

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

May
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

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[TA National Historic Site](#)

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THE PRESIDENTS' PAGE



THE NEXT TWO CHAPTER MEETINGS

Thursday, 12 May 2016 and 9 June 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

Greetings All,

⇒ Good day all, our next Chapter meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 12, 2016, promptly at 7:00 PM. I am so excited about us getting back together since we have so much to share with each other and so many plans that will benefit the youth that we serve. You know "IRON SHARPENS IRON". Our Mission is that we honor the accomplishments and perpetuate the History of African Americans who participated in air crew, ground crew and operations support training in the Army Air Corp during

WW II. Introduce young people across the nation to the world of aviation and science through local and national programs such as the Young Eagles and TAI youth programs and activities. Providing educational assistance to students and awards to deserving individuals, groups and corporations whose deeds lend support to TAI's Goals. TAI also supports the Tuskegee Airmen Award presented to deserving cadets in the Air Force Reserve Officers Training Corp Program. Utilizing the above we find an area that we can connect with and work within the boundaries of that area. Some of the things that are going on presently are as follows:

- | | |
|----------------------|--|
| ⇒ June 9, 2016 | Election of Three Officers—President, 2nd Vice and Secretary |
| ⇒ June 19, 2016 | Eyes on Design Car Show @ Eleanor and Edsel Ford House |
| ⇒ June 1-30, 2016 | Doing Business with the Federal Reserve |
| ⇒ June TBD, 2016 | Negro League Baseball Game at Comerica Park |
| ⇒ June 24-26, 2016 | Detroit River Days Air Show and Sales |
| ⇒ June 27, 2016 | Fireworks |
| ⇒ July TBD, 2016 | Leadership Academy possibly the 8th and 9th |
| ⇒ July TBD, 2016 | Cadets Kick off |
| ⇒ July 13-16, 2016 | TAI National Convention |
| ⇒ July 24, 2016 | Honors and Awards Presentation at Charles Wright Museum 2:30 – 5:00 PM |
| ⇒ July 24, 2016 | Annual Cruise from Jefferson Beach Marina 6:00 – 9:00 PM |
| ⇒ September 17, 2016 | Inaugural Voyage of the USS Detroit |

⇒ Finally, there was a very good presence for Lt. Alexander Jefferson's awarding of the Bronze Star by Congress Woman Debbie Stabenow at the 61st Annual NAACP Dinner. A good time was had by all. There are many photos circulating around make sure that you take the time to see them. Col. Alexander is at home and Al Jameson's wife is home also. Let us all stay prayerful for our sick and shut ins.

⇒ Remember, **Young Eagles will be 2nd Sunday of the Month until the Fall.**

⇒ We are putting the final touches on our special day, July 24, 2016. The Honors and Awards presentation will take place at the Charles Wright African American Museum on the 24th. It shall take place from 3PM to 5PM. This will allow all those going on our Annual Cruise to get there on time. During our presentation many will have the opportunity to view the Documentary about Lt. Col. Alexander Jefferson (Luft Gangster), for the first time in Detroit.

⇒ **There are several events coming up that will honor Art Green.** One will be in Washington DC. Where the DNR will Honor him and his work. Another will be the State of Michigan which is planning to name a street after him that will be on Belle Isle, there is one other in the planning stage but I don't have enough information to share with you right now.

⇒ 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.

⇒ Our Annual Conference will take place from July 13-16, 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.

[Register for Convention.](#)

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.



TUSKEGEE AIRMEN INC.
Convention Registration

[Home](#) [Registration](#) [Policies](#) [TAI Website](#) [Contact Us](#)

Tuskegee Airmen Inc.

45th National Convention - July 13 - 16, 2016
Indianapolis, Indiana



Photo courtesy of Westin Indianapolis Hotel



Welcome to The TAI 45th National Convention Registration

The TAI 45th National Convention, [Westin Indianapolis Hotel](#), Indianapolis, Indiana.

Each registrant must complete all information on this form to ensure your complete registration is processed. For additional information or questions regarding registration, please contact us by phone at 210.421.2485 or e-mail: info@taiconvention.com.

Please review important [registration](#) and [cancellation](#) policies before registering.

