



CAF RISE ABOVE®

Inspiring young people to RISE ABOVE adversity using the lessons and stories of the Tuskegee Airmen and the Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASP).

April 2023

Things are getting rolling for the 2023 season. We just finished our first airshow appearance at the Defenders of Liberty Airshow at Barksdale AFB in Shreveport, Louisiana and it was a great one! There is a lot to report.

Starting with our new tour director Chris Allen. This was Chris's first outing on the road and it looked to me like he had a great time drinking from the fire hose. You will learn more about Chris later in this newsletter, but we are really excited to have him on board.

Our volunteers for the week were the Carothers Family. Carri, Alex, and their son Gabriel are wonderful people from Albuquerque, New Mexico. Alex is a retired USAF C-130 pilot who runs an aviation program for a high school. Carri was a school teacher, and their son Gabriel is a high school senior who just completed his Private Pilot certificate. They are long time volunteers and Alex Carothers was our Volunteer of the year last year.

Being designated Volunteer of the year entitles Alex to a ride the Mustang. Alex chose to pass his ride on to Gabriel. Gabriel loved his ride, and while we were flying, he and I conspired to cut his ride a little short so we could take his dad flying as well. How amazingly generous of both of them!

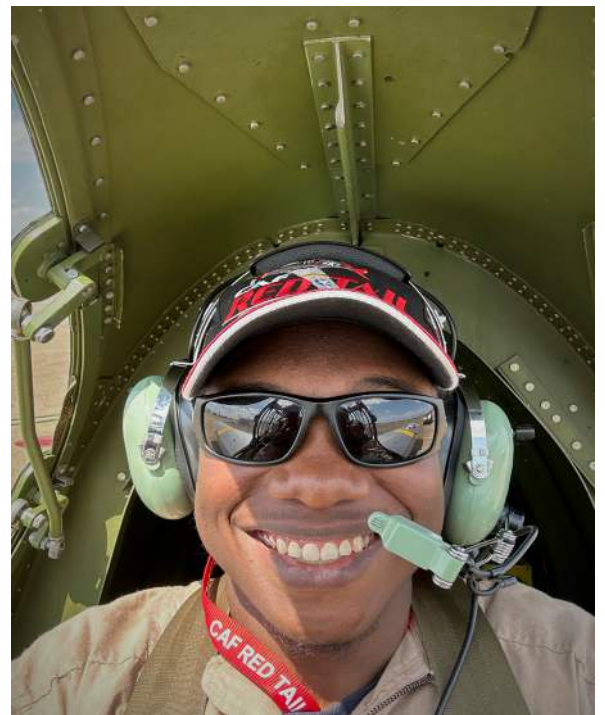
Earlier in the Week Don and Chris, along with help from the Carothers's set up at a local high school and had a great turn out. On Thursday they moved to the airshow ramp for what was going to be the Air Force Family Day airshow. Sadly, Mother Nature had a different plan and the Friday show was a washout, but that cleared the air for perfect weather Saturday and Sunday.

We performed in the Mustang both days to capacity crowds. On Saturday, they parking lots were filled and they closed the gates before the airshow even began. It was a huge success for everyone.

It was extra special for me personally because the USAF F-22 demo was performed by Sam "Razz" Larson from Davenport, Iowa. Last December at the International Council of Airshows convention, Razz came up to me and introduced himself. He told me that he grew up watching me fly Warbirds in airshows in his hometown and across the Midwest. He told me that seeing those airplanes fly inspired him to become an Air Force pilot.

One more example of the impact that we can have on young people by keeping our aircraft flying in front of the crowd. It is rewarding work, and we are blessed to have the opportunity to serve. Thanks to all of you who support our mission!

Tailwinds,
Doug Rozendaal



After his ride in the P-51C Mustang Gabriel Carothers smile says it all! Photo courtesy Alexander Carothers



Welcome to the Rise Above team!

Chris Allen - Rise Above Road Exhibit
Director

After graduating Western Kentucky University with a BA in History, and consecutive graduate fellowships in History at the University of Kentucky and The Ohio State University, Chris Allen spent 38 years in law enforcement, before returning to academics as an Adjunct Professor at Dallas College. A Life Member of the Commemorative Air Force, he is currently on sabbatical traveling with the CAF Rise Above Traveling Exhibit, bringing the history of the Tuskegee Airmen and the Woman Airforce Service Pilots to schools and air shows across North America. Chris is happily married with two sons, the younger a student in orchestral composition and the older an aerospace engineer with a leading US aviation corporation, making love of aviation history generational in his family.



