

THE

# Hawk's



# Cry II

**HawksCryII@gmail.com**

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

**April  
2018**

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# MANNING MEMORIAL

**Official Newsletter of the**

**DETROIT CHAPTER of TUSKEGEE AIRMEN INCORPORATED**



# TUSKEGEE AIRMEN CONTACT LISTING

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# THE PRESIDENTS' PAGE



## THE NEXT TWO CHAPTER MEETINGS

Thursday, 12 April 2018 & 10 May 2018 @ 1900 hours (7:00 p.m.)

Please Arrive between 6:45pm & 7:00pm. **Gates Open at 6:00pm**

At 1425 East Warren Ave, Detroit, MI 48207

Entrance off of Frederick Ave and Russell Street

**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 Day, Everyone,

I hope that you are having a wonderful day. Let's do the three R's: Reflect, Respond and Revitalize.

We are coming off of a very successful year. As we do the three R's, then what is next. First and foremost, we need to pay our dues. Ask ourselves what shall we do this year to promote our Legacy and serve our youth. If it is to be, it must begin with me. This ME is collective. We put our individual efforts in motion within the confines of our organization.

**Membership!** Have you paid your dues???

**Cruise!** Have you picked up your tickets? If not, you can do so during the meeting. Commit to sell or buy seven tickets.

**National Convention** in Las Vegas! **Are you going to attend?** Our voting delegates depend on our membership. Convention dates are August 9-11, 2018. DOTAs and officers will show up on the 8th.

There are two (2) local parades scheduled so far; the [St Clair Shores Memorial Day Parade](#) on May 27, 2018 and the [Sterling Height Memorial Day Parade](#) on May 28, 2018. More information will be available at our May 10th meeting. Are you going to attend and support?

There is also a third parade scheduled that Detroit RedTail is scheduled to participate in, the [2018 Cherry Royale Parade](#) in Traverse City on Saturday, July 7. Check out the [Detroit RedTail](#) - [schedule of events](#) and coordinate with Eric to participate with him in some of their planned activities. He plans to get real involved into the *American Car Culture*.

Our next **three chapter meetings** are **10 May, 14 June** and **12 July**. And don't forget the **Young Eagles Rally; 20 May, 10 June** and **8 July**.

[Thunder over Michigan](#) is 25-26 August with set up on the 24th. Please plan to participate.

Our own **Major Donald Davenport**, of the 127th Wing at the Selfridge Air National Guard Base, has been assigned as the 171 ARS Director of Operations. Congratulations will be in order the next time we see him.

Our own **Eric Palmer** is celebrating a birthday on Friday, April 13th. Show him how much we appreciate him and help him celebrate his birthday on [Facebook](#) by [Helping Him Help Keep RedTail Rolling](#).

Our own **LtCol Alexander Jefferson** is in the running for a Veteran of the Year Award. If you have not done so already today...

1. Go to <http://michiganfitness.org/gfa-2018-peoples-choice>
2. Vote for **Lt. Col. Alexander Jefferson**
3. Repeat this 3 step process every day until 11:59pm on the 18th of April.

If you are questioned, Detroit Chapter's current list of Documented Original Tuskegee Airmen (DOTAs) are as follows:

Alexander Jefferson  
Matt Corbin  
Fletcher Williams

Harry Stewart, Jr  
Russell Nalle  
Cornelius Davis (Living in Florida)

Frederick Henry  
Dr. John Cunningham

Preston Jowers  
Jesse Rutledge

**DO NOT FORGET ABOUT  
OUR CHANGE OF  
MEETING LOCATION**

Thank you God bless you all,

*Miguel Thornton*

**President**

Detroit Chapter

Tuskegee Airmen, Inc.



