

THE

Hawk's Cry II



October
2018

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HawksCryII@gmail.com

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



Farewell

PFC FREDERICK HENRY

See You The Next Time We're in Atlanta

Official Newsletter of the

DETROIT CHAPTER of TUSKEGEE AIRMEN INCORPORATED



TUSKEGEE AIRMEN CONTACT LISTING

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CENTRAL REGION

Marv K. Abrams—TAI Central Region President

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*Befriend and
Like Us*

[**Detroit Chapter Tuskegee Airmen**](#)
[**Tuskegee Airmen Hawk's**](#)
[**Detroit RedTail**](#)

WEBSITES OF INTEREST
[Detroit Chapter website](#)
[TA National Museum website](#)
[National Organization](#)
[TA National Historic Site](#)
[Detroit RedTail](#)



*Follow
Us*

[**DetroitChapterTAInc**](#)
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[**DetroitRedTail**](#)

ON THE COVER: DOTA Fred Henry the day he signed "RedTail" in front of the GM Headquarters Wintergarden

THE PRESIDENTS' PAGE



THE NEXT TWO CHAPTER MEETINGS

Thursday, 11 October 2018 & 8 November 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

Greetings,

I hope this Newsletter finds you all well. I would like to THANK all of you for what you do in the Name and Memory of Our Tuskegee Airmen. Many of you spend an inordinate amount of time just doing that. We carry on The Legacy of what many thought would be a failure but God made sure that The Experiment meant GOOD.

We have had many activities over the past month. One of these highlights was [The Reno Jet Races](#). Select the link and browse through the entire photo album. Over 300 pictures. LTC. **Alexander Jefferson** and **Harry Stewart** attended the event and were truly blessed. They will share in detail at our meeting just what they felt.

On the 17th of this month, we have been invited to a **Special Tribute and Tour of Selfridge Air National Guard Base**. It is our intent to have four to sixth of the DOTAs there. We must turn the names of all those planning on attending by Friday the 12th at noon. The dress will be our Blue Blazers (Dress Uniform) because we are anticipating this to be a media event.

Another large veterans celebration will happen in Washington DC, October 25 - 27, 2018. The [American Veterans Center](#) (AVC). They will present The Wounded Warrior Experience on Thursday, the 25th, a Speakers Session at the National Achieves on Friday the 26th and Saturday the 27th, a special reception Friday night and then American Valor: A Salute to Our Heroes which is the first and only televised awards show recognizing our military heroes. You may recall watching it last year. The AVC has arranged to have seven of the remaining 12 DOTA combat pilots in attendance. [Detroit RedTail](#) is contemplating driving out there for the Friday speaker session featuring the DOTAs.

Tuskegee Airmen will be in Idelwild, Michigan this month. The date and time has yet to be published. Hopefully at our meeting I'll have the correct Info.

Several folks on The Cruise requested that we have the Cruise every year instead of every other year. If that is the sentiment of the Chapter, then we need to identify a Chair Person, a TEAM, select a date and move forward within the next two weeks. We would like to include that information in our mailing the first of the year. Time is of essence.

The month of November promises to be very fruitful. Veterans Day activities will start that Saturday, the 10th and continue through the 12th. Details for the Veterans Day parade that Alex will be the Grand Marshall of and be escorted by Detroit RedTail are on the next page. Details of the other events will be provided at our meeting. The Men Who Dare Black and White Ball is also scheduled that same weekend. Please contact Burt Lowe for tickets.

Finally, HAVE A BLESSED THANKSGIVING. It is a time for family and what better time to Sup together than Thanksgiving Day. Share what you have with others that are less fortunate. Maybe invite someone to have Dinner with you and your family.

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.

Young Eagles is still going strong. The next date is: October 14, 2018. Get the word out to all 8-17 year olds you. The results of the National elections can be seen [here](#), on the national website, www.TuskegeeAirmen.org

Just a note that this Thursday's 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.





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 WEBSITE) 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](#)



Metro Detroit Veterans Coalition hosts 13th Annual Veterans Day Parade

By Sharon Longman Special to The Oakland Press

https://www.theoaklandpress.com/lifestyles/suburban/metro-detroit-veterans-coalition-hosts-th-annual-veterans-day-parade/article_19459458-cbae-11e8-8a39-9f6850b3a17.html

The [Metro Detroit Veterans Coalition](#) hosts its 13th Annual Veterans Day Parade at 11 a.m. Sunday, Nov. 11, in downtown Detroit. The parade will be dedicated to honoring the 100-year Commemoration of the end of World War I and the beginning of what would become Veterans Day. A World War I re-enactors Color Guard will lead the parade.

