



# EAST COAST CHAPTER Tuskegee Airmen, Inc.

*Enriched By Our Past  
Prepared for Our Future*

## Changing of the Guard: New ECCTAI Officers Take Oath



**ABOVE:** Pictured (left to right): Trent Dudley, Nefertiti Haywood, Dr. Ivan Ware, Yvonne McGee, Oliver Carter, Robin Alexander, and Brig. Gen. (Ret.) Leon Johnson.

TAI President, Leon Johnson, reads the officer's oath to newly selected ECCTAI chapter officers at the December 2010 general membership meeting. The officers and their new positions are as follows:

- President - Trent Dudley
- 2nd Vice President - Nefertiti Haywood
- Parliamentarian - Dr. Ivan Ware
- Board of Directors - Yvonne McGee and Oliver Carter
- Secretary - Robin Alexander

*Congratulations to all on your selection!*

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## GEN. NORTON SCHWARTZ RECEIVES HONORARY RED JACKET

**Gen. Norton Schwartz can help preserve history, accuracy of Tuskegee Airmen's legacy**

Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Norton Schwartz is now an honorary member of Tuskegee Airmen Inc. Schwartz slipped on the group's characteristic red jacket earlier this month, making him only the third chief of staff to be recognized by America's first black military pilots. The other honorees were Gen. Merrill McPeak and Gen. Ronald Fogleman.

The story of the Tuskegee Airmen of World War II is one that inspires. The pilots broke the Army Air Corps color barrier, manning the 332nd Fighter Group that flew sorties in the Mediterranean theater of operations. They proudly adopted the name of Tuskegee, Ala., the town in the heart of the segregated South where the airmen trained.

From 1941 to 1946, nearly 1,000 black airmen learned their skills in Tuskegee. About 445 went overseas, and 66 died in combat or accidents, according to the Air Force. They flew 15,553 sorties.

Now, as an honorary member of this distinguished group, Schwartz is in a position to help keep the record straight. These airmen struggled and sacrificed, fought Nazi Germany and came home to a racially divided America. They have never needed anyone to embellish their record of heroism in battling for freedom.

In a 1999 interview with me, retired Lt. Col. Lee Archer talked about coming home from shooting down German planes, marrying his sweetheart and boarding a train for his next assignment. Archer, who died this year at age 90, shared how he and his bride were refused service in the dining car. Later, the couple wanted to go into a Virginia restaurant until they saw a sign on display: "Due to our facilities we are unable to serve colored patrons."

For years, Tuskegee Airmen Inc. claimed no American bomber escorted by the 332nd group had been shot down by German fighters. Research by one of the association's members and by the Air Force Historical Center, though, showed as many as 25 bombers had been downed. The association no longer makes this claim.

Many of Archer's supporters call him an ace, a pilot credited with shooting down five enemy planes. But the Air Force and the American Fighter Aces Association credit Archer with four aerial victories. And in conversations with me over many years, Archer never claimed to be an ace. In fact, he was modest about his very real achievements.

Earlier this decade, the Eighth Air Force Museum in Savannah, Ga., erected a display honoring the Tuskegee Airmen. The Eighth was the largest military formation ever assembled, about 375,000 men in more than 50 combat groups who fought Nazi Germany and lost more men in combat during World War II than the Marine Corps. The display was touching and tasteful, but the Tuskegee Airmen were never part of the Eighth Air Force.

The challenge for Schwartz will be to encourage airmen to remember the service and sacrifice of the Tuskegee Airmen. In doing this, he should keep in mind that no one can take away from what these men accomplished — and no one should add to it, either.



James Pryde, an original Tuskegee Airman and former radio operator, congratulates Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Norton Schwartz after Tuskegee Airmen Inc. officials presented the general an honorary membership in the organization on Nov. 9, 2010, at the Pentagon. General Schwartz joins Gen. Merrill McPeak and Gen. Ronald Fogleman as the only Air Force chiefs of staff to be recognized with the honorary membership.

This article appeared originally in the Air Force Times on November 27, 2010, and was written by Robert F. Dorr. Photo provided by Scott M. Ash/U.S. Air Force.

AFTER MAKING HISTORY, LEFT BEHIND

When you see him around town, it is hard to distinguish Lee Hayes from the many retired black Long Island farm workers who came up from the South to find work, then toiled all their lives to keep their families fed.

You can find him most days at a local senior citizen center, where \$2.50 hot lunches stretch the Social Security check that accounts for most of his income. Sometimes, you can spot him in front of the down-at-the-heels home he shares with his daughter outside of East Hampton, where wild turkeys cut across his front yard.

Hayes, 88, has never had much. Over the years, he has picked potatoes on East End farms, hauled glistening slabs while working at an ice house, pushed mops at Brookhaven National Laboratory and sold life insurance. When an injury forced him to retire at nearly 80, he was still framing houses on construction crews.

But the soft-spoken, bespectacled man once was among the most skilled aviators in America.

Hayes, still hale despite years of physical work, is one of the famed Tuskegee Airmen — 996 black men who broke the military’s color bar when they were commissioned as pilots during and immediately after World War II.

Beginning in 1943, he apprenticed at airfields across the South, first winning certification as a bombardier before being sent to an experimental program for black aviation cadets at Tuskegee Army Air Field in Alabama. He won his certification as a bomber pilot in January 1946, five months after the war’s end.

“I got so good I could drop a bomb into a trash can from 1,000 feet,” said Hayes, who said he once persuaded a Tuskegee instructor to give him the controls when a stiff crosswind kept scuttling the instructor’s attempts to land.



Though he lived mostly in obscurity, Lee Hayes once was among America’s best. Newsday photo by J. Conrad Williams

But the arc of Hayes’ life, which in his childhood had been shaped by the Jim Crow South, would also be deflected by discrimination on Long Island.

