

THE

Hawk's



Cry II

**November
2018**

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HawksCryII@gmail.com

f [Tuskegee Alrmen Hawk's Cry II](#)



Official Newsletter of the

DETROIT CHAPTER of TUSKEGEE AIRMEN INCORPORATED



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[TA National Museum website](#)

[National Organization](#)

[TA National Historic Site](#)

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ON THE COVER: DOTAs LtCol Bob Friend, LtCol Alexander Jefferson, LtCol George Hardy, Col James Harvey, LtCol Harry T Stewart, Jr., LtCol Harold Brown & LtCol Charles McGee being recognized at the 2018 American veterans Centers' with the audie Murphy Awards during the American Valor: A Salute to Our Heroes on Saturday night, 27 October 2018. Photo by Earnestine Lavergene



THE PRESIDENTS' PAGE



THE NEXT TWO CHAPTER MEETINGS

Thursday, 8 November 2018 & 6 December 2018 @ 1900 hours (7:00 p.m.)

Please Arrive between 6:45pm & 7:00pm.

At Civil Air Patrol Building south of 11499 Conner, Detroit, 48213

**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

GIVE THANKS,

We all like to feel we have a “thankful heart” and we are quick to challenge anyone who tells us that we are “ungrateful”. However, let's look at what the word “thankfulness” means— “feeling, or expressing gratitude, appreciate.” There are some unrelated words that might also help us decide if we are thankful —Love, sensitivity, sympathy, respect, gratitude, awareness and knowledge.” Do any of these words ring a bell with you?

One writer said: When you are pleased and grateful for what you have, this is an example of a time when you are thankful.” Another said: :When we focus on our gratitude, the tide of disappointment goes out and the tide of Love rushes in.” Does that help? Are you Thankful?

Charles Spurgeon Said: “ We are in the wrong state of mind if we are not in a thankful state of mind.”

There is so much to be thankful for even in today's troubled world. When we have a grateful heart, we can walk in peace regardless of the situation. You can be thankful when you are able to get up in the morning and acknowledging how good God has been to allow you to begin another day. Driving to work, or appointments, think about it, you reached your destination in all the traffic without a wreck, or a tire blowing out, or running out of gas. Wow! That's something to be thankful for. Or maybe, a friend comes by to Pray with you because they know you are going through some tough times...or...you hear a sermon preached that you feel has your name on it or the preacher has your address and that God is speaking directly to you Hummmm. All of the above things are to be thankful for.

Sometimes when trouble comes your way and your mind tells you that you have nothing to be thankful for change your thinking. You can do it and so can I.

HAPPY THANKSGIVING "Let's focus on what we have to be thankful for."

We will be present Sunday, November 18th at 11:00 am, when Conant Avenue United Methodist Church celebrates the 97th birthday of our own LtCol (Ret) Alexander Jefferson (DOTA).

VOLUNTEERS ARE STILL NEEDED: We need a POC and volunteers to help put together and carry out our Christmas Dinner. The date will be **December 6, 2018**. Remember, there will be NO museum dinner this year. So the Christmas Dinner will be our only opportunity to fellowship together over a hearty meal.

The chapter also extends condolences to our long time member, Hugh Barrington. Hugh was an admirable and dedicated member that really believed in our mission. We shall miss him dearly.

OF NOTE: Our Thursday meeting will be held at the CAP Building right next to the main terminal at the Coleman Young International Airport (City Airport). Please be there by 7:00 PM. The address of the main terminal is 11499 Conner, Detroit, 48213. The CAP building is highly decorated with a Red Tail P-51 Mustang on the front.

TO GOD BE THE GLORY,

Miguel Thornton

President

Detroit Chapter

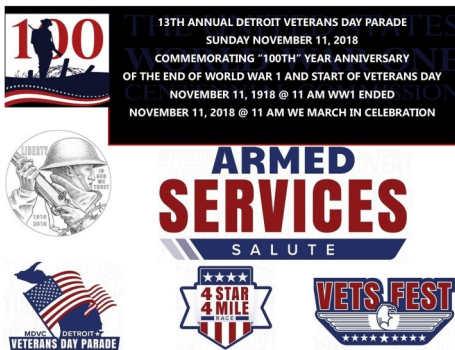
Tuskegee Airmen, Inc.