Tuskegee Airman **Lt. Col. Alexander Jefferson**, 97, will be the Grand Marshall (escorted by [Detroit RedTail](#)). Lt. Col. Charles Kettles, Medal of Honor recipient for service in the U.S. Army in Vietnam, will participate as a "Veteran of Honor." Rich Luterman, USAF veteran and Captain, FOX2 News Head Meteorologist will emcee the pre-parade ceremonies. The 338th Military Band will play the National Anthem, "Taps," and possibly a medley of the service branches songs. The Southfield A&T High School Band, Cass Technical High School Band and Detroit's Edison High School Band will participate. The Tuskegee Airmen will supply a **Ford Mustang** (from [www.DetroitRedTail.org](#)) (emulating) the Red Tail fighter that they flew in WWII. Opening ceremonies begin at 10 a.m. For more information, call John Williams at 248-569-0824 or email swsouthfield@aol.com. Register at [www.detroitveteransdayparade.org](#).





Southfield man talks about his time as a Tuskegee Airman

Oct 4, 2018

https://www.theoaklandpress.com/lifestyles/suburban/southfield-man-talks-about-his-time-as-a-tuskegee-airman/article_e049ca6-c5ce-11e8-9ec1-43d6852fe662.html

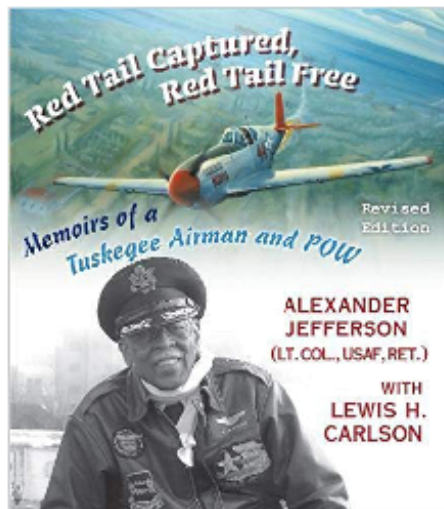
Southfield resident and Tuskegee Airman **Lt. Col. Alexander Jefferson** will talk about his life and book “**Red Tail Captured, Red Tail Free: Memoirs of a Tuskegee Airman and POW**” at 6:30 p.m. Oct. 10. “I joined the Air Force because the draft was coming,” he said. “I didn't want to serve in the quartermaster

corps because that was the only unit offered to blacks at the time. I wanted to be an officer.” In April 1943, Jefferson was called to active duty and began flight training at Tuskegee Army Airfield, Ala., a month later. After completing advanced training, he graduated with 21 other airmen, was commissioned a second lieutenant and received his wings. Further fighter training included time at Selfridge Army Air Field, 25 miles outside of his hometown of Detroit. While there, Jefferson was part of a group that tried to integrate the officers’ club on base. Jefferson and his fellow black officers questioned the legality of their exclusion from the Selfridge officers’ club, as it violated an Army regulation that mandated club membership for all officers. In his book, Jefferson said that Selfridge’s white commanding officers “were willing to jeopardize our training and the war effort in order to maintain separate and second-class status for every African American under their command.” After many peaceful attempts to rectify this wrong, an Army general visited the base to quell the issue and flatly decreed that there should be no socializing between races. For several days following, the Tuskegee Airmen were confined to their posts - locked in without any access to telephones. They were then loaded onto trains without any information about where and why they were leaving Selfridge, and ended up in Walterboro Army Air Base in South Carolina. White soldiers with rifles and bayonets were stationed along both sides of the train when they arrived, prepared for what they were told were rowdy rioters. Walterboro would be their last training stop before deploying to North Africa and Italy for combat duty. Jefferson was assigned to the 301st Fighter Squadron of the 332nd Fighter Group, which would remain segregated from their white counterparts, even while serving in combat. He participated in many successful missions while flying with one of the most decorated fighting units. Tuskegee Airmen pilots, like Jefferson, soon became well known for their tenacity and skill as escorts, eventually being requested by bomber crews. Jefferson was one of 32 Tuskegee Airmen from the 332nd Fighter Group to be shot down over France and, when captured, spent the balance of the war in Luftwaffe prison camps in Germany. In this vividly detailed, deeply personal book, Jefferson writes as a genuine American hero and patriot. It’s an unvarnished look at life behind barbed wire and what it meant to be an African-American pilot in enemy hands. It’s also a look at race and democracy in America through the eyes of a patriot who fought to protect the promise of freedom defending a country that considered him to be second-class citizen. The event will take place at **Southfield Public Library, 26300 Evergreen Road**. For more information, visit www.southfieldlibrary.org or call the guest services desk at 248.796.4224. -Submitted by Barbara Klimkowski