**Thank you to our Ambassadors for being our “Boots on the Ground”
at the Defenders of Freedom Airshow!**



Alex Carothers



Carri Carothers



Gabriel Carothers

CAF RISE ABOVE is looking for exceptional volunteers to become CAF Rise Above Ambassadors!

[Click here to learn more.](#)

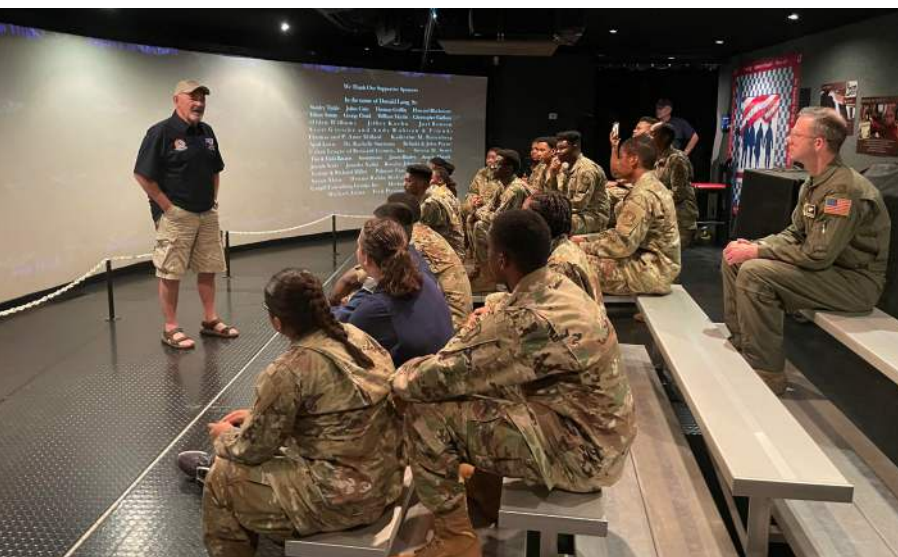
Event photos, Defendenders of Liberty Airshow, Barksdale AFB, LA



The flags and the Mustang were flying!!



Doug Rozendaal talking to a ROTC class from Tuskegee, Alabama



A very cool Mustang with USAF markings honoring the Tuskegee Airmen!

Don Larson speaks to a group of Tuskegee University's ROTC who braved foul weather to travel to Barksdale AFB in Louisiana to see the CAF Rise Above Traveling Exhibit and film about their legacy unit, World War II's pioneering Tuskegee Airmen.



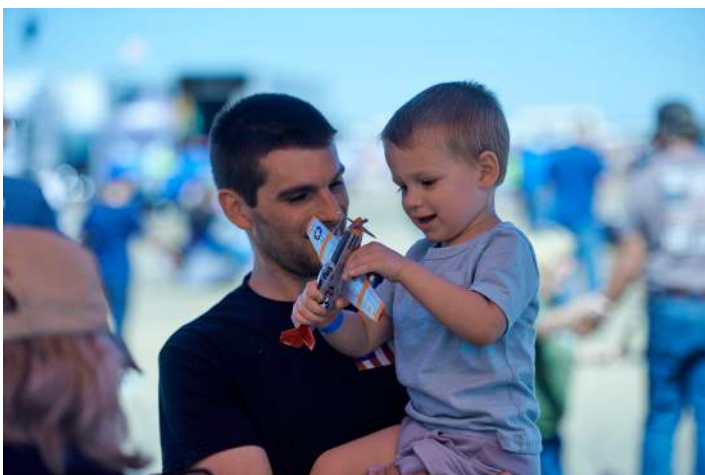
Major Blade Okai stopped by to show us the proclamation "Womens Airforce Pilots Appreciation Day" honoring the role the Women Airfoce Pilots issued by the Office of the Mayor of Bossier City, LA.



Doug telling Gabriel that he is the lucky recipient of a ride in the Mustang.



Doug and Gabriel taxiing off for the ride in a lifetime!



