

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

June
2017

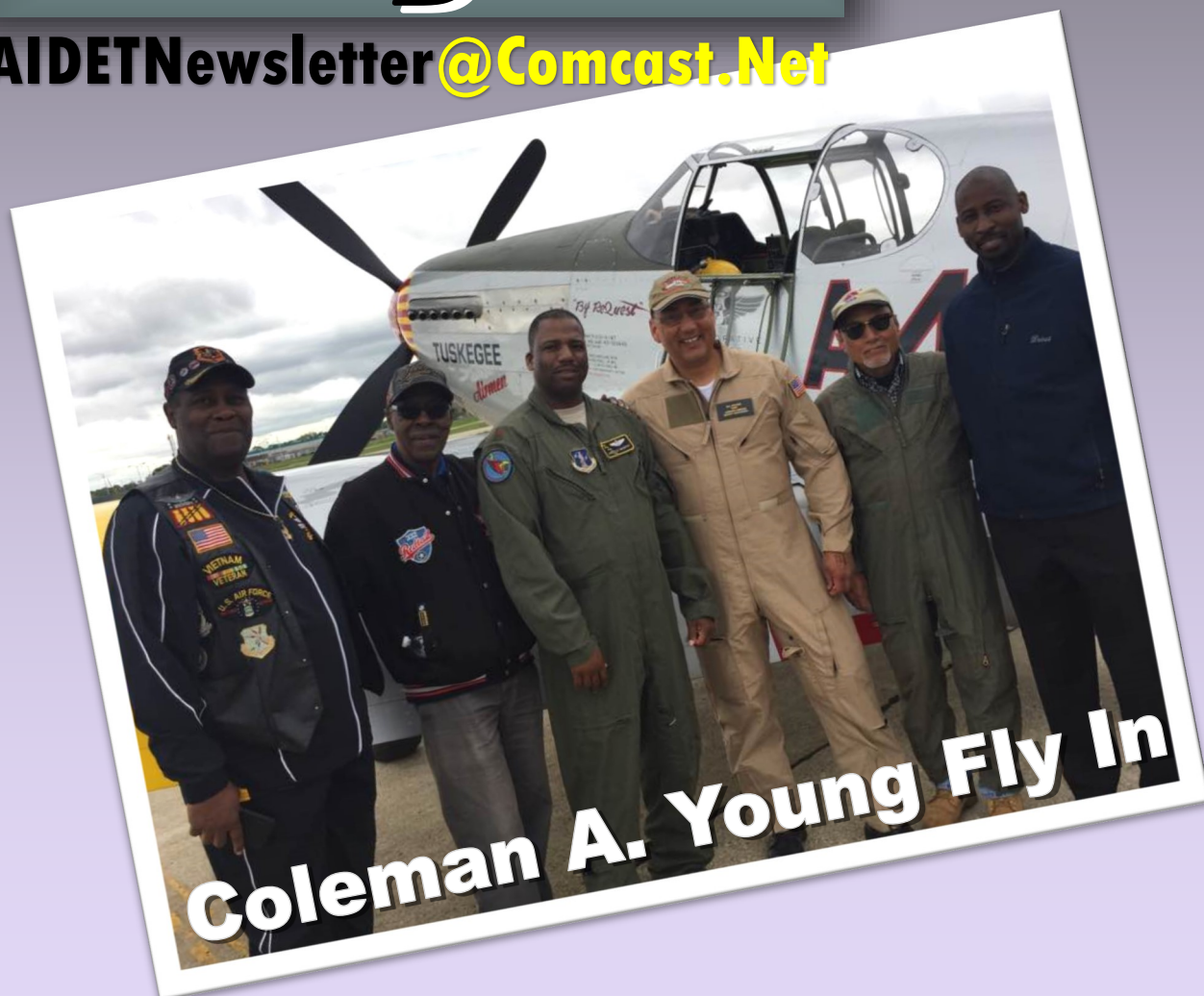
THE

Hawk's Cry II



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TAIDETNewsletter@Comcast.Net



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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.

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**PALMER
DESIGN**

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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

All, this is just a reminder that we meet this Thursday at 7:00 PM at 613 Abbott. Your presence will be appreciated. This will be a short meeting since we shall travel to the hangar at City airport. We shall give an Orientation to our honorary members and others that have not been able to participate with the young Eagles Sunday Program. We look forward to you all coming.

