

THE

Hawk's



Cry II

August
2017

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HawksCryII@gmail.com

 [**Tuskegee Airmen Hawk's Cry II**](#)



Red Tail on the TAMT

Official Newsletter of the
DETROIT CHAPTER of TUSKEGEE AIRMEN INCORPORATED



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WEBSITES OF INTEREST

[Detroit Chapter website](#)
[TA National Museum website](#)
[National Organization](#)
[TA National Historic Site](#)

ON THE COVER: Red Tail...a TA Tribute Ford Mustang owned by Hawk's Cry II Editor/Publisher, Eric Palmer as it was being trailered back to Pontiac, Michigan from the 2017 convention in Orlando. The TATM sign in the background, is one of several that [Ron Spriggs](#), President of the [BGNFP chapter](#) in Lexington, Kentucky had installed on I-75 throughout Kentucky.



THE PRESIDENTS' PAGE



THE NEXT TWO CHAPTER MEETINGS

Thursday, 14 September 2017 and 12 October 2017 @ 1845 hours (6:45 p.m.)

Please Arrive between 6:20& 6:40pm. Doors WILL BE Locked at 6:45pm

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

Good Afternoon everyone, I sincerely hope that this Newsletter catches you in good health and spirit. Another busy month has passed and we have served many youth and our DOTA's during this period.

I would like to reflect on something my mother used to say to me, and that was, "too many cooks in the kitchen will spoil the broth". You're probably saying to yourself what does that have to do with us and our organization. We have a solid Vision and everyone of us has our agenda. Hopefully, that agenda warps around the vision. For our organization we do have a chain of command. We have leaders and we have authorities that all of our dealings must flow through or things will not flow smoothly. During the past month some have been out of alignment. You know what happens when your car's wheels are out of alignment. So as we move forward, we need to make sure we are aligned with our leadership and the authorities that have been set up. Unless authorized, an individual member cannot speak for the organization. Speaking is not just with words, it could simply mean that one has on our Blue blazer or moving on their own without regards to what their efforts say about our organization. I'll spend a little time at our next meeting sharing more about this.

EAA/Young Eagles had two great Sundays in a row. If things continue to grow we might have to secure more pilots and planes to take care of the Young Eagles.

The National Tuskegee Airmen Conference was held in Orlando, Florida the first week of August. Seven members and two spouses were in attendance. The registration began on Wednesday the 2nd and the conference ended on Saturday evening, the 5th. We shall give a verbal report at our next meeting. Attendance at the conference was low as the National membership is down 18%. A solid membership drive is in place for this year.

Our Honorary members and cadets have been involved with several programs at the hangar and experienced rocketry. Most of them were busy with us all summer.

We have been invited to participate in the **Metro-Detroit CLUW**, "Taking IT To The Streets Conference" on the morning of September 7, 2017 (Thursday). We shall raise the Flag and hopefully have a couple young folks there also. More to come.

There are three Airs shows on the Horizon. The first is the [100th Anniversary of Selfridge Air Base air show](#). We will be on hand with product to sale, the T-6, motor gliders and Red Tail. They will Feature the Air Force Thunderbirds. The show is on the 19th and 20th of August for the public. But, friends and family can observe the show on the 18th, starting around 1 PM. We shall set up our tents on Thursday the 17th at 1:00 PM. If you do not have access to the base and you're driving your own vehicle I need information from you yesterday.

The following weekend, on the 26th, we have an [Air Show in Pontiac](#) at the International Airport there. We will be on hand there also, with product to sale, the T-6, motor gliders and Red Tail. At this time I don't have any more info.

The week following Pontiac, is the [75th Anniversary of the Thunder Over Michigan Air Show](#) at Willow Run Airport with The Yankee Air Museum. Again, We will be on hand there, with product to sale, the T-6, motor gliders and Red Tail. This Show is three days over the Labor Day Week End this year, September 3-5, 2017.

There is a cost to get into both the Pontiac and Willow Run Air Shows. We shall have a limited number of passes for those approved to work these two events. We need you to sign up ASAP if you plan to help. We are planning to schedule DOTA'S at each Air Show with specified times that they will be in attendance. There will be opportunities for pictures and signings. The TEAM has set up a fee schedule that everyone should be aware of.

