

October 2017



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HawksGryll@gmail.com

Tuskegee Airmen Hawk's Cry II



IN HS OWN WORDS: The Autobiography of Washington DuBois

Ross

March 4, 1919 to October 9, 2017

Official Newsletter of the **DETROIT CHAPTER** of **TUSKEGEE AIRMEN INCORPORATED**



The Hawk's Cry II

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Tuskegee Airmen Hawk's Cry II

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WEBSITES OF INTEREST

Detroit Chapter website TA National Museum website National Organization TA National Historic Site

Follow Us **DetroitChapterTAInc**

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THE PRESIDENTS' PAGE

THE NEXT TWO CHAPTER MEETINGS

Thursday, 12 October 2017 and 9 November 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 <u>ALWAYS</u> THE 2ND THURSDAY OF THE MONTH

ATTENTION ALL MEMBERS

Please Wear Tuskegee Airmen Marked Clothing to Meetings to Show Uniformity

Good Day Fellow Tuskegee Airmen Detroit Chapter members. I hope all is well with you and your family and that you all are looking toward an excellent fall. Soon the colors will be changing and the brisk breezes from the North will put a little pep in your step.

At our October meeting we hope to swear in our Honorary Members and assign them a mentor. We have put together a skeletal calendar for the year for our young people and hope to solidify the dates and times at the meeting. I'll call the Honorary Members Cadets. It appears to be very exciting and hopefully all will be pleased. This is all a part of our Legacy.

Parents are anxious and want to meet the mentors and find out about our total program. We will roll out the plan at our meeting. This first group will be Cohort 1. We've already been contacted by another school to see when and if they could be involved. We've shared with them that in the spring we shall start Cohort 2.

There are several things on the agenda for the balance of this year. The Museum Banquet is on October 14, 2017 at Cobo Hall. There is more info on the next page and The museum web site. The Annual Men Who Dare Black and White Ball is November 11, 2017. Please see page 4 and/or contact Burt Lowe. The Christmas Dinner Meeting on December 7, 2017, hopefully to be held at Bert's Place at 2727 Russell Street from 6 PM until 9:30 PM. The cost for the dinner will be between \$10.00 and \$15.00 per person. We'll talk more on this at this meeting.

Finally, we have had a marvelous year. Our membership has grown and this year, we have participated in more activities than I can remember. We are a volunteer organization which has as one of it's goals to continue the Legacy of The Tuskegee Airmen. We need each other to survive and carry the BANNER.

Thank you God bless you all,

Miguel Thornton
President

Detroit Chapter Tuskegee Airmen, Inc.

Viewing Sunday October 15th 2-6pm at

Wilson Akins Funeral Home 17500 Fenkell Detroit, Michigan 48227

The Celebration of Life of LtCol (Ret) Washington D. Ross

> Will be on Monday, 16 October 2017

Family Hour at 10:00 AM Going Home Celebration at 11:00 AM

Berea Lutheran Church
18901 Wyoming
(between 7 & 8 Mile Roads)
Detroit Michigan 48221

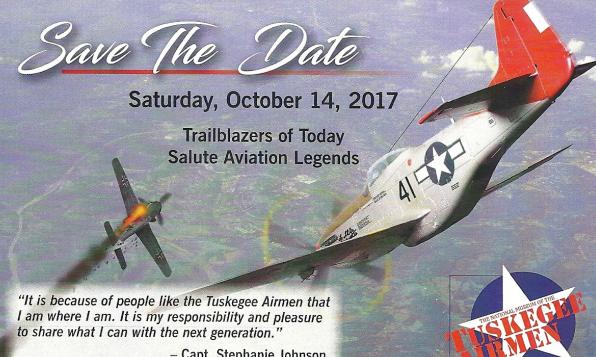
The **Family Dinner** will immediately follow the service at:

<u>Sweet Magnolias</u> 29221 Northwestern Hwy, Southfield, 48034

The INTERNMENT is scheduled for Tuesday, October 17, 2017 at 11:00 AM at: Great Lakes National Cemetery -Mt Holly 4200 Belford Rd. Holly, Michigan 48442

We shall wear our dress blues Please be there NLT 0900 hrs





 Capt. Stephanie Johnson Delta Airlines



The TUSKEGEE AIRMEN NATIONAL HISTORICAL MUSEUM

requests the pleasure of your company at our

29th Annual Salute Reception and Dinner

Saturday, October 14, 2017

6:00 pm Cocktail Reception • 7:00 pm Salute and Dinner 8:00 pm Dancing & Entertainment