# Address at Memorial for Lieutenant Walter Manning

<https://at.usembassy.gov/walter-manning/>

Linz-Hörsching Air Base

*Guten Morgen General Sekretär Herr Dr. Baumann; Generalleutnant Reissner; Generalmajor Gruber; Generalmajor Raffetseder; Brigadier General Landrum; Brigadier General Leahy; Herr Dr. Georg Hoffmann; Frau Dr. Nicole-Melanie Goll; Freunde des österreichischen Bundesheers, sehr geehrte Damen und Herren. Herzlichen Dank für die Einladung und die Ehre heute mit Ihnen hier sein zu dürfen. Im Namen der Amerikanischen Regierung und des Amerikanischen Volkes möchte ich mich bei Ihnen für die Ehrung unseres amerikanischen Soldaten recht herzlich bedanken.*

The dedication of this memorial stands as a strong symbol of our reconciliation as former enemies and for the enduring friendship and partnership between our two countries and our respective militaries for more than 70 years since the end of WW II. This is a story of action, sacrifice and achievement, achievement with global impact. The action started with Lt Manning. By all accounts, **LT Walter Peyton Manning**, a 24 year old American fighter pilot, was an exceptional man who possessed great courage. He attended Howard University in Washington DC, but it was his true dream to become an U.S. Army Air Corps pilot. He passed the written aptitude test with “flying colors” and elected to have foot surgery to repair a minor birth defect in order to pass the Air Corps’ physical entrance exam. This is the “action.” Lt Manning so wanted to defend his country that he had surgery done to ensure he could join the U.S. military. He entered service in March 1943 in Philadelphia, PA. Despite the problems with his foot, he was a remarkable athlete. He was easy-going and friendly, and considered a good and dependable pilot. After completing his flight training, he was assigned to the Mediterranean Theater of Operations in August 1944 where six times he earned the Air



Medal over the period of eight months until his death. We are lucky to have with us here today, a man who knew LT Manning well and who was flying with him 73 years ago this past Sunday on April 1, 1945. **Lt Col Harry Stewart** is an extraordinary man, one of our Air Force’s most skilled and decorated pilots, a recipient of the Distinguished Flying Cross, and, like Lt Manning, a Tuskegee airman, among the most celebrated of American military brotherhoods. Lt Col Stewart was friends with LT Manning and was flying with him the day LT Manning was shot down. He is accompanied this morning by his daughter, **Lori Campbell**. Thanks to you for making the long journey to be here with us today to remember your friend, a brother-in-arms, our countryman and an enduring American hero. It is important to understand

the context in which Lt Manning, Lt Col Stewart and other African Americans were experiencing this period in American history. In our own country during WW II segregation and institutionalized racism was still an ugly everyday reality, even as the United States was committed to fighting against injustice, totalitarianism, and fascism abroad. The segregationist policies of our government, including in the U.S. military, limited opportunities for African Americans, and required persistence, dedication, and courage to persevere against significant obstacles. They were literally fighting for the right to serve and defend their country, even if it was a country that had yet to universally embrace them as equal citizens. Perhaps these brave men knew better than anyone, why fighting and winning this war was so important. And now the sacrifice, the ultimate sacrifice. Here in Austria, it appears that LT Manning was not dragged from his cell in the middle of the night on April 3, 1945 and hanged solely because of his race. He was beaten and murdered because the brutal, inhuman Nazi leadership instituted a policy authorizing such illegal reprisals against all Allied pilots. It is believed that about one hundred of the more than 2,000 Allied airmen who were killed in or over Austria during WWII were executed by the Nazis in direct violation of the Third Geneva Convention. About 1,000 others were executed in neighboring Germany under similar circumstances. The vast majority of stranded airmen were treated fairly and humanely by their Austrian captors, and the official policy of lynching captured airmen barely makes the long list of atrocities committed by the Nazis. Not far from here at Mauthausen, where we will gather again next month, between 120,000 and 350,000 people lost their lives through forced labor, systematic abuse, deprivation, and murder. The history of WWII is filled with many such crimes and tragedies. It is important that we remember these events. We must continue to tell these stories, even when they are uncomfortable to talk about. Our children and future generations must know what we once fought over, why we did so, and the human toll that was paid to restore freedom in Austria.