Our next meeting will be on September 14, 2017. Col. Pettigrew is Planning a Special Veterans Dinner on September 30, 2017. The flyer is in the News Letter with all the details.

The Museums' dinner is on October 14, 2017. This is a Saturday evening affair that will again be held at Cobo Hall. A flyer is included in this News Letter.

I believe that The Black and White Ball is Scheduled for November 11, 2017. I'll share more once I receive the information.

YOUNG EAGLES

Every 2nd Sunday until October

(Weather Permitting)

Coleman A. Young International Airport *Main Terminal*

REGISTRATION

Starts at 9:30 am and cuts off at 12:00 pm

Flights Start at 10:00am



God bless you all,

Miguel Thornton

President

Detroit Chapter

Tuskegee Airmen, Inc.



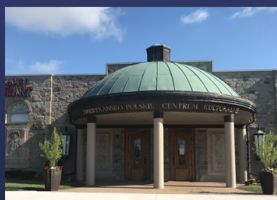
JOIN VETERANS EDUCATION AND TRANSITION SERVICES & THE TUSKEGEE AIRMEN IN HOSTING OUR
FIRST ANNUAL

Michigan Veterans ★ SCHOLARSHIP GALA ★

HONORING 10 MICHIGAN VETERANS...PAST & PRESENT

To raise College Tuition Scholarship funds for Veterans and their
Immediate Family members, ineligible for traditional
government funding.

SATURDAY
SEPTEMBER 30, 2017



American &
Polish Cultural
Center

2975 E. Maple Rd.
Troy, Michigan 48083



Michigan Veterans
Education and Transition
Services

KEYNOTE SPEAKER



LTC ALEXANDER JEFFERSON
(RET.)

ONE OF THE FEW REMAINING "ORIGINAL"
TUSKEGEE AIRMEN

SCHEDULE

5PM - 6PM SOCIAL HOUR
6PM-7PM DINNER (SPECIAL DIETS ACCOMMODATED)
7PM - 8PMSPEAKER/SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS
8PM - 9PM DANCING

TICKET COST: \$200.⁰⁰



3

FOR TICKETS VISIT **EVENTBRITE.COM**
EVENTBRITE.COM/E/SCHOLARSHIP-GALA-TICKETS-36361955588

FOR MORE INFO:
MI-VETEDANDTRANSITIONSVCS.ORG

TBT: Throw Back Thursday

Chapter Members:

If you have old chapter related pictures, please send them to me so that I can post them in the Hawk's Cry II on this new TBT page.

*This months awesome and historical pictures were sent by **Randall Cobb**, Alexander Jefferson's great grand-nephew, maintainer of our chapter website and potentially new chapter member. He found them as he was scanning family pictures.*

WOMEN'S AUXILIARY DETROIT CHAPTER



FRONT ROW (Left to Right): Mary Jennings, Edith Roundtree, Cleo Howard, Dorothy Friday, Mae Polk, Pricilla White, Francis McClenic, **SECOND ROW**: Hester Carr, Florence Ross, Mattie Davis, Dorothy McKinney, Margaret Higdon, Pearl Ross, Chizuro Blakely, Sue Savage, Gladys Theus, Edna Farro, Dolores Downs, **NOT PICTURED**: Jane Robinson, Isabel Sykes, Marlene Turnstable, Dolphine Stewart, Joyce Edwards, Cherokee Cole, Alice Walker

August 10, 1991 - 10th ANNUAL NAT'L CONVENTION,
DET., MI.

THE DETROIT CHAPTER

Welcomes all members and OBAP!



FRONT ROW (Left to Right): Alfred Cole-President, Walter Downs, Richard Macon, Walter Robinson, Norman Felson, William Rankin, Nathaniel Carr, Wenz Perkins, **SECOND ROW**: Mark Jones, Gilbert Cargill, Roderick Warren, John Roundtree, Alexander Jefferson, Sue Savage, Carl Carey, Sr., Albert Mallory, Lorenzo Holloway, Eugene Coleman, **THIRD ROW**: Leavie Farro Jr., William Womack, Fentris Ammer, Lawrence Milben, Washington Ross, William McClenic, James Hatcher, Wilcor Brown, Norman Dillard, William H. Thompson, James Wise