Cobo Center -. One Washington Blvd., Detroit, Michigan 48226



Keynote Address by:

Captain Stephanie Johnson and First Officer Dawn Cook

The first African-American women in history

to make up the cockpit crew on a Delta Airlines mainline flight

Tickets: \$100.00 per person

\$150.00 VIP ticket (includes private reception with original Tuskegee Airmen) For more information call Dr. Brian Smith (313) 843-8849

Purchase tickets at tuskegeemuseum.org

Black Tie - Military Dress Uniform



SAVE THE DATE



A non-profit scholarship and mentoring organization $58^{th} \, Annual \, Scholarship$ BLACK & WHITE BALL

Saturday, November 11, 2017 6:00 pm to 11:00 pm Dinner Served Promptly at 7:00pm

2017 Keynote Speaker



Eric W. Ayers, MD
Associate Professor Section Chief
Program Director
Internal Medicine/Pediatries
Wayne State School of Med

Donations: \$85* Attire: Formal

Sounds By: DJ Miguel M

Ron Moore



Contact Information: The Men Who Dare, Inc. 613 Abbott Street • Detroit, MI. 48226 • (313) 967-5562 • Fax (313) 967-7510 Email: menwhodareinc@sbcglobal.net • Website: www.menwhodare.org

*Tickets Purchased After October 314, 2017- \$100.00

Your Help Would Be Very Much Appreciated:

Burton Lowe 1685 Sheffield Dr. Ypsilanti, Mich. 48198

(734) 483-3343(H) or (734) 476-1301(C)

E-mail: burtlowe@aol.com

Check out the web site: www.menwhodare.org





CAREER EVENT

Personal Branding • Hiring Fair • Career Planning

Date and Time

Thursday, October 12, 2017 10:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. Location:

Oakland University

Recreation and Athletics Center 569 Pioneer Drive Rochester, MI 48309-4482

Join local and national employers on October 12 for a hiring fair for veterans, military service members, guard, reserve, and military spouses. Jobs will be available for all ranks and levels of experience.

At 8:30 a.m., a free employment workshop for job seekers featuring resume building, networking, and interview tips. At 8:30 a.m., a free "Best Practices" workshop for employers will feature how to find the right Veteran talent and how to brand your company.

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce's "Hiring Our Heroes" event, sponsored by GM, is partnered locally by the Detroit Area Chamber of Commerce, Detroit VA Healthcare System, the Michigan Committee of Employer Support of the Guard & Reserve (ESGR), Michigan Veterans Service Division, Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency, Michigan Economic Development Corporation, Oakland County Veterans' Services, Vets Returning Home, Goodwill Industries of Greater Detroit, the U. S. Department of Labor Veterans Employment and Training Service (DOL VETS), U. S. Department of Veterans Affairs, The American Legion, NBC News and other local partners

Questions? Contact kpoynton@uschamber.com

Employers and Military Job Seekers register at

HiringOurHeroes.org

Our Sponsors























IN HIS OWN WORDS: The Autobiography of Washington DuBois Ross LTC, USAFRES, RET

October 31, 2012

I was born March 4th, 1919, in Mound Bayou, Mississippi. My father was the late Robert Warren Ross, Sr., and my mother was the late Teresa Elizabeth Calloway Ross. I am the fourth son in a family of five boys and one girl.

My family moved to Ashland, Kentucky when I was very young. I attended Booker T. Washington Elementary School in Ashland, Kentucky and Ironton High School in Ironton, Ohio. While in high school, I was a member of both the Scholarship Team and the National Honor Society, and was listed in Who's Who among High School Students.



I received a BS Degree in Education from Hampton Institute (now Hampton University) in Hampton, Virginian. During my years at Hampton, I was a member of the Creative Dance Group, and through my participation in the Civilian Pilot Training Program (CPTP), I received my Private Pilot's License. I completed my undergraduate degree with honors in 1941. I did graduate work at Wayne State University as well as the University of Detroit from which I earned an MA degree in The Teaching of Mathematics. I also have a BBA and an MBA from D'Etre University (in Detroit, Michigan).

In October, 1943, I married Willie Pearl White who was also a graduate of Hampton Institute, receiving her BS degree in 1943. She also held a MA degree from Wayne State University in Detroit, Michigan. My wife passed June 21, 2003.

