

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

March
2016



Hawk's



Cry II

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TAIDETNewsletter@Comcast.Net

SCREENING

The Luft Gangster

Memoirs of A Second Class Hero

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(OFFICERS-BOARD MEMBERS - 2012)

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2nd Vice President—
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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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THE PRESIDENTS' PAGE



THE NEXT TWO CHAPTER MEETINGS

Thursday, 10 March 2016 and 14 April 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

- ⇒ From the moment you joined The Detroit Chapter of The Tuskegee Airmen, you set in motion your desire to share with our children the “Legacy of THE TUSKEGEE AIRMEN.” We thank you! As your President, I accepted the task to work for you and with you. We all know that these are trying times, however we need each other to be truly successful with our vision and our goals.
- ⇒ We have begun a new year and we should be like the spring of the year, rested and ready to take on the tasks of helping our youth and sharing our Documented Original Tuskegee Airmen’s Dreams. This is our 75th Anniversary, so what better time would there be to really set the standards.
- ⇒ National TAI is kicking off their efforts with a special two-day event, honoring our DOTA’S and establishing a Tuskegee Airmen Foundation and STEM Academy that will help to preserve our legacy. They are calling this event a” Commemoration”, that will build on the successes of the past, identify needs of our youth and highlight our DOTA role models.
- * Next meeting on Thursday March 10th at 7:00 PM— Board Meeting at 6:00 PM
 - * Ticket sales for our Cruise are moving along at a turtles pace
 - * Completion of The February Career Fair at WCCCD
 - * Downtown Detroit River Days June 24-25, 2016
 - * Freedom Fireworks June 26, 2016
 - * National Convention, Indianapolis, Indiana, July 13-16, 2016
 - * 3rd Annual Cruise July 24, 2016, Jefferson Beach Marina, Jefferson Ave. at 9 Mile Rd. 6 to 9 PM
 - * Honors and Awards Reception, 2:00 PM to 4:30 PM, Site TBD, July 24, 2016
 - * Waiting to hear from The Optimist Club for The Bicycle Safety and Oratorical Contest joint effort
 - * A Veterans group and I have spoken about possibly resurrecting a soapbox derby for our youth (Detroit News)
- ⇒ **TEAM: Together Everyone Accomplishes More, Think about it.**
- ⇒ **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/UCenKIUbKAI8ZU1xe5krHMeA
- ◆ 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.

The Hawk's Cry II



Soaring High, Continuing the Legacy

Third Annual Detroit Chapter Tuskegee Airmen Fundraising Gala Dinner Cruise
Sunday July 24 2016, at 6:00-9:00 pm aboard the luxurious Ovation Yacht. Located at
the Jefferson Beach Marina

24400 Jefferson Ave, St Clair Shores MI 48080

For more information contact

Miguel Thornton (734) 635-0477 or Eric Love (248) 709-3748

Cost \$100.00 per person



Proceeds from the "Soaring High" fundraising dinner will benefit the Detroit Chapter Tuskegee Airmen's Downs-Coles Education program, which supports minority youth in pursuit of their aviation and aerospace careers.

LOCAL HAPPENINGS



Commemorate The Tuskegee Airmen's 75th Anniversary in Select U.S. Movie Theaters March 29

Presented by Fathom Events and Bryton Entertainment, This Event Pays Tribute to America's First African-American Fighter Pilots from World War II

DENVER – February 29, 2016 – Fathom Events is partnering with Bryton Entertainment to present **[“In Their Own Words: The Tuskegee Airmen - The 75th Anniversary”](#)** in select U.S. cinemas for the first time ever on Tuesday, March 29, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. local time. This one-night cinema event features emotional interviews, rare photographs, archival footage and computer-generated recreations. Audiences will also experience an exclusive panel discussion captured at the National Air Force Museum with Tuskegee Airman Lt. Col. George Hardy, Former Administrator of NASA Col. Fred Gregory, as well as the producer Bryan Williams and director Denton Adkinson.

Tickets for “In Their Own Words: The Tuskegee Airmen - The 75th Anniversary” can be purchased online by visiting www.FathomEvents.com or at participating theater box offices. Fans throughout the U.S. will be able to enjoy the event in nearly 200 movie theaters through Fathom’s Digital Broadcast Network. For a complete list of theater locations visit the Fathom Events [website](#) (*theaters and participants are subject to change*).