NOT PICTURED: David Arendts, Raymond J. Bazmore, Charles Blakely, Robert F. Bowers, Charles Bray, Pemberton T. Cochran, John Conyers, Jr., Dan C. Cook, Matthew J. Corbin, Cornelius Davis, Harrison R. Duke, James L. Edwards, Howard Ferguson, Frank O. Gardner, Robert R. Grant, Jr., Quintus L. Green, Sr., Mitchell Greene, Samory T. Greene, David W. Harris, Ernest L. Haywood, William A. Henderson, Charles A. Hill, Jr., Leonard W. Isabelle, Richard Jennings, Louie A. Johnson, Melvin L. Jolly, Elmore M. Kennedy, Jr., Granville W. Lee, Jean L. Peters, Robert G. Pitts, Earl Don Robinson, Major M. Ross, Larry P. Scott, Harold Seabrooks, Brian R. Smith, Leon E. Smith, Sidney Solomon, Chauncey E. Spencer, Chester L. Stewart, Jr., Harry T. Stewart, Howard Storey, Willie Sykes, Erlaine M. Taylor, Lucius Theus, Edward H. Turnstall, Allen H. Turner, Robert B. Walker, Roderick E. Warren, Len Q. Wicher, Coleman A. Young



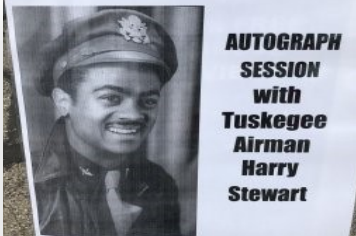
Tuskegee Airman Attends AirVenture 2017

By [Ashley Anglisano](#), Contributor | July 28, 2017

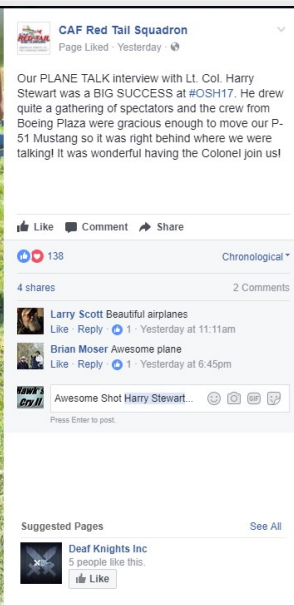
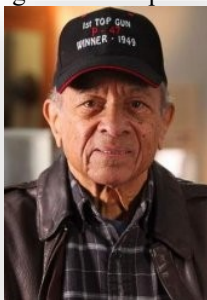
<https://www.avweb.com/avwebflash/news/Tuskegee-Airman-Attends-AirVenture-2017-229410-1.html>



Lt. Col. Harry T. Stewart (Ret.) stopped by AirVenture this year to sign autographs and share his story as a Tuskegee Airman. Stewart is currently 93 and fought in World War II with the United States Army Air Corps and Air Force. Stewart finished his military training at the age of 19. He trained in various airplanes, including a PT-19, a BT-13 and an AT-6. After training, he flew a P-40 known for its iconic tiger shark teeth paint scheme, as well as a P-47. In combat, Stewart flew a P-51 in escort bomber missions. He flew 43 missions total and often escorted bombers from Italy to Europe. He earned the Distinguished Flying Cross after shooting down three German



aircraft with the all-black 332nd Fighter Group. After the war, Stewart attempted to get a job as an airline pilot but was turned away because of his race. In 2015, Delta Air Lines' chief pilot awarded Stewart the title of Honorary Delta Captain, and he was given his Captain Wings. He went on to New York University's College of Engineering where he earned his bachelor's degree in chemical engineering. He held various engineering jobs, and ended his career as vice president of American Natural Resources. Stewart has seen the popular movie Red Tails, as well as HBO's The Tuskegee Airmen. He confesses that he prefers HBO's telling of the story, as he thought Red Tails was "too fantasy" and had too many "elements of Hollywood." Stewart flew to AirVenture for the first time six years ago in a motorglider and landed where the Warbirds are stored today. He didn't fly much after the war, and didn't really start flying again until he was 82. Stewart gave up flying at the age of 87. Today, Stewart travels to do public speaking events and to spread his story of perseverance and dedication. "Don't let difficulties discourage you, and keep your aim high," said Stewart. "Do your best at anything you decide to do. Education is necessary to progress and make your stay worthwhile." [SEE MORE PICTURES](#)





