



Hawks Cry II



**December
2018**

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HawksCryII@gmail.com

 ***Tuskegee Airmen Hawk's Cry II***



Veterans Affairs

LT Col Alexander Jefferson

Official Newsletter of the

DETROIT CHAPTER of TUSKEGEE AIRMEN INCORPORATED



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ON THE COVER: Lt. Col. Alexander Jefferson of the Tuskegee Airmen rides in RedTail, the centerpiece of Detroit RedTail, Inc during the Detroit Veterans Day Parade on Nov. 11, 2018. The parade this year commemorated the 100-year anniversary of the end of World War I. (Clarence Tabb Jr./The Detroit News) (Photo: Clarence Tabb Jr., The Detroit News)



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

Good Morning Fellow Tuskegee Airmen and Women.

This season of our lives is about to be part of the Good Old Days. Making that an acronym it equals the reason we celebrate at this time of the year. Good Old Days (GOD).

God so loved the world that he gave. Let us continue as he did and give of ourselves more in 2019. We have been Blessed to be here and we need to continue to work out the purpose that we were put here for.

Reach out, Restore the folks that need your help and support and go out and tell the folks about the goodness that God has done for you. We must take it to the Streets.

It is not an accident that we are here....., now. There are so many things that are before us and we can't stop now. Our CHILDREN, and Grand children, need us more now than ever before. Our best days are in front of us, and it is up to us to fulfill our purpose.

If I have offended any one of you, I am truly sorry. Blame it on my brain not my heart. For I truly Love and appreciate all of you. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

OF NOTE: Our December meeting will be our Christmas Dinner meeting. Our meeting will start at 18:00 hrs (6:00 pm), with dinner starting at 18:30 hrs (6:30 pm). Dinner is \$10 per person (DOTA and guest are free). Eric Palmer will be collecting at the door. Also, remember, we have decided to start meeting regularly at the Friends/Civil Air Patrol Building at the Coleman A Young International Airport. The address of the main terminal is 11499 Conner, Detroit, 48213. The Friends/CAP Building is highly decorated with a Red Tail P-51 Mustang on the front, facing Connor.

TO GOD BE THE GLORY,

Miguel Thornton

President

Detroit Chapter

Tuskegee Airmen, Inc.



LOCAL HAPPENINGS

Tuskegee Airman on fight for democracy during and after WWII: 'Somebody has to do it'

<https://katu.com/news/local/tuskegee-airman-on-battle-for-democracy-during-and-after-wwii-thats-why-we-fight>

PORTLAND, Ore. – The Tuskegee Airmen flew P-51 Mustangs during World War II as the first group of African American pilots. Recently digitized slides show members of the group taken during training. They reflect the young men who helped break the military color barrier - and the Nazis; eager to serve their country in a meaningful way. “The war was going on. Things were happening. It was exciting,” remembered Retired USAF Lieutenant Colonel Alexander Jefferson. He was just 22 years old when he volunteered to train with the Tuskegee Airmen. You can learn more about the Tuskegee Airmen on a Facebook page dedicated to the group



by clicking here. During the war, Jefferson was shot down, taken prisoner by the nazis, but says, fortunately they treated him well. He said his fight wouldn't end with World War II. He was proud to serve and remains proud of the United States, even though he returned from the war to face discrimination. “I came back to the United States with its racism, its segregation and discrimination. And we

had to fight all over again. To keep on with the fight for democracy. Fight for the rights,” said Lt. Col. Jefferson. It's a lesson Jefferson hopes younger generations remember. “Learn the background and composition of this country. Read the history of this country to make sure you understand the principles of the constitution and the bill of rights, so forth. I tell these young people all the time, somebody has to do it. Somebody has to gather the torch and keep on going. Because we must, we must, we must succeed,” he tells KATU News. Lieutenant Colonel Jefferson came to our studios to be part of a Veterans Day salute on Afternoon Live. While his 28 years in the military ended some time ago, his passion for the country he served remains strong. “Best country in the world. It's not perfect. We've still got a lot of crazy kooks in this country. But at least this is the United States of America. That's why we fight, why we continue together today,” he said. Jefferson said he ended up serving for nearly three decades because he wanted to fight for democracy - one lesson he believes the next generation needs to carry on.

