

NEWSLETTER OF THE DETROIT CHAPTER OF
THE TUSKEGEE AIRMEN INCORPORATED

MAY
2011



Hawk's



Cry II

IN THIS ISSUE:

- > Presidents' Page
- > Local Happenings
- > Lonely Eagles
- > Thunder Over Michigan
- > Young Eagles Schedule

TAIDETNewsletter@SBCGlobal.Net



*Spirit of
Tuskegee*

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This summer the Matthew Ouy and his wife will fly cross country, stopping in Tuskegee, before landing in Washington, where the plane will be transferred to the Smithsonian during the Tuskegee Airmen's annual convention. Credit: Jim Wilson/The New York Times

THE PRESIDENTS' PAGE



THE NEXT TWO CHAPTER MEETINGS

Thursday, 12 May 2011

And 9 June 2011 @ 1900 hours (7:00 p.m.)

At the Museum Hangar at

Coleman A. Young International Airport (Formerly Detroit City Airport)
at 11499 Conner, Detroit, Michigan

**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

- Reserved seats for ALL DOTA's will be set up at all future meetings as a matter of respect for our legendary original leaders.
- If you are still receiving e-mails from James Edwards e-mail address, CAPCHOICE@AOL.COM label it as SPAM the next time you receive some, to keep from receiving it in your inbox. The election for 2011 offices will be held in June and announced in July. Anyone interested in running for office must make it know as soon as possible.
- On-Line registration is now available at www.ecctai.org for the 40th Annual TAI National Convention, 3-7 August 2011 at the Gaylord National Hotel & Convention Center in National Harbor, MD. Be prepared to make payment at the end of the registration process. On-Line access to reserve your room at the Gaylord National is also available at the East Coast Chapter site.
- Please continue to remind all DOTA's to bring their BIO's to the chapter meeting so we can forward them to the Central Regional Office.
- Condolences go out to Chapter Member Charles Bailey for the loss of his wife, Deborah.
- The Tuskegee Airmen will be recognized by the Detroit Tigers for their Unselfish Act of Heroism with Dedication to the United States Armed Forces before the Memorial Day Game, Monday, 30 May 2011. The DOTA's will need to form with the other military members at the Adams Street Ramp, near Gate C, no later than 12:15 pm. Family and Friends will be able to watch the Pre-Game Ceremony from inside the ballpark, but **MUST HAVE TICKETS**, to re-enter the ballpark for the actual game (No Exceptions). Free tickets will be made available to currently financial chapter members during Thursday's chapter meeting. Most likely, the honorees and guest will be escorted from the field and back up the ramp to Adams Street and have to enter at one of the gates. The following Major League Baseball rules apply:
 1. NO AUTOGRAPH SIGNING ON THE FIELD.
 2. GUESTS MUST REFRAIN FROM INITIATING CONVERSATION WITH UNIFORMED PERSONNEL.
 3. NO ONE ALLOWED TO HANDLE ANY EQUIPMENT BELONGING TO THE TIGERS ORGANIZATION.
 4. LARGE BAGS MEASURING OVER 16X16X8" ARE NOT ALLOWED INTO THE BALLPARK.
 5. ALL BAGS INCLUDING PURSES AND DIAPER BAGS MAY BE SEARCHED BEFORE ENTERING THE BALLPARK.
 6. ONLY VETERANS WILL BE ALLOWED TO WALK ON THE FIELD DURING PRE-GAME CEREMONY. (NO SPOUSES/CHILDREN)
- RSVP for the Michigan Aviation Hall of Fame Ceremony and Dinner can still be made. See Page 3. This year, the Tuskegee Airmen will be given the "Spirit of Flight Award." Economic transportation arrangements are being discussed. One (1) 12-15 Passenger van will be made available through General Motors's Vehicle Advocate Program. A second van is being pursued from another source.
- This Thursday's Chapter Meeting will be at the Museum's Hangar at the Coleman A. Young International Airport. We will be taking chapter pictures, so make sure you wear your Blue Chapter Blazer. Also call others to remind them to wear their blazers.

Miguel Thornton
Acting President
Detroit Chapter
Tuskegee Airmen, Inc.

The Hawk's Cry II



RSVP Michigan Aviation Hall of Fame Ceremony and Dinner

Saturday, May 21, 2011

Air Zoo

6 p.m. cash bar

6:30 p.m. dinner and ceremony

Business attire is suggested. For more information or to RSVP by phone, please call 269.350.2813.

