

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

October
2016

THE

Hawk's



Cry II

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TAIDETNewsletter@Comcast.Net



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(OFFICERS-BOARD MEMBERS - 2012)

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SITES OF INTEREST

Simply SELECT The Link

[National Organization](#)
[TA National Museum](#)
[TA National Historic Site](#)

ON THE COVER: Image of the new Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture in Washington, DC — David Adjaye

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THE PRESIDENTS' PAGE



THE NEXT TWO CHAPTER MEETINGS

Thursday, 11 August 2016 and 8 September 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 my brothers and Sisters. We have been blessed to have an awesome two months of service to our youth and chapter members. On Thursday, August 11, 2016, we elected our new Officers; President, Miguel E. Thornton, First Vice president, Gwendolyn McNeal, Second Vice President, Eric Love and Secretary, Theodore Whitely who will serve in both roles presently. Our official swearing in ceremony will take place at this meeting. Please thank your Board for stepping up and presenting themselves for your leadership.

As our 75th Anniversary year continues to roll along, I want to share some of the past months highlights. Our First Honors and Awards Program held at the Charles Wright African American History Museum, saw us Honor thirteen Documented Original Tuskegee Airmen (six were in attendance), with the Crystal Eagle Award symbolizing their place in our History. We also honored seven legislators for their efforts with regard to the Tuskegee Airmen and five chapter members for their dedication and tireless work to our youth and our organization. Our DOTA's received The Spirit Of Detroit Award at this sessions presented by Linda Wesley from Detroit City Council. Everyone in attendance appreciated the efforts placed on this event. We then ventured out on our Third Annual Cruise. One hundred seventy one persons participated and we did not lose any money. We show a small profit right now however we are waiting for over \$20,000.00 from our sponsors. Bureaucracy moves slowly. Hopefully we shall have a final report at our September meeting. The only disappointment was that we did not have larger member participation. In fact four members accounted for over 105 of the tickets sold.

The EAA/Young Eagles Program has had a very successful year with hundreds of youth participating and many of our members. Our hats are off to all the members that are and have helped this year. The Friends of Detroit City Airport and our Benjamin O. Davis PTO, has really come through with their help and participation. The comments from the parents and young people let us know that we are headed in the right direction.

We participated in The Heritage Festival in Idlewild, Michigan, sharing our Tuskegee experience. Two DOTA's spoke with many people at this event. Since this was our first year participating we returned home with many good experiences. We thank Al Jameison and Larry Sargent for being the POC's for this event. We can't wait until next year, plans are already in the offing. We were invited back to the Thunder Over Michigan Air Show this year. The comments that we have received indicated that we were very successful in our efforts to rebuild our image with the sponsors of this event. Also, it was a success financially and historically. Ltc. Alexander Jefferson signed books and videos on Saturday as many of our members shared the Tuskegee experience with hundreds of people. We had a pilot from the 107th volunteer to help us with the EAA program and at least two others requesting membership in our organization. There were many other activities that we participated in during the past two months especially with our Speakers Bureau. Bob Tillman has created a very special relationship with Durfee Middle School. I think he might now be on staff there.

Tuskegee Airmen International Conference was held in Indianapolis Indiana, the 12th thru the 17th of July. DOTA Frederick Henry, Vice president McNeal and President Thornton were in attendance. Report to be given at our September Meeting.

There are several events taking place in the near future that I will share with you now. The biggie is that The Detroit Parade Company has requested that we design a float and have it in the Thanksgiving Day Parade. Ltc. Larry Millben and Member Pettaway are the POC's for this event.

The State Department's Michigan Humanities Committee has invited us to participate in their endeavor on October 8, 2016, at Jackson International Airport. This event will Honor The Tuskegee Airmen with a special on Col Jefferson. We shall share a 15 minute segment of The Luft Gangster shown, with a Q and A after. The program is set for 5:00 PM until 7:00 PM. Our attendance is requested in our Dress Blues.