June 17, 2017

Southfield Spirit Fest Parade June 17, 4 p.m.
from Lawrence Technological University's Don Ridler
Field (21000 West Ten Mile) down Civic Center Drive to
the Southfield Municipal Campus, 26000 Evergreen Road

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. 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.

Remember
Young Eagles
Every 2nd Sunday
10am - 3pm

Weather Permitting

Coleman A. Young International Airport

The Hawk's Cry II



WORLD WAR II VETERAN FROM BLOOMFIELD HILLS HONORED NATIONALLY ON PBS SPECIAL

By [Monica Drake](#), The Oakland Press



Actor Laurence Fishburne shakes Col. Harry T. Stewart's hand during PBS' National Memorial Day Concert. Photo from PBS.org [Col. Harry T. Stewart, Jr.](#) of Bloomfield Hills and four of his fellow Tuskegee Airmen were honored on PBS' annual National Memorial Day Concert. In their honor, the National Symphony Orchestra performed "Commemoration" by Robert Windell. Actor Laurence Fishburne, host of the special, said, "They came from all over the country. Patriotic, young African Americans who trained at Tuskegee

University's Army Airfield to be the best they could be. They suffered injustice, prejudice and discrimination only to astound the world with their legendary feats." The Tuskegee Airmen flew more than 15,000 missions. During one mission, they destroyed five enemy aircraft in under four minutes. Stewart, Jr. is one of the most decorated Tuskegee Airmen. As a member of the 332nd Fighter Group, Stewart flew 43 combat missions in the P-51 Mustang. Stewart, Jr. said, "At the beginning of World War II, there was a draft that was enacted by Congress." "I opted, at 17, to volunteer. When I was 18, I was called into the service with the specific job of training as a pilot. ... At the time, I still didn't know how to drive a car, and I was flying an airplane." Stewart was awarded the rank of Second Lieutenant, and, following the war, he continued his service as a fighter pilot until his honorable discharge in 1950. Fishburne said, "The (Tuskegee) Airmen would become known as some of the best pilots in the Army Air Force. ... It is with deep gratitude that we thank them for their bravery, achievements and inspiration."



DETROIT RIVERFRONT CONSERVANCY ANNOUNCES GM RIVER DAYS ENTERTAINMENT LINEUP

[Roz Edward](#), [Michigan Chronicle Managing Editor](#)

Festival to Include Nearly 50 Musical Acts, Block Party and Family-Fun Activities.

The Detroit RiverFront Conservancy is excited to share the complete national and local music lineup of nearly 50 musicians and bands, as well as exciting programming for the 11th annual GM River Days presented by Soaring Eagle Casino and Resort. Many local favorites, as well as new acts, will perform on the Michigan Lottery Stage and Chevrolet Stage, which feature a mix of rock, pop, blues, alternative, soul, funk, and country.

This year's GM River Days festival will feature a star-studded music lineup on the Quicken Loans National Stage, including rock superstar Ann Wilson of Heart along with local tribute band FiftyAmpFuse on Friday evening. Soul sensation The Isley Brothers featuring Ron Isley, along with Grammy-nominated Soul and R&B singer Freddie Jackson, will perform on Saturday night. Grammy-winning R&B group 112 will perform on Sunday evening, followed by Grammy-nominated R&B singer Joe.

While all GM River Days performances are included with admission to the festival, VIP premier seats are now available for the headlining performances taking place on the Quicken Loans National Stage. The limited VIP premier seat tickets are available for purchase from [RiverDays.com/Music](#). VIP tickets are \$35 and include admission to the festival and seating for the national entertainment. These tickets are only available for purchase in advance of the festival, and quantities are limited.

Airshow by the Tuskegee Airmen National Historical Museum

The air show, a crowd favorite, will return over the Detroit River for its third year. Staged by the Tuskegee Airmen National Historical Museum, show performances will be at 1 p.m. on Friday and 3:30 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. New this year, the show will include a Heritage Flight which consists of a WWII aircraft and its modern equivalent flying individually and then joining together for passes with the modern aircraft flying on the wing of the WWII aircraft. Also scheduled to appear are aerobatic pilots flying upside down and sideways, jets from the World Heritage Air Museum, an airplane flown by the Tuskegee Airmen in World War II, several racing airplanes and a demonstration of precision formation flying by the museum's own four-aircraft demo team. The airshow will feature emcees at all festival stages. This is one of the very few airshows in all of North America that features mostly local performers.