Josh and his dad assemble a mustang model, he is so excited to see the real mustang at the airshow!
[Watch the video of Josh sharing his excitement!](#)



Essay Contest Winners

Using the Six Guiding Principles (Aim High, Believe in Yourself, Use Your Brain, Be Ready to Go, Never Quit, Expect to Win) our winners describe how the Tuskegee Airmen and WASP achieved success, then choose a goal to show how they could use the Six Guiding Principles to achieve that goal.

PRIZES AWARDED

1st place: MA-Flight backpack

2nd place: Mustang model kit of the P-51C "Tuskegee Airmen"

3rd place: Choice of aviator wings: Tuskegee Airmen or WASP

All entries received a Rise Above dog tag and Triumph Over Adversity booklet.

Thank you to Ambassadors Darcy Castro, Deidre McGee, Carrie Carothers, and Alfred Reeves for judging the entries!

Winning entries

4-5 grade

- 1 Ada Claborn
- 2 Aydin Soner
- 3 Kamryn Vick

6-8 grade

- 1 Joelle Doering
- 2 Emmitt Garrett
- 3 Dazhinir Blockmon

9-12 grade

- 1 Andrew Bowens
- 2 Pratheek Tangirala
- 3 Jenna Guyon

[**Read all entries online!**](#)



5th and 6th grade students Ada Claborn, Kamryn Vick, and Emmitt Garrett.

Photo courtesy teacher Audra Branson
Crescent Schools, OK

1st place Ada Claborn, Grade 5

“The Principles of Aiming High”

Have you ever felt that you can't do something, especially when it doesn't come easily? Well, I certainly have. Then I realized that if I aim high, believe in myself, and never give up, anything is possible. Even the toughest challenges are possible.

When you aim high and reach for the stars, there is nowhere you won't go. When you aim high you can achieve all your goals. You can achieve many goals such as getting an A at school or writing an impressive essay. Aiming high is important because you need to set high goals for yourself.

When you believe in yourself, you are unstoppable. Caroline Ghosn once said, “Believe in yourself, for you are enough!” I agree with this because she is right. You are enough! Believing in yourself is very important. Being positive helps bring positive results.

When you never give up you can achieve anything. By never giving up the impossible becomes possible. Roy T. Bennett once said, “Do not be afraid of failure, but be afraid of not trying.” I agree with this because if you fear not trying then you won't ever give up and more than likely you will try anything.

In conclusion, if I aim high, believe in myself, and never give up, I can achieve anything. I can do these principles now and in the future. I might even inspire others to believe in their abilities and dreams. This is why you should aim high, believe in yourself, and never give up!

1st place Joelle Doering, Grade 7

In 2019 my family went on vacation to Oshkosh AirVenture in Wisconsin. Among many amazing experiences, the highlight of our trip happened when my Mom spotted a banner reading “Tuskegee Airmen” hanging from a tent near the warbird area of the air show. I was very interested in meeting them after hearing a story my Mom told my sister and I about the Tuskegee Airmen, and their P-51 Mustangs with the red tails. She told us about the difficulties these amazing men faced, and how important they were to the history of our country. We entered the tent and met Lt. Col. Harry Stewart and Col. James Harvey III. As we talked I noticed Col. Harvey's hat, which said “First Top Gun Pilot, P-47, Winner”.

I then learned that Col. Harvey had not only flown a P-47 Thunderbolt in WWII, but had also won the first Top Gun competition while flying a P-47! Overjoyed, I told Col. Harvey and Lt. Col. Stewart that I loved the P-47, it is my favorite plane. I liked the way it looked and had read about it being a hard plane to bring down in combat. They kindly signed my autograph book and took a picture with me. Lt. Stewart called me a “fellow Jug pilot”.

Since that day, I have learned more about the Tuskegee Airmen and the hardships they faced. Their stories have inspired me to “Aim High” and hopefully become a pilot one day. Their bravery has encouraged me to “Believe in Myself” when I face challenges in my own life. When I struggle in school, I remember my goal of becoming a pilot, and I'm driven to “Use My Brain” and get good grades. I want to sleep in, but to succeed, I must “Be Ready to Go”. Sometimes, I want to give up when math seems too hard, but I remember to “Never Quit”. Every day, I “Expect to Win” no matter what the day has to throw at me.

I will always remember these men, and I am thankful for how they changed my thoughts about my future.

