF TUSKEGEE AIRMEN: Woodrow Crockett

Class 43-C-SE 3/25/1943 2nd Lt. 0798943 Little Rock, AR



Woodrow “Woody” Crockett grew up in an Arkansas sharecropping community and aspired to be a mathematician. But in 1940, when he could no longer afford the community college tuition in Little Rock, he decided to join the military.

He enlisted in one of the first black units in what was then the Army Air Corps. Living as a private on a salary of \$21 a month, he soon was drawn to a recruitment poster that read: “Be a pilot, bombardier, navigator and earn \$245 per month.”

“It didn’t take too much math to figure that one out,” he told *The Washington Post* in 2003. “So I went for it.”

The advertisement was an enticement to join a flight school in Tuskegee, Ala., that would help train the military’s first black fighter pilots. The unit was formed under pressure from civil rights groups and helped pave the way for a fully integrated U.S. military after the war.

Lt. Col. Crockett, who retired from the Air Force in 1970, died Aug. 16 at the Knollwood military retirement community in Washington. He was 93 and had Alzheimer’s disease, said his daughter Marcia Crockett.

During his career, he logged about 5,000 flight hours as a command pilot, including 149 combat missions during World War II and 45 combat missions during

the Korean War.

Col. Crockett earned his wings in March 1943 and reportedly was the 79th black pilot to graduate from the Tuskegee program. He was deployed to Italy in January 1944 with a fighter squadron that received second-class treatment all the way.

He faced bigotry from fellow Americans who, in some instances, showed more respect to German prisoners of war. Watching movies during free time, Col. Crockett told *The Post*, “the German POWs could also go into the theater, but the black soldiers had to sit in the balcony in the back. We called it the Crow’s Nest. Things weren’t too glamorous.”

Many of his World War II missions involved escorting bombers and surveillance aircraft flown by white pilots. One of his most dangerous assignments took him on a run over Berlin in March 1945.

“We were told to expect jets,” he told the *Air Force Times* in 2002. Pilots from his group downed three German Messerschmitt Me 262 jet fighters, he said. Col. Crockett joined the newly formed Air Force in the late 1940s, graduated in 1953 from the Air Command and Staff College in Alabama, and rose through the command ranks.

He was a radiological safety officer in 1951 during the atomic bomb tests in the Marshall Islands and helped lead tests for the F-106 Delta Dart fighter plane in the late 1950s. After his retirement, he spent six years with a National Guard office that recruited blacks and women.

Woodrow Wilson Crockett was born Aug. 31, 1918, in a small town that is now part of Texarkana, Ark. Both of his parents taught at the one-room elementary schoolhouse he attended.

Col. Crockett twice received the Soldier’s Medal for rescuing downed pilots from burning aircraft. His other honors included the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Meritorious Service Medal, five awards of the Air Medal, the Army Commendation Medal and two awards of the Air Force Commendation Medal. In 2007, Col. Crockett and other Tuskegee Airmen received the Congressional Gold Medal, one of the country’s highest civilian honors.



Woodrow Crockett stands on the wing of his P-51C "Daisy Mae"



Tuskegee Airmen Woodrow W. Crockett and Edward C. Gleed, Ramitelli, Italy, March 1945

Pentagon Identifies Remains Of Missing Tuskegee Airman

By Shannon Van Sant
July 28, 2018 4:38 PM ET



The Pentagon has identified the remains of Lawrence E. Dickson (second left), pictured in 1942 with members of the graduating class at Tuskegee Army Flying School.

Afro Newspaper/Gado/Getty Images

After more than 70 years, the Pentagon has confirmed that human remains found at a crash site in Austria are those of a Tuskegee Airman who went missing during World War II.

Capt. Lawrence E. Dickson is the first of the black World War II aviators known as the Tuskegee Airmen whose remains have been accounted for and is likely the first missing Tuskegee Airman found since the end of the war, according to The Washington Post.