JOINT MISSION RALLIES INSPIRES KIDS WITH MESSAGE OF THE TUSKEGEE AIRMEN

By Bill Shepard

As a member and supporter of several entities that honor the Tuskegee Airmen – Tuskegee Airmen, Inc., Tuskegee Airmen National Historical Museum and the Commemorative Air Force Red Tail Squadron – I've had the opportunity to collaborate with several groups, while wearing multiple hats (or as a warbird pilot, should it be parachutes?!).

In May, I represented the CAF Red Tail Squadron's tribute to the Tuskegee Airmen in a joint mission with the Detroit TAI chapter and the National Museum to support this summer's air show and open house at Selfridge Air National Guard Base. This location plays an important role in the history of the Tuskegee Airmen experience, and when the call came to participate in their educational event, I agreed that this was a great opportunity for collaboration to engage kids and the community with our important message. Working together, that message was even more impactful.

The event at Coleman Young Airport gave local students a chance to experience many new aspects of aviation. They learned about both civilian and military aviation-related careers, including exciting opportunities outside the cockpit that they may not have considered or known about.

Giving kids the chance to touch, feel, hear and see a warbird up close is exciting and inspiring itself, but these aircraft help to humanize the experience of the Tuskegee Airmen and are a tangible way for young people to relate to something that ordinarily may seem too far removed from their modern life.

Together, we were all able to collectively utilize our passion and understanding of the Tuskegee Airmen's legacy to help infuse these young people with inspiration to make good choices and set and pursue high goals for themselves. This is the power of the Airmen's narrative, and the power of our organizations to be such a strong force for positive change in our communities.

The CAF Red Tail Squadron will also be in the Detroit area for several other events this year, including Focus: HOPE and Thunder Over Michigan. The Selfridge open house will be held August 19-20, and will include the CAF's RISE ABOVE Traveling Exhibit mobile movie theater and the P-51C Mustang Tuskegee Airmen. We will be at the event to continue to share the stories of the Airmen at this historic home of the Tuskegee Airmen's 477th Bombardment Group.

We're proud to show our support for the youth of Detroit. Thanks to all the members and volunteers who made this joint mission a success!



The TA National Museum's TAAF authenticated T-6 leading the CAF's TA inspired P-51



The Hawk's Cry II

FROM LARRY SARGENT, DONALD DAVENPORT AND ERIC PALMER



LOCAL HAPPENINGS



CHARLES H. WRIGHT MUSEUM OUTING

FROM BILL WELBORNE



The Hawk's Cry II



LOCAL HAPPENINGS

BUS TOUR AT THE TUSKEGEE AIRMEN NATIONAL MUSEUM

FROM LARRY SARGENT



DETROIT METROPOLITAN VISITORS BUREAU

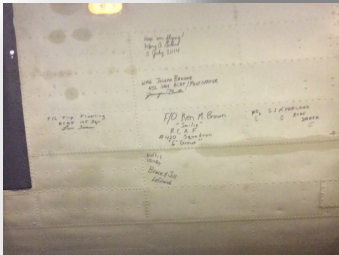
FROM LARRY SARGENT



LOCAL HAPPENINGS

CANADIAN AIRCRAFT HISTORICAL MUSEUM

FROM LARRY SARGENT



The Hawk's Cry II

LOCAL HAPPENINGS

MICHIGAN VETERANS FOUNDATION

FROM LARRY SARGENT



PRE-FLIGHT MEETING FOR THE DETROIT RIVER DAYS AIR SHOW

FROM LARRY SARGENT



LOCAL HAPPENINGS

ST CLAIR SHORES MEMORIAL DAY PARADE

FROM ERIC PALMER



The Hawk's Cry II

LOCAL HAPPENINGS



FIELD OF DREAMS

FROM BRIAN SMITH

YOUR ONLY INTERNATIONAL BORDER CITY PUBLICATION



May 6, 2017 marked the inaugural event, Air "Field of Dreams" put on by the Sponsoring Committee for the 364 Air Cadet Squadron and CH2A. This event included tours of the CH2A and Air Cadet hangar, a silent auction, souvenir and book sales and guest speakers from the aviation world. From left: David Crawford, Event Director; Victor Dominato, Flight Operations Manager of Centaro Aviation; Dr. Brian Smith, President of the Tuskegee Airmen Museum and retired LtCol Ronald Holden, Past President of the Canadian Historical Aircraft Association, retired RCAF pilot and retired CFI Manager of the Windsor Flying Club. Photo by Della Jones-Goulet. ✈

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



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

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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get your electronic version.



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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