1st place Andrew Bowens, Grade 11

In honor of Lieutenant Corporal George E. Hardy, I salute and dedicate this essay to the Tuskegee Airmen. I was fortunate to meet Lieutenant Corporal Hardy when I was 10 years old through a program called 'The Taste of Aviation'. At that time, I did not realize how my village was showing me opportunities to rise as I succeeded. The CAF (Commemorative Air Force) Rise Above Six Guiding Principles are set for people to be their best selves. When I first looked at each principle, they reminded me of myself and the hard work I put toward reaching my goals. One of the goals I have set for myself is to become a successful dermatologist. As I elaborate on each principle, I can bring a better understanding of these principles to people all around the world.

The first principle is "Aim High". If a person wants to be successful in life, it is important that they set their standards high. Former Ohio State Representative Les Brown once said, "Most people fail in life not because they aim too high and miss, but because they aim too low and hit" ([goodreads.com](https://www.goodreads.com/quotes/1000000)); meaning, when someone does not aim high, they don't push themselves enough to work harder to achieve their goals. Use me as an example, because I aim high in choosing to become a doctor, I constantly push myself more and more every day because I know the world is not meant to be easy; things are not going just to be handed to me, I have to strive to be the best I can be.

The second principle is, "Believe in Yourself". When someone believes in themselves, they set a standard for themselves that nobody else can do. My favorite scripture from the Bible is Philippians 4:13- "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me". Repeating this to myself almost every day, helps me believe I can achieve anything I want in life. Mental health also plays a part in achieving goals. If someone does not have mental wellness (self-esteem), then they are not going to believe in themselves. Sometimes we as people have to give each other a boost because if we do not, then we cannot advance as a nation.

The third principle is, "Use Your Brain". As I stated in my last paragraph, mental health is critical to achieving your goals. The brain is the control center of someone's thoughts and actions so it is important for people to prepare their brains for success. I use my brain by reading up on more present information, meditating (being by myself), paying attention to everyday things, and even prioritizing my sleep. When a person uses their brain effectively to make smarter decisions, they have a better chance at achieving goals.

The fourth principle is "Be Ready to Go". Sometimes we have to expect the unexpected. When someone is striving towards goals, there can be times when obstacles may get in the way. Remember, obstacles are only there to challenge a person; for example, I experience obstacles all the time, such as writing a big essay for a class. By reminding myself of my goals, it is easier to overcome those obstacles and if it helps me, I'm sure it can help others.

The fifth principle is, "Never Quit". No matter what a person may go through, they should never give up on themselves. Frederick Douglass once said, "If there is no struggle, there is no progress ([blackpast.org](https://www.blackpast.org/))." People are going to be challenged and make mistakes when trying to achieve goals, but if they do not fumble, they cannot learn to make themselves better. For example, I use to struggle with having self-control but I know I would not be where I am right now if I did not overcome that. Appreciate those hard times because they are going to matter the most on the journey to success.

The last principle is, "Expect to Win". People should never doubt themselves; they should always expect to be the champion of their accomplishments. For me, when I expect myself to win, most times I come out on top and sometimes I may come second which is good because we cannot win it all the time, but as long as we try our best is all that matters.

In conclusion, every principle, Aim High, Believe in Yourself, Use Your Brain, Be Ready to Go, Never Quit, and Expect to Win have its own unique meaning, but the one thing they all have in common is to help people to achieve their goals. These principles should be taught in our schools and everywhere else because I feel as if these six principles can benefit everyone as we rise to success.



Essay Contest

Winners will be announced March 15th! Be sure to check our Facebook and website for more information!

SHOP WITH WITH A PURPOSE!

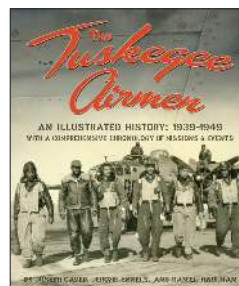
Find great treasures AND honor the history and legacy of the Tuskegee Airmen and WASP!
[Visit our online store.](#) *Shipping is included for state-side orders!*



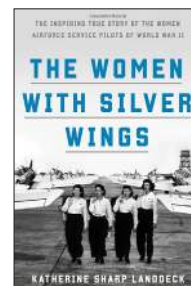
[Apparel - Tuskegee Airmen](#)



[Apparel - WASP](#)



[Books - Tuskegee Airmen](#)



[Books - WASP](#)



[DVDs & Educational Resources](#)



[Gifts](#)



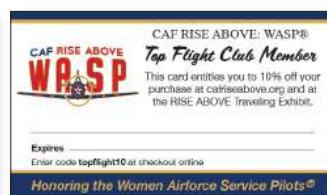
[Sale items](#)

For \$99 you can join the exclusive ranks of the Top Flight Club!