Convention Registration Checklist

- ✓ Special Hotel Reservation Instructions
- ✓ Complete Your Registration Online
- ✓ Download Convention Registration Form
- ✓ Review Registration/Cancellation policies
- ✓ Download Convention Schedule of Events
- ✓ Download Convention Volunteer Package

Exhibitors, Sponsors, Advertisers

- ✓ Download Convention Information Guide
- ✓ Sponsorship Opportunities
- ✓ Exhibitor Opportunities
- ✓ Official Journal Advertising Opportunities

ENGAGE
To
Register
For the
Convention

LOCAL HAPPENINGS

2016 Tuskegee Airmen Documentary - OFFICIALLY RELEASED!

[BUY NOW](#) on DVD & BluRay:

"THE LUFT GANGSTER: MEMOIRS OF A SECOND CLASS HERO"

THE COMPLETED FEATURE LENGTH VERSION OF THIS AWARD-WINNING DOCUMENTARY IS NOW RELEASED HONORING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LEGENDARY TUSKEGEE AIRMEN (the "RED TAILS")

This Inspirational Film Starring Lt. Col. Alexander Jefferson is A MUST HAVE for Now and for Future Generations.



Watch
Trailer

ORDER NOW AT:
WWW.LUFTGANGSTERMOVIE.COM

"The film itself is a loving, reverent tribute to an honorable man, worthy of being honored."

★★★★ - Tom Santilli, Examiner.com

Order
Movie



This award-winning documentary was shown pre-released on all equipped AA aircraft worldwide to celebrate diversity for Black History Month 2016

American Airlines 

The Hawk's Cry II



Aviation event will let young Detroiters soar above city

Posted By [Michael Jackman](#) on Tue, Apr 26, 2016 at 6:30 am

Photo courtesy Beverly Kindle-Walker

There will be plenty of earthbound displays, but the Detroit Fly-In will send drones, planes, and young folks up above it all. Anybody interested in what Detroit's aerospace high school has to offer has an excellent opportunity next month, with the Inaugural Detroit Fly-In, a daylong event taking place May 15.



You might never have known that Detroit Public Schools has a high school devoted to aviation, where students for careers as pilots, mechanics, and air traffic controllers. It's called Davis Aerospace Technical High School. It has a 100 percent graduation rate, higher than that of Cass Tech, and has a pedigree stretching back to the Second World War.

The school was founded in 1943, back when Detroit was the Arsenal of Democracy. Both adults and students studied there then, learning how to repair the warbirds Detroit was turning out. When the war ended, the school was retained as a high school for training aeromechanics, and it was later renamed for Gen. Benjamin O. Davis Jr., the first African-American four-star general in the U.S. Air Force.

The school used to have open houses every year, but since emergency manager-run DPS, in its infinite wisdom, moved the school off airport grounds to Golightly Career and Technical Center. (Now, when the students want hands-on training, they have to be transported more than three miles.)

But activities at the city airport continue for Davis' students. Every other Sunday, Detroiters between the ages of 8 and 17 get to go up in the air with volunteer general aviation pilots in Cessnas, Pipers, and gliders, so the aspiring fliers can gain an opportunity to try out their co-pilot skills.

Next month's event will have all that and more, although, on that busy day, families hoping to get their young ones in the air should arrive as early as possible. Tuskegee Airmen will be in attendance, and there will be military aircraft, choppers, and demonstrations of drone aircraft as well. We hear from the executive director of Friends of Detroit City Airport, Beverly Kindle-Walker, that there's even a chance Michelle Obama's baby-blue 737 could touch down to join the affair.

Those interested in attending, volunteering, or simply getting more information may contact Kindle-Walker at bevkinwalk@hotmail.com or call 313-822-2237. It all happens 1-5 p.m. on Sunday, May 15, in the main terminal of the Coleman A. Young International Airport; 11499 Conner St., Detroit.

LOCAL HAPPENINGS

Bringing the lessons of the Tuskegee Airmen to 178 classrooms for Black History Month

By Bill Shepard

As leader of the CAF Red Tail Squadron, it's a privilege to talk to people – especially kids – about the Tuskegee Airmen. And if they don't know that part of our history, our mission is that much more critical! For all those we can't reach face-to-face at events, we have a resource kit for classroom use that gives teachers and youth leaders the tools they need to introduce this important and inspirational piece of history to their students.



The kit focuses on the principles that are based on the lessons of the Tuskegee Airmen - ***Aim High, Believe In Yourself, Use Your Brain, Be Ready To Go, Never Quit, Expect to Win.*** Our hope is that these materials will help bring the lessons of the Tuskegee Airmen out of the history books straight into the everyday lives of students. The kit includes posters, DVD, pocket-sized books, inspirational dog tags, children's book and classroom activities.

We kicked-off a fundraising campaign in September 2015 with a goal to get these kits into the hands of as many teachers as possible *for free* in time for Black History Month. We were pleased that enough supporters stepped up that we were able to provide 178 kits in over 39 states to schools in high-minority enrollment districts!

The kits were delivered by the beginning of February so teachers could utilize the information in their lesson plans for Black History Month. Students also had the opportunity to participate in a contest to put into action what they learned about the importance of education and determination, based on the Tuskegee Airmen's example of overcoming adversity.