Red Tail Captured, Red Tail Free

Memoirs of a Tuskegee Airman and POW



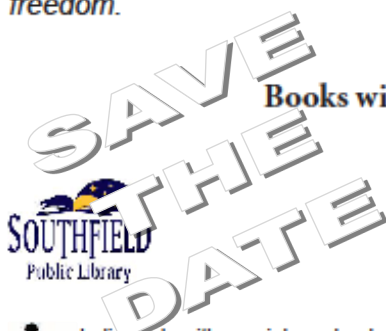
Meet author and Southfield resident,
Lt. Col. Alexander Jefferson.

Wednesday, October 10 at 7:00 pm
in the Auditorium

Alexander Jefferson was one of 32 Tuskegee Airmen from the 332nd Fighter Group to be shot down defending a country that considered them to be second-class citizens. A Detroit native, Jefferson trained at Tuskegee Institute and joined one of the most decorated fighting units, the flying P51s with their legendary and feared red tails.

He was shot down over France and when captured spent the balance of the war in Luftwaffe prison camps in Germany. In this vividly detailed, deeply personal book, Jefferson writes as a genuine American hero and patriot. It's an unvarnished look at life behind barbed wire and what it meant to be an African-American pilot in enemy hands. It's also a look at race and democracy in America through the eyes of a patriot who fought to protect the promise of freedom.

Books will be available for purchase and signing.



Individuals with special needs who plan to attend library programs should contact the City of Southfield at 248.796.5150 (voice) or 248.354.4831 (TDD) if auxiliary aids are needed. Reasonable advance notice is required.





Palm Springs Air Museum's P-63 Kingcobra Reaches Silver and the P-51 Red Tail Mustang Grabs Trophy at the 2018 Reno Air Races

NEWS PROVIDED BY Palm Springs Air Museum Sep 21, 2018, 14:07 ET
<https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/palm-springs-air-museums-p-63-kingcobra-reaches-silver-and-the-p-51-red-tail-mustang-grabs-trophy-at-the-2018-reno-air-races-300717003.html>

PALM SPRINGS, Calif., Sept. 21, 2018 / PRNewswire/ -- The Palm Springs Air Museum's participation at last weekend's National Championship Air Races Reno soared to new heights. The Air Museum's P-51 Mustang "Bunny" again reached the Silver level like last year, and then placed 3rd overall! Six of the seven aircraft were P-51 Mustangs. All aircraft were evenly matched, so pilot skill was essential. Tuskegee Airman Lt. Col. **Bob Friend**, the

world's oldest living Tuskegee pilot at 98 years old, accepted the Trophy. "Bunny" flew in honor of Friend, her markings match those of the plane Friend flew during 142 combat missions in World War II. Friend was there with fellow Tuskegee pilot, Lt. Col. **Harry Stewart**, a youngster at 93 years of age. To see: <https://vimeo.com/291137242>

200,000 attendees were treated to the Air Museum's very rare flying P-63 Kingcobra "Pretty Polly", the first time in 40 years a Kingcobra has raced at Reno. "Pretty Polly" followed in Bunny's footsteps and reached Silver at this 2018 Reno Air Races. After seeing these aircraft in flight, attendees visited them in the pits and talked with four of the original Tuskegee Airmen pilots, including Friend and Stewart.

The Palm Springs Air Museum's participation at the Reno Air Races is viewed as part of the facility's mission by Museum Vice Chair Fred Bell. "In order to be appreciated, these aircraft have to be seen in flight. We feel we accomplished the Museum's overall mission in Reno to inspire future aviators and honor the rich heritage of the Tuskegee Airmen who are part of our Greatest Generation."