So I have spoken of action, sacrifice and now of achievement. Future generations must also know what Lt Manning, Lt Col Stewart and so many others achieved through their sacrifice. Much of that achievement would have seemed impossible on April 1, 1945. I can see the American and the Austrian flag here today. Neither of those flags could have flown here on April 1, 1945. And those are just the symbols. I don't think Lt Manning or Lt Col Stewart could have possibly imagined that day that Europe would largely be at peace over the following seven decades, or that Europe, Austria and America would engineer together through the Marshall Plan perhaps the most prosperous time and place in human history. We are currently celebrating the

70th anniversary of the Marshall Plan – a plan that is still helping Austrian business to this very day. Few in the air or on the ground that day would have believed that Austria's best military, security and law enforcement partner is to this day the United States of America. Even fewer would have thought it possible that Austrian and American military forces would serve together in Kosovo, Afghanistan and Africa. And now, thanks to those we honor today and thanks to American and European, American and Austrian postwar leadership, Austria is a member of the European Union and a partner in NATO in the very heart of Europe. Austria is fully within the trans-Atlantic community. We are so proud of this achievement. Those that come after us must know that because of Lt Manning and Lt Col Stewart and millions of others we – Austrians and Americans – are completely invested in the universal values of freedom, democracy and human rights; and committed to a Europe whole, free, and at peace. As we get further from the great conflicts of the 20th century, we sometimes forget what an absolute triumph it is that Europe and America together became the beacon they are for humanity around the world today. That is serious achievement. Lt Manning did not die in vain. It is my ardent hope that, if LT Manning somehow were here with us today to see this memorial – and I believe he is – he would be proud of the work we have undertaken together to ensure that tragedies like what happened here and the great wars that engulfed the world are never again repeated. I hope that he would believe that we have honored his memory – as well as the memory of millions of others who lost their lives in the war – by our reconciliation, cooperation, and partnership since those dark days. I hope, too, that he would see in his own country – one that is great but not perfect – a people who continue to strive to be worthy of his sacrifice. Again, on behalf of President Trump, the United States government and all Americans, thank you to the Bundesheer and the Austrian Ministry of Defense for honoring LT Manning with this memorial, for re-telling his story and the tragic circumstances of his death, and for the opportunity to share in this dedication. It is a credit to the Ministry that this event has taken place. It took courage to bring this about. Thanks to Drs Hoffman and Goll whose courage, persistence and commitment to the truth made this happen. Thank you also to General Leahy, General Landrum and the American service men and women here today and around the world who continue to protect America and all of our friends and allies. It says so much good about America that you are here. And finally, thank you to the Embassy's military team, led by Col David Knych and Chief Matt Ferguson who also helped make this important day possible. Most importantly today, however. Thank you Lt Walter P. Manning.

*Sie haben alle unsere tiefste Dankbarkeit. Vielen Dank.* By U.S. Embassy Austria | 3 April, 2018 | Topics: Char-gé D'Affaires, Speeches

## Vietnam Vets Recognition at Selfridge

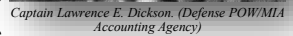
On Thursday, March 29, from 11AM to 1:00 PM, Vietnam veterans were recognized at Selfridge ANGB, MI at the Post Exchange.



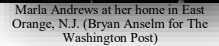


[https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/retropolis/wp/2018/04/08/after-73-years-the-remains-of-a-tuskegee-airman-lost-over-europe-may-have-been-found/?noredirect=on&utm\\_term=.81270ff630b9](https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/retropolis/wp/2018/04/08/after-73-years-the-remains-of-a-tuskegee-airman-lost-over-europe-may-have-been-found/?noredirect=on&utm_term=.81270ff630b9)

EAST ORANGE, N.J. — World War II in Europe was over, the celebrations had ebbed, and peace was on the horizon. But from her apartment in Harlem on June 5, 1945, Phyllis C. Dickson wrote a plaintive



Marla Andrews holds a composite photograph of herself, her mother, Phyllis Finney, and her father, Tuskegee Airman Capt. Lawrence E. Dickson (Bryan Anselm for The Washington Post)