During the war, 27 Tuskegee Airmen went missing in action, according to The Root. They were among more than 1,000 black pilots who trained at the Tuskegee Army Air Field in Alabama. According to The Washington Post, nearly half of those served in combat, flying patrol and bombing missions. The tails of their fighter planes were distinguished from those of other pilots by their red tails.

On Dec. 23, 1944, 24-year-old Dickson took off from his base in Ramitelli in southern Italy. He was leading an escort for a photo reconnaissance plane, according to the Post.

They were headed for Nazi-occupied Prague when, an hour into the trip, Dickson radioed that he was having engine trouble. According to the account of a wingman, Lt. Robert L. Martin, reported in the Post, Dickson turned his plane toward home. As Dickson looked for a spot to land or bail out, Martin saw him “jettison the canopy of his cockpit.” He then lost sight of Dickson, and when Martin and the other wingmen looked for a parachute or wreckage, they didn’t see anything across the snow-covered valley.

The Post reports that Dickson’s wife, Phyllis, received a telegram that he had been reported

missing in action. Months later, the Post reports, she wrote to the War Department, inquiring about her missing husband.

“Please believe me when I say I have been greatly distressed,” she wrote. “I have tried to be brave (but) it has really been an effort.”

“I meet the mailman daily hoping & praying for some news but so far none.”

Since 2011, Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency analyst Joshua Frank has been taking a new look at World War II crash sites in Italy, the Post reports. He found a report in German records of a crash on Dec. 23, 1944, just over the border with Austria. When Frank went to visit the site, he found a crater, with a

layer of moss covering airplane parts of a P-51, the type of plane Dickson had been flying.

“They still had the ash on them, still burnt,” Frank said, according to the Post. “All of the older pine trees around the site had scars on the trees from when the plane was burning and the .50-caliber rounds popped off and hit the trees.”

Archaeologists excavated human remains from the site, the Post reports, from which DNA was extracted.

On Friday, the DPAA informed Dickson’s daughter, Marla Andrews, of East Orange, N.J., that the remains were those of her father. She told the Post, “I feel great! I really do feel a relief . . . I had a good crying jag.” She said she wants him to be buried at Arlington National Cemetery.



Lt. Alfred Gorham

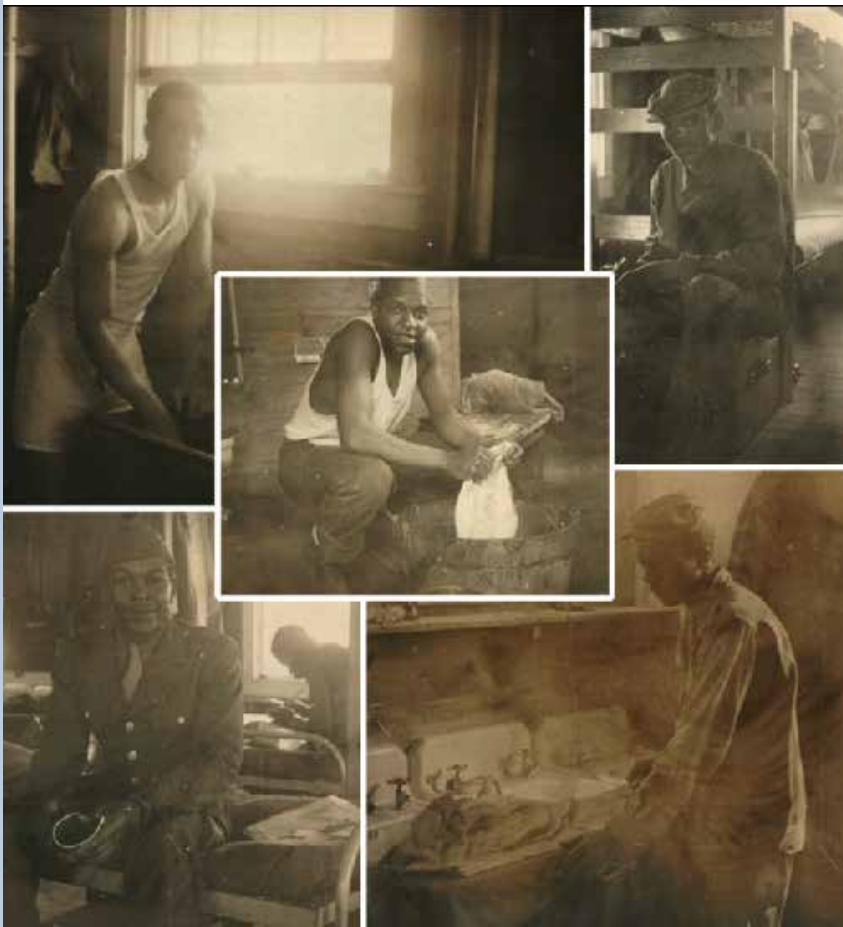
DID YOU KNOW?