Bill Shepard and 93 year old Tuskegee Airman Lt. Col Harry Stewart lifting off Runway 36 at Oshkosh yesterday. When asked what he'd like to do in the air, Col Stewart said "a chandelle would be nice". [Ken Mist](#)



"Hollywood" Bill Shepard at the announcers' stand at #OSH17. [Ken Mist](#)

Kimmie Horne Concert: A Special Night in Oak Park

By Cheryl Weiss—The Oakland County Times

Images by Earnestine Lavergne

<http://oaklandcounty115.com/2017/08/06/kimmie-horne-concert-a-special-night-in-oak-park/>



A music-loving crowd of over 500 from around the Metro Detroit area gathered at Oak Park's Shepherd Park to enjoy Kimmie Horne's blend of jazz and rhythm and blues in the final concert for the Music in the Park series on July 27, 2017. It was a special evening for many people, for many reasons. It had been many years since Horne performed in Oak Park, and news of her concert spread around the area. Former Oak



Park residents returned to enjoy her music, and current Oak Parkers invited friends and family to join them, some guests coming from an hour or more away. Horne's soulful music flowed in the warm summer evening; the audience smiled, danced, and sang along. "Turn and say hey to someone. We're all family here," Kimmie Horne encouraged from the stage. And they did, greeting each other with genuine warmth, laughter, and sometimes hugs. It was also a special evening for Horne and her family, as it was her mother's 76th birthday, and she was introduced to the audience and wished a very happy birthday. Horne, a Detroit native, and great-niece of Lena Horne, travels around the United States as well as to Asia and Europe, so having her perform in Oak Park again was a much-anticipated special treat for the community. "Oak Park is back!" was the refrain heard repeatedly throughout the evening.



For decades, Music in the Park was a staple summer event in Oak Park. Then, when budget cuts had to be made, the concerts were eliminated for a while. When they were brought back, residents were glad, and attended the concerts, but this summer attendance has been much higher than previous years. A comment noted by residents during Horne's concert was that there seemed to be more people at the Kimmie Horne concert than there have been at any Music in the Park concert since the 1970's and 1980's. Recreation Director Laurie Stasiak said, "It's nice to see the community coming out together and taking advantage of the concerts we have for them." Rhonda Johns has been a resident of Oak Park for over 20 years, and enjoyed the concerts this summer. "I'm glad they brought it back," she said. Everett McArn brought his dog, Boogie, and Mark Henton brought Austin, his dog. They came all four weeks to the concerts this summer because they "enjoy the sound and it's a nice venue—we really appreciate it." Laurita Shelton of Southfield also attended each of this summer's concerts. Rod Bryant of Oak Park not only came for the concert; he

brought his Bid Whist group to join him. They had quite the set up! He brought a barbecue grill, food to put on the grill, playing cards, a card table, and chairs, so they enjoyed a good meal and had a card game going on while they listened to Kimmie Horne. "We have good friends, music, and a beautiful afternoon," said his friend Audry Hawkins of Clinton Township. Many families took advantage of the great music and perfect weather to spend some time together. Three generations of one family attended, including adorable two year old twins Ayla and Aliyah Robinson, who danced along with the music. They were there with Mom Sterling Bowman, and are new Oak Park residents. Their Grandpa, Stan Randall, has been an Oak Park resident for 40 years, and he invited them all to come to the park. During the concert, Horne interacted with the audience, singing with them, speaking to them, and making them a special part of the evening. The most powerful, and most touching moment, however, was when she went over to Tuskegee Airman **Alexander Jefferson**. He is 95 years old, enjoys Kimmie Horne's concerts, and attended with a group of family and other Tuskegee Airmen. He has met Horne before, and according to his granddaughter **Earnestine Lavergne**, since he will be out of town during Horne's upcoming Jazz Festival, they definitely wanted to attend this concert. Horne came down from the stage singing, approached Jefferson, introduced him to the audience, and he stood up to greet the crowd. Then they shared the microphone and sang together in a touching few moments that brought tears to the eyes. On her Facebook page, after the concert, Horne posted, "Thank You Oak Park for being an AMAZING audience." For many reasons, the final 2017 Oak Park Concert in the Park was a special one. [SEE MORE PICTURES](#)



