

NEWSLETTER OF THE **DETROIT CHAPTER** OF
THE TUSKEGEE AIRMEN INCORPORATED

January
2016



Hawk's Cry II



IN THIS ISSUE:
> Presidents' Page
> Local Happenings
> Lonely Eagles

TAIDETNewsletter@Comcast.Net



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SITES OF INTEREST

Simply SELECT The Link

[National Organization](#)

[TA National Museum](#)

[TA National Historic Site](#)

[Hawk's Cry II YouTube Channel](#)

[Hawk's Cry II Google Photos Site](#)

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DESIGN**

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THE PRESIDENTS' PAGE



THE NEXT TWO CHAPTER MEETINGS

Thursday, 14 January 2016 and 11 February 2016 @ 1900 hours (7:00 p.m.)

Please Arrive between 6:30 & 6:45pm-before doors are locked.

At 613 Abbott in Downtown Detroit (3rd and Abbott)

REMEMBER: CHAPTER MEETINGS ARE ALWAYS THE 2ND THURSDAY OF THE MONTH

ATTENTION ALL MEMBERS

Please Wear Tuskegee Airmen Marked Clothing to Meetings to Show Uniformity

Good Day my Brothers and Sisters, I have attached this letter from me to you just to remind you of all the things that are being planned and are currently going on. Our next Chapter Meeting is Thursday, January 14, 2016 at 7:00 PM. We hope that you can all attend. This is the FIRST meeting of the New Year and we are so excited about all the possibilities that exist for us. First and foremost we shall unveil all the plans we have to celebrate the 75th Anniversary of the Tuskegee Airmen this year. We shall revisit our VISION and the plans we have for our youth. Next it is imperative that you come prepared to pay your dues. We want all of you to be financial. Your dues and our fund raisers allow us to service the Youth in our community. We need you. So mark your calendar today and set the time aside to be in attendance. We all look forward to seeing you. God Bless and keep you. You may contact me at 734-635-0477. Our Board shall meet forty five minutes prior to the regular meeting so I'll see you all at 6:15 PM. Let's get this year off to a rousing start.

- ◆ I have been in touch with Rep. David Rutledge regarding the, I 75 Signs and the cost associated with them. He instructed one of his aides to contact us and she has been in touch with VP McNeal and it appears that the most the signs would cost is \$2000.00. VP McNeal will report to us as soon as she has the final cost.
- ◆ Our **Cruise is set for July 24, 2016.** We are asking that all of our members commit to attending and purchasing or securing at least five people attend. This will be a very special celebration since we shall be celebrating The Tuskegee Airmen 75th Anniversary and our own Original Tuskegee Airmen (DOTA), (COME PREPARED TO PURCHASE YOUR TICKETS). There will be some very special guests invited and I expect many of them to accept our invitation. Tickets will be for sale at our December celebration on the 10th. The tickets will go on sale to the public in the middle of January. Once the word gets out I expect that we shall have a sell out. So you need to purchase your tickets early. There will be a brief celebration honoring our special guests The Nine Living DOTA's while we are on the Cruise.
- ◆ Our Annual Conference will take place from July 12-17, 2016. It shall take place in Indianapolis, IN., We should be able to have many members attend and since it is so close we could if we have the numbers rent a bus. In fact we could set up a payment plan once members commit to take care of our transportation and hotel, which would help in impacting the total cost.

CONTINUING REMINDERS

- ◆ The Tuskegee Airmen National Museum is collecting historic aircraft that the Airmen actually flew during WWII in order to take the history of the Tuskegee Airmen to even more people via air shows. The museum is looking for \$150k for the purchase and restoration of a PT-17/Stearman aircraft that was flown by original Tuskegee Airmen at Moton Field, Tuskegee AL. Here is a link to the GoFundMe for the Stearman. <http://www.gofundme.com/Tuskegee>. Please share this desire with your friends and family.
- ◆ Eric Palmer has created a new YouTube channel where he will post chapter, museum and newsletter specific videos. **Check out the latest adds...**www.youtube.com/channel/UCenKIUbKAl8ZU1xe5krHMeA
- ◆ Eric Palmer has also added a Google photo account where you will be able to see photos not included in this newsletter. **Check out the latest adds...**<https://plus.google.com/u/0/photos/103373438642577008211/albums>

Thank you,

Miguel Thornton

President

Detroit Chapter

Tuskegee Airmen, Inc.