Names of attendees:

1. _____ 2. _____
 3. _____ 4. _____
 5. _____ 6. _____
 7. _____ 8. _____

\$60 per person x _____ = Total \$ _____
(Number attending)

Form of payment: Cash Credit card Check (Payable to Air Zoo-MAHF)
(Please circle)

Credit card: Visa MasterCard Discover American Express
(Please circle)

Name on card: _____

Credit card no.: _____ Expiration date: _____

Phone no.: _____ Zip code: _____

Please indicate number of entrée choices:

____ Chicken ____ Beef ____ Salmon ____ Vegetarian

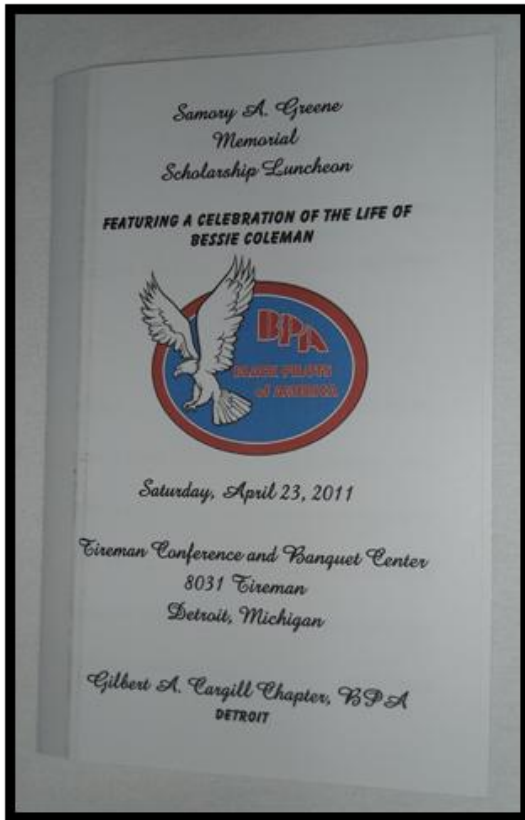
Please note special dietary needs: _____

Please return form by May 16 to: Air Zoo

**Attn: MAHF
6151 Portage Rd.
Portage, MI 49002**



LOCAL HAPPENINGS



Ida Coleman-Estelle accepts BPA recognition for her brother, DOTA William Coleman



Art Green accepts BPA recognition for his uncle, Past President James Edwards



During their Samuel A Green Memorial Scholarship Luncheon, the Gilbert A Cargill Chapter of the **Black Pilots of America** recognized the lives of **DOTA William Coleman** and Past Detroit Chapter President **James Edwards** whilst celebrating the life of historic black aviator Bessie Coleman.



Black Pilots of America & Detroit Chapter Tuskegee Airmen Bessie Coleman Flyover



The Hawk's Cry II



BRING YOUR ENTIRE CREW

THERE'S SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE TO ENJOY.



Thunder over MICHIGAN AIR SHOW



THE UNITED STATES NAVY BLUE ANGELS

JULY 23-24, 2011

WILLOW RUN AIRPORT
YPSILANTI, MI



The Hawk's Cry II

SHOW SCHEDULE

- 9:00 - Air Show Grounds Open
- 9:00 - Grandstands, Bomber Club, Fighter Club and Officers Club Open
- 10:30 - Beer Gardens Open (Saturday)
- 10:30 - 11:00 - WWII European Air & Ground Battle Reenactment
- 12:00 - Beer Gardens Open (Sunday)
- 12:00 - 4:00 - Air Show!

Featuring:

- U.S. Navy Blue Angels
- WWII & Vietnam Aerial Dog Fights
- F-16C Viper Demo
- WWII Pacific Air & Ground Battle Reenactment
- Warbird Aerobatics
- Modern Military Flybys
- And much more to be announced!

5:00 - Air Show Grounds Close



KIDS 15 & UNDER ARE FREE!