The Palm Springs Air Museum is an educational non-profit organization whose mission is to Preserve, Educate and Honor our military aviation history. Over 59 flyable and static airplanes and interactive exhibits are housed in almost 100,000 square feet of climate-controlled hangars. Flight simulators, children's center, and a 9,500-volume library help make history come alive.

The Palm Springs Air Museum is open daily from 10 am to 5 pm, closed Thanksgiving, Christmas, & February 15, 2019. Museum admission ranges from \$10.50 to \$17.50. Family rates are \$38 and \$48. Active Military and their immediate family with ID and children 5 and under are free. 745 N. Gene Autry Trail, Palm Springs, 760-778-6262 PSAirMuseum.org

Contact: Ann Greer – cell – 1-323-363-8243
anngreer@earthlink.net

SOURCE Palm Springs Air Museum

Related Links
[Air Races Photo Gallery](#)



The Hawk's Cry II



Detroit Police Department's 11th Precinct Heroes Ball



LOCAL HAPPENINGS

DOTA Fred Henry Farwell Luncheon

Our beloved DOTA Frederick Henry has moved to Atlanta to live with his daughter. Beverly Kindle-Walker and the staff at the Civil Air Patrol 100th Detachment offered their facilities to host a luncheon for him.



Enjoy The
Adventures
of

detroit
REDTAIL INC.
Rolling The Tazlogos Airmax Into The American Car Culture

RedTail Visits Gilmore Car Museum

On 30 September, RedTail visited the Gilmore Car Museum with the Mustang Owners Club of South-east Michigan (MOCSEM). Check out the photo gallery [HERE](#).

[View
Picture
Gallery](#)



The Hawk's Cry II



Girls IN AVIATION DAY

A Women in Aviation International® Event

Free ! For Girls 8 – 17

Saturday, October 13, 2018

8:45 AM to 1:30 PM (w/pizza lunch)

Coleman A. Young International [City] Airport
11499 Connor near Gratiot, Detroit

CONNECT with girls and women who are excited about aviation!

EXPLORE the opportunities for work and play
in the aviation and aerospace industry!

EXPERIENCE the high-flying fun aviation offers.

Hosted by Detroit Chapter, Women in Aviation Int'l.

To Register: Sherry A. Wells at sherwells@tm.net Subject: WAI GIAD

Girls in Aviation Day, October 13, 2018
sherwells@tm.net Subject: WAI GIAD

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sherwells@tm.net Subject: WAI GIAD

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sherwells@tm.net Subject: WAI GIAD



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



School of
Continuing Education &
Workforce Development

Wayne County Community College District

*in Partnership with
ARISE Detroit!
Presents*



ARISE DETROIT!

THE CITY THE HEART THE HOPE

"Awesome, awesome film. It was so positive. ARISE Detroit! is showing residents a positive side of their city."

- Jacqueline Stephenson, Detroit Resident/
Community Activist

"Outstanding. The film shows something that is so important to every community - hope. It reminds us that the backbone of Detroit is the people."

- Greg Dunmore, host of Pulse Beat

"Fabulous, fabulous documentary. It shows that ARISE Detroit! is doing really important work."

- Marty Habelewsky, public relations executive

**MONDAY
OCTOBER 8, 2018
1:00 P.M. - 3:00 P.M.**

DOWNTOWN CAMPUS
FRANK HAYDEN COMMUNITY ROOM
1001 WEST FORT STREET, DETROIT, MI 48226

**THURSDAY
OCTOBER 18, 2018
11:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.**

NORTHWEST CAMPUS
LARRY K. LEWIS EDUCATION CENTER
8200 WEST OUTER DRIVE, DETROIT, MI 48219

**TUESDAY
OCTOBER 23, 2018
1:00 P.M. - 3:00 P.M.**

EASTERN CAMPUS
COOPER COMMUNITY ROOM
5901 CONNER STREET, DETROIT, MI 48213

The 75-minute film titled, "ARISE Detroit! The City The Heart The Hope," features interviews with neighborhood residents, community foundation and faith-based leaders. The documentary tells the story of the remarkable evolution of ARISE Detroit!, and tracks the city's hard times during the foreclosure crisis, bankruptcy and current efforts to forge an inclusive city comeback.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC AT NO COST!