I hope all of you had a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. I personally thank all of you who were able to participate in our Christmas Celebration on December 10, 2015. Our Board of directors and me are looking forward to a very good year in 2016. Our vision is clear, therefore we are pledging to serve the youth in our area. We have put together a comprehensive program of activities for the year and at the center of those activities is how we plan to celebrate the 75th Anniversary of the Red Tails.

VISION: "Year of the Youth", Say Yes To Our Youth

ACTIVITIES: From October 1, 2015 thru June 30, 2016 add 75 New Members

RAISE a minimum of \$200,000.00 for our scholarship fund

ESTABLISH a scholarship foundation

DEVELOP and IMPLEMENT a Youth Leadership Retreat (Cadets)

CREATE an Oratorical Contest in conjunction with The Optimist Club

CREATE a Bicycle Safety Program in conjunction with The Optimist Club

CREATE an Awards and Honors Program for Our DOTA's in conjunction with
Our Annual Cruise July 24, 2015

PARTICIPATE IN and HELP WITH sales at the Air Shows

Special Pheasant Hunting Adventure featuring our DOTA'S

CRUISE 3rd Annual Cruise celebrating 75 years

Our three Goals are:

Leadership Cadets

75 New members

Raise a minimum of \$200,000.00 for the Scholarship Program

It will take all of us working together to accomplish these goals. The first step is to help with the sale of our tickets for the cruise. Everyone had a chance to secure their tickets at our Christmas dinner but only four people stepped forward to secure their five tickets. We expect to sell them all, however we want to make sure that our members out purchase our guests. Once we go public because it is a significant part of us celebrating our 75th year the tickets we believe will sell fast.

There is much to be done and we have the men-woman power to do it.

We must work together.

Consider Participation in...

The National Conference of our Tuskegee Organization is having the Conference in Indianapolis, Indiana, July 13-16, 2015. We hope that many of you will plan upon attending. With that in mind we plan to rent either a van or bus (depending on the numbers) to carry us to the Conference as a Chapter. We don't have all the financial data yet but we do know that if we charter a bus the traveling expense would be significantly lower. Also included in this edition of the newsletter is a letter from our National President. It outlines a kick off event on the 22nd of March that will be held at Moton Field, followed by a Gala in Montgomery Alabama.

Walk of Honor, Buy a Brick, Michigan WW II Legacy Memorial, January Meeting

Tuskegee Airmen Career Fair, WCCCD, East Campus, February 22-26, 2016 more information at the January Meeting and sign up to help

DOTA Distinguished Service Award January 2016

LOCAL HAPPENINGS

[The Friends of the Air Force Academy Library](#)

The Friends of the Air Force Academy Library is a nonprofit charitable organization formed to enhance the quality of the Academy's McDermott Library as an educational, research, scientific, and cultural institution. Their web site hosts a number of collections and exhibits including the Doolittle Photographs collection and the

[USAFA Graduate Memorial Wall database](#) ([brochure](#)).

They have just created a site for our own

LtCol (Ret) Alexander Jefferson...check it out...

[Click HERE to go to the web site](#)

Alexander Jefferson (SMS 1556)

Lieutenant Colonel Jefferson was a Tuskegee Airman and a Second Lieutenant in the U.S. Army Air Force during World War II. He flew with the 332nd Fighter Group and was shot down and captured by the Germans on August 12, 1944. He was detained in Stalag Luft III and later Stalag VII-A. Most of Jefferson's materials in Clark Special Collections are drawings from the notebook he kept as a prisoner of war. Lt Col Jefferson published an account of his wartime experiences in *Red Tail Captured, Red Tail Free: Memoirs of a Tuskegee Airman and POW*.