LOCAL HAPPENINGS

2018 Tribute to our Troops: Saluting a century

<http://www.fox2detroit.com/news/2018-tribute-to-our-troops-saluting-a-century>

POSTED: NOV 08 2018 05:42PM EST
VIDEO POSTED: NOV 08 2018 05:23PM EST

This year's "Tribute to our Troops" premieres Friday, November 9th at 6:30pm and again Sunday, November 11th 6:30pm. It will also air at various times throughout the upcoming holiday season.

Since 2003, FOX 2 has honored the men and women who put their lives on the line for our country. Each year, our goal is to pay "Tribute to our Troops" from Michigan and with ties to the Great Lakes State. That tradition continues, as we mark our 100th Veterans Day. This year, we honor some of Michigan's centenarians who have served.



Here are some of the highlights from this year's commercial-free program:

- * **103-year-old Preston Jowers, of Rochester Hills, is the oldest living member of the Tuskegee Airmen. (starts at 1:28 mark of video)**
- * 101-year-old George Mogill witnessed racism and bigotry during World War II. When he returned home, he treated everyone equal.
- * 108-year-old Rosaria "Sarah" Martinico is a real-life Rosie the Riveter. While the men were at war, she was busy building B-17 bombers. She recalls her days in the factory.
- * 100-year-old Ray Brown: a decorated member of the U.S. Air Force. He was instrumental in missions that changed the outcome of World War II.
- * 100-year-old Tom Holmes served all over during World War II. He was also in the Battle of the Bulge. He took two bullets to the head as a platoon sergeant. He continues to inspire as he focuses on a life well lived.

Detroit Marine's dog tags are returned to his sister, 50 years after he was killed in action. A father and son veteran team found and bought the dog tags while visiting Vietnam. They've made it their mission to help give military families closure.

This year's "Tribute to Our Troops" airs at 6:30 p.m. Friday, November 9th and Sunday, November 11th at 6:30p.m. on FOX 2. It will also re-air throughout November and **December**. You can also watch the show in its entirety in the video above. <http://www.fox2detroit.com/news/2018-tribute-to-our-troops-saluting-a-century>



LOCAL HAPPENINGS

Find out how the Wright Museum is honoring the Tuskegee Airmen

Posted: 1:37 PM, November 07, 2018

Updated: 1:37 PM, November 07, 2018

<https://www.clickondetroit.com/live-in-the-d/find-out-how-the-wright-museum-is-honoring-the-tuskegee-airmen>

It was announced Wednesday that the Tuskegee Airmen National Museum will be moving into the Charles H. Wright museum. **Brian Smith**, president of the museum, says the move will give curation and expertise to the exhibits and artifacts. He said they are looking to preserve all of their artifacts and continue to have a presence at the Detroit City Airport where they have youth programming. They also brought along the trophy that was won by the Tuskegee Airmen in 1949. One of the winners and decorated war hero Harry Stewart was there to talk about his time with the airmen. He said he didn't recognize the significance of the airmen during World War II when they were among the first African-American pilots and air support groups. Pamela Alexander, Director of Community Development with the Ford Motor Company Fund, said Ford has always been a long time supporter of the legacy of the Tuskegee Airmen. The fund wants to preserve and celebrate the history of the airmen. The exhibit opens up with a **black-tie event Feb. 23** and will feature a new documentary about the airmen. To learn more about the Tuskegee Airmen and the museum visit their website: www.tuskegeemuseum.org