For more information, please contact the School of Continuing Education at 313-496-2704 or visit www.wcccd.edu

See
Beverly Kindle-Walker
for tickets

FDCA

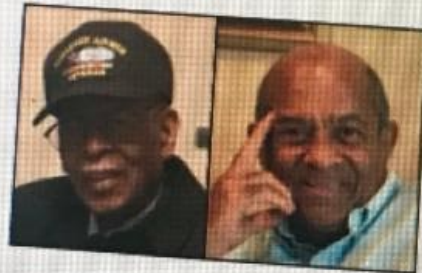
FRIENDS of DETROIT CITY AIRPORT
www.friendsofDCA.org

Friends of Detroit City Airport (FDCA) invite you to attend our Gala Open House of our Youth in Aviation Building. This is a fundraiser commemorating 90 plus years for Coleman A. Young International Airport (a.k.a Detroit City Airport) and a historical legacy of community and youth development in aviation.

Saturday, October 13, 2018 • 5-9 PM

**A Red-Carpet Event Honoring Detroit's
Tuskegee Aviator Legends - Showcasing the "Luft Gangsters"**

World War II POW, **Lt. Col. Alexander Jefferson** and the 1st "Top Gun" ever, **Lt. Col. Harry Stewart**, will be recognized for their heroic accomplishments and will share their motivational stories in support of youth education and professional aviation development.



Evening festivities include a strolling buffet, and the musical stylings of the award-winning **Wendell Harrison** and his dynamic Jazz Ensemble, honorary guests, legendary Detroit celebrities, historical displays, souvenir book, future plans and more. Emcee Luther Keith, Director of ARISE Detroit!

Tickets \$100 at www.friendsofDCA.org.

**Coleman A. Young International Airport
11499 Conner, Detroit, MI 48213**

For more information please contact Beverly Kindle Walker at (313) 618-9749
or e-mail bevkinwalk@hotmail.com.

Let the Legacy Continue and the Spirit of Detroit Thrive!

Claude Rowe Jr., Tuskegee Airmen veteran, is buried with honors at Fort Rosecrans

<http://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/military/sd-me-claude-rowe-20181005-story.html>

Andrew DyerContact Reporter



Claude Alexander Rowe Jr. of Chula Vista, who served in the armed forces of two allied nations during World War II, was laid to rest Friday at Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery in San Diego with full military honors, including a gun salute and a “missing man” formation flyby of WWII-era fighters. Rowe died on Sept. 20 at age 97. He was born in Detroit on July 7, 1921. He was a student at the Lawrence Institute of Technology during World War II and left college during his second year to serve his country as a pilot. Because Rowe was black, he was not eligible to fly in the Army Air Corps. Instead, he went north, to the Royal Canadian Air Force, where he earned his wings in 1944. In September 1945, Rowe came back to the U.S. and joined the Army, this time as part of the Tuskegee Airmen Experiment, a segregated unit. He earned his wings in

June 1946 and flew bombers such as the WB-50 and B-29. Rowe talked about his experience in the segregated military in a 2009 community essay in The San Diego Union-Tribune. “It was routine to be separated, and alt-

hough the discrimination was uncomfortable, we were too determined to let that stop us,” Rowe wrote. “We were not just fighting for our country, we were fighting for our dreams, and we were willing to give our lives for it.” Rowe stayed on as the Air Corps transitioned into the Air Force, eventually becoming a weather officer. He retired in 1966 as a captain. The Air Force gave Rowe the opportunity to travel extensively, serving in post-war Germany, Japan, Korea and England. In England, he met his wife of 67 years, the former Winifride Swinnerton. They went on to have eight children. After retirement, Rowe went into banking, eventually becoming a bank manager and vice president in Michigan. It was when one of his daughters, Dorothy, joined the Navy that the Rows relocated to San Diego in 1975. Rowe, who was retired at the time, visited to help Dorothy settle in. “We lived in Portage, Michigan, and when I graduated from high school I wanted to leave,” Dorothy Rowe said. “So I took off and joined the Navy. When he saw (San Diego), he said, ‘Oh, I love this place.’ So he flew back home and told my mom to put the house up for sale. It was like the Beverly Hillbillies driving out to San Diego.” Marlene Marien, Rowe’s eldest daughter, said her dad was a fantastic cook. “One of my fondest memories from childhood, I always looked forward to Sunday dinners, because that was when my dad cooked,” she said. To this day, his fried chicken was the only fried chicken I would eat.” Marien said she wanted people to know her father was a man of character. “No matter what negative treatment he received through-