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT

WWW.YANKEEAIRMUSEUM.ORG WWW.YANKEEAIRMUSEUM.ORG



6



Harry Stewart (left) and Robert Friend at the Red Tail Reunion in Orlando, Florida in March 2011. Stewart shot down three (3) German fighter planes in one day and later won a much coveted "Top Gun" contest. More than 60 years ago, he went to Friend's house for dinner, and as he puts it, "Dinner was so much fun, I married his sister." (Bruce W. Talamon)

Tuskegee Airmen: 'Rock Stars' Of American History

by Karen Grigsby Bates
April 11, 2011

Harry Stewart looks around the slowly filling ballroom in an Orlando, Fla., hotel and brightens. "I haven't seen some of these guys in over 66 years," he says. "Some I haven't seen since I entered the service, and others since I left at the end of the war. This is very exciting." The war Stewart is referring to is World War II, when the Army was still segregated. Stewart is part of a reunion of Red Tail pilots, members of the 332nd Fighter Group. They're part of the Tuskegee Airmen, an organization composed of World War II fliers and the thousands of peo-

ple on the ground who made their missions possible. The event's organizer, Leo Gray, says he realized earlier this year that time was zipping by. One of their members, Lee Archer, considered by some to be the country's only World War II black ace pilot (his plane was emblazoned with five swastikas, one for each German plane downed), died last year. Gray wanted to bring the remaining pilots together again. "Nothing official," he explained. "I wanted this to be social, to give the guys plenty of time to spend with each other, because you never know what's going to happen, or when somebody's going to go next." It's a pretty safe guess that "next" may not be too far off: The youngest Red Tail pilot is 86, the oldest 96. Many are infirm and unable to travel. Others could only come with the assistance of younger family members. But about a dozen ended up drinking a little, laughing a lot and sharing war stories.

Tales Of The Red Tails

Alexander Jefferson, a small, trim man with a silver mustache, told of being shot down on Aug. 12, 1944. He was strafing German radar stations when his plane was hit. He lost consciousness after the crash, and awakened to a German pointing a gun at him and shouting, "Naeger! Naeger!" "I thought, 'Oh, crap — even in Germany!' " Jefferson laughed, shaking his head. "But it turned out he wasn't saying the other word — that was their word for negro." In fact, the German soldier's commanding officer saluted Jefferson when he took the pilot into custody. "I was treated like an officer the whole time I spent in POW camp," Jefferson said. Jefferson was poring over photos with Hiram Mann, an ebullient octogenarian whose impish personality earned him the nickname "Gremlin." Mann said that when he entered the service, he was "a little older than some of the other guys." "I was 21 and married," he said. He was reporting back to base to fly an important mission when he was grounded by the base flight surgeon, who thought Mann and his buddies hadn't spent enough downtime before their next flight. Mann's plane, Boss Lady (his affectionate nickname for his wife), was assigned to another pilot — who didn't make it back. "I often think about it," Mann said. "And I think, 'There but for the grace of God go I.' But he could have been in a different space than I would have been, I don't know." The date for the gathering, March 24, was chosen to coincide with the 66th anniversary of the Mission to Berlin, the longest nonstop mission in the European theater. The Red Tails took off from their base at Ramitelli, Italy, and accompanied a group of bombers to Berlin, where they destroyed the Daimler Benz tank assembly plant. They returned covered in glory and citations — until they got back to the States. *"Coming back on the boat," Jefferson recalled, "got to New York Harbor, the flags waving, the Statue of Liberty. Walked down the gangplank, and a little soldier at the bottom said, 'Whites to the right, niggers to the left.'*" Welcome home.

The Tuskegee Air-Red Tails, would be excellence in the decades. Robert he flew 63 1/2 war. What would have

332ND RED TAIL PILOTS

Mission to Berlin 66th Anniversary

FIGHTER GROUP REUNION MARCH 23-25 2011

men, and especially the held up as examples of black community for Martin likes to say missions during the been his 64th ended

when he was shot down over then-Yugoslavia. His daughter Noelle said that growing up, she sometimes had to sit on herself to not brag about her father. "I always wanted to say: There's my dad, and he's a Tuskegee Airman," she said. Leo Gray's daughter, Kathy Bryant, said she'd think about her father when she was being racially harassed in her workplace and say to herself, "What he did was harder. If he can do it, you can do it." But they were off much of America's radar screen. Say "war hero," and the visual that came to mind was automatically white. Many of the airmen became involved in the country's civil rights movement, fighting what historians now call a second front. "We fought fascism and Nazism, and won," said one of the airmen firmly.