Prague. About an hour into the trip, at an altitude of 26,000 feet, Dickson radioed that he was having engine trouble and began losing speed. His wingmen stayed with him as he dropped back. The twin-engine reconnaissance plane sped on and was soon out of sight. Dickson decided to turn for home in his crippled plane, and his buddies stuck with him, Martin reported: "He did not order us to go after the photo plane." "The pilot of the photo plane had a chance to complete his mission in that with his maneuverability he might evade ... attack and get home safe," he wrote. "If we were to leave our flight leader in a plane with unpredictable engine problems high above the Alps his life would be forfeited." The trio gradually descended, as Dickson looked for a spot to land or bail out. Martin thought they were near the town of Tarvisio, in a mountainous area of northeastern Italy. He saw Dickson jettison the canopy of his cockpit before bailing out, and swerved to avoid Dickson's plane. But when he looked again, Dickson was gone. [ Sisters gather at Arlington for farewell to a brother and lost Tuskegee airman ] The two wingmen circled, looking for a parachute, a column of smoke or burning wreckage. There was nothing but an empty, snow-covered valley. They started for home, but had second thoughts and went back. Again, they saw nothing but "the whiteness," Martin wrote. He fired a burst from his machine guns to alert



anyone below who might search, then headed back to the base. No further search was conducted. Holding out hope. On Jan. 8, 1945, Phyllis Dickson got the dreaded telegram. "The Secretary of War desires to express his deep regret that your husband Captain Lawrence E Dickson has been reported missing in action," it read. "If further details ... are received you will be promptly notified." Phyllis and Lawrence Dickson had been married in November 1941. He was a native of South Carolina, had taught himself how to play the guitar and spent two years studying chemistry at the City College of New York. He often went by his middle name, Everett. She was Phyllis Constance Maillard, 23, the daughter of Jamaican immigrants. She later got the nickname Fifi. On July 14, 1942, in Harlem's old Sydenham Hospital, they had a daughter they named Marla. Two old creased snapshots show them sitting in chairs holding their daughter, who looks like she is only a few weeks old. In her June 1945 letter, Phyllis told the War Department that Marla, then almost 3, "speaks about (her father) daily." Phyllis still held out hope that her husband was alive. "I can't even sleep for thinking about him being sick somewhere & not having anyone to care for him properly," she wrote. On July 21, 1945, the Army Effects Bureau sent her a form letter stating that it was forwarding two cartons of her husband's things. She replied on Aug. 18, saying she had received her husband's clothes but not his electric guitar. "I would appreciate it very much if it could be sent to me as there is a great deal of sentiment attached to it," she wrote. The Army later explained that it did not have the guitar. After the war, the service searched for Capt. Dickson near Tarvisio and nearby Malborghetto. Other crashed planes and remains were found, but not his. In 1949, the Army recommended that his remains be declared "nonrecoverable." An unexpected call. This past August, a white-haired, 75-year-old woman named Marla L. Andrews, got a phone call at her home in northern New Jersey from the Army's Past Conflict Repatriations Branch. It was about her father, Lawrence Dickson. The caller asked a few questions but was vague about what was going on. "Have you found his body?" Marla said she asked. "No, but we're looking," she said the caller replied. A few weeks earlier, an archaeological team in Austria had excavated the spot believed to be his crash site. The team had found pieces of a P-51 and human remains and was beginning the process of potential identification. The work had started in 2011, after Frank, the DPAA analyst, was assigned to take a new look at World War II crash sites in Italy. Frank compiled a database of reported sites, including Dickson's, and was preparing a trip to Italy. But first he checked German "downed allied aircraft reports" that had been seized by the Americans after the war. "Those are German reports of any shoot-downs of allied planes and capture of allied personnel and burial of allied personnel," he said. He found a record of a crash on Dec. 23, 1944, not in Italy, but just over the Austrian border near Hohenthurn. Frank knew that only a handful of P-51 Mustangs went down in Europe that day. All but one were hundreds of miles away in northwest Germany. Hohenthurn is six miles from Tarvisio. "I think this is him," Frank said he thought. He asked an Austrian researcher, Roland Domanig, who had helped the DPAA in the past, to investigate. Two weeks later Domanig reported that he had found the crash site. In May 2012, Frank and a small team went to Austria for one day. He met Domanig, and a local man who said as a child in the 1950s he often visited the site, until he found what looked like a human leg bone in the dirt. "It scared him," Frank said. "He never went back to the site after that." The man agreed to take Frank there. The spot was in a pleasant clearing in the forest off a logging road near Hohenthurn. There was a shallow crater, and moss covered the ground. When Frank pulled back the moss, airplane parts, consistent with a P-51, were right beneath the surface. "They still had the ash on them, still burnt," he said. "All of the older pine trees around the site had scars on the trees from when the plane was burning and the .50-caliber rounds popped off and hit the trees." Experts would later identify airplane bullet casings, part of a machine gun ammunition loading chute and human remains buried in the dirt. In November, the human remains were sent for analysis to the DPAA laboratory at Offutt Air Force Base, outside Omaha. Looking to fill a void. One day last month, Andrews sat in her small house here and pulled out page after page of letters and documents pertaining to the tall, handsome father she never knew. She's legally blind now and can't see much anymore. But the walls of her home are covered with pictures of him in his crisp officer's uniform, him with his Tuskegee comrades in their goggles and parachutes, and him with his wife. (Phyllis died on Dec. 28 in Nevada at the age of 96.) There's a framed invitation to his Tuskegee graduation ball in 1943, copies of his medal citations and his 1943 pilot training diploma from Tuskegee, dated March 25, 1943. And in her files is the yellowed telegram and the letter that her father's wingman sent her 50 years after the war explaining how he was lost. "The act of writing to you so many years after ... brings to me a sadness," Martin wrote. "And yet I hope it will bring you a moment of peaceful remembrance of a loving father whom you lost." Together, the items make up part of the composite of a man she has longed to know, and whose life she has had to piece together over many years. She has always wondered: What was he like? How was she like him? How could she be like him? "I kept looking for ways to connect," she said. "It's always been an obsession. ... It was always a questioning, a void, and I never could get enough." Her mother remarried after her father's death and had two more children. Andrews grew up, went to college and raised three children. She has lived in the same house for 47 years. She and other family members recently provided cheek swabs so their DNA can be compared with that of the remains. The Armed Forces Medical Examiner's DNA operations branch has extracted DNA from a bone from the crash site. And Timothy P. McMahon, the DNA operations director, said experts are working to amplify and sequence it. Andrews, meanwhile, is hoping to fill the last part of her void. She knows the case may or may not be resolved soon. "At this age, I'm supposed to know that you roll with the punches," she said. "You take it as it comes." She just hopes she's still around when it comes. Michael E. Ruane is a general assignment reporter who also covers Washington institutions and historical topics. He has been a general assignment reporter at the Philadelphia Bulletin, an urban affairs and state feature writer at the Philadelphia Inquirer, and a Pentagon correspondent at Knight Ridder newspapers. Follow @michaelruane