Until he came to New York in 1930, when he was 8, he and his family had lived in a Virginia hamlet still strewn with the rubble of slavery. Hayes was born in Mannboro, Va., in 1922, just 57 years after and 50 miles east from where Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee’s surrender at Appomattox effectively ended the Civil War. Life had been strictly segregated as he was growing up.

“The school bus would go by with the white kids in it, and we would be walking,” said Hayes, who said heavy rains or winter storms would often force him to skip school altogether. “We would have to wade through streams and cut through the woods to get to school — it was five or six miles — and we would spend more time

walking than we would spend in class.”

When the sawmill where Hayes’ father worked closed during the Depression, an uncle who had moved to Long Island years earlier found his father work in an East Hampton dairy, and the family moved north.

In doing so, they joined what became known as the Great Migration of 1910-30, during which 2 million blacks fled poverty and racial discrimination in the South in search of opportunities in the North. Many of these black migrants boosted their prospects by honing technical skills in factories or in the military.

Interviewed at his home earlier this month, Hayes he thought the improved schooling he received on Long Island and his technical training as an Army pilot would propel him into America’s postwar middle class.



Lee Hayes, second from left on top row, in a photo taken around the end of World War II.

But although white World War II veterans typically were able to find good-paying work quickly on the Island, even after serving as an Army

## AFTER MAKING HISTORY, LEFT BEHIND (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3)

pilot Hayes found his life remained circumscribed by the color of his skin.

The fast-growing commercial airlines hired thousands of pilots in the decade after the war. But all of the Tuskegee pilots who applied — Hayes included — were turned away.

“After the war, we all put in applications with the airlines, but none of us got called,” said Hayes, who in the Army flew B-25s with the all-black 477th Bombardment Group. “I thought I had an advantage because I could really fly, that the airlines or some outfit would give me a job because I was good at it,” he added. “I was all over looking for work, but nobody would hire me.”

Blocked by discrimination from buying a house in East Hampton after his 1946 discharge, he bought a plot of land outside of town with \$300 saved from Army pay. When a bank refused him a construction loan, he deeded his property to a

lumber company as collateral, and with the help of relatives built the house he lives in today.



By 1948, he had married a Harlem woman, Marion Jones, who had come to Amagansett to work in a restaurant. He enrolled at what is now Farmingdale State College, hoping that a certificate in aircraft maintenance would improve his prospects with the airlines.

When it did not, he resigned himself to finding what work he could. He said he once was so disappointed over being passed over for promotions he felt he deserved at Brookhaven that he quit his janitor’s job after about five years. But he said he tried never to let disappointment over the lack of job opportunities get the better of him.

“You don’t have time to feel bitter,” Hayes said. “You just try to figure out what to do next. You can’t give up.”

He said he finds much to be positive about. He and his wife, who died in 1985, raised a daughter who went to college, and a son who opened a moving business. He once encountered a black airline pilot who, upon learning of Hayes’ background, credited the Tuskegee fliers with inspiring him to seek an aviation career.

“That made me feel real good,” Hayes said, “knowing that someone else had advanced because of the sacrifices we made.”

This article was written by Martin C. Evans and appeared in the March 28, 2011 edition of *Inside the Wire*; <http://mcevens82.wordpress.com/2011/03/28/after-making-history-left-behind/>.

## A TRIP DOWN MEMORY LANE: WILLIAM “BILL” BROADWATER



**LEFT:** Flight Officer William Broadwater of the 477th Bombardment Group is shown here preparing to take a spin on his “Indian” motorcycle with the Tuskegee Army Air Field barracks in the background (circa 1945).

This picture was provided as a courtesy of Black Wings (<http://www.blackwings.com>).

## TUSKEGEE AIRMEN ANNOUNCED AS AVIATION HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE

Tonight the National Aviation Hall of Fame (NAHF) revealed the names of the four individuals elected for enshrinement this July, along with the recipient of its 2011 Milton Caniff "Spirit of Flight" Award. The NAHF announcement took place at the Engineers Club of Dayton during a dinner hosted by Dayton-based Aviation Trail, Inc. (ATI) in celebration of the 107th Anniversary of the Wright Brothers first powered flight.

Each year, the NAHF Board of Nominations, a voting body comprised of over 130 air and space professionals nationwide, selects the handful of individuals to be recognized for their aviation achievements through enshrinement into the NAHF. Philip A. Roberts, President of the NAHF Board of Trustees, made the announcement.

The NAHF Class of 2011 is a diverse group of individuals representing a broad range of significant contributions to advancing aviation. The four being inducted at the NAHF 50th Annual Enshrinement Dinner & Ceremony in Dayton on Saturday, July 16, 2011 are:

- The late Capt. Iven Carl Kincheloe, Jr., USAF, a Korean War double ace and record setting Jet Age test pilot hailed as "The First Man in Space."
- Col. Charles Edward McGee, USAF (Ret), Tuskegee Airman and fighter pilot with 409 combat missions flown while serving in three wars.
- Harry Robertson, pilot, engineer, entrepreneur, and aviation safety pioneer recognized as "The Father of the Crashworthy Fuel System."
- The late Gen. Thomas D. White, USAF, Former Chief of Staff and key Cold War architect of integrating space technology into modern defense systems.

The formal enshrinement ceremony will take place in Dayton – The Birthplace of Aviation – on Saturday, July 16, 2011, where the four will join the 207 legends of flight previously so honored by the National Aviation Hall of Fame. Often referred to as "America's Oscar Night of Aviation," the NAHF enshrinement celebration in July will attract hundreds of industry leaders, government and defense officials, former enshrinees, and aviation enthusiasts from worldwide.

