

Hawks Gryll@gmail.com

Tuskegee Airmen Hawk's Cry II

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Official Newsletter of the DETROIT CHAPTER of TUSKEGEE AIRMEN INCORPORATED



TUSKEGEE AIRMEN CONTACT LISTING

(OFFICERS-BOARD MEMBERS - 2019)

DetroitChapterTAInc@gmail.com

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Public Relations— Eric Palmer
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Good & Welfare—Louis Pettiway
Youth Programs— Brian Smith
Speakers Bureau—Alexander Jefferson
Chaplin—Dr. Theodore Whitely

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CENTRAL REGION

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<u>Detroit Chapter Tuskegee Airmen</u>

Tuskegee Airmen Hawk's
Detroit RedTail

WEBSITES OF INTEREST

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

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DetroitRedTail

ON THE COVER: Out and About with Alexander Jefferson



THE PRESIDENTS' PAGE

THE NEXT TWO CHAPTER MEETINGS

Thursday, 9 January & 13 February 2020 Meeting @ 1900 hours (7:00 p.m.)

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

At the Friends-Detroit City Airport / Youth in Aviation Bldg [FoDCA / YAB]

south of 11499 Conner, Detroit, 48213

REMEMBER: CHAPTER MEETINGS ARE <u>ALWAYS</u> THE 2ND THURSDAY OF THE MONTH ATTENTION ALL MEMBERS

Please Wear Tuskegee Airmen Marked Clothing to Meetings to Show Uniformity

Good day all,

Welcome to a New Year. By the way this is the first day of the rest of your life. What are going to do with the PASSION that God has given you, during 2020?

REFLECTION ON 2019:

- ♦ SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS AND STUDENT PARTICIPATION
- AIR SHOWS
- ♦ MEMBERSHIP RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION
- ◆ TRAINING FOR PRESENTATIONS ABOUT THE TUSKEGEE AIRMEN
- ♦ FINANCIALS
- ♦ CRUISE
- PROCESSES, FORMS AND TAKING CAREOF BUSINESS

The question is, "What Do You Think" I ask myself, what I can do better in 2020, to move our chapter forward. It is very difficult dealing with so many volunteer personalities, but with God's guidance we have accomplished many things.

Over the past four years or so, we have taken our message to people from all over the United States and the World; France, Austria and Korea to name a few places. We have partnered with WW II Bomber personnel to forge new alliances. The movie Red Tails, although not factual opened many doors that were not opened before for us to share our Story. Detroit RedTail's custom wrapped Tuskegee Airmen tribute vehicle, "RedTail," honoring our own LtCol's Stewart and Jefferson, has taken the story into the "American Car Culture" and has been well received. It carries OUR message.

We are attracting younger people to take up the mantel, they learn and then teach about the Legacy of the Tuskegee Airmen. Both LtCol's Stewart and Jefferson are planning to run sessions early next year sharing their first-hand experiences. Take part in them to help tighten up your presentation when performing your Torchbearer duties.

This is an election year. I am requesting member Palmer to get a TEAM together for that. We need to elect people for the following offices, **President**, **First Vice President**, **Secretary and Treasurer**. These

are very important offices. Please see an e-mail titled: Detroit Chapter 2020 Elections sent 6 Jan 2020 for more information.



TO GOD BE THE GLORY,

Miguel Thornton

President

Detroit Chapter Tuskegee Airmen, Inc.



LOCAL HAPPENINGS

Chapter Member Speaker Bureau Instruction

To streamline the Speaker Bureau Reporting process, we are implementing something new, although it may be past practice to some.

After you perform a speaking engagement AND before you come to the monthly chapter meeting and report out.