August 7, 1944: The 332d Fighter Group escorted B-24s of the 55th Bombardment Wing and B-17s of the 5th Bombardment Wing to raid enemy oil refineries at Blechhammer. One Me-109 dove through the bombers during the raid. Bombers were shot down that day, but after the 332d Fighter Group had finished escorting them Lt. Alfred Gorham of the 301st Fighter Squadron, 332nd Fighter Group, got lost while returning from the Blechhammer mission. After dark, he attempted to land at Lesina Airfield, home of the 325th Fighter Group not far from Ramitelli, but the field was not equipped with airfield lights. Gorham undershot the runway and crashed into a Lake Lesina. The P-51 caught fire when it hit the water, but Gorham survived.



Visit [Profiles of Tuskegee Airmen](#) and take a closer look at the lives and accomplishments of some of the famed Tuskegee Airmen. New profiles are added regularly and will grow as the staff and volunteer of the CAF Red Tail Squadron continue their tireless efforts to research and share the remarkable stories of these important American figures.

CAF Red Tail Squadron Virtual Museum Artifact Spotlight



Barracks photos of Tuskegee Airman Charles Dorkins

Submitted by:

Family of Charles J. Dorkins

Location:

New York City, NY

About:

These photos offer a glimpse into the daily life of Tuskegee Airman Charles Dorkins, a rare look at what it was like living and training at Tuskegee. Dorkins graduated from Tuskegee Army Air Field on March 11, 1945 part of class TE-45-A, trained to fly twin engine B-25 bombers as part of the 477th Bombardment Group. The bomber pilots and crew would never deploy as the War ended in the Pacific before they were sent overseas.

Dorkins was part of group of officers that was arrested for trying to gain entrance into a military officers club at Freeman Army Airfield in Indiana in April of 1945. The event would become known as the Freeman Field Mutiny, a non-violent act of protest that went on to become a treasured and landmark point in the burgeoning civil rights movement.

Check out all the great pieces in the [CAF Red Tail Squadron Virtual Museum!](#)

Have something to share? [Submit a photo of your Tuskegee Airmen artifact, artwork or memorial](#) and be entered into our monthly prize drawing!

SHOP WITH US FOR MERCHANDISE WITH A PURPOSE!
Visit our entire store at www.redtail.org/store Shipping is included.

Take your pick! This year we are offering TWO [2019 Commemorative Air Force® \(CAF\) Red Tail Squadron calendars](#) for only \$15 each!

Feel the excitement of the P-51C Mustang each month with breathtaking photographs of our beautiful aircraft, along with a monthly feature of a Tuskegee Airman.

Or, check out the “A Tribute to The Tuskegee Airmen” calendar that includes a monthly inspirational story of a Tuskegee Airman, and learn more about the obstacles they faced, as well as their tenacity to survive and succeed.



[“Red Tail by Request” P-51C Mustang Print](#) On sale for \$65.00!

This dramatic print was produced from a 2' X 4' original by artist Sam Lyons.
A Certificate of Authenticity accompanies this 15" X 30" print.





Blue skies..