Additionally, the NAHF has annually bestowed its prestigious "Spirit of Flight" Award upon a group or organization in recognition of its achievement in advancing aviation. Founded in 1981, the award was re-named in 1988 to honor the late artist and longtime NAHF supporter, Milton Caniff, who died that year. The 2011

Milton Caniff "Spirit of Flight" Award recipient will be the US Navy Blue Angels Flight Demonstration Team, in recognition of the group's 65-year history of serving as a positive role models and goodwill ambassadors for the US Navy and Marine Corps. More than 460 million fans have witnessed the teams' spectacularly choreographed aerial performances since the group was formed in 1946.

The award will be presented to the Blue Angels at the NAHF President's Reception & Dinner held on Friday, July 15, 2011, at the NAHF Learning Center and the adjacent National Museum of the United States Air Force. With 2011 also marking the Centennial Anniversary of Naval Aviation, the award presentation will be followed by a blue-ribbon panel discussion featuring Navy leaders, aviators and astronauts whose careers and achievements span over 70 years of flight.

The NAHF is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization founded in Dayton in 1962 and chartered by the U.S. Congress in 1964. Its mission is to honor America's outstanding air and space pioneers, which it does through a 17,000 square-foot public Learning Center featuring interactive exhibits, a youth education program, its annual enshrinement ceremony, and other public outreach programs.

Advance reservations for the NAHF's 50th Annual Enshrinement Dinner & Ceremony on July 16, 2011, may be placed by calling 937-256-0944 ext.10. Seats are \$150 per person and a portion of each seat purchased is deductible as allowed by law. Seats to the 2011 President's Reception and Dinner are similarly available. For more information visit the NAHF website at [www.nationalaviation.org](http://www.nationalaviation.org) or call 937-256-0944 ext.10.



From *Air Force Magazine Online*, *Daily Report Newsletter* and *National Aviation Hall of Fame*; December 17, 2010;  
<http://www.nationalaviation.org/2010/12/nahf-reveals-names-of-class-of-2011-inductees-and-annual-sof-award-recipient-at-first-flight-celebration/>

# SAVE THE DATE!



**For more information contact:**  
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## ECCTAI AROUND TOWN: PIONEERS IN AVIATION



**LEFT:** (Pictured left to right): ECCTAI members Col (Ret.) C.D. Smith, Jerry Burton, DOTA Cicero Satterfield, and DOTA Dr. Ivan Ware.

**PHOTO VENUE:** Goldsboro Composite Squadron, Pitt-Greenville Composite Squadron, and Tar River Composite Squadron Civil Air Patrol group are pictured with ECCTAI members at the February 5, 2011 "Pioneers in Aviation" program at the National Air and Space Museum, Udvar-Hazy.

## 2011 TAI NATIONAL CONVENTION: WASHINGTON, DC

Planning for the 2011 Tuskegee Airmen, Inc. National Convention continues. We are entering the final stretch of the preparation phase of our planning and will soon begin execution phase. The various committees are working diligently to ensure the East Coast Chapter hosts an outstanding event for the organization. Refinements continue to be made to the Convention agenda and a final program will be released by the end of March 2011.

We are proud to announce that The Stafford Foundation is partnering with us as a Platinum Sponsor. This demonstrates their commitment to ensuring TAI can achieve its goals. We thank Mr. Earl Stafford, a member of ECCTAI, and his staff for their support. Sponsorship from several other organizations is also in negotiation. We will have several vendors, including ECCTAI, at the convention. Your support identifying sponsors and vendors would be greatly appreciated.

The sponsor and vendor packages are available on our website, [www.ecctai.org](http://www.ecctai.org), or call me at (703) 967-4463 to get a copy of the packages. Additionally, we need advertisers for our Journal. A special "Commemorative Journal" honoring the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the "Tuskegee Experience" will be available for purchase. The advertisement package is available upon request.

We continue to get organizations to partner with us. The new ones include:

- The National Museum of African American History and Culture
- Air and Space Museum
- Patriot Technology Training Center
- Air Safety Institute
- Aircraft Owners and Pilot Association
- George Mason University



If you know of an organization that we can work with please let the committee know. We want our community participating in this event.

I would like to thank Chapter members for their support during the planning the convention. A lot of great work has gone into the preparations thus far to ensure we host a world class event. There is great expectation that ECCTAI will set the benchmark for conventions at this event. With your assistance I have no doubt that we will make the organization proud of us. Please let me know if you have any questions or recommendations.

Clarence D. Smith, Jr.  
Colonel, USAF (Ret)  
Convention Planning Officer

EDUCATION ASSISTANCE

Tuskegee Airmen, Incorporated East Coast Chapter is a local volunteer organization of military and civilian professionals and enthusiasts who are dedicated to expanding the world of aviation and historical legacy of the Tuskegee Airmen to the local community.



All applications will be considered but applying students should have a grade point average (GPA) of three points (3.0) on a four-point scale. Completed applications must be returned on or before April 19, 2011 to:

Tuskegee Airmen Inc.  
TAI East Coast Chapter  
Post Office Box 8541  
Bolling Air Force Base  
Washington, D.C. 20032-8541

Each year, the Tuskegee Airmen Inc. assist financially disadvantaged deserving young men and women in pursuit of education, preferably leading to careers in the fields of aviation, aerospace, and science technology.

Applicants must be students who have graduated or will graduate from high school in the school year 2010-2011.

Educational Assistance Grant awardees may enroll in the institution of their choice. Upon completion of enrollment, the school registrar must send verification of enrollment and curriculum to the TAI East Coast Chapter. When the required verifications have been received, individual award payments will be made.

Submitted by Education Assistance Committee Chair, Philip Benjamin.