Upcoming Events:

- | | |
|-------------------|---|
| October 8, 2016 | Jackson International Airport
Michigan Humanities Council
Humanities in Flight 5:00 - 7:00 PM
Special Presentation of Luft - Gangster with a Q and A
LTC. Alexander Jefferson, Miguel Thornton et.al. |
| November 11, 2016 | Ann Arbor VA Veterans day Program
Phizer Building 9:00 AM
Plymouth Rd. at Huron Parkway
LTC. Larry Millben poc et. al. |
| November 13, 2016 | Presentation at Mt. Hebron Missionary Baptist Church after
Service at app. 1:00 PM
Celebrating Veterans
8 Mile Rd. at Wyoming, Ferndale, Michigan |
| December 8, 2016 | Christmas Dinner meeting |

New Chapter Leadership



Be Blessed,
Miguel Thornton
President
Detroit Chapter
Tuskegee Airmen, Inc.

The Hawk's Cry II



LOCAL HAPPENINGS

DETROIT AIRMEN ATTEND NMAAHC OPENING

Select Link Below to Visit Museum site and watch opening ceremony

National Museum of African American History and Culture | A museum that seeks to understand American history through the lens of the African American experience.



**Will
Smith**



**Charles
McGee**



**John
Legend**



**Samuel L.
Jackson**



**Chris
Tucker**



**Jesse
Jackson**



**Quincy
Jones**

The Hawk's Cry II

More Pictures

LOCAL HAPPENINGS

TA Awards and Cruise



More Pictures

<https://photos.google.com/album/AF1QipNSQXvoiP3EDLH94e8QUHnzNGzN7qvV0hDZ03Uc>

The Hawk's Cry II



LOCAL HAPPENINGS

The Hawk's Cry II



LOCAL HAPPENINGS

Willow Run Airshow



The Hawk's Cry II

More Pictures



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.



Humanities in Flight

Soar into history with tales of valor from
 legendary Tuskegee Airman
 "Red Tail" Lt. Col. Alexander Jefferson, USAF (Ret.)

Saturday, October 8, 2016
5:30 - 7:30 pm
 Cocktails and heavy hors d'oeuvres

Jackson County Airport, 3606 Wildwood Avenue
 Richmond Brothers, Inc. Hangar
 Jackson, Michigan 49202
 Conveniently located at I-94 and 127

Individual Tickets: \$50
 Corporate Sponsorship tables of 8 available for \$500

Tickets available online at www.michiganhumanities.org
 or call our office at 517-372-7770.

Don't miss the WWII B-25 Bomber flyover at sunset.
 (Purchase a raffle ticket for a ride in the Bomber!)

LOCAL HAPPENINGS

FREE AIRPLANE RIDE

EAA Chapter 1351 presents Young Eagles Rallies

SPONSORED BY TUSKEGEE AIRMEN NATIONAL MUSEUM
AND DETROIT CHAPTER TUSKEGEE AIRMEN INC.

From April to October Every 2nd Sunday
except May it is the 3rd Sunday 10AM to 2PM



The Detroit Tuskegee Airmen EAA Chapter 1351 holds Young Eagles Rallies once per month from April to October in an effort to attract youth to our other aviation programs. This program gives youth ages 8 to 17 a free airplane ride around the city of Detroit. For more information call 313-843-8849 or visit www.youneagles.org

The Hawk's Cry II



LOCAL HAPPENINGS



From Larry Sargent, The Chapter and Museum member's attend an event at Idlewild with the mobile Museum Display. In attendance were Lt. Col. Alexander Jefferson and his granddaughter Ernestine and Ramon, Mr. And Mrs. Fred Henry, Detroit TAI Chapter President, Miguel Thornton and Claudette, Tuskegee Airmen National Museum, Vice President, Larry Sargent and Patrice. Greg Whiting and Paul T. Garrison. Also, attended event and gave a presentation to 45 youth on the Tuskegee Airmen.



Hugh Barrington Speaks at Commencement



All TAI Chapter Presidents,

The Howard Baugh Chapter has undertaken a project to erect a statue that will forever serve to honor the accomplishments and commemorate the legacy of the WWII American heroes we know as the “Tuskegee Airmen”. This Tuskegee Airmen Statue will be the first of its kind in the state of Virginia and only the second on the entire east coast. This statue needs a face so it will be sculpted in the likeness of Virginia native, decorated WWII Combat Fighter Pilot, TAI Life Member, and DOTA LTC Howard Baugh (1920-2008).