LOCAL EVENTS

On Saturday, **November 10, 2018**, 100 Years of Heroes will be Honoring our Organization especially our DOTA's, and have invited at no cost to us, up to fourteen to be in present. The program is from 5 until 9 PM. At five meet and greet, dinner from 6:30 until approximately 8 and the Honoring from 8 until 9:30 PM

On Sunday Veterans Day, **November 11, 2018**, we participate in the Veterans day Parade with **LTC Alexander Jefferson being the Grand Marshall**, riding in **RedTail Driven by Eric Palmer** and also having Alex's brother in tow. The parade will go down Woodward avenue and **we need to have as many folks there to represent our Chapter**. Contact Eric Palmer to see where we shall all meet. We can add one more vehicle to the parade, however that might change.



Detroit Veterans Day Parade

Detroit Chapter's own **LtCol (Ret) Alexander Jefferson** will be the Grand Marshall for the 2018 Detroit Veteran's Day Parade. Detroit RedTail will serve as the Grand Marshall vehicle. The Detroit Chapter will also participate in this event. All of the chapter members are invited to participate. Below are some details about the event.

- Date of Parade November 11, 2018 (Veterans Day)
- Location Detroit, MI. We will start @ Cass Park and Finish in Cass Park (Parade Route may be viewed at our WEB-SITE) Click on Directions Page
- Starting time of the parade is 11AM, plan on getting there by at least 9:30 AM.

They will be honoring the following at this year's parade:

- Lt. Col Jefferson as the Grand Marshall
- 100th Anniversary of the start of Veterans Day (100th Year World War 1 Centennial)
- 100th Anniversary of Coleman A. Young's Birthday (May 1918), Tuskegee Airman, WW2 Veteran and 1st Black Mayor of Detroit.

Visit their [Facebook](#) page and [Website](#)

Then on **Monday, November 12, 2018**, there are two events;

1. Blue Cross/Blue shield will have a luncheon (as of this message) at The Southfield Library beginning at 11:30, where LTC Alexander Jefferson will be honored and give a brief presentation.
2. That evening at another event celebrating Veterans that will be held at The Masonic Temple at 500 Temple st., in the City of Detroit. Veterans will be Honored from all five Branches of the Service. Pre Registration is required for this event. You may register by calling 1-888-495-8387. This event begins at 6 PM.

OF NOTE: Our own Bill Welborn will be the Grand Marshall of the Veterans Day parade in Frankenmuth (MI) on Sunday. Also the Tuskegee Airmen National Museum will do a flyover of the Detroit Police 11th Precinct Veterans Day parade on the morning of the 11th. We will be split into three (3) affairs, spreading the word about the Tuskegee Airmen.

**DETROIT POLICE DEPARTMENT'S
ELEVENTH PRECINCT**
presents

**Our Annual
Veteran's Day Parade & Breakfast**



**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2018
PARADE STARTS: 9:00 AM**

(Staging at 8:00 AM)

LOCATION: EAST OUTER DRIVE @ FENELON

**BREAKFAST
10:30 AM**

**LOCATION:
AMERICAN SERBIAN HALL
19940 VAN DYKE
DETROIT, MI 48234**

**Tuskegee Airmen, Caravan of Military & Police Vehicles
Battle of the Marching Bands**

For More Information Contact 11th Pct Neighborhood Policing Unit
Phone: 313-596-1118 or Email: robinsond921@detroitmi.gov