The Wellborn Adventures



Bill with SSG Travis Mills



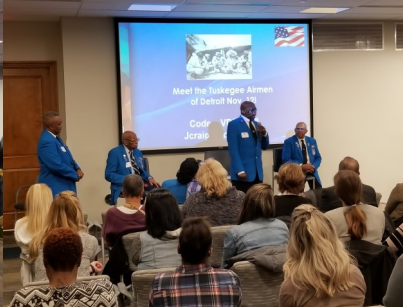
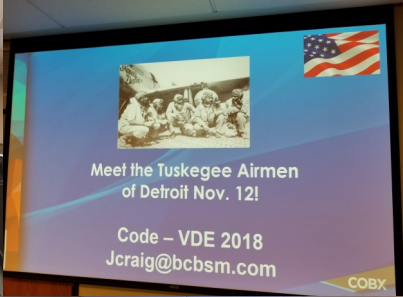
Bill & Larry with Wayne County Treasurer, Eric Sabree



Bill with Former Attorney General Eric Holder

LOCAL HAPPENINGS

Blue Care Network



[View FULL Image Gallery](#)

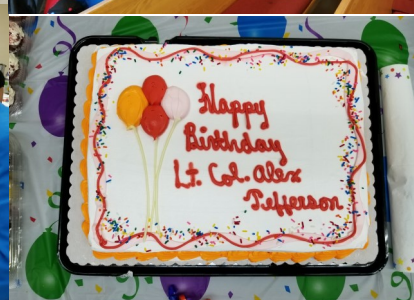
The Hawk's Cry II



LOCAL HAPPENINGS

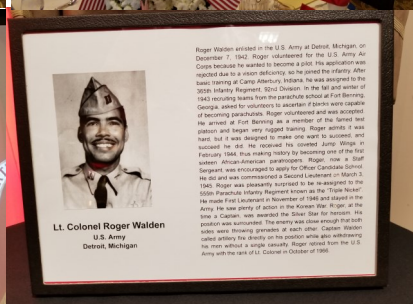
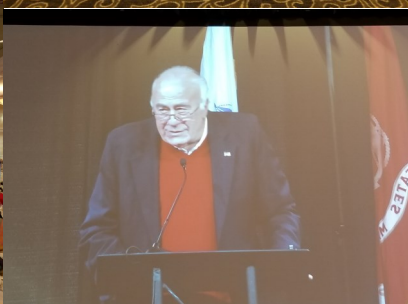
Alexander Jefferson's 97th Birthday

The Hawk's Cry II



[View FULL Image Gallery](#)

100 Years of Heroes



The Hawk's Cry II

LOCAL HAPPENINGS

2018 Detroit Veterans Day Parade

The Hawk's Cry II



[View FULL Image Gallery](#)

[VIEW Ride Along with RedTail VIDEO](#)

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No heroes in Veterans Day parade -- or so say the vets

Neal Rubin, The Detroit News Published 4:17 p.m. ET Nov. 11, 2018 | Updated 9:23 p.m. ET Nov. 11, 2018

<https://www.detroitnews.com/story/news/local/detroit-city/2018/11/11/detroit-veterans-day-parade-woodward-heroes/1967202002/?fbclid=IwAR21b-dtdTdCwPt09cbGYaCT0rZCFIep2k-HPJQgyu2TSwPkqplg3KkMDvo>

