

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

November
2016



Hawk's



Cry II

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SITES OF INTEREST

Simply SELECT The Link

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ON THE COVER: Image of the bow of the USS Detroit. By John Stewart

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THE PRESIDENTS' PAGE



THE NEXT TWO CHAPTER MEETINGS

Thursday, 10 November 2016 and 8 December 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, Happy Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas

October and November have proved to be very busy months for our Chapter. We sent you a November Happenings page earlier this month and we are still receiving requests for our presence at various events.

The top two are The Salute Reception and Dinner happening this Saturday, November 12, 2016 at The COBO Center, One Washington Blvd., at Jefferson. It begins at 6:00 PM with a cocktail reception with dinner following at 7:00 PM. The Keynote:

- ◆ Lieutenant General Stayce D. Harris, who is the first African American Three (3) Star General in the Air Force, will give address. Our own, Lt. Col. Alexander Jefferson will receive The Legion of Honor medal, presented by The Honorary Consulate General De France. This medal was established by Napoleon in 1802.
- ◆ Two other DOTA's will travel to Grand Rapids for a Veterans Day celebration and parade. Frederick Henry and Washington Ross will be so honored on November 11, 2017. They will also be the Grand Marshalls for the Veterans Parade that evening. Amway has invited them and their two guests to tour the Amway Corporate buildings.
- ◆ Remember it is better to give than to receive.
- ◆ Leadership training prior to our December meeting. The Theme is "PLANNING FOR THE NEW YEAR."
- ◆ Special events will happen with Selfridge the weekend of May 19, 2017
- ◆ Selfridge Air Show will be held August 19-20, 2017 (75th Anniversary)
- ◆ Willow Run "Thunder Over Michigan" Air show: September 2-4, 2017 featuring the Blue Angels
- ◆ CALLING ON ALL LEADERSHIP TEAM MEMBERS:
 - ◇ BOARD MEETING ON November 10, 2016 @ 6:00PM and December 8, 2016 @ 6:00PM
 - ◇ GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING November 10, 2016 @ 7:00 PM and December 8, 2016 @ 7:00 PM
 - ◇ **There are many things that need to be done. WE NEED YOU!**
- ◆ **REMEMBER: New member Orientation is at 6pm on the same day as our meetings.**
- ◆ Remember to God Be The Glory. Merry Christmas and Happy New year from your entire Board

Upcoming Events:

November 10, 2016	Board meeting at 6:00 PM Chapter Meeting 7:00 PM until 8:30 PM
November 11, 2016	VETERANS DAY 12 Noon French Legion of Honor Ceremony 24350 Southfield Rd. Southfield, Mi 48075
November 11, 2016	Veterans Day Parade and Reception, Grand Rapids Michigan Amway Hotel, Grand Rapids Reception and Dinner at 5:30 PM Parade 7:00 PM Grand Marshalls: Frederick Henry and Washington Ross
November 11, 2016	Veterans Day Parade and Luncheon Detroit Police 11 th Precinct Van Dyke and E. Nevada, assembly at 9, step off at 10:00 Ceremony at 11:00 AM lunch at Noon
November 12, 2016	28 th Annual Salute Reception and Dinner National Historical Museum and Detroit Chapter Tuskegee Airmen Cobo Center One Washington Blvd. Detroit, Michigan Cocktails 6:00 PM Salute and Dinner 7:00PM Keynote Address: Lieutenant General Stayce D. Harris Special Salute by The Consulate General De France Pascale Furlong-Thorne Presentation of The Knight of The Legion of Honor Medal To LTC Alexander Jefferson
November 20, 2016	Detroit Urban League, 208 Mack, Detroit, Michigan 3:00PM

Be Blessed,

Miguel Thornton

President

Detroit Chapter

Tuskegee Airmen, Inc.

The Hawk's Cry II

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.



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

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

American Airlines

A visit to the birthplace of the P-51 Mustang

By Bill Shepard

A few months back I had the great privilege of taking a tour of the famed North American Aviation plant in Dallas, the iconic aerospace manufacturer responsible for the mass production of aircraft from WWII. This facility was opened as the country prepared for war. It was THE birthplace of the P-51 and where the CAF Red Tail Squadron's P-51C Mustang *Tuskegee Airmen* rolled off the production line, built by the hands of what were very much artisans. It was a very awe-inspiring moment.