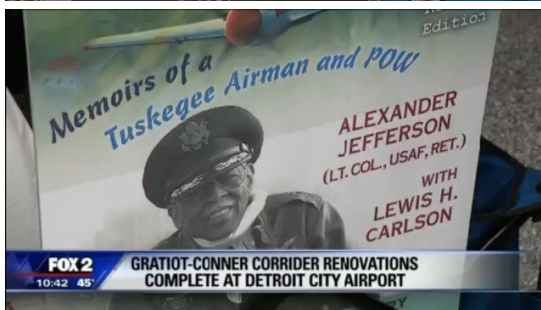
Chief James E. Craig - Commander Constance Slappey - Captain Steven Walton



LOCAL HAPPENINGS

Gratiot-Conner corridor renovations complete at Detroit city airport

(WJBK) - If you grew up on the eastside Gratiot-Conner corridor; you may have memories to share which center around Detroit City Airport. Well the airport has gotten a well needed renovation adding an A-Stem studies wing. The program includes aviation, science, technology, engineering and mathematics, even potential economic opportunities. Corey Matten with the color guard was just one of many students excited for the new space in the community. "It's great for the community to have our own safe space, where you can learn about stuff you usually wouldn't learn about in regular schools," he said. With donated funds over the past year, non-profit 'We the Friends of Detroit City Airport' has renovated the building just east of the terminal for Youth Education in Aviation. They also collaborated with the Tuskegee Airmen the Detroit chapter to bring aviation student training.



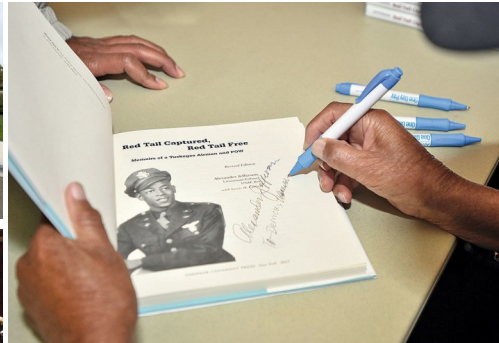
LOCAL HAPPENINGS

Living History Week



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Southfield Public Library Presentation



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Tuskegee Airman Lt. Col. Alexander Jefferson signs a copy of his book, "Red Tail Captured, Red Tail Free: Memoirs of a Tuskegee Airman and POW," Oct. 10 following a talk at the Southfield Public Library. **Photo by Donna Agustí**



Jefferson speaks to the crowd about his life as a Tuskegee Airman during World War II. **Photo by Donna Agustí**



Southfield resident Derrick Williamson checks out Jefferson's signature at the event. **Photo by Donna Agustí**

Local man details life as WWII Tuskegee Airman, POW

By: Kayla Dimick | Southfield Sun | Published October 16, 2018

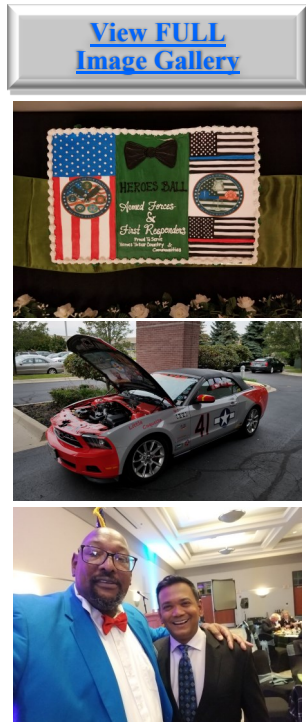
https://www.candgnews.com/news/local-man-details-life-as-wwii-tuskegee-airman-pow-110364?fb_comment_id=1836987774398110_1860664557363765