Detroit — The people in the middle of the street Sunday would tell you they were not heroes. The people on the sidewalks disagreed. On the 100th anniversary of the end of World War I, the 13th annual Detroit Veterans Day Parade wound from Midtown to downtown and back, with a throng of well-wishers at the beginning and the usual sparse population along the rest of the route. There were massive military vehicles, and there were tiny cars bearing fez-wearing Shriners. There were Junior ROTC corps, chanting as they marched crisply down Cass, across to Grand Circus Park and back north on Woodward. There were bands and flags and a feisty-looking little harbor patrol boat from the Coast Guard, pulled on a trailer. But heroes? Mike Kozlowski, 34, of Columbus Township did two tours of duty with the Army in Afghanistan and another in Iraq. A tear made its way down his cheek as a little girl sang "God Bless America" at the staging area just before the parade, and another tear followed the same path as a bugler played "Taps." "No," he said, he wasn't a hero. "I proudly served my country," he said. "It's an honor." And he left it at that. He'd driven in with his next-door neighbor, Dale (Bugsy) Newsome, who will turn 68 on Thursday. Newsome's war was Vietnam, and his battles and his homecoming were far different from Kozlowski's. A retired union crane operator, Newsome often wears a baseball cap that explains his outlook on his service. "God, duty, country," it says. Nothing on there about "hero." But further along the route, former prom dates Frank and Luz Alcala of Allen Park were pleased to use the word. He's 49, she's 50, and they've been married 32 years. They had planned to meet their three grown kids for brunch at the Hudson Cafe downtown, and with a 90-minute wait for a table, they ventured up Woodward to see why the street was blocked. "Definitely heroes," Luz said. "If it wasn't for them, God knows what would be going on out here." The parade has become something of a festival across 13 years, if not a magnet for spectators. At Cass Park, where it began and ended in blustery cold, there were booths for radio stations and vendors. A food truck called the Mean Weenie was nose-to-nose with an eight-wheeled Stryker armored personnel carrier. State Sen. Mike Kowall, R-White Lake, was awarding 50th Commemoration lapel pins to Vietnam veterans. Detroit City Council member Gabe Leland was offering handshakes and thanks. Leland, who's facing federal bribery charges, said he was trying to roll with the punches and stay strong. He noted the firm link between Detroit, the Arsenal of Democracy in World War II and the military. "They do what's asked of them, and they do it with integrity," he said. "I do think of them as heroes." The parade roster included several aging veterans whose individual heroism was undeniable.

Lt. Col. Alexander Jefferson, 96, of Southfield, a former Tuskegee Airman and POW, served as grand marshal and rode in RedTail, a Ford Mustang wrapped to emulate the Red Tailed fighter plane he used to fly—though he has described himself as simply a World War II "survivor," rather than something extraordinary.

Lt. Col. Charles Kettles, 88, of Ypsilanti was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor by President Barack Obama for a selfless, odds-defying helicopter rescue during a battle in Vietnam.

Heroes, both. But for every use of that word by a civilian, there was a shrug from someone who once wore a uniform. Randy Davis of Monroe was a Marine for 11 years. In Vietnam, he said, he had the advantage of being a non-smoker: he could trade his ration of cigarettes for chocolate bars. Davis, 69, a retired truck driver, wore a leather jacket decorated with patches, some for the Corps and at least one suggesting what ISIS should do with itself. On the back were the colors of the Nam Knights motorcycle club. "We just did what we had to do," he said. Sgt. Warner Threats, 63, was more concerned with horses Sunday than heroics.

Threats spent 24 years on active duty in the Army. Now he helps train the Junior ROTC squadron at Detroit Osborn High School, 176 strong. He was minutes away from marching with them, and he shook his head as he noted their place in the lineup. "We're behind the horses again." ROTC is "all about the discipline and leadership," he said. As for active duty? "Servants," he said. "That's what we are," to a cause and a country. Thanks and compliments are not required. Along Woodward, in front of Central United Methodist Church, Avis Avery and her sister-in-law, Darice Spight, had brought folding chairs. There was no one near them except for a couple walking dogs. Spight's husband of 43 years had already come past with his American Legion post. She and Gregory Spight met and married shortly after he arrived home from Vietnam, and both retired from AT&T. These days, he volunteers with the Legion, helping veterans who haven't adjusted to re-entry as well as he did. Still serving, she said. Still a hero to her. nrubin@detroitnews.com Twitter:

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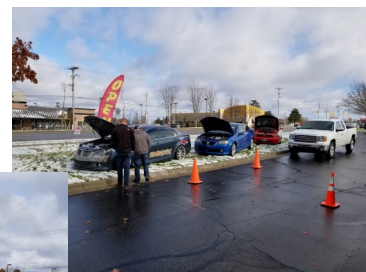
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2019 EVENTS

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2019 season opening
appearance at the
2019 67th Annual
Meguiars AutoRama
March 1st through
the 3rd.



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IN THE BLACK**

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monetary donation*

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Detroit RedTail, Inc is an IRS determined tax exempt
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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



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

Federal Benefits for Veterans, Dependents and Survivors

2009 Edition

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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

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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*