Fair's opening ceremony honors veterans, Tuskegee Airmen

By DANA MELIUS dmelius@stpetherald.com

http://www.southernmin.com/waseca_county_news/news/article_1087a871-98b2-5742-b2b8-d5c34f509c2d.html
<http://www.keyc.com/story/35873159/wjii-legends-tell-their-story-at-the-waseca-county-fair>

Jul 13, 2017

Images by Bill Welborne

These legends were flying under the radar too long. The Tuskegee Airmen, the first black military pilots in the United States Armed Forces, were featured guests of a traveling exhibit at the Waseca County Free Fair. It was the exhibits first-ever county fair appearance and is titled the Commemorative Air Force Red Tail Squadron. Two of the original Tuskegee Airmen were joined

by two others who later joined the [Detroit Chapter of Tuskegee Airmen](#): trailblazers **Washington Ross** and **Frederick Henry**, along with torchbearers **Bill Welborne** and **Greg Whiting**. The foursome, who all recalled days when blacks weren't so well-received in the service, were treated as heroes by the fair crowd. Handshakes greeted the men at a table following the opening ceremony Wednesday at the Waseca County Fairgrounds, while autograph seekers asked for signatures. All stood in front of the long semi-trailer, which serves as an indoor exhibit and documentary showing of the squadron's service in World War II. But as Welborne shook hands, he pointed at the **original Airmen, Ross and Henry**. "Those guys paved the way," Welborne said.

"They're the real heroes. Go talk to them." For fair goers and board members of the Waseca County Agricultural Association, which organizes and sponsors the fair's events, it was a powerful opening ceremony. "What a pleasure meeting them and introducing them to some of our sponsors and fair board members," beamed the official website posting of the Waseca County Free Fair. Waseca County Veterans Services Officer Christopher Hinton went a step farther in his introduction of the Tuskegee Airmen: "What an honor to be walking amongst legends." The opening ceremony was also a tribute to all servicemen and women, past and present. A special Minnesota State Patrol Honor Guard participated in the kickoff, along with area units and auxiliaries. But for the Tuskegee Airmen, it was a refreshing and rewarding change from the early receptions black servicemen as they entered military service and became the first black pilots. Even as they returned from the war and entered employment, prejudices surfaced. Wednesday's special ceremony and appearance as honored guests was far different. These veterans, as the handshakes and autographs showed, were indeed celebrated as heroes. The African-American military pilots who fought in World War II officially formed the 332nd Fighter Group and the 477th Bombardment Group of the U.S. Army Air Forces. All black military pilots trained at Moton Field, the Tuskegee Air Field, and received additional preparation at Tuskegee University, near Tuskegee, Alabama. The four Airmen at the Waseca County Free Fair all spoke of those southern roots, but they were also joined by several Haitian Air Force members and one pilot from Trinidad. But although the Airmen were trained with North American B-25 Mitchell bombers, they never served in combat. But Welborne said that fact didn't minimize their service, honor or dedication to the war effort. And the squadrons also flew hundreds of heavy bomber escort missions. And those missions placed all in harm's ways, he noted. The traveling exhibit and its organizers hope to bring national attention to the Tuskegee Airmen, a rarely told story in U.S. military history. One of the Red Tail Squadron's missions, the organizers stated, were to locate remaining, surviving members of the Tuskegee Airmen and document their histories. Welborne said that would be great, as most Airmen have gone their separate ways and lost touch with one another. [SEE MORE PICTURES](#)



Waseca hears the war stories of the Tuskegee Airmen

By Edie Schmierbach eschmierbach@mankatofreepress.com

http://www.mankatofreepress.com/news/local_news/waseca-hears-the-war-stories-of-the-tuskegee-airmen/article_10122db4-673b-11e7-ac58-700374d0f44d.html

Jul 12, 2017 Images by Pat Christman



WASECA — Original Tuskegee Airmen **Frederick Henry** and **Washington Ross** sat at an outdoor table near the American Legion stand Wednesday afternoon shaking hands with local military vets and describing personal experiences to [fairgoers](#). When offered beers, they asked for a rain check, then caught a ride across the grounds to sign autographs for viewers queuing up to enter a trailer and watch a documentary about the legacy of the