SOUTHFIELD — When Lt. Col. Alexander Jefferson crash-landed in Nazi-occupied France in 1944, the German guard who captured him somehow knew everything about him. “He helps me get out of the trees, and the German officer saw the little gold bar on my uniform, so he saluted. All I could do was return the salute,” Jefferson said. “When I got to interrogation, the German guard pulls out a book of the 332nd fighter group ... and he opens it up, gets to my picture and says, ‘Lieutenant, isn’t that you?’” Seventy-four years later, in the auditorium of the Southfield Public Library, Jefferson recounted his story about being captured as a Tuskegee Airman with the 332nd Red Tails in the U.S. Army Air Corps during World War II — and how he lived to tell the tale. Jefferson, of Detroit, spoke at the library Oct. 10 about his life as an African-American serviceman and his memoir, “Red Tail Captured, Red Tail Free: Memoirs of a Tuskegee Airman and POW.” After the talk, Jefferson answered questions from the audience and signed books. The Tuskegee Airmen were the first African-American military aviators in the U.S. armed forces. During World War II, which broke out in 1939, black Americans in many U.S. states were still subject to the Jim Crow laws and the military was still racially segregated. During his school days, Jefferson said, he was considered an outcast and he hid out in the chemistry lab, which is where he discovered his love of science. “I became a damn nerd,” Jefferson joked. In 1942, Jefferson graduated from Clark College in Atlanta with a degree in chemistry and biology. Even before Jefferson was accepted into the military, he was met with racist backlash. “As soon as I graduated, I knew I was going to be caught in the draft, so I came down to the federal building and took the exams and passed the son of a gun with 100 percent, but the lieutenant says, ‘Hell no. (N-word) can’t do this.’ The viciousness in this country during the war. ... I had to come back to this country to be a teacher after the war to prove and show we were worth something.” He was sworn into the U.S. Army Reserves as a volunteer, but he was not accepted for flight training. Jefferson took a job as an analytical chemist for three months before applying again to the U.S. Air Force. He was called up for flight training in 1943 at the Tuskegee Army Air Field. On Aug. 12, 1944, during Jefferson’s 19th mission over Toulon, France, his plane was shot down while attacking a radar installation. “All of the sudden, boom, a shell came up through the floor,” Jefferson said. “Fire came up out of the floor, so I had to bail out. During nine months of training, never one minute (was spent) on how to bail out. So what do you do? You do what you had to do under the circumstances.” Once Jefferson bailed out of the plane, he parachuted to the ground through a sea of trees, where he was captured by Nazi ground troops. Two men were killed during the crash, Jefferson said. He was sent to a prisoner of war camp in Stalag Luft III in Poland. When he was taken into the camp, Jefferson said, the current prisoners met the new ones on the front lawn of the camp, where they were chosen by the current prisoners for their rooms. “All of the sudden, they get to me, and this great big tall hillbilly says, ‘Lord, crikey, I’ll take this boy,’ and I said to myself, ‘I better get ready to fight like hell.’ I get in the room and it’s beautiful. It’s fantastic. All the guys are friendly.” Jefferson said he believes he was picked for the room because the occupants were making false German passports in their room, and based on his appearance, they knew he was not a German spy. While being held prisoner, Jefferson said, he and his fellow captors missed the everyday comforts of life on the homefront. They dreamed of food, music and women. Soon after, Jefferson was moved to Stalag VII-A, outside of the Dachau concentration camp. “I saw Dachau. I saw four, five or six piles of dead bodies, where Germans were actually killing Jews,” Jefferson said. “Today, all of the sudden, I realized what Germany was doing is the same thing some of these characters today would do to blacks.” On April 29, 1945, after eight months of captivity, Gen. George Patton’s U.S. Third Army freed Jefferson and his cohorts, and he returned to the U.S. aboard the RMS Queen Mary. Jefferson said he returned to the Tuskegee Army Air field in Alabama, where he was a teacher until it closed in 1946. There he met his wife, Adella T. MacDonald, who was working as a parachute technician. “I was caught,” Jefferson said of his wife. He retired from the Air Force in 1969 and began teaching elementary school science in the Detroit Public Schools district, retiring in 1979 as an assistant principal. In 2004, President George W. Bush awarded Jefferson a Purple Heart, and in 2007 he and other members of the Tuskegee Airmen were awarded the Congressional Gold Medal for their service. Kelly Rembert, an outreach librarian for the Southfield Public Library, said library officials were honored to have Jefferson speak. “Alexander Jefferson is a living legend,” Rembert said. “We don’t have too many more of those voices out in the world still today, and he is so well-spoken and knows so much about the history, and it’s important to hear that history firsthand and hear that passed down.”