"Then we had to come home and fight racism. And we were going to win that, too." They did. The Red Tails' stellar war records demolished the canard that blacks weren't intelligent or coordinated enough to operate airplanes. It forever erased doubts about black pilots' patriotism and bravery. And, said Col. George Hardy, when the Air Force became a separate branch of service after the war, "a lot of officers that had been in the Army Air Force were now in important positions in the Air Force, and they remembered what they'd seen." The Air Force commissioned a study on integrating the branch in November 1947, and in April 1948, the Air Force announced it would integrate — this was before President Harry Truman signed Executive Order 9981, desegregating the armed forces. It was no



From left, Leo Gray, Thurston Gaines, John Lyles and William E. Rice stand in front of a P-51C Mustang. Gray organized the reunion, bringing together men who had not seen each other for more than 60 years. "The youngest one of us is, what 85?, 86? He said. "So I wanted to do this before another one of us died" (Bruce W Talamon)

small feat. And eventually, the Red Tails received accolades from beyond the black community: In 2007, President George W. Bush (the son of George H.W. Bush, a World War II fighter pilot) presented them with the Congressional Gold Medal in the Capitol Rotunda. At the conclusion of his welcome, Bush told the airmen that he'd like to offer a gesture, a symbol "to help atone for all the unreturned salutes and unforgivable indignities" they had endured over the years. "So on behalf of the office I hold and a country that honors you, I salute you," he said. They saluted back. Their heightened profile has made them rock stars. At their hotel, the Red Tails couldn't finish meals without being interrupted and asked to sign autographs. Eager parents pushed shy children toward them, asking if they'd take a picture. "You don't get this now," one mother told her reluctant 4-year-old, "but you'll be glad you have this later on. This is history, honey." Navy men and women meeting in the Red Tails' hotel asked if they'd speak to their group and take a few photos. The lines went through the lobby as men and women in uniform — and several retired military — waited patiently to have their picture taken with the pilots. Looking on, Capt. Art Pruitt smiled. "It's funny, we were just watching everybody taking pictures of them — it's like the paparazzi: These guys are rock stars. And to be able to honor them this way, it's just an honor and a privilege." Visit <http://www.npr.org/2011/04/11/135177510/tuskegee-airmen-rock-stars-of-american-history> to listen to their stories.



Mural Art Project during the Detroit Chapter Tuskegee Airmen 30th Annual Careers Week

By Jacqueline Withers

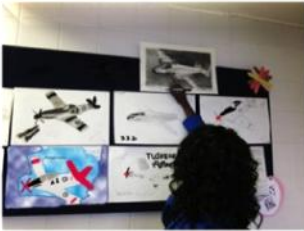


Telling the story before she starts is Jacqueline Withers...



...by Teacher Sarah Slobdzian

The Hawk's Cry II



Young Eagles Rallying Again

THE TUSKEGEE AIRMEN Invite You to Experience Flight

Free Airplane Rides to Kids 8yrs. To 17yrs.

Join Our Young Eagles

**Coleman A. Young Municipal Airport
(Detroit City Airport)**

Main Terminal / Tower Side

2011 YOUNG EAGLES FLYING DATES

10:00 AM to 2:00 PM

APRIL	10TH
MAY	15TH
JUNE	12TH
JULY	10TH
AUGUST	14TH
SEPTEMBER	11TH
OCTOBER	9TH



APRIL'S RALLY



The Hawk's Cry II



Matthew Quy, a captain in the Air Force, had long coveted a vintage Stearman biplane. He and his wife purchased a damaged one on eBay in 2005 and restored it. A records check confirmed that the plane was one of the few surviving planes that were used to train the Tuskegee Airmen, the pioneering, all-black corps that served in the Army during World War II. Credit: Jim Wilson/The New York Times



The Quys have agreed to turn over the plane to the Smithsonian Institution's new National Museum of African American History and Culture, which is scheduled to open on the National Mall in 2015. Credit: Jim Wilson/The New York Times



Captain Quy, center, and his wife, Tina, with retired Lt. Col. James C. Warren, 87, who was a navigator in the all-black 477th Bombardment Group. Credit: Jim Wilson/The New York Times



When the Quys learned about the plane's history, they decided to name it Spirit of Tuskegee and fly it to air shows where they could teach people about the airmen. Credit: Jim Wilson/The New York Times



Colonel Warren trained at Tuskegee after high school but did not make the cut to be a pilot. After a long career — he served as a navigator on 173 combat missions in Korea and Vietnam, he said — he retired in 1979. Last September he finally got his pilot's license. He now keeps a plane at an airport near his home in Vacaville, Calif., and flies regularly. Credit: Jim Wilson/The New York Times