There's no better way to support our mission to educate, inspire, and honor through flight and living history experiences than by joining a Top Flight Club!

[Join RISE ABOVE: RED TAIL](#)

[Join RISE ABOVE: WASP](#)





FEATURED TUSKEGEE AIRMEN PROFILE

America's Tribute to the Tuskegee Airmen

Perry Young, Jr

Flight Instructor

March 12, 1919 - November 8, 1998

Perry Young, Jr, an airplane and helicopter pilot, was the first African American to be hired by a commercial airline with regularly scheduled passenger flights.

As a flight instructor Perry Young did not fly combat. As authors Lynn Holman and Thomas Reilly wrote in *Black Knights: The Story of the Tuskegee Airmen*, "The black civilian flight instructors were obviously the lifeblood of the program" and were considered too valuable to risk in combat. Maury Reid, a 1944 Tuskegee graduate, recalled seeing "one of the saddest things. I had graduated, and a couple of these flight instructors came down to watch me climb into that P-40 and take off. They wanted to be [in combat] so badly." For Young, being denied a combat role was a long-running grievance. "He didn't want to be an instructor who trained cadets," says Shakeh Young. "He wanted to be a cadet. He wanted to fly."

[Read his profile online!](#)



After a decade of fighting racism, Perry Young landed a job with New York Airways. Flying a Sikorsky S-58 (pictured), he was the first black pilot employed by a U.S. airline.

Photo courtesy Linda Young-Ribeiro

Learn more about the [CAF Red Tail Squadron](#), whose mission is sharing the inspiring legacy of the Tuskegee Airmen, America's first black military pilots and their support personnel. Their strength, courage, and ability to triumph over adversity during WWII can serve to inspire others about how to succeed today.

“Success is the result of perfection, hard work, learning from failure, loyalty, and persistence.”
 ~ General Colin Powell, former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff



Young with his mother Edith (left) and Willa Brown, one of the first female African-American pilots, at Chicago's Harlem Airport. Brown and Young both earned pilot's licenses at Harlem's Coffey School of Aeronautics—Young, a commercial license—where this picture was taken in June 1941. (NASM (SI-91-15487))



Tuskegee Airmen (Young on the right, with unidentified colleagues. (Courtesy Linda Young-Ribeiro)

“Viceroy's got what I want at both ends
GOT THE FILTER...GOT THE BLEND!”

Says Helicopter Pilot
 Capt. Perry Young

Young's NYA job turned him into the face of African-American aviation—which in 1962 meant posing for cigarette and razor advertisements in Ebony magazine. (Collection of Stanford Research In to the Impact of Tobacco Advertising)



Honoring the Women Airforce Service Pilots

FEATURED WASP PROFILE

Kate Lee Harris Adams

September 5, 1919 – December 2, 2002

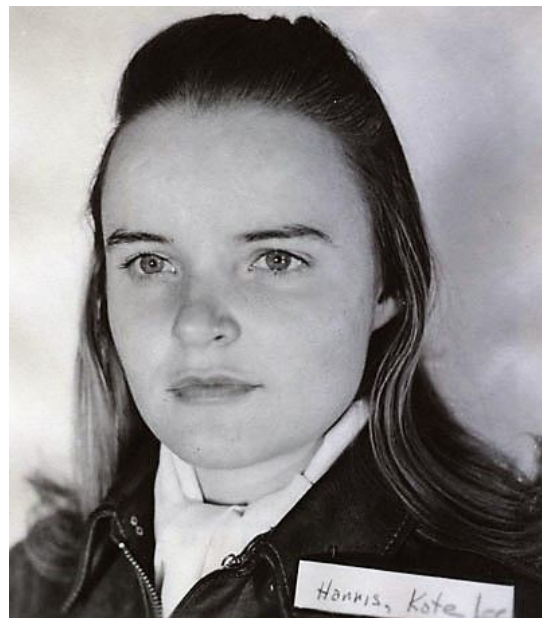
Class: 44-W-2

Training Location: Avenger Field (Sweetwater, Tex.)