My first job after graduation was a storekeeper at the Norfolk Navy Yard, Portsmouth, Vir-



ginia. My duties included issuing fittings and other related items used in the operation and maintenance of naval vessels. I left this position upon being ordered to report to the Tuskegee Army Air Base in Alabama for Aviation Cadet Training.

My military service began when I arrived at Tuskegee as part of class 43-1. In 1943, I graduated as a Fighter Pilot with the rank of Second Lieutenant. In October of 1943, we were sent to Selfridge Field, Michigan, for overseas training. The majority of my class joined the 332nd Fighter Group and left for

the European Theater in December of 1943. Because of an unexpected hospitalization I was unable to leave then, but followed later as part of a group of replacements.

Ten of us went overseas as replacements for the 332nd Fighter Group. We traveled on a passenger ship that had been converted in order to carry troops. The ship was fast, and once we left the coast of the U.S., we continued on unescorted, the theory being that the ship was able to outrun enemy U-boats. I suppose that theory was right since we arrived safely in Oran, Algeria. After spending some time in North Africa, where we were to receive additional training (which we didn't get), we were flown to Naples, Italy. There we joined the 332nd, and from our base, flew patrol in P-39s. Eventually, we were transferred to the 15th Air Force, where we flew p-47s, and finally, P-51s on long escort missions protecting bombers. I flew a combination of sorties and missions, for a total of 63 missions. As the war wound down, my squadron was disbanded, and since I had enough missions, I was able to come home. day.

Stateside, I was assigned to Tuskegee Army Air Base in Alabama, this time, as a twin-engine instructor for the B-25. When the Tuskegee base was closed, we were transferred to Lockbourne Air Base in Ohio, where in 1947 I was honorably discharged after serving four years on active duty. After being discharged from the service, I worked for a year at the Ford Motor Company, and ten years as a clerk for the United States Postal Service. I spent twentynine years with the Detroit Board of Education, serving as both a teacher and a department head, retiring in 1984.



After my active military service, I joined the United States Air Force Reserves (USAFRES) where I served for twenty years in a number of assignments. We were put on the alert to go to Florida, where we were to take part in the attack on Cuba known as The Bay of Pigs fiasco. This crisis subsided and in the end, we weren't called up. In 1981, I retired from the USAFRES with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. I earned the Air Medal, American Campaign Medal, the Armed Forces Reserve Medal and the

Congressional Gold Medal. I was induced into the Kentucky Aviation Hall of Fame on November 12, 2011 in Lexington Kentucky and into the Michigan Aviation Hall of Fame May 19,2012 in Portage, Michigan.

My wife and I have four children: Paula Ross. Rodney Enix-Ross, wife Deborah and son Parker. Mark Ross, wife Carol and son Langston. Robert Ross, wife Margaret and daughter Miya.

I am an active member of the Tuskegee airmen, Inc. I am a member of the Speakers Bureau. I am a Life Member of the Reserve Officers Association. I belong to and am an active member of Berea Lutheran Church in Detroit, having served in various capacities, including chairman of the congregation, trustee, choir member, and financial advisor to the Berea Day School Board of Education. I am a member of the Billy D. Brooks Memorial Lutheran Choir. I am an active member of the Detroit Chapter of National Hampton Alumni Association, Inc., where I served as president as well as other offices. I am also a Life Member of the ROA (Reserve Officers Association).



My wife and I liked to travel. We went on several cruises on the Atlantic Ocean and the Pacific Ocean to Europe and the Far East.

My favorite hobby was photography. I got more fun developing and printing the pictures than taking them. With the advent

of the color pictures I abandoned the hobby because developing and printing the pictures was too involved.

I can say during my life I met many friends that I cherish to this day.

Tuskegee Airman from Ashland dies

By MIKE JAMES The Independent

DETROIT A World War II aviator who spent his childhood in Ashland and went on to become one of the famed Tuskegee Airmen has died.

Washington DuBois Ross, 98, died at his residence, a senior living facility in the Detroit area, according to Bill Martin, a local aviation historian who several years ago interviewed Ross for a book on Burgess Field, Ashland's first airport.

Martin received notification of Ross' death from another resident of the facility who was a close friend of the former aviator. Ross also was the son of Robert Ross, a well-remembered teacher at the former Booker T. Washington School which African-American students attended during the Jim Crow era of segregation.

Martin spoke with Ross in 2012 and devoted a chapter to the

aviator in his book, "Ashland Airport, Kentucky's Forgotten Field." The Ross family lived on 35th Street, which was a short walk to the airfield, which later was known as

Ashland Airport.