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Name: JEFFERSON, ALEXANDER															Staatsangehörigkeit: U. S. A.									
Vorname: ALEXANDER															Dienstgrad: LT									
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Ehemalige des Heeres:															Reinhold Kf. (Ehemaliger des Generalstabes) - 4119 A/1									
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LOCAL HAPPENINGS

Hey John:

I understood you were going to use the picture for a newsletter or some other communications to the chapter.

In addition to the picture below, you can let people know that our plan is to come back with a display of the statue models at your December 10 meeting.

At that time, we will again offer our bricks at the 25% discount that was offered at our meeting last week. If people want more information or to download an order form, they can go to: <http://www.michiganww2memorial.org/help-us/buy-a-brick/>. We will also bring more brochures.

We noted five bricks total sold at the event out of the 10 bricks you needed to qualify for a free 16x16" organizational brick. We will note those together in our records. We will do the same for any bricks sold in December. Since I know some folks took brochures and did not order a brick at the time, can you let them know if they mail an order in to please write somewhere on the order form "Tuskegee Airmen, Detroit" so we can be sure to count these as well.



The State's official tribute to Michigan's contributions during WWII



The Michigan WWII Legacy Memorial shares the Michigan Tuskegee story.

Please let me know if any questions.

Thanks,

Russell Levine

Vice President, The Michigan WWII Legacy Memorial

<http://www.michiganww2memorial.org/>

russell.levine@michiganww2memorial.org

248 875 8455

LOCAL HAPPENINGS

CALLING ALL RUNNERS, WALKERS AND ROLLERS

THE TUSKEGEE AIRMEN NATIONAL HISTORIC MUSEUM HAS LAUNCHED ITS FIRST VIRTUAL 5K.

EACH PARTICIPANT WILL RECEIVE A BEAUTIFUL BIB AND A CUSTOM DESIGNED MEDAL.

We launched on VETERANS' DAY 2015 TO *Celebrate Our Heroes*.
We conclude on MEMORIAL DAY 2016 TO *Continue The Legacy*.

HOW IT WORKS:

- 1) Sign up at Eventbrite.com: <http://www.eventbrite.com/e/tuskegee-airmen-national-historic-museum-1st-virtual-5k-tickets-18581871879?aff=es2>
- 2) Run, walk or roll for a total of 3.1 miles (5K) sometime in May 2016. You choose the place. You choose the time.
- 3) Too excited to wait until May? No problem. Complete your 3.1 miles at any time between now and Memorial Day, May 30, 2016. Your bib and finisher's medal will be mailed to you in May.
- 4) Share your accomplishment on our facebook page: www.facebook.com/TheTuskegeeAirmenNationalMuseum
- 5) Tell others about this event. Proceeds support the youth programs and mission of the Tuskegee Airmen National Historical Museum.

NOTE: This is a nation-wide event that will sell out. A limited quantity of medals have been made. Please register early to guarantee a medal. The medal will be revealed in the Hawk's Cry and on our Facebook page in early 2016.

Thank you / Tammy Smith / Race Director / VerdictInVegas@yahoo.com



LOCAL HAPPENINGS

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1st Vice President

Brig Gen Randolph Scott, USAF (Ret.)

2nd Vice President

Vacant

Immediate Past President

Vacant

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Central Region Representatives

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Eastern Region Representatives

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Patt Terrelongue

Virginia Hardy

Western Region President

Rodney Gillead

Western Region Representative

Ronald D. Hilliard

Clyde B. Jones, Sr.