I don't think people realize the impact that North American Aviation had on not just the socio-economic front, but how the work they provided the community helped to bridge some very large social gaps. People of many different backgrounds worked together washing the slate not clean, but cleaner. These folks worked together side by side, regardless of race, for a common goal. That was practically unheard of at the time.

The work being done on their shop floors at that point of time was very innovative for our society and helped to break down barriers. These opportunities brought people out of the fields and gave them the opportunity to earn a living wage and increase their station in life and that of their families. People in these communities today are the fruits of their parents' labor. Its impact has been felt for generations.

North American Aviation's plant in Dallas was a place where tens of thousands of people were gainfully employed in a time of economic hardship, giving each person a chance to use their hands and intellect to help end the war. Up to 40,000 people were employed at the plant at its peak. They hired "outside the box," employing men that were younger *and* older than the draft age, women, African Americans, Hispanics and Native Americans. And each employee at North American was encouraged to share their ideas for innovation, the implementation of which lead to safer practices and significant cost savings. This 24-hour-a-day operation was a focal point of manufacturing at that time in the U.S., and their contributions to the processes of manufacturing resonated across the industry.

I actually lived near the facility in my youth. My dad was stationed across the runway from here. As a kid I had no idea I was in close proximity to such important history. Looking at the shell of a building that was once there, I was able to visualize people in mass transitions, herds of people coming through to work. They worked to improve their lives and help end the war. It must have been an amazing sight.

LOCAL HAPPENINGS

USS Detroit DOTA Visit

USS DETROIT (LCS 7) Littoral Combat Ship

Class and Type: Freedom-Class Littoral Combat Ship

Displacement: 3,000 metric tons (3,000 t) (full load)

Length: 378 feet (115 m)

Beam: 57.4 feet (17.5 m)

Draft: 12.8 feet (3.9 m)

Installed Power: Electrical: 4 Isotta Fraschini V1708 diesel engines, Hitzinger generator units, 800 kW each

Propulsion: 2 Rolls-Royce MT30 36 MW gas turbines, 2 Colt-Pielstick diesel engines, 4 Rolls-Royce waterjets

Speed: 47 knots (87 km/h; 54 mph) (sea state 3)

Range: 3,500 nmi (6,500 km; 4,000 mi) at 18 knots (33 km/h; 21 mph)

Endurance: 21 days (336 hours)

Boats and Landing Craft: 11 metres (36 ft) RHIB, 40 ft (12 m) high-speed boats

Complement: 15 to 50 core crew, 75 with mission crew (Blue and Gold crews)

Sensors and Processing Systems: EADS TRS-3D 3D air and surface search radar
Lockheed Martin COMBATSS-21 combat management system

AN/SQR-20 Multi-Function Towed Array (As part of ASW mission module)

Electronic Warfare and Decoys: Argon ST WBR-2000 ESM system
Terma A/S SKWS decoy system

Armament: 1x BAE Systems Mk 110 57 mm gun, 400 rounds in turret and two ready service magazines with 240 rounds each,
4x .50-cal machine guns
2x Mk44 Bushmaster II 30mm guns
21x RIM-116 Rolling Airframe Missile Surface-to-Air Missiles
45 NLOS missiles (As part of ASuW mission module)