Photographs and medals belonging to Tuskegee Airman Capt. Lawrence E. Dickson. (Bryan Anselm for The Washington Post)

## ACTIVITIES & EVENTS TO CONSIDER, ATTEND & SUPPORT

- **Tuskegee Airmen Recognition**  
Brunch with Pastor : Men & Boys  
Where: Tabernacle Missionary Baptist Church, 2080 W Grand Blvd, Detroit, MI 48208  
When: 12:00pm - 2:00pm
- **Science Under the Dome: Lake Huron Red Tails! The Tuskegee Airmen Project**  
April 14, 2018 | 2:30 p.m. - 3:45 p.m.  
Category: Lecture  
Location: Wayne State University Planetarium 0209 Old Main |Map  
4841 Cass, Detroit, MI 48201  
Cost: Free  
RSVP: [Link](#)
- MMM Lecture Series: [The Tuskegee Airmen Project](#)  
Event Date: 4/18/2018, Time: 6:30pm-7:30pm  
Location: [Michigan Maritime Museum](#)  
260 Dyckman Avenue, South Haven, MI 49090  
Contact: (269) 637-8078
- **GOVERNOR'S FITNESS AWARDS GALA**  
Thursday, April 19, 2018, 5:30 PM - 8:30 PM  
Cobo Hall, 1 Washington Blvd, Detroit, MI 48226  
For Tickets: [LINK](#)
- **51st Annual Memorial Day Fly-In – 4th Annual Legends of Aviation Banquet.**  
Date: May 18th & 19th, 2018  
Location: Moton Field Municipal Airport in Tuskegee, Alabama  
Contact: Mrs. Arnetta D. White, (334) 720-0555, (334) 720-0536 or  
[clbowen@tuskegeecalabama.gov](mailto:clbowen@tuskegeecalabama.gov)