Charles Hill

Karen Robinson

Ladies and Gentlemen,

March 22, 2016 will be the 75th Anniversary of the activation of the U.S. Army Air Corps 99th Pursuit Squadron (later to become the 99th Fighter Squadron), the first black combat aviation unit comprised of pilots and support personnel. Some of you may have received a "Save the Date" from the Tuskegee Airmen Foundation (TAF) referencing a media event to be held at Moton Field and a gala in Montgomery AL to commemorate this anniversary on the 22nd of March 2016.

The Tuskegee Airmen Foundation is a IRS 501 c 3 not for profit that was created to provide funding for the activities and programs of Tuskegee Airmen, Incorporated (TAI) and its chapters. Recently the BoD of TAI approved the creation of the Tuskegee Airmen Youth Aerospace and STEM Academy as a perpetual memorial to the Documented Original Tuskegee Airmen (DOTA). The TAI Board asked the Trustees of TAF to raise the funds needed to establish and sustain the academy, this will allow TAI to focus on our ongoing activities and operations.

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 would 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. Too few youth, especially those in at risk communities dare, 'to dream the impossible dream', to pursue careers in aviation, aerospace, transportation, technology and the sciences.

To kick off the fundraising for the academy, TAF is hosting the events on the 22nd of March as a commemoration of the 75th Anniversary of the beginning of the Tuskegee Airmen Experience. The "Grand Celebration" of the 75th Anniversary will be our National Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana 13 through 16 July 2016. We encourage all TAI members to attend and participate in this upcoming convention as we will be celebrating a significant milestone for our DOTA's. At this point we have commitments from some key supporters to join us in Indy to include Herb Kelleher, President Emeritus, Southwest Airlines and General (retired) Larry Spencer, the new President of the Air Force Association.

The aim for attendance at the media event at Moton Field AL and the gala in Montgomery AL is estimated at 90% of attendees will come from the Alabama and Georgia areas. We're working with TAF to get funding to support attendance by a small number of DOTA's and escorts from each region for the events in March.

Each TAI Chapter should consider how they could host 75th Anniversary commemorative events in their communities. To assist the chapters, a template will be provided by TAF. These local events would provide excellent opportunities to fundraise, solicit new members and showcase chapter activities to the community.

Success in this effort depends on support from individuals and organizations that understand that the Documented Original Tuskegee Airmen have made and continue to make contributions that impact all Americans. Youth are the future and we all have an obligation to support them in their educational and career efforts.

I hope this answers your questions you may have about the 75th Anniversary of the Tuskegee Airmen Experience and the Tuskegee Airmen Foundation. Hope to see you in Indianapolis!

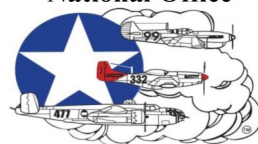
Sincerely,

Leon A. Johnson
National President
Tuskegee Airmen, Inc.

Leon A. Johnson

TUSKEGEE AIRMEN, INC.

National Office



LOCAL HAPPENINGS



Reception & Dinner photos
John Stewart

The Hawk's Cry II



LOCAL HAPPENINGS



*Reception & Dinner photos
John Stewart*



LOCAL HAPPENINGS



The Hawk's Cry II

*Reception & Dinner photos
John Stewart*

LOCAL HAPPENINGS

The Hawk's Cry II



Reception & Dinner photos
John Stewart

Why I Fly Young Eagles

"My neighbor, Robert Shurney, a NASA engineer, got a friend of his to take me flying in his Cessna 172 when I was 12 years old. After that flight I spent many hours building airplanes and rockets. I eventually earned a Ph.D. in biomedical engineering, and later in life I dedicated myself to educating other underrepresented youth to careers in aviation."

"I started EAA Chapter 1351 around the turn of the century with the sole purpose of doing Young Eagles rallies. Several of the Young Eagles I flew went on to pursue careers in aviation, and several are in the Tuskegee Airmen Flight Academy, an aviation program run by the Tuskegee Airmen National Museum, where a dedicated student can earn a pilot certificate."

> Brian Smith, Ph.D., EAA 495180

President and founder of EAA Chapter 1351 in Detroit, Michigan. More than 750 Young Eagles flown to date.