During his youth, Ross watched planes take off and land at the field, and took his first flight as a passenger at 12 on a Ford Trimotor with his family. He got his first flight training at Hampton Institute in Virginia and earned his pilot's license.

The entry of the United States into World War II brought with it the need for pilots, and at first African-Americans were not considered. The Tuskegee Airmen was an experimental program to test the widespread belief that African-Americans couldn't make it as combat pilots.

Ross was brought into the program and with his compatriots proved the conventional thinking wrong. The group compiled a stellar

record of protecting American bombers in their P-51 Mustang

fighters with their distinctive red rudders. By the war's end he had flown 63 missions.

He served as a flight instructor before leaving the service and joined the U.S. Air Force reserve, serving 20 years and retiring as a lieutenant colonel.

Following his active-duty discharge, he moved to Michigan where he was an educator. Martin said he found out about Ross and his connection with the Tuskegee Airmen while writing his book. "I was surprised when I learned a Tuskegee Airman had lived here, so I investigated quickly," he said.



Photo by Ken Mist

He said Ross is important not just in aviation history, but as part of Ashland's historical legacy. His book is available through the Jesse Stuart Foundation and all profits are donated to the Highlands Museum and Discovery Center.

(606) 326-2652 mjames@dailyindependent.com



Eric L. Palmer Editor/Publisher The Hawk's Cry II



Tuskegee Airmen Member Lieutenant Colonel Washington DuBois Ross @ Grand Rapids Public Schools



Tuskegee Airmen Member Lieutenant Colonel Washington DuBois Ross Induction into **Kentucky Aviation HOF Video**



Tuskegee Airmen U of M Multi-Part
Panel Discussion from the
Hawk's Cry II YouTube Channel
SUBSCRIBE to the Channel HERE



The Hawk's Cry II

4th Annual Atlanta Warbird Weekend

On October 6th & 7th, Detroit RedTail had an opportunity to make an appearance at the Commemorative Air Force's Atlanta Warbird Weekend in which they honored the Tuskegee Airmen. DOTA's in attendance included the Detroit Chapter's own LtCol (Ret) Harry T. Stewart, Jr, who is honored on the driver's side of Detroit RedTail. Over the two (2) days, the event was well attended by 200-300 people.

CLICK HERE
FOR MORE
PICTURES OF
THE EVENT







Detroit RedTail at the M1 Concourse

Eric Palmer and Eric Love of the Detroit Chapter of Tuskegee Airmen were attendees at the last Cars and Coffee session at the MI-Concourse in Pontiac, Michigan. Detroit Red Tail made an appearance and was admired by about 150 people who visited the event













Detroit RedTail on the TAMT





September has been good to Michigan in terms of weather. A couple of Saturdays ago, Detroit RedTail finally made an appearance with the Tuskegee Airmen Memorial Highway sign the Detroit Chapter had posted on the northbound side I-75 in Michigan, about 9 miles north of the Ohio border





CLICK HERE
FOR MORE
PICTURES OF
THE DAY



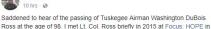
From Our Friends on Social Media











Detroit when I was there with the CAF Red Tail Squadron, RIP Sir.









From Our Friends on Social Media



I found this interesting and thought you would too

TAM Legacy Gala - Aircraft Dedications - YouTube

From Burt Lowe

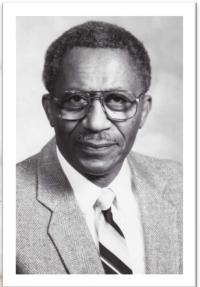




Dr. James Robert Williams Sr., 93 Tuskegee Airman

Ayana Jones TRIBUNE STAFF WRITER Sep 15, 2017

Dr. James Robert Williams Sr., an accomplished physician and Tuskegee Airman, died on Saturday, Sept. 9, 2017, at Bryn Mawr Extended Care. He was 93. Williams was known by his friends as "Bob." He lived a long and fulfilling life, with an extensive medical and military career. He was born on April 21, 1924 to the late James and Willie Mae Banks in Bryn Mawr. He attended Lower Merion Senior High School in Ardmore and graduated from Muhlenberg College in 1951 with a Bachelor of Science. Williams then attended Meharry Medical College where he earned his medical doctorate in 1955. He did his physician internship at Frankfort Hospital from 1955 to 1956 and was a surgical resident at Mercy-Douglas Hospital and Coatesville General Hospital in Coatesville from 1956 to 1957.