We're privileged to be able to travel around the country to ensure the legacy of the Tuskegee Airmen is not forgotten. Beyond the events, it's crucial to include in our efforts all those who aren't able to come see us in person. Every classroom in America should teach the lessons of the Tuskegee Airmen! We hope to continue this important outreach work and donate even more kits to teachers in honor of next year's Black History Month.

I think you understand when I say this labor of love is not work...it's a lifestyle! It's like it's a part our DNA; we're just wired this way. And I'm proud to say that because of this, our collective efforts are not only honoring the Tuskegee Airmen, but also helping inspire kids to be their very best!



LOCAL HAPPENINGS

Tuskegee Airman, 94, awarded Bronze Star at Detroit NAACP dinner

DETROIT (AP) — A 94-year-old Detroit native has been awarded the Bronze Star Medal for heroic service and meritorious achievement during World War II. Lt. Col. Alexander Jefferson was presented the award by U.S. Sen. Debbie Stabenow on Sunday at the 61st Annual Detroit NAACP Freedom

Fund Dinner. Stabenow says Jefferson is one of the few remaining Tuskegee Airmen still alive. It was the first African-American unit to fly combat airplanes in World War II. In 1944, he was shot down on his 19th mission in Europe and taken prisoner by the Nazis. His prison camp was liberated in 1945, but he saw atrocities at the Dachau concentration camp. In 2007, Jefferson and other Tuskegee Airmen received the Congressional Gold Medal — the nation's highest civilian honor.



Alexander Jefferson Receives Bronze Star at NAACP Annual Dinner 2016



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LOCAL HAPPENINGS



Vietnam War 50th Anniversary Commemoration

Saturday, May 21, 2016

10:00 a.m.

Cass Park

Detroit

***Please join us as we honor the
Veterans of the Vietnam War***

- 50th Commemoration Pinning Ceremony
- Guest Speaker: Digger O'Dell, Ex-Pow
 - Vietnam Wall
 - American Legion Riders
- Music, Food and Refreshments



*For more information,
call 313-376-3332
www.vietnamwar50th.com*



VETERAN AND CIVILIAN WORKFORCE CAREER FAIR



Warren C. Evans
Wayne County Executive

Wayne County Department of
Health, Veterans &
Community Wellness

Veteran Services Division

In Partnership with



**MICHIGAN
WORKS!**



May 24, 2016 at the Dearborn Performing Arts Center
9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Participants Please Register to Attend at:
detroitvamccandidates@gmail.com

**Remember to bring copies of your professional
resume!**

Equal Opportunity Employer & Programs – Minorities/Women/Disabled/Veterans
Reasonable accommodations will be made upon request.

LOCAL HAPPENINGS

GREAT OPPORTUNITY FOR OUR YOUTH
FREE AIRPLANE FLIGHTS OVER DETROIT



Tuskegee Airmen & Young Eagles presents

"Free Airplane Flights Over Detroit"

For youth 8 to 17 years old

April to October 2016

Every second Sunday

(except Mother's Day)

Fly Dates of Season:

April 10th May 15th June 12th July 10th Aug 14th Sept 11th Oct 9th

10:00 AM to 2:00 PM

@ Detroit City Airport

Coleman A. Young International Airport

11499 Conner

(Main terminal)

Detroit, MI 48213

Limited to first 25 youth to sign-up per Sunday

Parent or guardian must be present (adults do not fly)

The flights are weather permitting

Info distributed by:

Friends of Detroit City Airport CDC PO Box 32602, Detroit, MI 48232

Beverly Kindie-Walker, 313-822-2237, E-mail bevkinwalk@hotmail.com

Mission: To expose youth to the fields of aviation, engineering, math, science & technology for careers

A 501(c)(3) organization Founded in 1999

In God We Trust

Friends of Detroit City Airport

in conjunction with the

Benjamin O. Davis Aerospace Technical High School Community PTA/PACSA

Presents an Aviation

“Detroit Fly-In”

Sunday, May 15, 2016 1PM – 5PM

In the main terminal of

Detroit City Airport

Coleman A. Young International Airport

11499 Conner, Detroit, MI 48213

Invited Participants:

Tuskegee Airmen

Black Pilots of America

City of Detroit Airport Department

Detroit Police Department Aviation Unit

Detroit Fire Department

General Aviation Pilots (nationwide & international)