*Lt. Robert L. Martin
1919 - July 26, 2018*

Class 44-A-SE 1/7/1944 2nd Lt. 0819462 Dubuque IA

The Chicago Chapter of the Tuskegee Airmen sadly announced the passing of Original Tuskegee Airman Robert “Fox” Martin.

Lt. Robert L. Martin shot down, returns 5 weeks later

By Erica Smith | Post Dispatch | September 26, 2009

Lt. Robert L. Martin likes to say he flew “63 and a half” missions during World War II. Martin of Dubuque, Iowa, learned to fly in a civilian pilot training program while a student at Iowa State University. He joined the Air Corps and graduated from flight training on Jan. 7, 1944, at Tuskegee Army Air Field in Alabama. Martin soon deployed to Italy with the 100th Fighter Squadron.

Returning to the base from an escort mission on Dec. 9, Martin’s P-51 Mustang suffered engine trouble, and he was forced to land at a gunnery range at Cuetelo, north of Termoli, Italy. The plane fell over on the rough ground, damaging the propeller, but Martin was able to walk away from the crash landing.

On March 2, 1945, Martin and seven other pilots were sent to strafe railroads in the Graz area of Austria.

“We flew over this air field where there was no opposition,” Martin said in 2008 at Prizker Military Library in Chicago. “We saw two airplanes parked a little bit off the field, and we said, ‘We’ll get more credit for destroying two airplanes than shooting up a railroad train.’ We went in to shoot up these planes.

“We missed the planes because we were blown off course by 100 mph winds, so we went across the field – my leader turned right, I turned slightly left. I

found a target, shot at it and shortly after that I felt a bump on my airplane. “It was hit; the engine caught on fire.” Martin tried to try to make it back to base in Italy, but flames forced him to bail from the plane.

“I said ‘I’m not going to fry, I’m going to get out of here.’ I climbed over the side; it wasn’t high enough. I climbed higher. The fire was no longer in my conscience. I knew I had to get out, but the idea of the plane exploding did not cross my mind. I got up high enough to bail out and my beautiful parachute opened and knocked me out — cut my chin open and floated me down to earth.”

Martin found shelter in a farmhouse. The next day, he was taken to the Yugoslav Partisans, a Communist resistance group led by Marshal Josip Broz Tito.

“The Partisans held territories, about like a small county, which was bounded by main roads and main railroads,” Martin said. “Inside of that area, the Partisans were safe — they couldn’t organize enough to fight the Germans. So I was in this area and I was safe.”

Martin remained there for about five weeks; he was able to safely return to his unit in April. Martin returned to the United States after V-E Day in 1945, and searched for work in Chicago as an electrical engineer. He took a variety of jobs, including driving a taxi and working in factories, before he was hired as a draftsman by the Chicago Park District. Martin went on to work as an electrical engineer with the city of Chicago and retired after 37 years.

According to military records, Martin was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, Air Medal with six oak leaf clusters and a Purple Heart for his military service.

IN YOUR WORDS

The display and the movie were awesome; beyond words. I've read a lot about the Tuskegee Airmen, have seen documentaries (I think on the History Channel) and saw the Red Tail movie several times (not real accurate, but pieces of it carry the essential message.) Anyhow, getting more information about those amazing men was absolutely fantastic. It made the trip to Ames completely worth while.

Thanks for a great movie, and for all you're doing to educate everyone about those magnificent men in Tuskegee...
~Steve Reeves

My daughter has two adopted children from Haiti. They are in a mixed race family and are just starting to experience race discrimination as teenagers. It was important for my daughter and her family to visit your display and talk to the pilots. The message of it matters not who you are, where you come from, what you look like is important. Everyone who tries hard can make a positive difference and truly be a patriot.

We got pictures of the pilots with my 6 grand children. It was a highlight of our family reunion to Oshkosh KidVenture 2018. I think the picture could become a family heirloom.