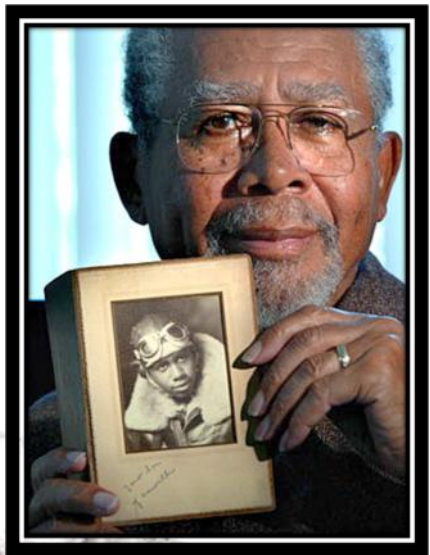


The cargo bay door on the Stearman has been autographed by a number of Tuskegee airmen. Credit: Jim Wilson/The New York Times

Member of famous Tuskegee Airmen of WWII dies in Sarasota

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
First Posted: April 18, 2011 - 4:00 am
Last Updated: April 18, 2011 - 4:00 am

SARASOTA, Fla. — A former member of the famous Tuskegee Airmen has died in Sarasota. **Yenwith Whitney** was 86 when he died Tuesday. The Tuskegee Airmen were America's first black fighter pilot group in World War II. One of his daughters, Dr. Saundra Curry, says her father never boasted about the historic nature of his military service. But, she added, "we were aware of it and we were proud of it." Whitney enlisted in the Army Air Corps in 1943 at age 18. His primary role as a pilot in the 332nd Fighter Group was to guide bombers from Italy to targets in Germany. Dr. Dr. Yenwith Whitney, 86, of Sarasota, Fla., died on Tuesday, April 12, 2011, after a long illness. In 1943 he became a member of the 301st fighter squadron. He served as a fighter pilot in Europe during WWII as a member of the elite Tuskegee Airmen. After the war he graduated from MIT on the GI Bill and worked for a time in aeronautical engineering. He later joined the Board of Foreign Missions of the Presbyterian Church and began a life of service to the church. He served in Cameroon, West Africa as a teacher of math and physics for 10 years. Upon returning to the USA, he became a lay church executive for the Presbyterian Church. He earned a Doctorate in Education from Columbia University and briefly served as principal of the Boggs Academy of Keyville, Ga. He continued his church service as Liaison with Africa and later as Associate for Southern Africa. He retired in 1992 and he and his wife moved to Sarasota, Fla. in 1998. He was a member of the Boule. He worked with MIT and its alumni association in their recruitment efforts. He also worked with the Tuskegee Airmen Association giving talks to many groups about his wartime experiences. He is survived by his daughters, Dr. Saundra Curry and Karen Whitney; stepson, Earl Tucker; son-in-law, Donald Curry; grandson, Peter Curry; sister, Ada (Alvin) Robinson of Chattanooga; many nieces and nephews. A funeral for Whitney is set for Monday. His family asks that donations be made in his name to the United Negro College Fund.



Dr. Yenwith Whitney, 80, holds a picture of himself from 1943 when he started primary flight training as a member of the 44F Tuskegee Airmen, a branch of the U.S. Army Air Force. Whitney gave this picture to his parents; the faded inscription at the bottom reads Your Son Yenwith.



Yenwith Whitney poses with members of his squad, who called themselves the Lucky Seven. They were part of 44F Tuskegee Airmen. Whitney, who flew a single-engine fighter plane, was the youngest in his class at the age of 18. Whitney is pictured at top, second from right

Federal Benefits for Veterans, Dependents and Survivors

2009 Edition

Phone Numbers

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

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

Web Sites

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

Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Program

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

The Hawk's Cry II

EDITOR'S CORNER

Original Tuskegee Airmen Signed Certificates of Appreciation

Refreshed with new background and now with the signatures of 12 Detroit Chapter DOTA's.

The certificates come in six (6) different ribbon color combinations;

- Yellow text on Black background
- Black on Yellow
- Yellow on Red
- Red on Yellow
- Yellow on Blue
- Blue on Yellow
- Green on White and
- White on Green

Inquire with TAIDETNewsletter@SBCGlobal.net to get you electronic version.



Please communicate all newsletter inclusions to:

Eric Palmer

TAI-Detroit Chapter Newsletter Editor
4131 Miracles Boulevard
Detroit, Michigan 48201

or call 313-683-1520 or e-mail the editor at

TAIDetNewsletter@SBCGlobal.net

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The Membership Chair is still in transition

Membership checks should still be sent to

Eric Love

3785 Embarcadero

Waterford, Michigan 48239

(248-709-3748)

Membership **INQUIRIES** should be emailed to

Condor1L@Yahoo.Com

The Hawk's Cry II