- 1. Put your report in a brief written 5-minute maximum time limit report.
- 2. Review your engagement AND Report with me (or my designee) before the monthly chapter meeting
- 3. Provide a copy of your report to the Recording Secretary

Speaker Bureau Report(s) MUST include, but are NOT limited to:

- Sponsor of Event
- Type of Event
- Date of Event
- Location of Event
- Estimated Number of attendees
- Name of Presenter (s) and any additional Chapter members in attendance
- Honorarium amount

If you anticipate not attending the monthly chapter meeting or plan to be late, please forward the report to me with the subject line "DETROIT CHAPTER SPEAKER BUREAU." Any late arrival my not be able to give report

Thank you

LtCol (Ret) Alexander Jefferson

Chair, Detroit Chapter TAI, Speakers Bureau

Detroit RedTail 2020 "Tentative" Schedule of Outreach

Hey All,

Detroit RedTail Inc has compiled it's initial and "Tentative" 2020 Schedule of Outreach. Our schedule starts Friday, 28 February at Detroit's 68th Annual AutoRama custom car show. AutoRama is a three (3) day event culminating with a awe-inspiring end of show "Roll Out" of the custom vehicles that Sunday evenings attendees enjoy with great pleasure. OF NOTE: RedTail has and is going through some custom updates. So we will debut those upgrades at the show. Don't miss it.

Beside our typical local Michigan car show activity, currently on the tentative schedule are Ford & Mustang specific car shows in Jacksonville, Florida, Concord, North Carolina, Eureka Springs, Arkansas, Carlisle, Pennsylvania, and Melborne, Florida. Over-The-Road trips of which we will hope you continue your monetary support to allow us to do so.

We will participate in our typical parades; St. Claire Shores Memorial Day, Oak Park 4th of July, and the Detroit Veterans Day parade. We plan to hustle over to Washington, D.C. again this year for the AVC's National Memorial Day parade also and have been invited back to Holland's Tulip Time MUZIEKPARADE on 9 May.

We will also make our annual trek to the Tuskegee Airmen National Convention in San Antonio, Texas in August. In 2018 we traversed Route 66 to the national convention in Las Vegas and last year, 2019, we made stops along the central region of the "Civil Right Trail" (https://civilrightstrail.com/). This year, we plan to make stops along the western region; Mississippi & Louisiana, visiting a number of Emmet Till related site.

Regards, Eric Palmer President, Detroit Redtail, Inc

LOCAL HAPPENINGS

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Fazal Khan, of Sterling Heights, reviews information with his students for a test on flight instruments. Photo by Deb Jacques

Sterling man mentors youth in aviation

By: Eric Czarnik | Sterling Heights Sentry | Published December 3, 2019

STERLING HEIGHTS — While teaching in a media room equipped with a Microsoft Flight Simulator program, Fazal Mohammad Khan is searching for young people whose eyes are on the skies. "First we teach them to fly a basic airport pattern and then have them fly (simulations) on small trips, like from Detroit to Pontiac," he said. "The kids, they think it's fun and games, so they really enjoy it." All of this, Khan said, eventually inspires some kids to enroll in aviation ground school, and high achievers eventually get actual flight training. Khan, 74, from Sterling Heights, is a pilot with about 40 years of private piloting experience. As a member of the Experimental Aircraft Association, he has also spent his retirement teaching young people about aviation through the EAA's Young Eagles program. According to the EAA, Khan has influenced the lives of more

than 300 kids in the program. The training — which takes place at the Coleman A. Young International Airport in Detroit — includes lectures, software simulations and a first flight in an actual airplane, where students may partially co-pilot. Khan said he has been involved with Young Eagles for approximately 15 years. When he retired from his career as a General Dynamics engineer six years ago, he started to devote even more time toward teaching aviation. "I just enjoy it," he said. "It's a lot of fun, especially when we see a success story like Nicolina (Buccilli). In less than one year, she went from her first flight as a Young Eagle to her first solo in a motorglider." Khan said he primarily teaches aviation to young people in Detroit — and not just through the Young Eagles program. He also teaches at Carver STEM Academy in Detroit, and he is affiliated with an aviation ground training program through the Tuskegee Airmen National Historical Museum in Detroit. Brian Smith, the president of the Tuskegee museum, said the museum has offered a program for the past 20 years, teaching young people to fly airplanes "with the intent of getting them to become commercial airline pilots." "We've had seven or eight young people flying around with United Airlines, Delta Airlines, the National Guard, Selfridge Air National Guard Base, FedEx — those are some of the graduates from our program," Smith said. "And Fazal is one of our newest ground school instructors. ... Not only does he do maintenance on aircraft, he assists with the maintenance and he teaches the ground school." Khan said he hopes to reach as many young people as possible and to show them that there is life beyond high school, including careers in the science and technology fields. Maybe it can guide them to become the next generation of pilots," he said.