We have completed the Bronze Maquette phase of this project (see photos) and have raised 75% of our financial goal. We would like your Chapter and/or your individual members to consider helping us raise the balance by the end of this, our 75th Anniversary year.

No donation is too small or too large...and all are needed and much appreciated. To make a tax-deductible donation to the **HBC-TAI Statue Fund** by credit card, check, or money order, please visit www.hbc-tai.org and click “Donate”. Your generosity will help provide an everlasting salute to our beloved DOTAs, the legendary “*Red Tails*”.

Thank you for your consideration.

Kindest Regards,

Howard L. Baugh
President,
Howard Baugh Chapter
Tuskegee Airmen, Inc.
pres@hbc-tai.org



Working together to achieve our collective goals

By Bill Shepard

The spirit of collaboration was in full force this past month! The CAF Red Tail Squadron makes a point to pursue and welcome opportunities to work with other like-minded organizations because these collective efforts serve to amplify all our efforts as we all work to honor the legacy of the Tuskegee Airmen. In July, we were very excited to support two fantastic events that happened to be on the same weekend!

I was proud to attend Tuskegee Airmen National Convention with two hats – as a member of TAI and the Squadron Leader of the CAF Red Tail Squadron. As always, this event proved to be a shining example of how to honor, maintain and preserve the legacy of the Documented Original Tuskegee Airmen. The TAI continues to create a bridge between the Airmen and the youth of today to inspire, reach and achieve their goals, because “if your want something bad enough you’ll find a way to achieve your dreams!” It was both exciting and inspiring to be at the convention.



Concurrently, we were able to visit to Moton Field, Alabama, original home of the Tuskegee Airmen, to support the [Legacy Flight Academy](#). This innovative program aims to expose youth to aviation through character-based activities that draw upon the legacy of the Tuskegee Airmen. Our [RISE ABOVE Traveling Exhibit](#) was a welcome addition, providing visitors a unique way to learn about the Airmen as well as that spark to RISE ABOVE challenges in life to achieve your life’s plan.

Both were great opportunities to further ALL our missions to honor the Tuskegee Airmen and we were humbled to be included. The CAF Red Tail Squadron is still winding its way across the country for stops in communities almost every weekend and we will continue with an increased passion to reach our goal.

Inspire for higher!
Bill Shepard

Why I Fly Young Eagles

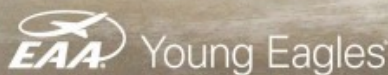
"My neighbor, Robert Shurney, a NASA engineer, got a friend of his to take me flying in his Cessna 172 when I was 12 years old. After that flight I spent many hours building airplanes and rockets. I eventually earned a Ph.D. in biomedical engineering, and later in life I dedicated myself to educating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



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

EAA Young Eagles Presenting Sponsor

EAA Young Eagles Flight Plan Partners



Tuskegee Airman, Martin Luther King Jr. Bodyguard Dies at 93

September 5, 2016 5:26 PM ET

Dabney Montgomery

fought for America on two battle-grounds: in southern Italy, during World War II, and in the American South, during the civil rights movement. Montgomery, who died on Saturday at the age of 93, was a ground crewman with the Tuskegee Airmen. He went on to be a bodyguard for Martin Luther King Jr., guarding the civil rights leader during the march from Selma, Ala. — his hometown. Mont-



gomery, along with the other Tuskegee Airmen, received the Congressional Gold Medal in 2007. The heels from the shoes he wore during the march from Selma to Montgomery will be on display in the new National Museum of African American History and Culture in Washington, which is opening later this month. Dabney Montgomery grew up in Selma; his father was a [fireman](#) (a stoker) for Southern Railroad. "Watching my father board his train, I wanted to be an engineer when I grew up," he [told the Wall Street Journal](#) last year. "But only white men were engineers then, and only a few blacks became firemen." As a young man Montgomery was drafted, trained as a ground support crew and sent with the Tuskegee Airmen to southern Italy, where he supported the pilots. "When I saw guys who looked like me flying airplanes, I was filled with hope that segregation would soon end," he told the Journal. But when he returned home at the end of the war, discrimination was rampant. After he was discharged from duty in Atlanta, Montgomery went to the train station to head home to Alabama. He described what happened next in an [oral history project](#) by the Alliance of Ethics and Art. "Before I could get in, a white officer threw up his hand. 'You can't come in this door, boy, you got to go around the back,' " Montgomery remembers. "That was 10 minutes after I received my honorable discharge." Things were even worse once he got to Selma, he says. He told the Wall Street Journal that when he tried to register to vote, the woman at the courthouse told him he needed the signatures of three white men. Montgomery got the signatures. When he brought them in, there was a new requirement: that he own \$1,000 worth of property. He didn't have it, and she wouldn't let him register. He went to college on the GI Bill and moved to New York, but the civil rights movement brought him back to the south. In [an interview](#), Montgomery described the moment he decided to go home:

"I was sitting at home in New York City and I saw [that attack on people in Selma on the Edmund Pettus Bridge](#). They gassed them and beat them with sticks — the sheriff, the officials in their uniforms, because they was marching to the governor's office to vote.

"And I saw them knocked down, and I saw the gas in the air, and I was sitting here — this is happening in my hometown, Selma! I said, 'I'm going and get[ting] a taste of that gas.'

"I went to my director and said, 'I've got to go home. ... I'm going home to take part in that movement.' " So he did. He joined the protests in Selma and became one of Martin Luther King Jr.'s bodyguards, The Associated Press reports, guarding the leader on the famous 1965 march from Selma.

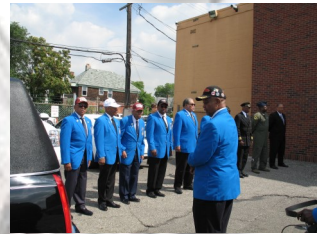
The AP notes that Montgomery, who later moved back to New York and settled in Harlem, continued to serve his community for his entire life: "He worked for the New York City Housing Authority and as a volunteer outreach worker for a nonprofit that assists the elderly." Montgomery remained active until his final weeks, frequently visiting schools to talk to children about his experiences growing up in Alabama, serving in the war and marching for civil rights. "He just loved motivating young people to be somebody," [his wife] Amelia Montgomery said. "That was his joy."

Leo Gray, member of original Tuskegee Airmen, dies at 92

[Rebecca Piccardo Contact Reporter Sun Sentinel]



Retired Lt. Col. Leo Gray, one of the original Tuskegee Airmen who fought in the skies over Europe during World War II, died Friday in his Coconut Creek home. He was 92. Gray, a Boston native, enlisted after high school — when the U.S. military was segregated — and began training in 1942 at Tuskegee Army Airfield. He became an active-duty pilot the following year. He was then stationed in Italy, where he flew 15 combat missions as a pilot with the 100th Fighter Squadron, 332nd Fighter Group, which protected Allied bombers. He flew the P-51 Mustang, also referred to as a "Red Tail," logging 750 flight hours. "He said he never got a chance to shoot down any Germans, but he was ready to," said Gray's friend, Maj. Nate Osgood of the Broward Sheriff's Office. "[The Tuskegee Airmen] were true pioneers of the civil rights movement." In 2013, the Broward Sheriff's Office recognized Gray, along with Col. Eldridge Williams and Judge Richard Rutledge, for serving their country while battling racism and bigotry. After the war, Gray earned his bachelor's and master's degrees in agricultural economics and became an executive with the U.S. Department of Agriculture until his retirement in 1984. Gray played a leading role in the Tuskegee Airmen Inc. organization, which provides scholarships to minorities studying aviation and aerospace. He served as president of the Miami and East Coast chapters. "I'm very proud of him and what he's accomplished," said his son, Roger Gray, who served in the Navy and in the Air Force reserves. Gray's youngest daughter, Kathryn Bryant, has fond memories of many summer road trips the family would take when Gray had to travel for work. "He was an awesome dad. He was our hero, and not everyone can say that about their dad," she said. "He was very supportive. He was proud of his children." Gray is also survived by his wife, Dianne Gray, and daughter Lynette Gayles. He is also survived by four stepchildren and a host of grandchildren and great-grandchildren. rpiccardo@sun-sentinel.com, 954-356-4544 or Twitter [@rebecapiccardo](https://twitter.com/rebecapiccardo)



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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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