### The 2018 TAI Convention Registration website is now Active

The [TAI Convention 2018 registration website](#) was activated on Monday January 15,

2018 to allow the earliest push for registration for this year's convention proceedings -- As in previous years, the TAI Convention Committee is offering discounted/reduced rates for TAI chapter participation in the providing advertisements in the official convention journal AND renting vendor booth space. Of course, since these reduced rates are not available to all viewers/vendors, they cannot be published or made available on the general convention website.

I ask your help in please forwarding the two (2) attached information guides for chapter rate journal ads and vendor booths to each of your respective chapters (and/or the appropriate points of contact within your chapters, as you know best) as soon as possible and encourage every chapter to participate as entries in the official convention journal and supporters of the convention exhibit hall (as well as sponsoring one DOTA or surviving spouse) to help make this year's event a resounding success!!!

As always, if you (or your members) have any questions, please feel free to contact me. Thanks in advance for helping to get the word out. See you in Las Vegas!!!

Marv K. Abrams, MBA  
President, Central Region  
Chair, TAI Convention Planning  
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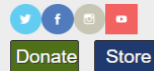






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12  
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2018

## Profiles of Tuskegee Airmen: Alexander Jefferson

by redtailadmin



Tuskegee Airman pilot, POW and esteemed educator Alexander Jefferson has served his country with distinction, in the face of great adversity.

Jefferson was born Detroit, MI on November 15, 1921, into a family with a rich history in education and religious leadership. His parents were originally from Atlanta, but they moved north shortly before he was born to take advantage of the factory jobs available in Detroit.

As a child, Jefferson would hang around a small airfield to do odd jobs and help work on the planes, and was able to get his first ride in

an airplane when he was still in grade school.

The RedTail Squadron's March 12th's Tuskegee Airmen Profile was on our own LtCol (Ret) Alexander Jefferson. Select this [LINK](#) to read the entire profile from their web site.

## Edward W. Taylor, architect and Tuskegee Airman, dies

Frederick N. Rasmussen—Contact Reporter

The Baltimore Sun

Edward W. Taylor, a World War II Tuskegee Airman who later became an architect, died from heart failure on March 10 at Seasons Hospice at Sinai Hospital. The Gwynn Oak resident was 91. Edward Walter Taylor was the son of Elbert Taylor and Rebecca Mariano Taylor. He was born in Baltimore and raised on Emory Street. After graduating in 1944 from Dunbar High School, he enlisted in the Army Air Forces and served as a radioman with the famed Tuskegee Airmen, the all African-American unit that was trained at Moton Field at Tuskegee, Ala. He was discharged in 1946. He had also been a member of the Civil Air Patrol. In 1950 he graduated from Hampton Institute, now Hampton University, in Hampton, Va., with a bachelor's degree in architecture and engineering. He pursued additional graduate work in engineering, city planning and vocational education planning at the Johns Hopkins University and the University of Maryland, College Park, and at the University of Pittsburgh. Mr. Taylor taught architectural and mechanical drawing at what is now Carver Vocational-Technical High School, and during the 1980s and 1990s owned his own architectural firm, ATTI Consultants Inc., in Baltimore. "He was also affiliated with Henry L. Livas Associates, Maryland's first registered minority architectural firm, as well as Sutton Campbell and Associates as an associate and Baltimore office manager," said his niece, Benita Turner, of Pikesville. Mr. Taylor designed Southern Baptist Church on Chester Street in East Baltimore and was a consultant to the city's Department of Vocational Education, NASA, HUD, the Tanzania government and many community associations. He also lectured widely, including at Coppin State University and at Baltimore, Catonsville and Howard community colleges. Mr. Taylor was involved as a member or consultant to the Howard Park Civic Association, Harford Road Business Association, East Baltimore Community Corp., Maryland Economic Development Corp., United Negro College Fund and the Hampton Alumni Association. Since 1981, he had been an active member of Concord Baptist Church, where he served with the Sunday School Youth Department, the Laymen's League, the New Membership Committee, adult Bible study, the deacon ministry and others. He had served as chairman of the trustee ministry, vice-chair of the Christian Education Committee and had been president of the White's Memorial/Fullwood Foundation Scholarship Ministry. He also had been director of the Mission Board of Christian Education. Mr. Taylor's role extended beyond his own church and included work with the Baptist Congress of Christian Education and the National Baptist Congress of Christian Education. "He had no hobbies, everything revolved around church," his niece said. His wife of 59 years, the former Alene Lassiter, a seamstress, died in 2011. Funeral services will be held at 10:30 a.m. Tuesday at his church, 5204 Liberty Heights Ave. In addition to his niece, he is survived by several cousins. --Frederick N. Rasmussen, fred.rasmussen@baltsun.com