Sixteen of the Tuskegee Airmen, America's first African-American military aviators who flew the skies of the European Theater during World War II, are featured in this powerful event. As African Americans were rejected in their attempts to enlist in World War I, the recruitment, training and combat of the Tuskegee Airmen in World War II was a monumental moment not only in American military history, but also in American history as a whole. “In Their Own Words: The Tuskegee Airmen - The 75th Anniversary” tells the story of how these airmen were some of the first to begin the civil rights movement and have lived long enough to see the changes that continue to resonate today.

“Fathom is extremely excited to be working with Bryton Entertainment on this powerful event that honors the Tuskegee Airmen. 2016 marks the 75th anniversary of these amazing fighters and there is no better way to celebrate these men than a documentary and panel discussion,” said Fathom Events CEO John Rubey. “The enthusiasm in which the few remaining Tuskegee Airmen reacted to this news has been nothing short of fulfilling. These brave men made one request of us upon lending their story, ‘Never let our story die!’ We are thrilled to honor that request with Fathom Events on March 29, when this event hits theaters around the country,” said Bryan Williams of Bryton Entertainment, LLC.

Below is a list of the locations where “In Their Own Words” will be shown

Event Date	Showtime	Theatre Name	Address	City	State	Zip
29-Mar-16	7:00 PM	Livonia 20 with IMAX	19500 HAGGERTY RD	LIVONIA	MI	48152
29-Mar-16	7:00 PM	Forum 30 with IMAX	44681 MOUND RD	STERLING HEIGHTS	MI	48314
29-Mar-16	7:00 PM	Flint West 14	1591 S GRAHAM RD	FLINT	MI	48532
29-Mar-16	7:00 PM	Ann Arbor 20 IMAX	4100 CARPENTER RD	YPSILANTI	MI	48197
29-Mar-16	7:00 PM	Movies 16	28600 DEQUINDRE RD APT 1050	WARREN	MI	48092
29-Mar-16	7:00 PM	Quality 16	3686 JACKSON RD	ANN ARBOR	MI	48103
29-Mar-16	7:00 PM	Commerce Township 14	3033 SPRING VALE RD	WALLED LAKE	MI	48390



Documented original Tuskegee Airmen honored for lifetime legacy of valor

Jan 28, 2016 By Roz Edward, National Content Director

The Tuskegee Airmen Foundation is set to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the “Tuskegee Airmen Experience.” Three events to mark this long awaited occasion will be held on Tuesday, March 22, 2016 – a press conference at 11:00 a.m. at the Tuskegee Airmen National Historical Site in Tuskegee, AL and a V.I.P. Reception & Black Tie Gala at the Renaissance Montgomery Hotel & Spa at the Convention Center in Montgomery, AL from 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

Pilots, nurses, mechanics, ground crew, air traffic controllers, meteorologists, stenographers, armorers and other support personnel saw the activation of the first black combat aviation unit at Tuskegee Army Air Field and other locations. March 22, 2016 will mark the 75th anniversary of the inauguration of the U.S. Army Air Corps 99th Pursuit Squadron on March 22, 1941.



“To help celebrate this milestone we have set a goal to raise \$75 Million over ten years for the Tuskegee Airmen Youth Aerospace and STEM Academy as a perpetual memorial to the Tuskegee Airmen,” says Brigadier General Leon Johnson, USAFR (Ret.), National President, Tuskegee Airmen, Inc. The Tuskegee Airmen Youth Aerospace and STEM 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.

Unfortunately, this may be the last milestone when most of our remaining Documented Original Tuskegee Airmen will be with us to celebrate and we want to make it memorable for them and their families. We are planning an ongoing series of activities and events in major cities to commemorate the 75th Anniversary and solicit support for the academy.