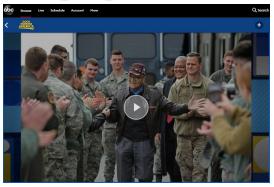
"There's a huge shortage coming up. We have already hit that shortage. There is going to be a real demand for pilots over the next 10 years. The pay has gone up." He said that, while not every student will remain interested or be able to handle flying, persistence tends to pay off. "I think, to put it in a phrase, we're trying to find those diamonds in the rough," he said. "When we started the class, there's 20 kids that start out, and we usually end up with about half of them ... finding that one or two or three or four in class that are really excited about flying." Find out more about the EAA Young Eagles by visiting www.youngeagles.org.



Khan stands in front of a trainer Cherokee 140. Photo by Deb Jacques



APPENINGS



VIDEO: Tuskegee airman celebrates 100th birthday with plane ride

To celebrate his birthday, the airman took to the skies once more to copilot a flight from Maryland to Delaware and back.

https://abc.com/shows/good-morning-america/video/mostrecent/vdka14945804

American Military News: AIR FORCE VIDEO: Tuskegee Airman flies again for 100th birthday

https://americanmilitarynews.com/2019/12/videotuskegee-airman-flies-again-for-100th-birthday/

One of the remaining members of the historic World War II flying unit, the Tuskegee Airmen, celebrated his 100th birthday on Friday with another flight. Retired Army Air Forces Col. Charles McGee flew in a private flight between Frederick, Md., and Dover Air Force Base in Delaware, the Associated Press reported. The flight came just



ahead of McGee's 100th birthday on Saturday. McGee served in the Tuskegee Airmen unit, which consisted of the first black aviators to fly for U.S. forces. The Tuskegee Airmen formed the 332nd Fighter Group and gained fame flying combat missions in World War II. The unit was known as the "Red Tails" for their red nose and rudder flaps. McGee is among the more celebrated pilots in the unit's history and he flew 409 combat missions over the span of three separate wars, including World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War. According to McGee's National Aviation Hall of Fame biography, he was born in Cleveland, Ohio on Dec. 7, 1919. His family moved around between Ohio, Florida, West Virginia, Illinois and Iowa, before McGee graduated from high school in Chicago. He went on to join the ROTC while attending the University of Chicago. There, he met his future wife, Frances Nelson. After the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor on his birthday, Dec. 7, 1941, the U.S. joined World War II. Soon after, McGee caught word of an effort to recruit black soldiers as airplane mechanics as part of an expected flight program. McGee joined the unit, applying for a pilot's slot and passing the examination required to earn the spot. He and Nelson were married on October 17, 1942. Two days later McGee received orders transferring him to Tuskegee Army Air Field in Alabama, the namesake location of the Tuskegee Airmen unit. By the start of 1944, McGee was sent to fly in the war effort, piloting P-39 Airacobras from a base near Naples, Italy. Through the war, McGee went on to fly in P-47 Thunderbolts and later in P-51 Mustangs. He flew fighter sorties and escorted bomber missions, and his unit's signature red tails earned both the respect of the white bomber crews they protected and the German Luftwaffe counterparts they faced. McGee ended World War II as a twin-engine instructor, but returned to fly P-51s in Korea, where he took on over 100 low-level bombing and strafing missions. He flew another 173 combat missions in Vietnam, before retiring in 1973, after more than 30 years of service. Since retiring, McGee helped establish the Tuskegee Airmen Association and has become a public speaker. He has also been recognized for a number of honors, including the National Aeronautics Association Elder Statesman of Aviation induction, the Air Force Association's Lifetime Achievement Award and the Congressional Gold Medal as a Tuskegee Airman. The U.S. Air Force recently honored the Tuskegee Airmen with the naming of their new T-7 Red Hawk trainer planes, alluding to the "Red Tails" unit nickname. With his 100th birthday in the books, McGee said he attributes his health and longevity to positive thinking.