The Hawk's Cry II



8

## Floyd Carter Sr., one of the remaining Tuskegee Airmen and NYPD veteran, dies at 95

Floyd Carter Sr., one of the last of the Tuskegee Airmen, dedicated his remarkable life to serving his country and his city. The decorated veteran of three wars and 27 years with the NYPD died Thursday at age 95, leaving a long legacy as a groundbreaking hero pilot and a city police detective. Carter, who simultaneously rose through the ranks of the U.S. Air Force Reserves and the police, was honored in 2007 with the Congressional Gold Medal by President Bush for breaking the color barrier in Tuskegee. “We mourn the loss of a true American hero,” read a tweet from the 47th Precinct in his adopted home of the Bronx. “Our community & nation has lost a giant.” Carter rose to the rank of



*Carter signs his name on the tail of a TU-43 airplane at the opening of the Tuskegee Airmen National Historic Site in Tuskegee, Ala., in this 2008 file photo. (DAVE MARTIN/AP)*

Air Force lieutenant colonel years after joining the group of African-American pilots at Tuskegee University. He met his wife Atherine there, where the Alabama native was working as part of an all-female repair crew. Carter wooed his bride-to-be on several dates in his plane, and they were married at the air base in 1945. In 2012, Carter joined “Star Wars” filmmaker George Lucas for a screening of his film “Red Tails” about the Tuskegee Airmen — the first black aviators in the U.S. military, trained in Alabama as a segregated unit. In addition to serving during World War II, Carter flew during the Korean and Vietnam wars and led the first squadron of supply-laden planes into Berlin during the famed Cold War airlift of 1948-49. During the Tet Offensive,

Carter flew U.S. troops and supplies into South Vietnam. His NYPD duties included work as a bodyguard for visiting heads of state, and Carter spent time with Cuban leader Fidel Castro and Soviet head Nikita Khrushchey, recalled his son Floyd Jr. He earned a half-dozen citations for his outstanding police work, and survived a number of shootouts with armed bandits. “He’s got a little history,” said Floyd Jr. “We were blessed, we sure were. He went from what I call the outhouse to the fine house. The Lord blessed him.” The Yorktown, Va., native joined the Army Air Corps in 1944, and was commissioned a year later as a 2nd Lt. bombardier navigator.

In 1946, he received his pilot wings and transferred a year later to the Air Force Reserves. By the end of his tenure in 1974, he was commander of the 732nd Military Airlift Squadron at McGuire Air Force Base in New Jersey. Carter joined the NYPD in 1953, earned his detective’s gold shield within three years, and retired in 1980. He once recalled talking politics with Castro, and believed the federal government needed to open a dialogue with the bearded Communist. Oddly enough, Carter was called up for active duty during the 1962 Cuban Missile Crisis. Carter remained active into his 90s, serving in November 2015 as the grand marshal of the annual Veterans Day Parade in the Bronx. He was honored by ex-Congressman Charles Rangel in 2005 with a proclamation for his lifelong achievements. Carter was survived by his wife of more than seven decades and their two children, Floyd Jr. and Rozalind, along with grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Funeral arrangements were not yet finalized. <http://www.nydailynews.com/new-york/floyd-carter-sr-tuskegee-airman-nypd-vet-dies-95-article-1.3867333>