A MOMENT FILLED WITH EMOTION



**ABOVE:** DOTA Walter L. McCreary awashed in an emotional flush as he recounts the significance of a tribute long overdue from his country that he loved and served. He reflected that on 27 March 2007, the United States of America collectively honored the Tuskegee Airmen by awarding the group the Congressional Gold Medal, the highest civilian award bestowed by the federal legislature.

**PHOTO VENUE:** Second Baptist Church, 6626 Costner Drive, Fall Church, Virginia.

**EVENT:** Worship Service on 20 February 2011; The Voices of Inspiration in Concert; and, "Soaring Above the Boundaries," – with featured speakers from East Coast Chapter, Tuskegee Airmen, Inc.: Lt Colonel Oliver C. Carter and Documented Original Tuskegee Airman Lt Colonel Walter L. McCreary.

**RIGHT:** Only moments earlier, Walter was "in his element" free-wheeling thought-streams of his Tuskegee Airmen experience



## EXHIBIT FEATURES WORK OF TUSKEGEE AIRMEN TURNED ARTIST



**LEFT:** Pictured from left to right: Chaplain (Col) Raymond Hart, ECCTAI Past-president Byron Morris, ECCTAI Historian Chief Joe Hardy, Maj Gen Darren W. McDew, DOTA William E. Broadwater, Air Force Chief of Staff, General Norton Schwartz, Secretary of the Air Force, Michael Donley, ECCTAI Past-president Lt Col Oliver C. Carter, and Maj. Gen. Harold L. "Mitch" Mitchell.

Thanks to Oliver Carter for submitting this article. The original with photos is credited to Master Sgt. Amaani Lyle, Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs, 2/16/2011

In the 1930s, a teenage boy paid 50 cents for a "barnstormer" flight aboard a Ford Trimotor plane that carried him across the sky of rural Pine Bluff, Ark. That boy was Roy LaGrone, and the flight sparked his passion for aviation. Mr. LaGrone would go on to serve as one of the original Tuskegee Airmen and later became a prolific artist, helping tell the Air Force story on canvas for nearly 45 years.

In tribute, Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Norton Schwartz hosted a ceremony Feb. 15 here, in which the late artist's family, friends and colleagues, along with members of the art community, viewed several pieces of Mr. LaGrone's work. The ceremony was the second of its kind to take place at the Air Force art gallery on the Pentagon's top floor, following last year's opening of the Henri Farre exhibit.

During his remarks, General Schwartz related Mr. LaGrone's recollection of his pivotal barnstormer's flight: "He recalled, 'as soon as I got up there, I knew absolutely this is what I wanted to do.'"

General Schwartz said Mr. LaGrone joined many African Americans of his era in fighting on two fronts: against the axis overseas and against racial prejudice in the U.S. armed forces. "Roy is unique for both making history as a Tuskegee Airman and for dedicating his considerable artistic talents toward preserving the history of this great story for his fellow Airmen," General Schwartz said.

As World War II was raging, Mr. LaGrone's path first led him to Europe after he was drafted into the Army Air Corps as a sergeant. He later received an assignment back

to the Tuskegee's 318th Air Base Squadron in Alabama, where he was commissioned as a flight officer. Following his time in Tuskegee, Mr. LaGrone was transferred to Caserta, Italy, a locale he would later describe during a 1985 reunion as the only place in which he could "sit down in a restaurant and be treated like a customer."

After World War II, Mr. LaGrone studied art at the University of Florence in Italy before returning to the United States, where he was honorably discharged in 1946. Mr. LaGrone then studied fine art and drawing at the Pratt Institute in New York, jumpstarting a career that encompassed art direction, book jacket and album cover design and, in 1961, acceptance by the prestigious New York Society of Illustrators as an artist member.

Mr. LaGrone cherished his Tuskegee Airman roots and devoted himself to the organization's two-fold mission of preserving its heritage and inspiring youth to pursue careers in aviation, General Schwartz said.

"Roy's love of the Tuskegee Airmen inspired him to create the art that surrounds us today, and the Air Force Art Program offered him the means to produce this remarkable body of work," the general said. Russell Kirk, the Air Force Art Program director, said he too sees the program as a springboard for talented artists such as Mr. LaGrone.

"The Air Force has been telling its story, through the medium of artwork, for 61 years," Mr. Kirk said. "We've been very lucky to have a lot of artists donate their time and efforts to document our mission...walking a mile in Airmen's shoes and putting that experience to canvas."

EXHIBIT FEATURES WORK OF TUSKEGEE AIRMEN TURNED ARTIST (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9)

Mr. LaGrone's ability to capture the essence of the Tuskegee Airmen and the Air Force in his paintings is apparent to many of his fans, particularly those who knew him best. "It's a real tribute to us," said William Broadwater, the second national president of Tuskegee Airmen, Inc., and one of five documented original Tuskegee Airmen attendees. "The pictures are almost photographic they're so lifelike. We couldn't have any better honor in terms what he leaves behind for future generations."

As a past New York Society of Illustrators' Air Force art chairman, Mr. LaGrone donated considerable time and effort both traveling for and managing the program, General Schwartz said.

"The story of the Tuskegee Airmen is better known today because of Roy's magnificent artistic portrayals of his fellow Airmen and their exploits," the general said. "As one of the Airmen who learned to fly at Tuskegee 70 years ago, Roy was a national treasure, and now the artwork he left for us will remain for all time a national treasure as well."

Mr. LaGrone's grandson, Azul Amaral, said he knew well of his grandfather's desire to paint past and present black pilots for the Air Force art program.

"This was really his dream," said Mr. Amaral, who is an artist and photographer. "For him to have this event, to be buried in Arlington (National Cemetery), and to have these honors is amazing, mind-blowing and inspiring."

His first-born daughter said she remembers her father as an artistic humanitarian. "He was my greatest teacher," said Marilyn LaGrone-Amaral, who is also an artist. "He still guides me and has been instrumental in reminding me this is not an engine of financial gain. It's about the passion and the art -- his legacy is a testament to that."