SEMI-LOCAL HAPPENINGS



"A Glance Into History" Youth Benefit Luncheon

On 4 January, our own LtCol (Ret) Alexander Jefferson participated in a Meet-n-Greet at the Morgan University Center of Austin Peay State University in Clarksville, Tennessee. Please visit the Photo Album to view more photos of the event. There were just a tad over 100 people in attendance.









SEMI-LOCAL HAPPENINGS



A Visit to the Historic Fisk University

Please visit the <u>Photo Album</u> to view more photos of the event. Close to 100 people in attendance.













SEMI-LOCAL HAPPENINGS

A Visit to BB King's Blues Club Nashville

Please visit the <u>Photo Album</u> to view more photos of the event. This was an open establishment. Face-to-Face contact was made with about 30 people.













SOCIAL MEDIA

ClarksvilleNOW / Local / Lifestyle / I Am Invisible hosts Youth Benefit Luncheon

I Am Invisible hosts Youth Benefit Luncheon

By ClarksvilleNow.com January 6, 2020 5:22 am https://clarksvillenow.com/local/i-am-invisible-hosts-youth-benefit-luncheon/? fbclid=luAR1mYBKT0LfbwShNljDMz0ajO3SKddTuoYz5D9FTwlaykaX4j1H-ATeIO-g

CLARKSVILLE, Tenn. (CLARKSVILLENOW) – I Am Invisible Bullying & Suicide Youth brought a special guest to Clarksville Saturday as retired Lieutenant Colonel Alexander Jefferson, a WWII veteran, spoke at Austin Peay State University. The youth benefit luncheon was titled "A Glance into History" and Jefferson, who is 98 years old, shared his story of proudly serving his



country while facing repeated racism. Jefferson was a member of the historic and highly decorated Tuskegee Airmen. The famed group of African-American pilots flew P51 Mustangs in WWII with the 332nd "Red Tail" Fighter Group in the U.S. Army Air Corps. He was shot down over France during a mission in 1944 and parachuted to safety. He was quickly captured and spent nine months in a German POW camp until the end of the war. "Basically what we do is we like to bring awareness to bullying and suicide and also empower kids, teens, and young adults, to be who they were created to be," said Ellery Edward, husband of I Am Invisible's founder, Sharon Edwards. "To be themselves, to love themselves, and be true to themselves. Be you, love you and be true to you," said Edwards. To learn more about I Am Invisible Bullying & Suicide or to show your support, visit iminvisiblebullying.com.

Our friend, DOTA Fred Henry was here for a couple of days during the holidays. Here he is, all wrapped up in the blanket that was made for him. He said to tell everyone hello.





Our Correspondence Secretary, Carlotta Alonzo-Lumpkin, hosted some young ladies from Blessed Sacrament Church. They were given a short presentation about the history of the TAI.











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HELP KEEP REDTAIL ROLLING THROUGH PARTNER GIVING

To *Help Keep RedTail Rolling*, we have partnered with:

- Priceline Cares—simply go to https://www.priceline.com/partner/gives and PICK Detroit RedTail as your charity of choice and every time you book a hotel, cruise or car rental through Priceline, they will donate 1% of your purchase price to us.
- Amazon Smile—simply go to https://smile.amazon.com/ and establish Detroit RedTail as your charity of choice and every time you make a purchase through smile. Amazon. com they will donate .5% of your purchase price to us.
- Sticker Mule—when you use the <u>Stickermule link</u> on Detroit RedTails' web site to buy custom made stickers, you and Detroit RedTail will get a \$10 credit on a purchase.





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amazonsmile



OUR 2019 SEASON HAS ENDED

HELP KEEP US ROLLING INTO THE 2020 SEASON
Go to our website and make 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...