*Carter fought in three wars and served 27 years with the NYPD. (CARLO ALLEGRI/AP)*



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# **DETROIT REDTAIL**

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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- April 15, 2018 – [National Mustang Day](#) **Registered**
- May 3, 2018 – [Roush Cruise-In](#) (Livonia, MI) **Open House**
- May 5, 2018 – [Pancakes with a Patriot](#) (Rochester, MI) **Registered**
- May 19, 2018 – [MCM Great Lakes Stampede](#) (Birch Run, MI) **Registered**
- May 27, 2018 – [St Clair Shores Memorial Day Parade](#) (St Clair Shores, MI) **Registered**
- May 28, 2018 – [Sterling Height Memorial Day Parade](#) (Sterling Heights, MI) **Registered**
- June 1-3, 2018 – [Carlisle Ford Nationals](#) (Carlisle, PA) **Registered**
- June 8, 2018 – [MIMTHS Annual Car Show and Cruise in](#) (Eastpointe, MI) **Registered**
- June 9, 2018 – [WMMC 37th Annual Mustang & Ford Car Show](#) (Grand Rapids, MI)
- June 10, 2018 – [43rd Annual SAAC-MCR All Ford Show & Go](#) (Dearborn, MI)
- June 16, 2018 – Juneteenth Celebration and Parade
- June 22 – 24, 2018 – [2018 GM River Days](#) (Detroit, MI)
- June 23, 2018 – [2018 Veterans Benefit Car Show](#) (Troy, MI) **Registered**
- June 30, 2018 – [Downriver Cruise - Ponies in the Park](#) (Lincoln Park, MI)
- July 7, 2018 - [2018 Cherry Royale Parade](#) (Traverse City, MI) **Registered**
- July 20-21, 2018 – [Mackinaw City Mustang Stampede](#) (Mackinaw City, MI) **Registered**
- July 27, 2018 – [Battle of The Brands](#) (Plymouth, MI) **Open House**
- July 28, 2018 - [Main Street Memories - Downtown Car Show](#) (Port Huron, MI) **Registered**
- August 3-8, 2018 - [Cruise Route 66 to TAI Convention](#) (Chicago, IL to Springfield, MO to Oklahoma City, OK to Albuquerque, NM to Flagstaff, AZ to Las Vegas, NV)
- August 9-11, 2018 – [Tuskegee Airmen Inc National Convention](#) (Las Vegas, NV)
- August 17-18, 2018 – [Pontiac City Square](#) (Pontiac, MI) **Registered**
- August 18, 2018 – [5th Annual CruisIN' The D](#) (Detroit, MI)
- August 18, 2018 – [Woodward Dream Cruise](#) (Ferndale, MI)
- August 19, 2018 – [Tuskegee Airmen Detroit 4th Annual Fundraising Dinner Cruise](#) (Detroit, MI)
- August 19, 2018 – [MOCSEM Mustang Memories](#) (Dearborn, MI)
- August 25 – 26, 2018 – [Thunder Over Michigan](#) (Willow Run, MI)
- August 25, 2018 - [USA Cares Car Show](#) (Sterling Heights, MI) **Registered**
- September 9, 2018 - [Frankenmuth Auto Fest](#) (Frankenmuth, MI) **Registered**
- September 15, 2018 - [Cruise The Loop](#) (Miami Valley Gaming, OH)
- September 21-23, 2018 - [West Michigan Mustang Club Fall Colors Tour](#) (West Michigan coast, MI)
- September 29, 2018 - [North Gratiot Cruise](#)
- September 30, 2018 - [MOCSEM Gilmore Car Museum](#) (Hickory Corners, MI)

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# Federal Benefits for Veterans, Dependents and Survivors

2009 Edition

## Phone Numbers

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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>
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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>
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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*