LOCAL HAPPENINGS

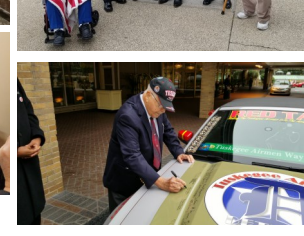
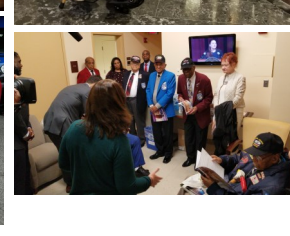
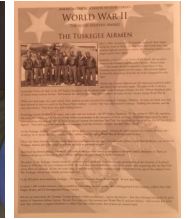
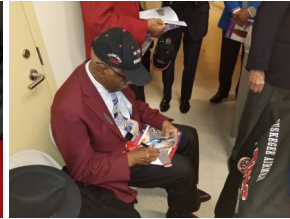
Selfridge ANGB DOTA Tour Meet n Greet



LOCAL HAPPENINGS

2018 American Valor Awards Washington DC

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The Hawk's Cry II



WAYNE COUNTY TREASURER'S OFFICE

2ND ANNUAL
VETERANS
RESOURCE FAIR

SAVE THE DATE

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 8TH
10am-2pm

NORTHWEST ACTIVITIES CENTER
18100 Meyers Rd,
Detroit, MI 48235

For more information, contact Ms. Beverlyn Hilton at (313) 224-6035

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NOVEMBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- November 10, 2018 - [Tribute Car Display at Discount Tire](#) (Fenton, MI)
- November 10, 2018 - [100 Years of Heroes](#) (Novi, MI) **Registered**
- November 11, 2018 - [13th Annual Detroit Veterans Day Parade](#) (Detroit, MI) **Registered**
- November 18, 2018 - [Alexander Jefferson's 97th birthday Recognition](#) (Detroit, MI) **Registered**

End of Event Season

**HELP THEM START 2019
IN THE BLACK**

*...by going to their website and providing a
monetary donation*

www.DetroitRedTail.org

Detroit RedTail, Inc is an IRS determined tax exempt charitable organization whose mission is to participate in the American car culture and venture to car shows, car cruises and parades to propagate the history and legacy of the Tuskegee Airmen. **Detroit RedTail, Inc** is...

Keep RedTail Rolling



www.DetroitRedTail.org

*Rolling the **Tuskegee Airmen** into the **American Car Culture***

Federal Benefits for Veterans, Dependents and Survivors

2009 Edition

Phone Numbers

Bereavement Counseling.....	1-202-461-6530
Education.....	1-888-442-4551
Headstones and Markers.....	1-800-697-6947
Health Care.....	1-877-222-8387
Homeless veterans.....	1-877-222-8387
Home Loans.....	1-877-827-3702
Life Insurance.....	1-800-669-8477
National Suicide Prevention Lifeline.....	1-800-273-8255
Pension Management Center.....	1-877-294-6380
Special Health Issues.....	1-800-749-8387

**Telecommunication Device
for the Deaf (TDD) 1-800-829-4833
VA Benefits 1-800-827-1000**

Web Sites

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

Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Program

Life Insurance.....	www.insurance.va.gov
Department of Defense.....	www.defenselink.mil

EDITOR'S CORNER

Original Tuskegee Airmen Signed Certificates of Appreciation NEW—NEW—NEW

Select Image to download from Google Drive site



Please communicate all
newsletter inclusions to:

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at

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welborne313@gmail.com

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



ATTENTION ALL CHAPTER MEMBERS: To ensure we have adequate coverage of local activities, please get your local and recent Tuskegee Airmen related news stories to the editor ASAP. *Contact info inside*