country's first black military pilots and their support staff. Henry and Ross, both in their 90s, do not tire easily when it comes to their mission of visiting communities throughout the country talking about their service during World War II. Ross flew a P-51C Mustang. Henry was a military policeman. Neither considers himself a hero although they've received recognition from two U.S. presidents and are recipients of Congressional Gold medals. "We did what we had to do," Henry said. Ross agreed. "They are amazing," said Sara Ruedy, a member of American Legion Post 228 Auxiliary. "For two Tuskegee airmen to come to Waseca and to visit people at the fair — it's been an honor for our post to be one of the sponsors." Ross and Henry traveled from their homes in Detroit to Waseca where they were guests of honor for a veterans ceremony Wednesday evening. They were accompanied by two black military veterans who served during other war eras. Tuesday night, the airmen accompanied by representatives of the Commemorative Air Force Red Tail Squadron, met with local hosts for the traveling exhibit "[RISE ABOVE](#)" at Waseca County Free Fair. Wednesday morning, Henry and Ross gave presentations at assisted living facilities in Waseca. "They applauded us," Henry said. Warm welcomes were not common for either man when they began their military careers as cadets during the 1940s and were part of a new combat training program. Ross had recently completed his studies in mathematics when he signed up after reading a government poster announcing opportunities to learn to fly. "Then I took a job while I waited," he said. After some time, he was accepted into the program. His flying career included overseas missions. Henry recalled the high standards set for the cadets. With the exception of one top gun pilot, all the Tuskegee Airmen had college degrees. "Black pilots had to, white pilots did not," said Henry. About half of the first class of cadets became pilots. Henry recalled how a fellow cadet completed most of the requirements necessary to fly, became ill and was denied the honor. "He never got his wings." Of the 1,000 cadets Henry served among, about half were cut from the overly-rigorous program. Those who made it through went on to serve admirably and courageously. "It was an experiment some wanted to fail. We proved them wrong," said Henry. Ross is a member of the Michigan Aviation Hall of Fame. After returning to the states at the end of war, he married and became a father. He was a flight instructor, then served in the reserves. When Ross retired from the service, he held the rank lieutenant colonel. Despite his stellar resume, finding a job to support his family was difficult. Ross worked as a janitor for a period of time before he began his career as a mathematics instructor. He recalled grabbing a book and studying any time he had a break from mopping floors. Henry, too, can recall "this-job-isn't-for-you" barriers faced before he began working for Ford Motor Co., a job he held for 30-plus years. The good-natured nonagenarian said he hadn't planned to stay so long with one company. He and his wife had three children to raise. She died last year, shortly after the couple had been honored as grand marshals for a parade in Michigan. Henry, along with Ross, regularly spend time talking with youths participating in an introduction to flying program in the Detroit area. The Young Eagles program is sponsored by Experimental Aircraft Association. "Two of the kids are now airline pilots," said Bill Welborne, a member of Tuskegee Airmen, Inc., who accompanied Henry and Ross to Minnesota. Welborne served in the military during the 1950s. He was at the fair to share information about the airmen program which was based at Tuskegee Institute in Alabama. Some students were from other countries. Black women served as flight nurses and various other roles. Over the years, the original airmen have lost touch with just about all of their fellow cadets, Henry said. There are an estimated 300 living airmen. One of Red Tail Squadron's missions is to find surviving members of the Tuskegee Airmen and document their histories. "Just two weeks ago, we found an airman who is 102 years old," Welborne said. [SEE MORE PICTURES](#)



Oldest Surviving Tuskegee Airman, 102, Talks Racial Discrimination: 'It Hasn't Stopped'

BY ROSE MINUTAGLIO@ROSEMINUTAGLIO

POSTED ON JULY 24, 2017 AT 12:49PM EDT

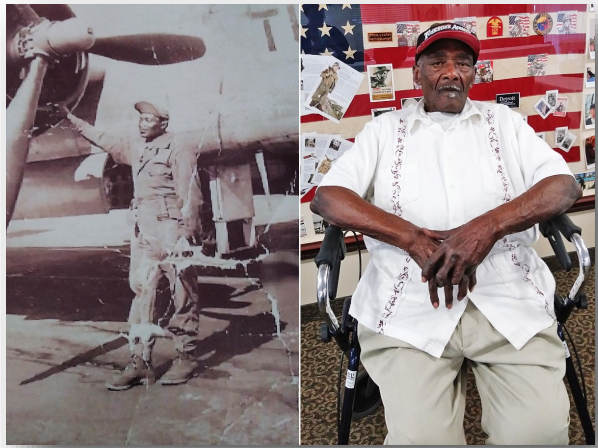
Images by Ayana King

<http://people.com/human-interest/oldest-surviving-tuskegee-airman-talks-racism/>
<http://www.theroot.com/it-just-hasnt-stopped-oldest-living-tuskegee-airman-1-1797223394>