William Davidson, the administrative assistant to the Secretary of the Air Force, also delivered remarks, and attendees included Secretary of the Air Force Michael Donley, Mr. LaGrone's widow Ester LaGrone, and their youngest daughter Tania LaGrone-Lewis. Mr. LaGrone died in 1993 at his home in Somerset, N.J. He was 72.



**LEFT:** FROM TUSKEGEE TO THE PENTAGON. MAJ GEN DANIEL-CHAPPIE-JAMES, JR.



**ABOVE:** TEST PILOT, COLONEL JAMES B RANDALL

**BELOW:** Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Norton Schwartz speaks at the unveiling of the Roy Lagrone art exhibit Feb. 15, 2011, at the Air Force Art Gallery in the Pentagon. (U.S. Air Force photo/Andy Morataya)

Art piece in background: CAPT FRED HUTCHINS, 332ND FIGHTER GROUP, 302ND FIGHTER SQUADRON, ITALY 1944



**RIGHT:** Tuskegee Airmen Byron Morris (left) and Chaplain (Col) Raymond Hart attend the Roy LaGrone art exhibit unveiled in the AF Art Gallery Feb. 15, 2011, at the Pentagon. Mr. LaGrone was a Tuskegee Airman before pursuing a career in art. (U.S. Air Force photo/Andy Morataya)



## ECCTAI LONELY EAGLES



PHILLIP W. BROOME

Mr. Phillip Wheeler Broome; Born: 30 May 1919, Bladensburg, Maryland (near the Peace Cross Area), Died: December 21, 2010, Cheverly, Maryland.

- May 1942 began his military service at Shaw Army Air Field (now Shaw AFB), Sumter, South Carolina. Mr. Broome did thirteen (13) weeks basic training at Shaw AAF.
- September 1942 was sent to Tuskegee Army Air Field (TAAF), Alabama, for his first duty station; as a member of the U.S. Army Air Corps. This was the start of his Tuskegee Experience. After some further technical training as an aircraft engine & air frame mechanic, at TAAF, he was put on the flight line to service & repair the Curtiss P-40 fighters, and other aircraft located at TAAF.
- 1943 transferred to Walterboro AAF, Walterboro, South Carolina, then he was transferred to Selfridge Field, Mount Clements, Michigan.
- 1944 transferred to Oscoda-Wurtsmith AAF, Oscoda, Michigan, near Lake Huron.
- 1944 transferred back to Walterboro AAF, South Carolina
- 1945 transferred to Dale Mabry AAF, Tallahassee, Florida, where he joined the Twentieth U. S. Army Air Force, and the \*1869<sup>th</sup> Engineer Aviation Battalion (Colored).
- June 1945 sent by troop train from Tallahassee, FL, to Puget Sound, Washington, where he boarded a

troop ship which steamed 26 days to the Island of Guam (Harmon AAF). He also served on the Islands of Saipan and Tinian (West AAF, Tinian).

- January 1946 he arrived back in the USA, and was soon after, discharged from U.S. Military Service.

Mr. Broome joined the Washington, DC Metropolitan Police Force in 1948 and served until February 1972, when he retired. He later joined the U. S. Secret Service and served from 1978 until 1982. Mr. Broome was a member of the *East Coast Chapter, Tuskegee Airmen, Inc.*, and lived in Landover, Maryland.

Source: "World War II Order of Battle", *Shelby L. Stanton, 1984*



CHARLES H. FLOWERS

Flowers died Jan. 28, 2011 from renal and heart failure at the age of 92... A graduate of North Carolina Central University, Flowers was one of the first black men to become a Tuskegee Airman through the Army Air Corps in 1941 and went on to become a flight instructor for other black pilots in 1942.

He moved to Glenarden in 1963, where he worked at the NASA Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt and retired in 1990 as a manager of employee relations. That same year he began mentoring young men through the Ebenezer United Methodist Mentoring Program. Boyd Poole, who currently heads the program, said that while adults usually take the children on field trips to museums in Washington, D.C., and

the Inner Harbor in Baltimore, Flowers once scheduled a field trip to a small Clinton airport, where they took flying lessons. "Our young students just don't forget stuff like that," Poole said.

Flowers was the first man in Prince George's County history to have a school named after him while he was still alive when the county Board of Education selected his name for Springdale's new high school, which opened in the fall of 2000. Principal Helena Nobles-Jones... described him as a stubborn, caring and compassionate man. "Mr. Flowers was a man of few words...His deeds spoke for him." Hayes H. Flowers Jr., Charles H. Flowers' nephew, said everyone's remarks described a man who was "quiet" and "unsung." "There's something that's expected of a Flowers man," Hayes H. Flowers Jr. said. "With him, as with all of us, excellence and achievement were understood. That's what you had to do. You were expected to give back to others."



DR. EMMET J. RICE

Emmett J. Rice, 91, a former World Bank official and member of the Federal Reserve Board of Governors, and the father of Susan E. Rice, the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, died March 10 at his home in Camas, Wash. He had congestive heart failure. Dr. Rice was a pioneering economist, banking official and authority on the monetary systems of developing countries who,

## ECCTAI LONELY EAGLES (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11)

in the early 1960s, spent two years in Nigeria helping establish that country's central banking system. In 1979, President Jimmy Carter tapped Dr. Rice for the Federal Reserve Board, the seven-member body that sets U.S. monetary policy and regulates the banking system. He was the second black member of the board, after Andrew F. Brimmer, who was appointed in 1966.

Susan Rice, in an interview Friday, credited her father with instilling in her "a strong sense of personal and social responsibility" that has guided her career. "He believed mightily in the power of the individual to determine his or her own destiny," she said.