out his life as one of the first black pilots, he never held any malice in his heart,” Marien said. “He always held his head up high and he never let anyone’s opinion of him change his opinion of himself. He was a very, very honorable man.” Marien remembered one incident when her parents were driving cross-country. “They stopped to get gas,” she said, “and the lady gave him the wrong change. He realized it after he’d driven about 50 miles, so he drove the 50 miles all the way back to return the change because he didn’t want her to get in trouble.” Dorothy Rowe said her father left an impression on everyone he met. “(He was) just a wonderful person, anyone who came into his life felt blessed,” she said. “Everybody just adored him.” She said her father was an exceptional grandfather as well, and took on the tasks some of her siblings were wary of, such as teaching their kids to drive. “He took care of all his grandkids

and taught them how to drive,” she said. “I was afraid, but my dad didn’t mind taking them out. Erica Kimble, Dorothy Rowe’s daughter, said her grandfather was more like a father to her. “He would watch us all the time after school,” she said. “When we were little, he’d do our hair in the morning...since our dad wasn’t around.” “Not only did he raise all of his eight kids, he raised most of his 18 grandkids,” Dorothy Rowe said. Rowe’s burial service included an escort and honors by the Patriot Guard and a horse-drawn carriage. Representatives from the Royal Canadian Legion also attended, as well as Nelson Robinson, who is also a Tuskegee Airmen veteran. California State Sen. Joel Anderson was in attendance and spoke briefly about the historical significance of the men who joined the then-segregated U.S. military to serve during World War II. “The men who met the call to become Tuskegee Airmen were the best our nation had to offer,” he said. Contact Andrew Dyer via email or Twitter.



and taught them how to drive,” she said. “I was afraid, but my dad didn’t mind taking them out. Erica Kimble, Dorothy Rowe’s daughter, said her grandfather was more like a father to her. “He would watch us all the time after school,” she said. “When we were little, he’d do our hair in the morning...since our dad wasn’t around.” “Not only did he raise all of his eight kids, he raised most of his 18 grandkids,” Dorothy Rowe said. Rowe’s burial service included an escort and honors by the Patriot Guard and a horse-drawn carriage. Representatives from the Royal Canadian Legion also attended, as well as Nelson Robinson, who is also a Tuskegee Airmen veteran. California State Sen. Joel Anderson was in attendance and spoke briefly about the historical significance of the men who joined the then-segregated U.S. military to serve during World War II. “The men who met the call to become Tuskegee Airmen were the best our nation had to offer,” he said. Contact Andrew Dyer via email or Twitter.

'A giant among men': Tuskegee Airmen pilot from Willingboro remembered

<http://www.burlingtoncountytimes.com/news/20180924/a-giant-among-men-tuskegee-airmen-pilot-from-willingboro-remembered>

By Lisa Ryan Posted Sep 24, 2018 at 5:00 AM

Roscoe Dabney, a member of the Tuskegee Airmen, the first all-black flying unit in World War II, passed away this month at 95.

WILLINGBORO — Captain Roscoe Dabney left his mark on history, and on his family. Dabney, a member of the Tuskegee Airmen, the first all-black flying unit in World War II, died this month after a storied 95 years. “He was always the man with the ‘S’ on his chest,” said Dabney’s daughter, Denise Stevenson. “He was my Superman.” He was one of a group whose prowess in the fight against Axis forces helped pave the way both for military desegregation and the civil rights movement. Formed in 1941, the Tuskegee Airmen became the first

all-black squadron of aviators to serve in the United States military, which had until that point barred black pilots from service. Air Force Maj. Sharon Hunter-Nikolaus, the current Hannibal M. Cox Tuskegee Airmen chapter president, is grateful to Dabney and to all Tuskegee Airmen. “I give them all the credit for me having my career in the military,” said Hunter-Nikolaus of Dabney, who she knew as the former chapter president. At community events and speaking engagements, Dabney was more reserved but always became very animated speaking about his service and had a special talent for teaching kids, Hunter-Nikolaus said. With his family, Dabney shared his experience