My thanks to all in the organization who continue to tell this story. It's timeless!
~Joe Cothorn

Myself and my family were very moved and touched by your exhibit. I have seen things about the Tuskegee Airmen before, including the pleasure of meeting one of the brave men that served with the Airmen, but I was not very well informed. Your 15 minute movie has shown me what I was missing and has given my children a new obsession! They are in love with the "Red Tails" and we had to make a special trip to the Warbirds area to see your Tuskegee Airmen P-51C and take pictures with it before leaving Oshkosh. You have four new fans and we will be looking out for more opportunities to see the CAF and the Red Tail Squadron again!

Thank You for keeping the memories alive!
~Katie Hanchek

I really enjoyed your presentation, it really inspired me to start research on becoming a pilot and maybe even becoming part of the Air Force one day. I just want to thank you for putting this presentation on that inspired me to do what I'm doing, keep up the good work.
~Shawn Ferguson

I liked the message that the video was emphasizing, specifically the message that the main thing that limits a person is what they believe they can not what others tell them. I was glad my 7 and 10 year old daughters got to hear it.
~Tyler Nooyen

My response to the Red Tail experience was gratitude. Gratitude that you are promoting youth towards greater personal challenges, a better understanding of our history, and a path to a better future. The opportunity to speak with and shake the hands of two Red Tail pilots was humbling and a treasure. Thanks for bringing this program to the EAA.
~John Murphy

Very informative display. I especially enjoyed meeting two of the original Airmen present. They are true gentlemen. We are all called to continue to be good role models for subsequent generations, no matter what our circumstances.
~Mary Demers

You have a very inspiring presentation. It's not too long and it sends a powerful message of overcoming racism and achieving success in the face of formidable opposition. Tuskegee Airman Dr. Brown and his colleagues are a tremendous inspiration to all people and their living legacy to meet the public is honorable.

Carry on as planned and I wish your organization all the success it deserves.
~Paul Tomascik, CFI (Canada)

WE NEED YOU!

Make a [one-time or recurring donation](#) to help us to ensure the legacy of the Tuskegee Airmen is passed on to future generations, so that their strength of character, courage and ability to triumph over adversity may serve as a means to inspire others to RISE ABOVE obstacles in their own lives and achieve their goals!

Give [online](#), by calling 888-928-0188, or by mail at:

CAF Red Tail Squadron
971 Hallstrom Drive
Red Wing, MN 55066



For only \$99 you can join the [Top Flight Club!](#)

Top Flight Club members will have the exclusive opportunity to provide their feedback on the allocation of the funds raised through membership to support the CAF Red Tail Squadron's educational outreach efforts, as well as an annual report detailing their membership dues at work. In addition, members will receive a special member-only Top Flight Club hat and annual pin, and will collect a different pin each year upon renewal.



Please note that there was a slight error in the August edition of Red Tail Mail. Lt Fred Brewer Jr. was listed as married. We have completed further research and were unable to confirm his marital status. [Read his entire profile on our website.](#)

Filmmaker shares his love for the Tuskegee Airmen with Congress

By Bryan Williams of Bryton Entertainment, LLC.

On June 26, my wife and I had the extreme privilege to travel to Washington, DC and speak before Congress about my documentary, [“In Their Own Words: The Tuskegee Airmen”](#), and its profound effect on all who have had a chance to view it.

I must admit, standing there in front of that packed room, I was a little nervous. All the apprehension soon faded away, however, as I looked out and notices original Tuskegee Airmen in the front of the crowd, all in wheelchairs, and eager to hear me speak. I actually knew three of these gentlemen and I am honored to call them friends. One in particular, the legendary Colonel Charles McGee is the humblest man I have ever met, even with his remarkable record and notoriety.

Since learning of all their amazing accomplishments, I've grown to admire the Tuskegee Airmen immensely. I have grown to love these men for far more than their actions in World War II. I admire them because they are incredible examples of leadership and wisdom. They have changed my life in such a special in miraculous way.