Dr. Rice attended segregated schools before moving with his family to New York City in his teens. He graduated from the City College of New York in 1941 and received a master's degree in business administration from there a year later.

During World War II, he was an officer in the famed Tuskegee Airmen, a black unit in the Army Air Forces, serving primarily in managerial and accounting roles in the United States. In the late 1940s, while attending graduate school at Berkeley, Dr. Rice became the first black member of the Berkeley fire department. He spent a year in India on a Fulbright fellowship in the early 1950s and received his doctorate in economics in 1954.

*Matt Schudel, The Washington Post, March 13, 2011;*  
[http://www.washingtonpost.com/local/obituaries/emmett-j-rice-federal-reserve-governor-and-father-of-un-ambassador-dies-at-91/2011/03/11/ABKrzvS\\_story.html?wpisrc=emailtoafriend](http://www.washingtonpost.com/local/obituaries/emmett-j-rice-federal-reserve-governor-and-father-of-un-ambassador-dies-at-91/2011/03/11/ABKrzvS_story.html?wpisrc=emailtoafriend).



## CHARLES B. THOMPSON

On February 11, 2011, Lt. Col. Charles B. Thompson of Mitchellville, MD died after a long illness with COPD. Survivors include his devoted wife, Hortensia "Tencil"; two sons, Larry and Michael; two daughters, Renee Reese and Cynthia Ouzts; other relatives and very close friends to include his grandchildren, Trottie Mundy, Tom Hardin, Dr. Vernon Bond; Rev. Jim Pryde as well as members of the Reed Street and Johnson C. Smith Alumni Associations, East Coast Chapter of the Tuskegee Airmen and the Gamma Pi Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. We will honor Charles by keeping his request that there be no services.



## CHARLES B. THOMPSON

Hampton Earl Johnson was born in Harrisonburg, Virginia to the late Robert Earl and Mabel Curry Johnson. He was drafted into the United States Army in September 1942, and was assigned to the 89<sup>th</sup> Aviation Squadron at Smyrna Bomber Base near Nashville, Tennessee. Later, he was one of the first African-Americans assigned to the Air Base Engineering Unit at McDill Field in

Florida, where he was taught to lay out landing strips under wartime conditions. He was honorably discharged in 1946.

After the war, Hampton moved to New York City, where he worked for 25 years with Jon'ai Dress Designer. In 1969, he moved to Washington, DC upon his marriage to his high school sweetheart, the late Kathleen Warner Spencer Johnson. In the same year, he embarked on his 22-year career working with the United States Court of Appeals, where he was known as an enthusiastic and hard worker. Upon his retirement in 1991, Chief Judge Mikva fondly stated that Hamp was leaving a "big, big set of shoes behind."

Hampton was a longtime member of Plymouth Congregational United Church, and its April Calendar and Men's Clubs. He enjoyed also his affiliation with The Pittsburghers of D.C. Hampton enjoyed many things, including sports (his father was a member of the Olympic Track Team for 1920-1924), dancing, and jazz (oh was he a fan!). Until age 88 years, he faithfully tended his "paper route," making deliveries to the elderly residents of his apartment complex. For many years, Hampton was a member of the East Coast Chapter, Tuskegee Airmen. His many activities with the Airmen included speaking tours to local elementary and secondary schools during Black History Month. He really enjoyed telling students about life, as well as opportunities in the military. Until his late 80s, he traveled with the Tuskegee Airmen, including to the annual national meeting.

To read more information on our Lonely Eagles please visit the ECCTAI website. Many thanks to Diane Mohr, Byron Morris, and Oliver Carter for providing information on our Lonely Eagles.

TUSKEGEE AIRMEN MEMORIAL TRAIL (TAMT)

**I-75 in Kentucky is named Tuskegee Airmen Memorial Trail: Plans afoot to extend trail in other states**

Interstate 75 was dubbed the Tuskegee Airmen Memorial Trail on Friday afternoon during a dedication attended by state government leaders and others affiliated with the African-American airmen.



It was the second dedication for the Tuskegee Airmen Memorial Trail. A 23-mile stretch in Fayette County was dedicated in August 2007. Fayette County was chosen because the county is home to the state aviation museum and several of the Tuskegee Airmen were from Central Kentucky. But those working on the project felt the flyers who made history more than 60 years ago deserved more. Motorists entering Fayette County will see one of the Tuskegee Airmen Memorial Trail signs on I-75 South near Iron Works Pike.

On April 12, Gov. Steve Beshear signed On Friday, at the Thomas and King Leadership and Conference Center in Georgetown, Beshear assisted in unveiling an oversize version of the sign that will be placed in every county along the interstate. Still, Ron Spriggs, executive director of the Ron Spriggs Exhibit of Tuskegee Airmen Inc., who spearheaded the project four years ago, has even bigger plans.

"We're not going to be just satisfied with I-75 in Kentucky," Spriggs said. He said he wants to see the trail extended to Tennessee and Ohio. Eventually he would like the trail to run the entire length of I-75, from Miami, Fla., to Sault Ste. Marie, Mich. Kentucky was the first state to officially name a roadway honoring the Tuskegee Airmen, Spriggs said.

Since then, other cities such as Tuskegee, Ala., and Denver have named roads for the flyers. Spriggs said it's important

to remember the airmen while many of them are still alive. Most are in their late 80s or 90s. Spriggs also wants those who don't know about the Tuskegee Airmen to become motivated to do more research.

President Franklin D. Roosevelt authorized an "experimental program" to train African-Americans as military pilots at the Tuskegee Institute starting in 1941. The airmen went on to become one of the most decorated American air outfits of the war, overcoming not only attacks by enemy planes but racial discrimination "Tuskegee Airmen history is not black history," Spriggs said.