<https://blackmattersus.com/35970-oldest-surviving-tuskegee-airman-talks-racial-discrimination/>

At 102, Sgt. **Preston Jowers** is the oldest surviving member of the [Tuskegee Airmen](#), the nation's first all-black aviation unit whose exemplary flying record helped influence Harry Truman's decision to desegregate the U.S. Armed Forces in 1948. But the World War II veteran, who now lives in the [American House](#) independent senior living community in Southfield, Michigan, says the racial discrimination his fellow African-American servicemen faced decades ago is still a major problem in the U.S. today — and it “breaks his heart.” “I just have to ask ‘Why?’ ” Jowers, who was an engineer during his time as an airman, tells PEOPLE. “We proved all those years ago that black men and women weren’t dummies, we showed the nation that we are capable of doing a job and doing it well, but racism — it just hasn’t stopped. “I want young people to realize that you too can make it and make a difference, just like we did in the war.” Jowers was 27 when he got drafted during WWII. He went through basic training in Denver, Colorado, before heading to a mechanic school in Lincoln, Nebraska, to learn about wartime planes. “I didn’t know a thing about planes!” says Jowers, who grew up in Douglas, Georgia. “But when I worked for a meat market as a kid, I learned a rough lesson about giving 110 percent to anything in life.” That tough lesson came from his employer in Douglas, who spanked Jowers when he failed to make a meat delivery on time. “After he whooped me, he said, ‘When you work for someone you do the best you can do and nobody can ask more of you,’ ” explains Jowers. “I took that to heart, there was never a job I couldn’t do — even work on planes in the war.” Jowers’ main duties as a Tuskegee Airman were to ensure that all plane engines and instruments were in good condition. He mainly worked as a mechanic on B25 bomber planes and P40 fighter jets. “I cherished every minute of it and it was an experience that I will always be proud to be a part of,” says Jowers. But his time as an airman was rife with racism. “We couldn’t eat together, we couldn’t fight the war with white men,” he recalls. “The racism didn’t pertain to me as much, because I was a mechanic, but men with the same rank who were different races couldn’t even talk to each other back in those days. “It was some of the worst segregation I’d ever seen.” Jowers says he experienced “intense prejudice” growing up in Georgia. “But officers during the

war thought the black man’s brain was so different that they couldn’t fly a plane,” says Jowers. “So what we did was stop and put God on our side and try to love each other — and that’s what we need to do now as a country.” After almost four years of service, Jowers received an honorary discharge and began looking for a job as a plane mechanic. “It was my dream job, so I went to the Detroit City Airport to try and get a job, but they wouldn’t even let me in the door because of the color of my skin,” he says. “It was hard because I’d just served my country, but here I was being turned away from a job I was qualified for.” Instead, Jowers went into the trucking business. He got married in 1943 and he and his wife had five children. His dreams of becoming a plane mechanic eventually faded — but every time he sees a plane he “still gets giddy.” “I’m reminds me of how I served my country,” says Jowers. “And even though I never worked on planes again, because of the color of my skin, I take pride in the fact that I did the best I could on my work during the war. “Just like I was taught back in Georgia, all those years ago.” [SEE MORE PICTURES](#)



GM EMPLOYEE CAR SHOW 2017

[SEE 34 MORE PICTURES OF THE DAY](#)



**P-51
REC+FAIL
Out Reach**

...from active GM employees to retirees to friends and family, there were 100's of people in attendance and engaged in reference to the Tuskegee Airmen and about 50-60 that I personally, verbally, engaged



LANSING CAR SHOW

[SEE 41 MORE PICTURES OF THE DAY](#)

**P-51
REC+FAIL
Out Reach**

...from all reaches of central, southern and southeastern Michigan, there were 100's of people in attendance and engaged in reference to the Tuskegee Airmen and about 30-40 that I personally, verbally, engaged



WESTLAND CRUISE

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**P-51
REDTAIL
Out Reach**

The Westland cruise was decently attended and I had the opportunity to personally engaged about 30-40 people in reference to the Tuskegee Airmen