Rolling the Tuskegee Airmen into the American Car Culture



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



Please communicate all newsletter inclusions to: Eric Palmer HawksCrvII@Gmail.com

<u>MEMBERSHIP CORNER</u> **Bill Welborne** 313-204-2477

welborne313@gmail.com

k Us Out on Socia



Chapter Websites Detroit Chapter website TA National Museum website



DetroitChapterTAInc HawksCryll

SUBSCRIBE to Our YouTube Channels **DetroitRedTail**





NRD.GOV







Connecting Wounded Warriors, Service Members, Veterans, Their Families, and Caregivers with Those Who Support Them

LAUNCI NRD

The National Resource Directory (NRD) is a free service that links more than 14,000 resources to service members, Veterans and their families. The NRD was designed to specifically help those that are "wounded, ill and injured" find services that support recovery, rehabilitation, and community reintegration. The site was created through a partnership between the Department of Veterans Affairs, Department of Defense and the Department of Labor. The NRD provides centralized access to resource information from the government. It also includes resources from non-profit, professional, educational and military-service/Veteran organizations. All organizations are also vetted to ensure each resource is valid and accurate. Resource information includes: Benefits, Education, Employment and Training, Housing & Transportation.

ALL TEXT BELOW IS HYPERLINKED AND WILL TAKE YOU DIRECTLY TO THE WEBSITE...SIMPLY SELECT IT

BENEFITS & COMPENSATION

Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS)
DoD Benefits
Facility and Records Locator
Filing Claims & Appeals
Forms
Life Insurance
Social Security Benefits
States & Territories
Survivor & Burial Benefits
Unemployment Benefits

VA Benefits EDUCATION & TRAINING

Continuing Education, Career Paths, Apprenticeships & Credentials
Education Benefits & Programs
Facility & Records Locator
Scholarships & Other Financial Assistance
States & Territories
Support for Student Veterans

EMPLOYMENT

Resources for Employers & Veterans' Employment Service Providers

Specialized Support & Information for Wounded Warriors
States & Territories
Transitioning from the Military to a Civilian Career

FAMILY & CAREGIVER SUPPORT

Caregiver Support
Children & Youth
Counseling
Domestic Abuse & Sexual Assault
Facility & Records Locator
Family Support
Financial Information & Assistance
States & Territories
Survivors

HEALTH

Domestic Abuse Health Care Health Care Provider Resources Healthy Living
Medical, Psychological & Behavioral Health Conditions
Rehabilitation
Resiliency
Sexual Assault
States & Territories

HOMELESS ASSISTANCE

Emergency & Transitional Housing
Employment & Income Assistance
Facility and Records Locator
Health Care, Mental Health & Substance Abuse
Homeless Women Veterans
Legal Assistance & Credit Counseling
Non-Profit Programs
Research & Reports
Resources & Grants for Homeless Service Providers
States & Territories
VA & Other Government Programs

HOUSING

Accessible Housing
Building & Locating Houses
Facility and Records Locator
Military Housing & Relocation
Mortgages, Home Loans & Financial Assistance
Residential Rehabilitation Facilities
States & Territories
Temporary Housing

MILITARY ADAPTIVE SPORTS PROGRAM

MASP Resources
VA Adaptive Sports Grant Recipients

TRANSPORTATION & TRAVEL

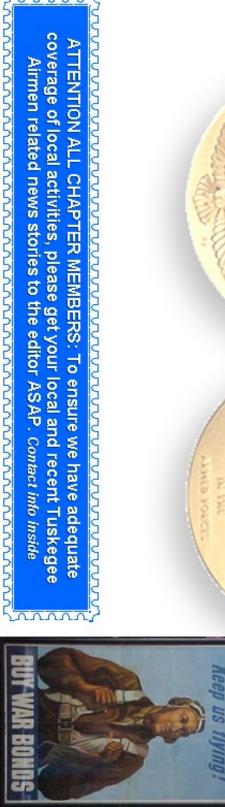
Facility and Records Locator
Military Travel Pay
Off-Duty Travel
States & Territories
Transportation Assistance & Public Transportation
Vehicle Modifications & Adaptive Equipment





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





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

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