"Tuskegee Airmen history is American history. Beshear noted that it's appropriate that Kentucky has led the way in honoring the airmen. Eleven cadets in the original group of men were from Kentucky, he said. Noel Parrish, a white Army officer from Versailles, was the first commander of the base at Tuskegee, Ala., where the group trained.

State Sen. Kathy Stein and state Rep. Reginald Meeks, two of four legislators who Spriggs said were the "driving force" behind the project, attended Friday's dedication. The other two, Rep. Bob Damron and Sen. Tom Buford, were unable to attend. Beshear and the four legislators were given their own Tuskegee Airmen Memorial Trail signs. There will be two signs in each Kentucky county on I-75, except Fayette, which has five signs.

Frank Weaver, 84, of Louisville, is considered an original Tuskegee Airman. He said he was glad that so many steps had been taken to remember the men, but he said that wasn't on their minds years ago. "It was just something that had to be done," Weaver said. "It's an honor to serve the country and make it better for the young folks."



This article was written by Shawntaye Hopkins and appeared originally in the Kentucky Herald-Leader on July 16, 2010. Many thanks to ECCTAI Business Manager Ramon Gillead for submitting this article.

A MESSAGE FROM THE ECCTAI AMENITIES COMMITTEE

The ECCTAI Amenities Committee would like to remind members to please inform us when you hear of chapter members in need. This includes the sick and shut-in, those hospitalized and in rehab centers. We depend on news from you and will do our best to let our members know we are thinking of them. We send cards and flowers and can also call, or visit members if they care to receive visitors. Of course we need notice as soon as possible for members who join the Lonely Eagles. Please send the information to the chair person, Diane Mohr, at [dianemohr@yahoo.com](mailto:dianemohr@yahoo.com) or call 301-879-0407 or 301-879-0080. Your assistance in this effort is greatly appreciated.



NEW MEMBER ALERT!



**LEFT:** Newly minted ECCTAI members pose for a picture with president Trent Dudley after the February 2011 general membership meeting at the College Park Airport Museum.

LOOK AT THOSE RED COATS!

**BELOW:** ECCTAI members and DOTAs pictured during a visit with the Prince George’s County Historical Society. The group participated in interviews of Tuskegee Airmen living in the local area.



ANDREWS JOINT SHOW OPEN HOUSE

The annual Andrews Air Show and Joint Service Open House will be Saturday May 21 and Sunday May 22 this year. ECCTAI has submitted the request for a large booth, hopefully hot dogs! This event is one fundraiser for the Youth In Aviation Program. It's also a great way to socialize with ECCTAI members and meet some of the students we're helping.

If you haven't signed up to help yet, please contact Yvonne McGee (240-432-3121 or [ymcgee2@verizon.net](mailto:ymcgee2@verizon.net)). If you leave a message, please include the following information:

- 1) Your full name
- 2) Telephone number (in case your caller ID is blocked)
- 3) Email address
- 4) The day(s) you want to volunteer (9-5)
- 5) Your t-shirt size: small, medium, large, x-large, xx-large.



We won't know if we have a booth or what we'll be selling until later in April, but we'll need your commitment soon because they ask for a number count.

For more information on the events that weekend, check out [www.jsoh.org](http://www.jsoh.org)

Submitted by Youth In Aviation Committee Chair, Yvonne McGee.

2010 YOUTH IN AVIATION AWARDS



**ABOVE:** Youth in Aviation Program participants pose with TAI President, Brig. Gen. (Ret) Leon Johnson, and ECCTAI DOTAs after receiving their awards during the December 2010 general membership meeting, held at the Gaylord National Resort and Convention Center.

*Congratulations to all award recipients!*

YOUTH IN AVIATION: SHINING STARS

TAI will be publishing some of the chapters' aviation career bound students in this year's convention journal. ECCTAI had 11 to contact... at least 4 made the deadline.

Dennis E. Jackson II was among ECCTAI's first students to solo in the Youth in Aviation Program.. He was in our first group of students back in 1997. He's also the narrator of our "Who Are the Tuskegee Airmen?" video which many on the speakers' circuit still use to quickly explain to young people the history of the Tuskegee Airmen Experience. He also came back and spoke at one of our Fall Gala's to thank all for being the wind beneath his wings...along with his parents.



Captain Dennis E. Jackson, II graduated from Florida A&M University and was commissioned as a Distinguished Graduate from ROTC in 2002. He went on to attend Joint Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training (JSUPT) flying the T-6 Texan II at Moody AFB, GA, and the T-1A Jayhawk at Laughlin AFB, TX. After graduating SUPT in November 2003, Captain Jackson was selected to fly the KC-10A Extender at McGuire AFB, NJ, and graduated as a distinguish graduate from the KC-10A initial training course.

Currently Captain Jackson is an evaluator pilot in the C-21 (Learjet 35) out of Andrews AFB, MD. He is a graduate of Advanced Instrument School (AIS) and the Combat Aircrew Tactics School (CATS).

Captain Jackson is a combat veteran with almost 3,000 flight hours (including 600+ combat and combat support hours), 80+ combat and combat support missions, along with an Air Medal and Aerial Achievement Medal. Captain Jackson has traveled the world, flying missions to over five continents and over 35 countries, with six deployments to OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM, OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM, and OPERATION NEW DAWN. Capt Jackson has flown humanitarian relief efforts for the January 2010 earthquake that struck the island nation of Haiti. As an instructor in the C-21 Captain Jackson has safely transported countless top ranked military and US senior officials.