TAYLOR CRUISE

[SEE ORIGINAL PICTURES OF THE DAY](#)

**P-51
REDTAIL
Out Reach**

...although the cruise was well attended, there were only about 50 or 60 people that ventured through the Walgreens parking lot that I posted up in and only about 10-20 people that I personally, verbally, engaged



The Hawk's Cry II



Red Tail Impresses

By Eric Palmer

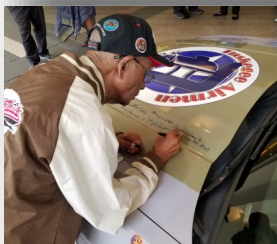
From the moment I picked up Red Tail from FastSigns to the moment I returned home after the 2017 Tuskegee Airmen National Convention, I received accolades of appreciation for using my 2011 Ford Mustang to honor the heroes of the "Tuskegee Airmen."

After I picked the vehicle up, from getting some graphic upgrades, I stopped at a Chinese restaurant to grab lunch before I went home to prepare for my 0200 hrs departure. When I came out of the restaurant, there was a 30 something year old "brutha" driving by slowly, eyeballing Red Tail. He stopped and asked, "Is that you, bro??" Of course I said, "yes...it is my tribute to the Tuskegee Airmen." What he said next gave me appreciation of the creative dialect descendants of stolen Africans have adapted and adopted here, in the United States of America. He said, "You \$#!+++ng bricks out here my dude, that beast (is) dope." Although I didn't initially comprehend what he was saying, I knew he was right.

The complements, admiration and appreciation continued all the way down I-75, into Orlando and the convention, into the neighborhood of Detroit Chapter President, Miguel Thornton in Tampa, back up I-75 and home to Pontiac. And it reinforced and further comforted the decision I made to dedicate the vehicle to the honor of the "airmen."

There was rumor that there were about nineteen (19) Tuskegee Airmen at the convention. Unfortunately, I was only able to get pictures of four (4) of them with Red Tail. Although, six (6) of them signed it.

Pictured (and signing) are Ted Lumpkin (LA chapter), Richard Hall and "Triple Rated" Daniel Keel (Chappie James chapter) and Franklin Macon (Hooks Jones chapter). Not pictured, but signing Red Tail were Roy Richardson and Leslie Edwards. [SEE 74 MORE PICTURES](#)



Working together to help others rise above

By [Bill Shepard](#)

Last month I had the privilege of donning two of my hats simultaneously for the 46th annual [Tuskegee Airmen, Inc.](#) (TAI) convention in Orlando, Florida. I am proud to be a part of many worthy service groups, but my commitments to the [CAF Red Tail Squadron](#) and [TAI Detroit chapter](#) are especially important to me. Our two organizations share a common thread – to honor the history and legacy of the Tuskegee Airmen – and I enjoy facilitating the collaboration that ultimately makes us both more effective in achieving this goal.

One of the most essential things we do is to try to help kids find their “Tuskegee moment.” This is when a young person gains that true understanding of what the Tuskegee Airmen’s experience meant, and embraces that knowledge to propel them to success. This can happen in many ways, but the common commitment is to set aside anything that would inhibit this and work together to make these “Tuskegee moments” more plentiful.

I greatly enjoyed my time at the TAI convention, seeing old friends and making new ones, learning from other chapters and knowledge sharing whenever possible. Whatever hat I may be wearing, I take pride in sharing the Tuskegee story, and to be surrounded by so many other people who feel the same is invigorating. Our shared passion to honor the Tuskegee Airmen that are still living, teach others about their important history, and utilize their legacy to inspire youth supersedes any challenges we may encounter along the way. Because at the end of the day, that mission is all that matters.

Until we meet again at the 2018 convention, I hope our groups will continue to embrace opportunities to collaborate and bridge any gaps we might come across. Together, we can point to many successes from this past year, and I feel confident that this will only get stronger as we find new ways to work together towards our common goal. Thank you to the volunteers and leadership of both the TAI and the CAF Red Tail Squadron for all you do to help our youth RISE ABOVE and find success, just like the Tuskegee Airmen.



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
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The certificates come in six (6) different ribbon color
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- Red on Yellow
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- 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 Armymen related news stories to the editor ASAP. Contact info inside