EAA Young Eagles

Visit YoungEagles.org/volunteers
to become a Young Eagles volunteer pilot.

EAA Young Eagles Presenting Sponsor

EAA Young Eagles Flight Plan Partners



The Hawk's Cry II

Tuskegee Airman Charles Feaster of Xenia dies

Posted: 10:24 a.m. Wednesday, Jan. 13, 2016

By [Barrie Barber](#) - Staff Writer

XENIA —

Every time the Zion Baptist Church needed a repair or a patch, Charles P. Feaster was “Johnny on the spot,” the church’s pastor remembered. For Feaster, maintenance came naturally. The 94-year-old Xenia man was a technical engineer with the famed Tuskegee Airmen, a group of African-American pioneers and airmen who broke racial barriers in the U.S. Army Air Forces in a segregated military in World War II. Famous for flying planes with red tails, they battled Nazi pilots in aerial dogfights and escorted white Army Air Force bomber crews on missions in the skies over Europe and North Africa. Feaster helped keep the African-American airmen flying. He died Jan. 11 of apparent natural causes at his home, according to the Greene County Coroner’s Office. Funeral arrangements were pending Wednesday. He was one of several World War II airmen, soldiers, sailors and Marines who shared their stories with this newspaper on the [70th anniversary of the end of World War II](#) last year. “He was always proud of



being a Tuskegee Airman, but he never flaunted it,” said Pluma Thomas, 87, a longtime neighbor who since the 1950s has lived across the street from Feaster and his wife, Mae, who survives. “Just in later years the (Tuskegee) Airmen have been noticed which naturally brought quite a bit of notice to him.” Charles and Mae Feaster were married for 65 years and members of Zion Baptist Church for decades, Thomas remembered Wednesday. His death was “hard on the entire church because he was such a fixture there,” she said. Feaster was once a chairman of the church’s board of trustees, served on the usher board, and sang in the men’s choir, said Rev. Gary G. Chapman, longtime pastor of the Xenia church. “We had kind of a long-standing joke with people that he was at the church more than I was,” Chapman said. The pioneering veteran was active in civic groups, like the Optimists Club, friends remembered. Feaster also was a retired management and program analyst at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base. “He was a very private person and yet he was still a very active person in many areas,” Thomas said. Chapman said his longtime church member was “honorable, consistent, and compassionate. Truly a disciplined and amazing man. “His family was the type when you were sick they wouldn’t just call you, they would send you a dozen, two dozen roses.” Feaster spent \$13 to buy a 1930 Ford Model A to drive to Tuskegee, Alabama to train with the famed airmen, one place where African-Americans were allowed to fix and fly planes in the segregated society of the 1940s, he remembered in an interview with this newspaper. “I knew little or nothing about airplanes,” he said in an



interview April. In 1943, Feaster kept P-40 Warhawks aloft with the 99th Pursuit Squadron in Cape Bon, Tunisia so pilots could bomb German and Italian forces on the island of Pantelleria. It was one of several wartime assignments. “In the beginning, we didn’t get the support we needed in combat,” he recalled in a 2014 interview. “Washington decided to give us that chance and we took that chance.” The squadron destroyed about 400 Nazi airplanes, he said then. “The Germans called us the black birdman, and the U.S. serviceman called us red-tailed angels.” Jeff Underwood, a National Museum of the U.S. Air Force historian, said the Tuskegee Airmen demonstrated in wartime combat they performed as well as their white counterparts. “Their efforts are one of the reasons the Department of Defense desegregated” in 1948, he said. “They were always pointed to as the example.” Underwood briefly met Feaster last February when the museum unveiled an expanded exhibit

on the history of the Tuskegee Airmen. The exhibit is near another honoring the Women Airforce Service Pilots, also veterans of World War II, Underwood said. The historic achievements of both “were both changes in not just American military history but American culture.” The Tuskegee [Airmen were presented the Congressional Gold Medal](#) in 2007. President Barack Obama noted Feaster’s wartime service when the commander in chief met the World War II airman at Rickenbacker Air National Guard Base in 2013. “He thanked me for my service, and he said, ‘You’re a path breaker,’” Feaster told this newspaper then. “It made me feel extremely touched. It made me feel I got something accomplished.”