“serving his country but not being looked at as equal,” Stevenson said. Although the Tuskegee Airmen went on to become one of the most highly regarded World War II fighter groups, they faced widespread discrimination during their time of service. During an interview about receiving the Congressional Gold Medal in 2007, Dabney said officials threw his first Army flight school application in the trash. “When I first applied, the sergeant giving the exam laughed and said, “You’ll never fly, boy,”” Dabney said during the interview. “I wish I could see him today.” When Dabney was finally admitted into training, he bounced to different training centers and was forced to take the flight school test five times even though he passed on his first attempt. In 1943, Dabney was preparing to ship out as a bomber pilot when the war reached an end. “I didn’t go overseas, but I was shot at right in this country,” Dabney told the newspaper about an incident when a stranger shot at him and a fellow Airmen during training in Selma, Alabama. In spite of societal challenges, Dabney believed America was the best place a person could be, and served to protect his country and the rights

of its citizens, his daughter said. Growing up, Stevenson’s worldview was shaped hearing about the experiences of her father and his fellow servicemen. “It gave me just a different view of my country and my dad,” she said. “And the struggles he went through and still saw the hope and the light for the country.” Other memories related to Dabney’s service were more pleasant: attending the inauguration of President Barack Obama, and speaking with school and community groups to encourage children to get involved in community service. Once, at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst’s air show, Dabney and other family members got to sit in one of the planes he piloted during the war. “He just sat in the cockpit and I sat next to him,” Stevenson recalled. “And everything came back to him, he started talking about the different controls.” As the family disembarked from the plane, they found a line of people eager to shake Dabney’s hand, listen to his stories and thank him for his service. Stevenson said that wasn’t uncommon for her father, who always wore his Tuskegee Airmen baseball cap with pride. As important as Dabney’s service was to history, his family, and his life’s story, Stevenson said it was just one part of what made her father her personal hero. When she was growing up, Dabney came to every one of his daughter’s swim meets, coached her basketball team and umpired during her baseball games. Stevenson said he acted like a stay-at-home, full-time parent, even though he continued his military service for a time and also worked in industrial education. “My dad was definitely a unique person,” Stevenson said. “He’d always say he was a renaissance man taking photos around the city ... He could build anything with his hands, he had an amazing (singing) voice.” He took the family on road trips, splashed around with his children in the family swimming pool, and provided support and unconditional love. Dabney and his wife, Brenda, were married 20 years when they moved to Willingboro, where they raised Stevenson and her sister, Lisa Dabney. The 33-year Willingboro resident was happy in the township, Brenda Dabney said. “He just loved living in Willingboro,” she said. “He loved people in general, (but especially in Willingboro).” Around the neighborhood, Dabney would join his kids and their friends for large-scale snowball fights, and would pitch during kickball games to help keep the teams even. He loved entertaining neighbors and sharing stories. “He was a giant among men,” his daughter said.