You see, my journey began in one very late evening in August 2007 in a local restaurant when I was talking with my crew about what possible projects we could work on next. It was just two weeks prior when my wife told me she saw us producing a documentary. The guys laughed and said, “We don't produce documentaries. We produce film, commercials and music videos!” Finishing up a long shoot that day, we felt the good ideas were in

short supply, so we prayed on it, hoping for some divine direction for a projects that would inspire and encourage the next generation.

Shortly after, as if on cue, in walked an elderly African American gentleman wearing a Tuskegee Airmen hat, jacket and t-shirt. I commented to my team that I thought this many be a Tuskegee Airmen, and my business partner replied at how remarkable that was. That night 11 years ago, in that tiny little restaurant, started us on the incredible journey to tell the story of these amazing group of Americans. This journey has been filled with the most astounding realization about what true adversity is, what true heroism is, and, lastly, what true friendship is.

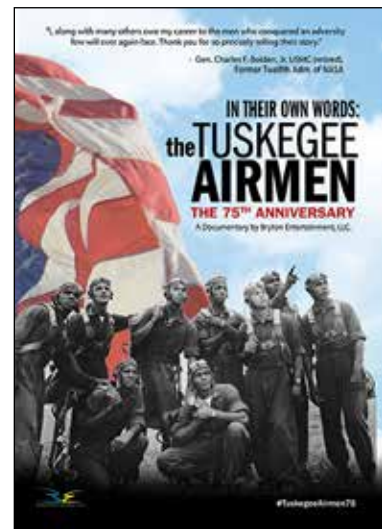
I told many wonderful stories about my friends during my time in Washington, DC, and I don't think there was a dry eye in the house. The Airmen laughed and cheered me on as they recalled every story so perfectly from their own perspective. As I finished, I made an effort to go and hug each of the Airmen.

Reaching my last friend, Col Charles McGee, he pulled me in tightly and thanked me for all of my efforts these past years. He told me how proud he was that I had honored their story and kept it alive. He told me he loved me and he prayed God would continue to bless me. Lastly, he told me I was his friend. I no longer had dry eyes.

As many people praised my efforts that night, I tried my best to deflect it toward the Airmen. I might have been responsible for capturing their stories, but after all, it was their model of dedication, determination and genuine friendship that has so enriched my life.



Col Charles McGee with Annette and Bryan Williams



[“In Their Own Words: The Tuskegee Airmen”](#)

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Lt Earl Lane of the 100th Fighter Squadron, 332nd Fighter Group and his ground crew with their P-51 Mustang *Dearly Beloved* #31. Lane was credited with shooting down an Me 262 on March 24, 1945.



B-25 pilot Lee Archibald Hayes



Warime poster marking the deployment of the 99th Fighter Squadron



Lt General Ira C. Eaker commanding general of the Mediterranean Allied Air Forces, is shown on an inspection tour of the 332nd Fighter Group. From left to right: Lt Col Beaufort Buchanan, Lt General Eaker, Captain Edward Lawrence, 99th Fighter Squadron Commanding Officer; Lt. Col B.O. Davis 332nd Fighter Group Commanding Officer; and Captain Robert B. Tresville 100th Fighter Squadron Commanding Officer. Tresville who commanded the 100th from June 29, 1943 was MIA in P-47D 42-75798 on June 22, 1944.



Cadets during mess at Tuskegee Army Air Field, June 1942.

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* denotes a new [Top Flight Club](#) member of the CAF Red Tail Squadron

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[Aviation's Finest Gather at EAA AirVenture](#) – *Aviation International News*

[Five things you need to know if you're heading to EAA AirVenture 2018](#) – *Oshkosh Northwestern*

[The Tuskegee Airmen fought a world war and racism. Now, they're telling kids their story](#) – *Oshkosh Northwestern*

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

“We wanted to fly and did what was necessary to fly. When you look back, yes, it was all worth it. We paid a price, but it was a price that we were glad to pay.”
~Original Tuskegee Airman Lt Col George Hardy



Photo courtesy Marc St Pierre Photography

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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