Federal Benefits for Veterans, Dependents and Survivors

2009 Edition

Phone Numbers

Bereavement Counseling.....	1-202-461-6530
Education.....	1-888-442-4551
Headstones and Markers.....	1-800-697-6947
Health Care.....	1-877-222-8387
Homeless veterans.....	1-877-222-8387
Home Loans.....	1-877-827-3702
Life Insurance.....	1-800-669-8477
National Suicide Prevention Lifeline.....	1-800-273-8255
Pension Management Center.....	1-877-294-6380
Special Health Issues.....	1-800-749-8387

**Telecommunication Device
for the Deaf (TDD) 1-800-829-4833
VA Benefits 1-800-827-1000**

Web Sites

VA Home Page.....	www.va.gov
Education Benefits.....	www.gibill.va.gov
Health Care Eligibility.....	www.va.gov/healtheligibility
Burial and Memorial Benefits.....	www.cem.va.gov
Returning Service Members.....	www.oefoif.va.gov
Home Loan Guaranty	www.homeloans.va.gov
Records	www.archives.gov/st-louis/military-personnel
VA Benefit Payment Rates.....	www.vba.va.gov/bln/21/rates
VA Forms.....	www.va.gov/vaforms
Mental Health.....	www.mentalhealth.va.gov
Federal Jobs.....	www.usajobs.opm.gov
Veterans Preference.....	www.opm.gov/veterans/index.asp
Employment Assistance.....	www.vetsuccess.gov
Veterans Employment and Training.....	www.dol.gov/vets

Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Program

Life Insurance.....	www.insurance.va.gov
Department of Defense.....	www.defenselink.mil

EDITOR'S CORNER

Original Tuskegee Airmen Signed Certificates of Appreciation

Refreshed with new background and now with the
signatures of 12 Detroit Chapter DOTA's.

The certificates come in six (6) different ribbon color
combinations;

- Yellow text on Black background
- Black on Yellow
- Yellow on Red
- Red on Yellow
- Yellow on Blue
- Blue on Yellow
- Green on White and
- White on Green

Inquire with TAIDetNewsletter@Comcast.net to
get your electronic version.

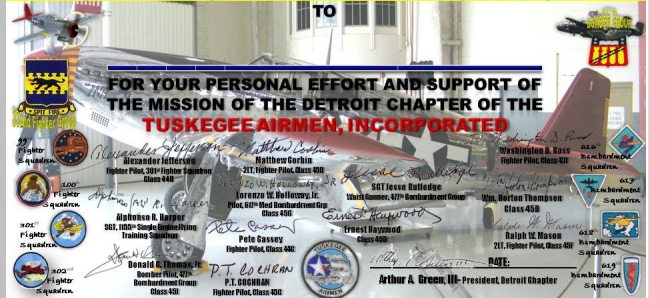


THE AIRMEN OF
THE **DETROIT CHAPTER** OF THE
Tuskegee Airmen, Inc.



AWARDS THIS

CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION



Please communicate all newsletter inclusions to:

Eric Palmer

TAI-Detroit Chapter Newsletter Editor

TAIDetNewsletter@Comcast.net

MEMBERSHIP CORNER

Erma Leaphart

vcd21@aol.com

or

Eric Love

Condor1L@Yahoo.Com

The Hawk's Cry II



**Tuskegee Army Airmen, Inc.
Detroit Chapter
P.O. Box 44825 Detroit, MI 48244**



ATTENTION ALL CHAPTER MEMBERS: To ensure we have adequate coverage of local activities, please get your local and recent Tuskegee Army related news stories to the editor ASAP. Contact info inside