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



Tuskegee Airman Film Screening



*In honor of Black History month, the Airpower Foundation and American Airlines presented the screening of, **The Luft Gangster: Memoirs of A Second Class Hero** on February 3, 2015 at Grapevine high school in the morning, Colleyville Heritage High School in the afternoon, and an evening viewing at the C.R. Smith Museum, Fort Worth, Texas. We were honored to have the film makers*

[More Pictures](#)

LOCAL HAPPENINGS



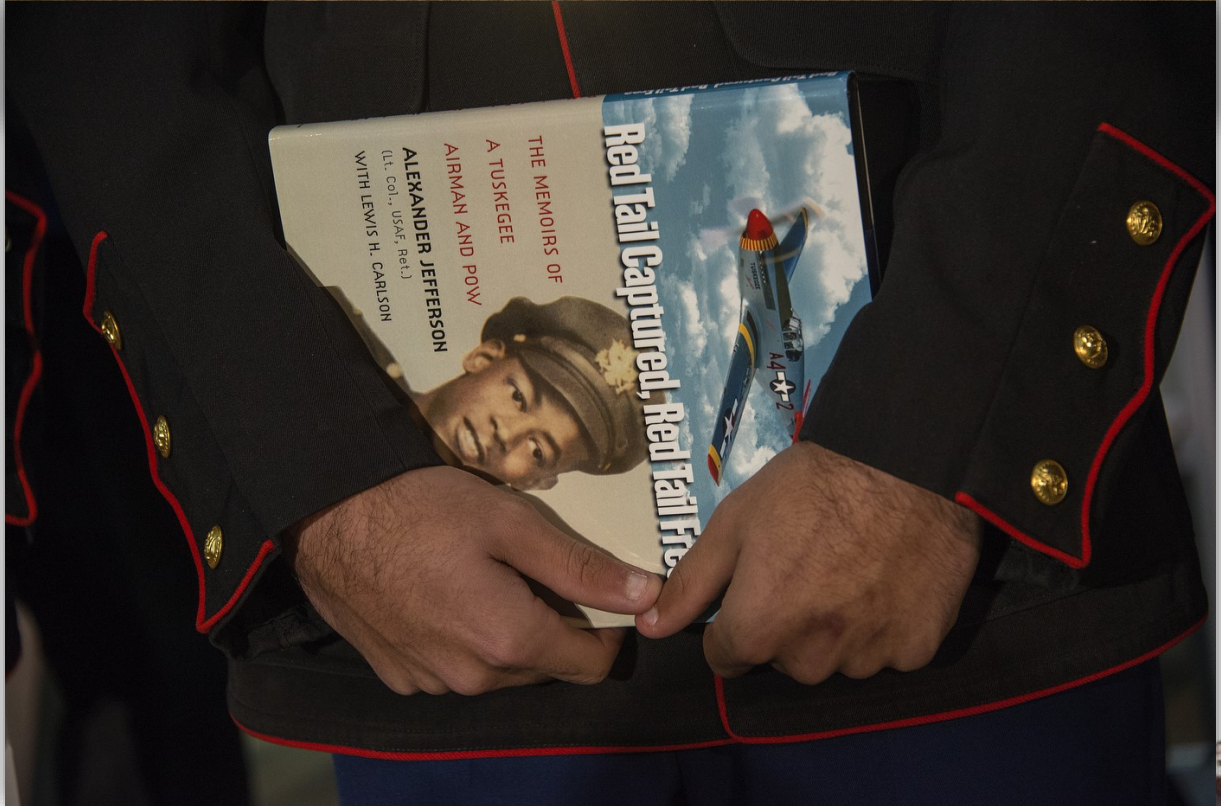
The Hawk's Cry II

LOCAL HAPPENINGS

The Hawk's Cry II



LOCAL HAPPENINGS



The Hawk's Cry II

LOCAL HAPPENINGS

The Hawk's Cry II



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.



 **Young Eagles**

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

EAA Young Eagles Presenting Sponsor

EAA Young Eagles Flight Plan Partners



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Intelligent Tools for Pilots

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The Hawk's Cry II

Mitchell L Higginbotham, Tuskegee Airman, Dies Age 94

"Mitch was a true patriot, who against tremendous adversity and prejudice would not waver from his allegiance to the United States and his goal to be an aviator," The Palm Springs Air Museum's managing director Fred Bell said. "His life and dedication should serve as an example of what one should do for their fellow men and our nation. It is one thing to espouse patriotism. It is a very different thing to strive with your all your body and soul will give – and Mitch did just that. We are lucky that these type of men stepped up to the plate during a very dark time and I am truly blessed to have known him."

