

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

May  
2017



# ***Hawks***



# ***Cry II***

IN THIS ISSUE:

- > Presidents' Page
- > Local Happenings
- > Lonely Eagles

TAIDETNewsletter@Comcast.Net

## Michigan Military Museum Dinner



# TUSKEGEE AIRMEN CONTACT LISTING

## (OFFICERS-BOARD MEMBERS - 2012)

### NAME

### E-MAIL

### PHONE

**President**— Miguel Thornton

[migueltornton@gmail.com](mailto:migueltornton@gmail.com)

**1<sup>st</sup> Vice President**—Gwen McNeal

[zetaphil1@hotmail.com](mailto:zetaphil1@hotmail.com)

**2nd Vice President**—Eric Love

[condor1L@yahoo.com](mailto:condor1L@yahoo.com)

**Treasurer**— Gregory Whiting

[gwhitin1@yahoo.com](mailto:gwhitin1@yahoo.com)

**Secretary**— Theodore Whitely

[bettytedwhitely@aol.com](mailto:bettytedwhitely@aol.com)

**Parliamentarian**— Robert Tillman

[majorbobtillman@gmail.com](mailto:majorbobtillman@gmail.com)

**Sergeant At Arms**—Larry Sargent

[sgtsgt209@yahoo.com](mailto:sgtsgt209@yahoo.com)

**Membership**—Bill Welborne

[welborne313@gmail.com](mailto:welborne313@gmail.com)

**Hawk's Cry II**—Eric Palmer

[TATDETNewsletter@comcast.net](mailto:TATDETNewsletter@comcast.net)

**Ways & Means**— Tony Stevenson

[nighthawk172@yahoo.com](mailto:nighthawk172@yahoo.com)

**Planning**— Eric Love

[condor1L@yahoo.com](mailto:condor1L@yahoo.com)

**Public Relations**— Eric Palmer

[TATDETNewsletter@comcast.net](mailto:TATDETNewsletter@comcast.net)

**Historian**—Lawrence Milben

[nighthawk172@yahoo.com](mailto:nighthawk172@yahoo.com)

**Good & Welfare**—Tony Stevenson

[bsmith1995@aol.com](mailto:bsmith1995@aol.com)

**Youth Programs**— Brian Smith

[alexjeff01@juno.com](mailto:alexjeff01@juno.com)

**Speakers Bureau**—Alexander Jefferson

[bettytedwhitely@aol.com](mailto:bettytedwhitely@aol.com)

**Chaplin**—Dr. Theodore Whitely

### Additional Board Members

Hugh Barrington Jr.

[HFBarringtonJr@aol.com](mailto:HFBarringtonJr@aol.com)

William Thompson Jr.

[Wilthom273@yahoo.com](mailto:Wilthom273@yahoo.com)

## Alternate Information Contact Information

Washington Ross

[washingtor@aol.com](mailto:washingtor@aol.com)

Shirley Rankin

[s-rankin22@hotmail.com](mailto:s-rankin22@hotmail.com)

William Henderson

[wfastfac@aol.com](mailto:wfastfac@aol.com)

William Thompson

[wmhortont@aol.com](mailto:wmhortont@aol.com)

Donald Carter

[mccarl0@att.net](mailto:mccarl0@att.net)

Brian Smith

[bsmith1995@aol.com](mailto:bsmith1995@aol.com)

## CENTRAL REGION

**Marv K. Abrams**—TAI Central Region President

[abramsmk@aol.com](mailto:abramsmk@aol.com)

### SITES OF INTEREST

*Simply SELECT The Link*

[National Organization](#)

[TA National Museum](#)

[TA National Historic Site](#)

**ON THE COVER: DOTA Alexander Jefferson, Detroit Chapter members and new found friends at the Michigan Military Museum dinner.**

**PUBLISHED BY:**

**PALMER  
DESIGN**

[PalmerDesign@sbcglobal.net](mailto:PalmerDesign@sbcglobal.net)

# THE PRESIDENTS' PAGE



## THE NEXT TWO CHAPTER MEETINGS

Thursday, 9 March 2017 and 13 April 2017 @ 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***

When I awake in the morning I thank God for a restful night and thank him for the day that he has given me. He has blessed me with the task of being the President of The Original Tuskegee Airmen Organization Chapter in the United States. I don't take that lightly. With that in mind and the things I see people doing I believe that it is of the utmost importance that we share our Legacy with every one we can. This is the day that the Lord has made I shall rejoice and be glad in it.

Good Day, mate. I thank you all for keeping me young. There are no dull moments around here. We shall receive a report on the first three months of the year and here are some of the happenings that are already in place from now until the Labor Day weekend.

May 19, 2017	Starbase at Selfridge ANG Base 300 Students invited to participate
May 21, 2017	Young Eagles City Airport
May 26 – 28, 2017	City Airport (TBD) 26th – B O Davis, School Day 300 students
June 23-25, 2017	Detroit River Days Air Show
June 26, 2017	Ford Fire works
August 3 -5, 2017	National TAI in Orlando, Florida
August 19 – 20, 2017	Selfridge Air National Guard Base 100th Anniversary 18th Family and Friends
September 2 – 4, 2017	Thunder Over Michigan, Willow Run 75th Anniversary

The numbers of Original Airmen are dwindling. There are ten Original Airmen who are members in our chapter. Have you visited or contacted any of them recently? They would love to hear from you. It means a lot to them and the health of our organization that we visit them and let them know that we love, care and respect all they have done over the years. Many of them along with other chapter members are experiencing challenges to their health. Hugh Harrington for example is recovering from a colonoscopy procedure.