Former "Red Tail" Tuskegee airmen and Opelousas native Charles Chenier dies

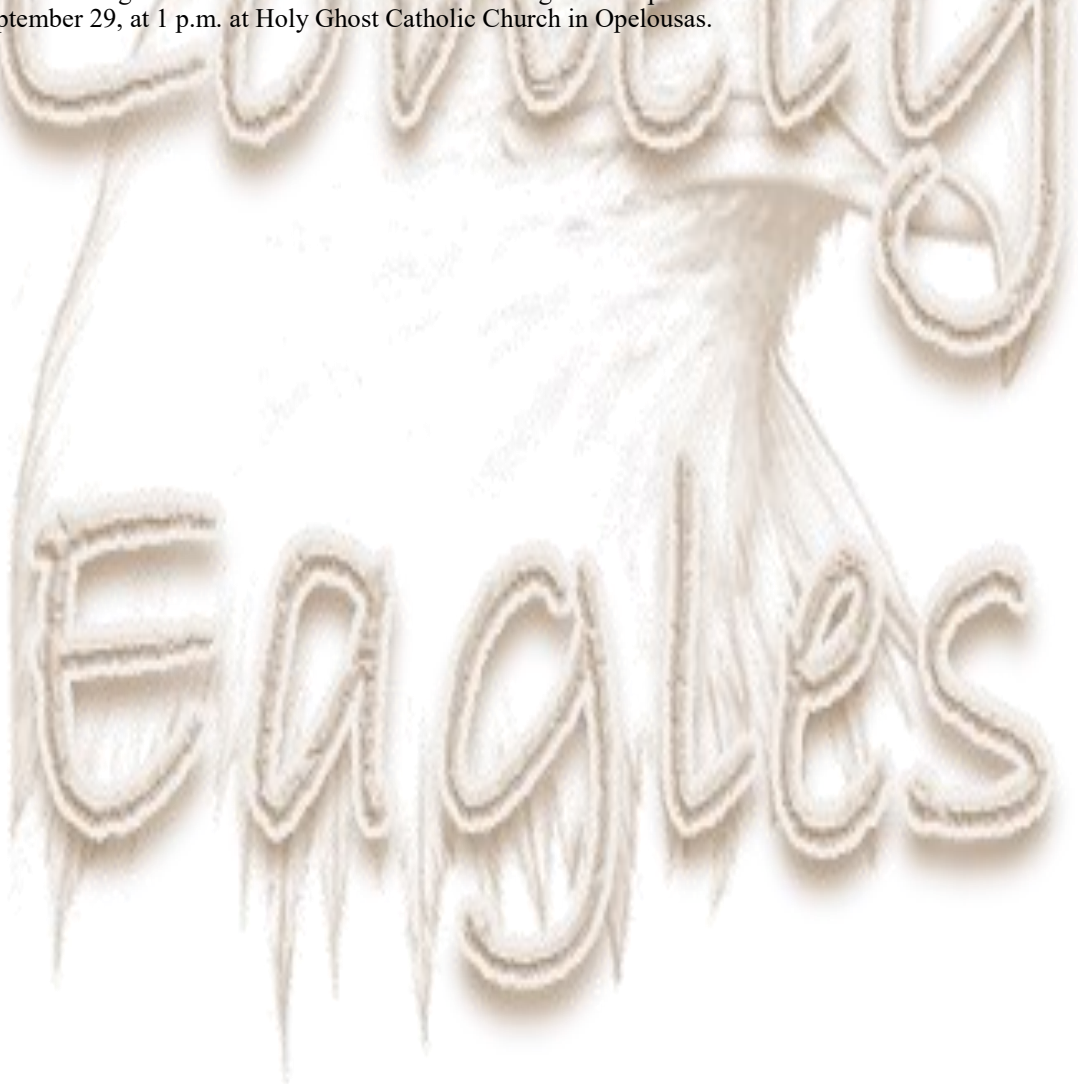
Posted: Sep 25, 2018 10:30 PM CDT Updated: Sep 25, 2018 10:31 PM CDT

Acadiana is mourning the loss of a World War II hero and a legend who died Sunday at age 93.

<https://www.klfy.com/news/local/former-red-tail-tuskegee-airmen-and-opelousas-native-charles-chenier-dies/1475919193>

Opelousas native, Charles Clifford Chenier lived an amazing life. He is most remembered as one of the last surviving "Red Tail" Tuskegee airmen who served in the 332 and fighter group during World War II. News Ten was there when Chenier attended a premier of George Lucas' blockbuster "Red Tails" at the Grand theater in Lafayette in 2012. He was recognized by the President of the United States with the Congressional Medal of Honor. Chenier would often say that even while he fought for his own country, he was still in a battle for his own civil rights. His

passion was serving his home communities of both Tuskegee and Opelousas. Funeral services were held Saturday, September 29, at 1 p.m. at Holy Ghost Catholic Church in Opelousas.





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OCTOBER/NOVEMBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- October 10, 2018 - [Red Tail Captured - Red Tail Free: Memoirs of a Tuskegee Airmen and POW](#) (Southfield, MI)
- October 25-27, 2018 - [American Valor: A Salute to Our Heroes](#) (Washington, DC) *Registered*
- November 11, 2018 - [13th Annual Detroit Veterans Day Parade](#) (Detroit, MI) *Registered*

End of Event Season

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The Hawk's Cry II

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| Homeless veterans..... | 1-877-222-8387 |
| Home Loans..... | 1-877-827-3702 |
| Life Insurance..... | 1-800-669-8477 |
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| Education Benefits..... | www.gibill.va.gov |
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| Returning Service Members..... | www.oefoif.va.gov |
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| 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 |
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Original Tuskegee Airmen Signed Certificates of Appreciation NEW—NEW—NEW

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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*