This is a fitting tribute to a brave and principled man, **Mitchell L. Higginbotham**, who passed away at Rancho Mirage on Sunday 14th February 2016 at age 94. Mitchell was born on the 2nd March 1921 in



Amherst, Virginia and he answered the call to duty in World War II, enlisting in 1942. Mitchell was one of the Tuskegee Airmen, a squadron of African-American pilots who gained accolades for their bravery and flying skills during the war. The squadron won renown in the Italian campaign. They were originally only intended to engage in escort duties, but soon they were involved in dogfights with the Luftwaffe. Mitchell was trained as part of class 44-K-TE at Tuskegee Army Airfield and graduated with his wings as a 2nd Lieutenant

on the 1st February 1945. Following his graduation from flying school he was posted to the 477th Bombardment Group based at Freeman field in Indiana, where he was trained on single and multi-engine aircraft and was cited for his skill in piloting the B-25 bomber. In mid-1945 Mitchell, along with many of his colleagues were involved in an attempt to desegregate the officer's club at Freeman field; an incident called the Freeman Field Mutiny. The segregation of the armed forces during World War II was strictly enforced. This enforced segregation was carried through to the officer's social clubs in spite of Army Regulation 210-10, Paragraph 19, which prohibited any public building on a military installation from being used *"for the accommodation of any self-constituted special or exclusive group."* This regulation required the officer's club to be open to all races, but this was not implemented at Freeman Field. Here the colonel in charge of the field had instituted two clubs, a trainees club for use by black officers and an instructors club for the exclusive use white officers. This infuriated the airmen of the 477th and it all came to a head on 5th and 6th April when a total of 61 black officers were arrested for attempting to gain entrance to the instructors club. After an investigation 58 were released and the colonel redrafted the rules around the clubs. These new regulations were read out to all the airmen and they were instructed to sign a copy but they refused. Eventually 101 airmen were arrested for refusing to sign the new regulations. On 23rd April, they were all released after pressure was brought to bear on the army by many different pressure groups. This incident is often quoted as a turning point in efforts to fully integrate the armed forces and the men that stood up for their ideals were eventually fully pardoned by President George Bush. Mitchell, along with 300 fellow Tuskegee comrades were awarded the Congressional Gold Medal. After being demobbed Mitchell went to the University of Colorado, where he graduated with a Masters Degree in Labor relations. He held several positions ending up as a probation officer in Los Angeles County. Mitchell has been an active member of many organisations during his life. Some of the organisations that benefited from his support were the National Tuskegee Airmen, Los Angeles Chapter of The Tuskegee Airmen, the Dana Point Historical Society and once he had moved back to Rancho Mirage, the Tolerance Education Center of Rancho Mirage. In recognition of all that he had achieved for the Tuskegee Airmen, he was awarded the highest honour by his old comrades and made their Man of the Year in 1996. Two years ago he moved to Rancho Mirage to be closer to his family and he took the time to teach young children the history of the great squadron nicknamed the Tuskegee Airmen. He had a great affection for children and spent a great deal of his time with them. He also acted as a consultant on the film 'Red Tails' about the Tuskegee Airmen. Services for this principled, peace loving and moral man will be held at noon on the 5th March at the Tolerance Education Centre, 35147 Landy Lane, Rancho Mirage and Mitchell will be buried at the Tuskegee Memorial in the Sewickley Cemetery. A formal Tuskegee Memorial Service will be held in May.

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

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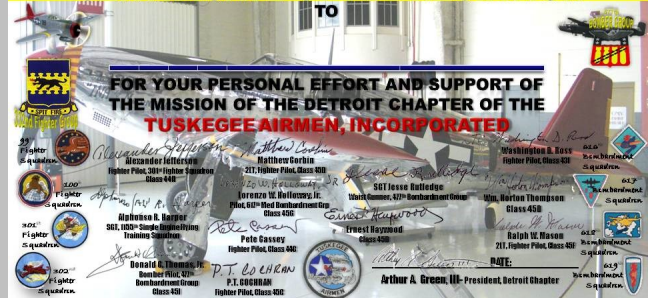


THE AIRMEN OF
THE **DETROIT CHAPTER** OF THE
Tuskegee Airmen, Inc.



AWARDS THIS

CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION



Please communicate all newsletter inclusions to:

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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 Airmen related news stories to the editor ASAP. Contact info inside