Our next swearing in ceremony will take place at our May meeting. We shall supply you with a sign in sheet this month so we can plan the event. We shall have our honorary members go through an Orientation one hour before our regular May 11th Meeting. That means that we shall start at 6:00 PM and our own LTC. Jefferson will share the History session with them and any new members present.

Prepare to discuss our Fund raising activities and also what role you can play in all of the efforts of our chapter. Be safe and know that you are loved and that we have the best Tuskegee Airmen Chapter. Have a blessed day.

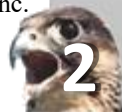
Be Blessed,

*Miguel Thornton*

**President**

Detroit Chapter

Tuskegee Airmen, Inc.





# LOCAL HAPPENINGS

## FIRST FAAST SEMINAR AT TANM HANGER

FROM LARRY SARGENT





# LOCAL HAPPENINGS

## ST. CLAIR COUNTY FLY IN

FROM LARRY SARGENT

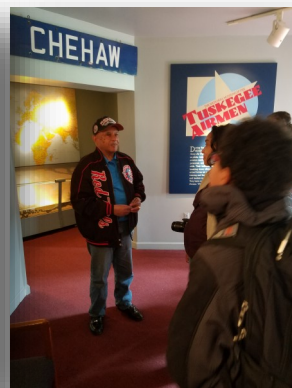


The Hawk's Cry II

# LOCAL HAPPENINGS

## MSU SCIENCE DEPARTMENT TANM TOUR

FROM LARRY SARGENT



The Hawk's Cry II



# LOCAL HAPPENINGS

## MICHIGAN MILITARY MUSEUM DINNER

FROM ERIC LOVE



The Hawk's Cry II





# LOCAL HAPPENINGS

## The Hawk's Cry II



# LOCAL HAPPENINGS



*The Hawk's Cry II*



# LOCAL HAPPENINGS

## WILD GAME DINNER

FROM LARRY SARGENT





# LOCAL HAPPENINGS

On April 29, the Detroit Chapter of the Tuskegee Airmen ventured to Saginaw, Michigan to celebrate the Spirit of Michigan's Own and the opening of the Michigan Military and Space Hero's Museum.

The evening honored two Medal of Honor recipients, LtCol Charles Kettles and Command Master Chief William Dewilde a Navy Seal who has had 17 Combat Mission Deployments.

All in all the event was outstanding as we were the center of attention.

Attending the event was Col Jefferson and Erenstine, Larry Sargent and Patrese, Eric Love, Fred Henry and me, Bill Welborne and my date Billie Jean.

The attached picture is of LtCol Kettles, myself and my date, Billie Jean.



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.



**The Hawk's Cry II**



**10**



POWERED BY AOPA

Forward this email to someone who's  
passionate about pursuing a pilot's certificate

**NOW**  
accepting  
scholarship  
applications



Dear Candidate,

AOPA is making it easier for prospective pilots of all ages to achieve their aviation dreams!

Applications are now open for both the **You Can Fly High School** and the **AOPA Foundation Flight Training Scholarship programs** that will award over \$150,000 in financial assistance for direct flight training expenses.

[Click to learn more.](#)

The **You Can Fly High School Scholarship program** will award twenty \$5,000 scholarships to deserving high school students, aged 15-18.

The **AOPA Foundation Flight Training Scholarship program** offers multiple scholarships ranging from \$2,500 to \$5,000 and is available to those holding a current FAA Student Pilot Certificate and are at least age 16 by May 31st

Applicants for both programs must be a U.S. citizen or U.S. permanent resident.

[LEARN MORE](#)

### Application Deadlines:

- You Can Fly High School Flight Training Scholarships: **May 19, 2017**
- AOPA Foundation Flight Training Scholarships: **May 31, 2017**

Be sure to forward this email to a prospective pilot today!

**Our flight training scholarships are made possible  
through donations to the [AOPA Foundation](#).**



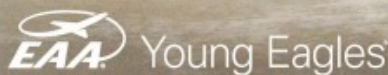
# Why I Fly Young Eagles

"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](http://YoungEagles.org/volunteers)  
to become a Young Eagles volunteer pilot.

EAA Young Eagles Presenting Sponsor

EAA Young Eagles Flight Plan Partners





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

## Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Program

Life Insurance.....	<a href="http://www.insurance.va.gov">www.insurance.va.gov</a>
Department of Defense.....	<a href="http://www.defenselink.mil">www.defenselink.mil</a>



# 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](mailto:TAIDETNewsletter@Comcast.net) to  
get your electronic version.



Please communicate all newsletter inclusions to:

**Eric Palmer**

TAI-Detroit Chapter Newsletter Publisher/Editor

[TAIDetNewsletter@Comcast.net](mailto:TAIDetNewsletter@Comcast.net)

## MEMBERSHIP CORNER

**Bill Welborne**

[welborne313@gmail.com](mailto:welborne313@gmail.com)



**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**