The other students who responded in time for the Shining Star submissions are:

- Vani Dewnandan – Air traffic controller
- Wayne Tonkin – A&P mechanic
- Marcel Trott – Howard AFROTC student majored in Physics and has received one of the coveted flight training spots. ECCTAI is invited to his commissioning ceremony on May 15, 2011. (See Taro Jones For more information regarding ceremony. Would like to see RED JACKETS there... the folks who helped get him on his way)

YIAP GROUND SCHOOL (LEVEL 2)

Ground school is scheduled to wrap up the 3<sup>rd</sup> Week of April. After that, it's up to the students to pass the FAA written exam in order to fly this summer. Good luck to the students and our fingers are crossed!



Many thanks to ECCTAI Youth In Aviation Committee Chair, Yvonne McGee, for submitting updates on our youth participants and events.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**“Evening with an Expert” Lecture Series: April 13, 2011**

Twice a year, the Fredericksburg Area Museum and Cultural Center hosts this series, “Take Our Stand: the African American Military Experience in the Age of Jim Crow”. Jerry Burton will be primary presenter. DOTAs and Members invited.

**Black Memorabilia Show: April 16-17, 2011**

ECCTAI has been invited to participate in the Black Memorabilia Show that occurs annually at the Montgomery County Fairgrounds. They would like to have ECCTAI set up an area. DOTAs and Members invited.

**WWII Honor Tour: April 29 - May 1, 2011**

WWII veterans will travel to Washington DC to see their WWII Memorial, plus much more! Tuskegee Airmen are requested to meet with group of WWII veterans at the WWII Memorial on Saturday, April 30th at 9:30am or at the Marriott Fairview Park Hotel in Falls Church, VA for breakfast. DOTAs invited.

**Arlington Career Center VA-821 Air Force Junior ROTC Corps of Cadets Awards Night: May 6, 2011**

The awards ceremony will commence at 1830 hours. The ceremony will be preceded by an Open House and Reception sponsored by the cadets of the VA-821 squadron and will conclude at 1930 with a formal outdoor retreat ceremony. DOTAs invited.

**Professional Development Speaker Series: May 20, 2011**

The Director J4, (Joint Staff Logistics Directorate), Lt Gen Gainey conducts monthly professional development speaker series. The audience will be senior Joint Staff Military and Civilians. They are requesting a DOTA.

**Career Day at Leckie Elementary School: May 24, 2011**

ECCTAI will be set up in the school's library and students in grades 4 - 6 will come to you. Each session will be twenty minutes each. DOTAs and Members invited. Location address is 4201 Martin Luther King Avenue, SW Washington, DC. 20032.

**St. Mary's Juneteenth Celebration: June 18, 2011**

Annual St. Mary's County Juneteenth Celebration. Location will be the same as previous years and more info will be published as the date gets close. DOTAs and Members invited.

For more information on any of the events listed or to volunteer for an event, please contact Jerry Burton at [hawknati@hotmail.com](mailto:hawknati@hotmail.com) or (703) 753 - 2626.

It is my pleasure to bring you the Spring 2011 edition of the ECCTAI Newsletter. I hope you've enjoyed reading this edition and that it has sparked your thoughts about what you'd like to see in the Summer 2011 edition, to be delivered in July 2011. Thank you to all who submitted content for this edition of the newsletter. To submit articles or content for the ECCTAI Newsletter, please contact Shannon N. Smith at [communications@ecctai.com](mailto:communications@ecctai.com). The deadline for the next edition of the ECCTAI Newsletter is June 15, 2011. Additionally, to submit content for the ECCTAI website, please contact [webmaster@ecctai.com](mailto:webmaster@ecctai.com).

**Calendar of Events****April 13, 2011**

Fredericksburg Area Museum & Cultural Center  
Fredericksburg, VA

**April 16-17, 2011**

Black Memorabilia Show  
Montgomery County Fairgrounds, MD

**April 24, 2011**

Easter Day

**April 29 - May 2, 2011**

WWII Honor Tour  
Washington, DC and Tysons Corner, VA

**May 6, 2011**

Arlington Career Center VA-821 Awards Night  
Arlington, VA; 1730 - 1930

**May 8, 2011**

Mother's Day

**May 14, 2011**

ECCTAI General Body Meeting  
College Park Airport Museum, MD; 1200

**May 20, 2011**

J4 Professional Development Series  
Pentagon

**May 24, 2011**

Leckie Elementary School Career Day  
SW Washington, DC; 0930 - 1300

**May 30, 2011**

Memorial Day

**June 11, 2011**

ECCTAI General Body Meeting  
College Park Airport Museum, MD; 1200

**June 18, 2011**

St. Mary's County Juneteenth Celebration  
St. Mary's County, MD

# About ECCTAI, Inc.



The East Coast Chapter of Tuskegee Airmen, Inc. (ECCTAI) is the largest and the most active chapter in the national organization. The chapter has approximately 180 members with diverse backgrounds that include active duty and retired military, civil servants, and private citizens from all walks of life. More than 50 Chapter members are Documented Original Tuskegee Airmen,

combat veterans of World War II who received their military training at Tuskegee, Alabama.

ECCTAI supports the national goal of Tuskegee Airmen, Inc., to motivate, inspire and stimulate young people's minds to aspire to, seek and achieve successful careers in the fields of aviation and aerospace. To this end, ECCTAI members devote considerable time, effort and financial resources to capture young minds, to instill the undying will to learn, sacrifice and attain a self-sustaining status with marketable skills. Each year ECCTAI provides more than \$15,000 in Education Assistance grants.

It is the mission of the East Coast Chapter of Tuskegee Airmen, Inc. to bring together, in a spirit of friendship and goodwill, all persons who share in the aspirations and successes of the men and women who pioneered in military aviation and in the Tuskegee Experience. We are dedicated to fostering recognition of, and preserving the history of, Black achievements in aviation, and to inspiring and motivating young men and women toward endeavors in aviation and aerospace careers.

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## **East Coast Chapter, Tuskegee Airmen, Inc.**

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