Michigan State Police Aviation Unit

USAF Honor Guard

AV Flight Detroit Aircraft Corp

Davis Aerospace Technical High School Alumni

Military Aircraft

Static Displays of various planes

Aviation Careers & STEM Education Resource Table

Sign up for “Free Flights” for youth 8-17 yrs old

Drones Demonstration

Air Traffic Control & FAA Internships Info

Interactive Opportunities & Other Surprises

Free Refreshments

Free Parking

Committee: Lt. Col Lawrence Millben, Beverly Kindle-Walker, Alfonso King, Burton Lowe, John Stewart, Tony Stevenson, Keith Hines, Beverly Brown, Sherry Wells, Calvin Morrison, Willie Shaw, Richard Knotts, Juan Haygood, Rainelle Cunningham, Avis Tumpkin, Dr. A. Johnson, Verna Brocks, Ken Rucker, Brian Shorkey, David Stone, Bill Dickens, Chris Harris, Mary Sue Layle, Deven Hines, Antoinette P. Estelle, Aaron McCarthy

Friends of Detroit City Airport is a 501(c)(3) organization, founded in 1990
FDCA, PO Box 32602, Detroit, MI 48232 313-822-2237

Email: beykinwalk@hotmail.com

Mission: To expose youth to field of aviation
In God We Trust

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



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Aeronautical University

LIGHTSPEED

GARMIN



ForeFlight
Intelligent Tools for Pilots

GLOBAL AIRWORKS

The Hawk's Cry II



Judge Harold Wood, a Westchester trailblazer, dies

[Gabriel Rom](mailto:grom@lohud.com), grom@lohud.com 9:28 a.m. EDT April 21, 2016

Wood, the first black State Supreme Court justice in the county, was a formative part of black history in Westchester.

Harold L. Wood, a Westchester trailblazer who became the first African-American member of the County Board of Supervisors and later the first African-American state Supreme Court justice in the county, died last Thursday in Florida at the age of 96.

Remembered by his family as humane, thoughtful and often hilarious, Wood served as an anchor to his children, his daughter, LaVerne Jill Wood, said.

"When he was just 4 years old he would help direct his father out the driveway, and he really has been the director — the guiding light — of our family ever since," she said.

[OBITUARY NOTICE: Harold L. Wood](#)

Born in Ossining during the heart of America's Jim Crow racial segregation era, Wood forged a path largely unique to African-Americans in Westchester and throughout the country. During World War II, he served in the Army Air Corps on the Tuskegee Airbase in Alabama, where he grew close with many of the members of the historic Tuskegee Airmen African-American aviation unit who trained in Tuskegee.

After the war, Wood attended Lincoln University in Pennsylvania and received a law degree from Cornell University and a master of laws from New York University Law School. A series of firsts soon followed: the Westchester County Board of Supervisors — predecessor of the current county Board of Legislators — the Mount Vernon City Council, Westchester Family Court judge, County Court judge, and 9th District state Supreme Court justice. His election to the Board of Supervisors in 1957 had made him the first African-American elected to public office in Westchester. He retired from the Supreme Court in 1995.

Throughout his storied career, Wood, a Republican, earned the respect and admiration of his colleagues. Over 600 people turned out for his retirement dinner, and state Supreme Court Justice Orazio Bellantoni referred to Wood as his mentor at Wood's funeral on Tuesday, Wood's daughter said.

"I knew his accomplishments, but I just remember him as dad," she added. "He gave tremendous advice, he always told me 'take the high road,' no matter how complex or aggressive things got."

However impressive Wood's career was, LaVerne Jill Wood kept coming back to her father's irrepressible humor and curiosity.

She spoke of his heartfelt desire never to face his wife, Thelma, in double's tennis. "If she was on the other team she would never quite let him get to the baseline before she would hit him in the backside," she recalled, laughing. Thelma Wood died in 2007.

In addition to his daughter, Wood, who lived in Somers before moving to Florida, is survived by his sons, Gregory Lance Wood and Dean Christopher Wood; three grandchildren, Natasha, Michael, and Lauren; and numerous nieces and nephews.

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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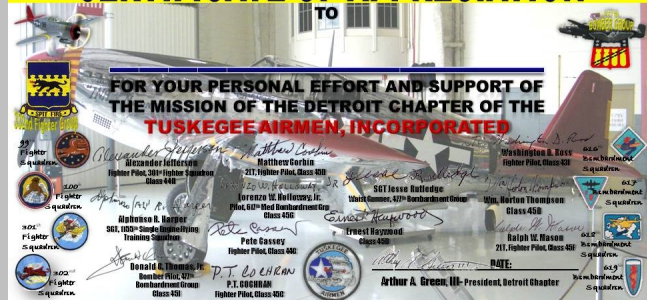


THE AIRMEN OF
THE **DETROIT CHAPTER** OF THE
Tuskegee Airmen, Inc.



AWARDS THIS

CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION



Please communicate all newsletter inclusions to:

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TAI-Detroit Chapter Newsletter Editor

TAIDetNewsletter@Comcast.net

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Erma Leaphart

vcd21@aol.com

or

Eric Love

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The Hawk's Cry II



**Tuskegee 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