Aircraft Carried: 2x MH-60R/S Seahawk
MQ-8 Fire Scout



LOCAL HAPPENINGS

The Hawk's Cry II



LOCAL HAPPENINGS

USS Detroit Tour



The Hawk's Cry II

All Pictures by John Stewart



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LOCAL HAPPENINGS



The Hawk's Cry II



LOCAL HAPPENINGS

The Hawk's Cry II





Oldest Documented Tuskegee Airman Passes at 106

By Cora Jackson-Fossett Staff Writer

Published November 3, 2016

Walter Crenshaw, Jr., the oldest living documented original Tuskegee Airmen, passed away Oct. 7, 2016, at the Veterans Hospital in Los Angeles. He was 106-years-old. As a member of the famed group, he served as an Administrative Assistant to the Provost Marshall at Tuskegee Army Air Field where he oversaw the induction and background checks on the initial 500+ recruits and came to know each cadet on a personal basis. Walter Crenshaw's distinction was lauded by many organizations more than 50 years later. In 2008 at the age of 99, he witnessed his military achievement enshrined in the National Historic Site of the National Museum of the Tuskegee Airmen in Tuskegee, Alabama. He was honored by the California African American Museum in 2009. In 2013, the city of Torrance presented Crenshaw with a bronze replica of the Congressional Gold Medal, to which he replied, "It's about time!" President George W. Bush and the U.S. Congress bestowed the original Congressional Gold Medal to all Tuskegee Airmen, including Crenshaw, in a ceremony on March 29, 2007. The medal is now displayed at the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture (NMAAHC) in Washington, D.C. Also, 51 of Walter's original documents from his Tuskegee days are displayed at the NMAAHC. The exhibit includes his photographs, identification cards; training materials, travel orders and meal vouchers. A memorial service will be held for Crenshaw on Friday, November 18, at 11:00 a.m., at First A.M.E. Church in Los Angeles. He was a long-time member of FAME and attended services as much as possible. A native of Alabama, Walter was born on October 27, 1909, in Butler County, New Hope, to Walter and Viola (Glover) Crenshaw. After graduating from Industrial High School in 1927, he attended one year at Tuskegee Institute before transferring to Alabama State University. Walter married Zelma Whatley in 1940 and two years later, he was inducted in the U.S. Army Air Corps. He received his administrative training at the Army Air Corps School in Ft. Logan, Denver, Colorado, on a manual typewriter, creating column upon column of information. Upon completing his military service, Walter lived the next three decades in Detroit, Michigan, working 22 years as the head shipping clerk for Railway Express Agency. Relocating



to Santa Monica, California, with his wife in 1977, he enjoyed life on the west coast and attended classes at Santa Monica. Also, he organized and served as president of the Oakwood-Venice Beach Senior Citizens. A family member shared, "Walter was a regular fixture on the Santa Monica Pier, fishing, during the late 1970's and 1980's. He could be seen riding his bicycle to the pier, from his home, at least four days a week." Walter and his wife relocated to South Carolina in 1997 and stayed 10 years before returning to live in Redondo Beach. Throughout his long life, he was known as a stylish dresser, an avid crossword puzzle solver, collector of jazz albums and a world traveler. When asked about his longevity, Walter responded, "Always remember to take a vacation." He and his wife, Zelma, traveled the U.S and abroad, visiting Atlantic City, Chicago, New York City, Denver, Mexico, Holland, Egypt, Israel, St. Martin and Canada. Walter's daughter, Waltzela Crenshaw Coleman and his grandson, Andre Crenshaw, preceded him in death. He leaves to cherish his memory, his daughter, N. Joyce; sons, Lamont, Maurice and Andre (Delilah) Crenshaw; and many grandchildren and great grandchildren.

TUSKEGEE AIRMAN HAS PASSED AT 92

Audley Coulthurst, a former member of the pioneering black aviation group the Tuskegee Airmen, has passed at 92. Audra Coulthurst says her father died Thursday at a Veterans Affairs facility in Brooklyn after suffering a cardiac arrest. Coulthurst enlisted in the Army in 1942 and became one of the first Black military pilots in the U.S. Although Tuskegee Airmen faced discrimination in a segregated military, the fighter squadrons were among the most respected in World War II. Audra Coulthurst says after the war her father became a certified public accountant and served as controller of the National Urban League. He also is survived by his wife, Matilda Coulthurst, and a son, Jeffrey Coulthurst.



Original Tuskegee Airman Wilbur Mason dies at 92

*Friday, October 7th 2016, 5:17 pm EST
By WSFA 12 News Staff ATLANTA, GA. (WSFA)*

Another original member of the famed Tuskegee Airmen has died. **Wilbur Gaston Mason** passed away early Wednesday morning in Atlanta, confirmed officials with the Atlanta Chapter of the Tuskegee Airmen. Mason was born in Tuskegee in Sept. 1924 and served as a civilian employee in the base supply at the Tuskegee Army Airfield. As a storekeeper, it was Mason's job to receive and store property of the U.S. Air Force. That included pilot and ground crew equipment. Studies at Tuskegee Institute focused on Industrial Arts and Electrical Engineering, according to a statement by the Atlanta Chapter. Afterward, Mason headed north to Detroit where he worked as an electrician until retirement in 1985. Following retirement, Mason returned to the South where he lived in Atlanta, serving as the Treasurer for the National Chapter Tuskegee Airmen and the Atlanta Chapter Tuskegee Airmen. According to his niece, Mason, 92, is survived by two children, 12 great-grandchildren, and one great-great-grandchild.



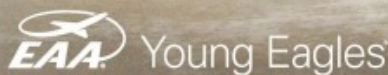
Why I Fly Young Eagles

"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



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2009 Edition

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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