Following this, he became a resident in Pathology at Hines Veteran's Administration Hospital in Hines, Ill., from 1959 to 1963. In 1964, Williams returned, with his family, to Bryn Mawr and became the director of Pathology at Mercy-Douglas Hospital. He worked in similar administrative positions at John F. Kennedy Memorial Hospital and the Veteran's Administration Hospital before becoming the director of Laboratories at John F. Kennedy Memorial Hospital in 1976 where he stayed until his resignation in 1991. Williams was a member of the American Medical Association and served as vice-president and then president of the Medical-Dental staff from 1979 to 1986 at John F. Kennedy Memorial Hospital. Williams served in the military from 1943 to 1973. His service is historic as he was a part of the pioneering Tuskegee Airmen, earning his navigator, bombardier and twin-engine bomber pilot wings in 1945. He ranked as a first lieutenant at his discharge in 1946 and from 1967 to 1973 he served as a lieutenant colonel in the Air Force Reserve. Williams is beloved by his close family and friends for his wit and dry humor and known for his quick one-liners that kept everyone laughing. Williams' knowledge and medical expertise served the Philadelphia area, his family, and many others. His service with the Tuskegee Airmen also inspired many over the years, as he made speaking engagements at schools and events. He was honored by an invitation to former President Barack Obama's 2009 presidential inauguration along with his Tuskegee Airmen associates. Williams was always active and loved aviation, golf, jogging, gardening, lawn care, and trips to the Philadelphia Zoo with his family. Williams was preceded in death by his wife of 60 years, Elizabeth "Betty" Williams. He is survived by: his children, Dr. James R Williams Jr. (Michelle Casario), Gerald C. Williams (Margo Mooney), Katherine Williams (Celestin Joseph), Debra Edmonds (Roy Edmonds) and Bruce L. Williams (Gretchen Coriales); 12 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. Services will be held Saturday at Saints Memorial Baptist Church, 47 S. Warner Ave. in Wayne. Friends may call at 9 a.m. Services will follow at 10 a.m. Burial is in Valley Forge Memorial Gardens. DeBaptiste Funeral Homes handled the arrangements.



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 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 Health Care Eligibility......www.va.gov/healtheligibility Burial and Memorial Benefits.....www.cem.va.gov Recordswww.archives.gov/st-louis/military-personnel VA Benefit Payment Rates.....www.vba.va.gov/bln/21/rates VA Forms.....<u>www.va.gov/vaforms</u> 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 172 Page Federal Benefits for Veterans, Dependants, & spouses for sale by the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office On the Internet: bookstore.gpo.gov Phone: toll free (866) 512-1800; DC area (202) 512-1800 ISBN 978-0-16-082825-6

Federal Benefits for Veterans, Dependents and Survivors

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 Yello
- Yellow on Red
- •Red on Yellow
- Yellow on BlueBlue on Yellow
- •Green on White and
- •White on Green

Inquire with HawksCryII@gmail.com to get your electronic version.

Please communicate all newsletter inclusions to:

Eric Palmer

VIA e-mail the editor

HawksCryII@Gmail.com



THE AIRMEN OF THE DETROIT CHAPTER OF THE

Tuskegee Airmen, Inc.

AWARDS THIS

CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION



MEMBERSHIP CORNER Bill Welborne

welborne313@gmail.com

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Detroit Chapter The Detroit Chapter of Tuskegee Airmen are dedicated to promoti the life and legacy of the Tuskegee Airmen www.detroitchapter.org

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Hawk's Cry II

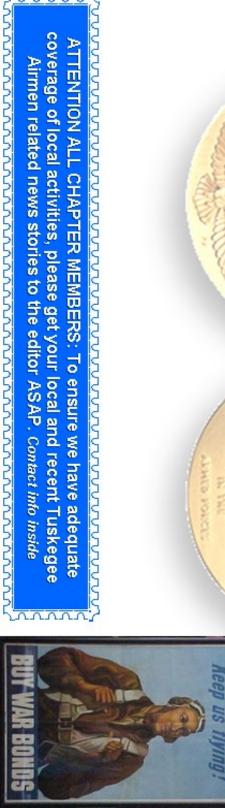






Tuskegee Airmen, Inc. P.O. Box 44825 Detroit, MI 48244 Detroit Chapter





coverage of local activities, please get your local and recent Tuskegee ATTENTION ALL CHAPTER MEMBERS: To ensure we have adequate

Airmen related news stories to the editor ASAP. Contact into inside