Planes flown: PT-17, BT-13, AT-6, P-40

Assigned bases: Napier Army Air Base (Dothan, Ala.)

Adams was born and raised in Durham, graduating from Durham High School in 1937. As a child, Adams had loved learning about anything having to do with aviation. While studying at Duke University, she got the chance to take a Civilian Pilot Training (CPT) course. Colleges and universities around the country offered CPT programs, but they accepted only one woman for every ten men. Adams “jumped at the chance” to take the class and drove from Durham to an airfield east of Raleigh to take the flying lessons. She graduated from Duke in fine arts in 1941 and enrolled in the Air Force as a WASP in 1943.



Kate Adams did not have enough flying hours to qualify for the first class of women who joined WASP. But when the program reduced the number of flying hours required, she was accepted. After training, she worked at Napier Field in Dothan, Alabama. She conducted solo flights to test AT-6 planes that had been repaired, and she ferried planes from Napier to other United States bases. Then she worked as an instructor for flight cadets.

Adams met her husband while working at Napier Field. One day, just as she was landing, a severe dust storm hit the landing field. A strong crosswind gust caused her plane to nose up and drag a wingtip. Other cadets were trying to land, and she was afraid that because of the poor visibility in the dust storm, one might land on top of her. After the dust had cleared, an officer came to check out her accident. Later she recalled that when she took off her goggles, she “looked like a clown with two white spots around my eyes and everything else covered with dust.” Things worked out, though, because she later married the officer she met that day on the airstrip. When talking about that stormy day they met, she said, “He was the silver lining in that dark cloud.”

[**Read her profile online!**](#)

Learn more about the [**RISE ABOVE: WASP**](#), whose mission is sharing the story of the Women Airforce Service Pilots in order to inspire others, especially girls and young women, to RISE ABOVE expectations and find a greater appreciation of their potential.

WASP QUOTE OF THE MONTH

“Follow your dreams! You’re capable of doing it, if you want it hard enough. You can do it!”

WASP Betty June “BeeJay” Overman Brown, Class 44-W-7



Avenger Field, Sweetwater, Texas. Unknown classmate, Mary Reineberg, Mary Retick, and unknown classmate; Class (44-W-6)

Images courtesy of The WASP Archive, The TWU Libraries' Woman's Collection, Texas Woman's University, Denton, Texas



Please help us ensure that the legacy of the Tuskegee Airmen and WASP is passed on to future generations, so that their strength of character, courage and ability to triumph over adversity may serve as a means to inspire others to RISE ABOVE obstacles in their own lives and achieve their goals!

WAYS TO GIVE

- Does your employer have a matching gift program? Your donation to the CAF Rise Above may be able to be doubled or tripled. Ask your employer for details.
- Include the CAF Rise Above as a beneficiary in your will
- Name the CAF Rise Above as a beneficiary of a gift that pays you income (a remainder trust or gift annuity)
- Name the CAF Rise Above as the beneficiary of your investment portfolio or retirement account (IRA, Roth IRA, 401K, etc.)
- Leave a gift of real estate to the CAF Rise Above
- Name the CAF Rise Above as the owner and/or beneficiary of your life insurance policy

[Give online](#), or call 888-928-0188, or by mail at:

CAF RISE ABOVE
PO Box 416
Red Wing, MN 55066

The CAF RISE ABOVE® is an educational outreach program of the [Commemorative Air Force](#), (CAF) a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Your contribution is tax deductible less the value of the benefits given in return for your contribution noted above, if any. CAF FEIN # 74-1484491

Please mail correspondence or donations to our home office at:

CAF RISE ABOVE®
PO Box 416
Red Wing, MN 55066



To bring RISE ABOVE to your event, contact:

Keri Ryan
Senior Logistics Coordinator
logistics@cafriseabove.org
(802) 371-8838

Doug Rozendaal
Squadron Leader
leader@cafriseabove.org

Kim Pardon
Public Relations/Media
PR@cafriseabove.org

For general inquiries, contact:

LaVone Kay
Marketing Director & Donor Support
info@cafriseabove.org
(888) 928-0188

Melanie Burden
Volunteer Coordinator
volunteer@cafriseabove.org

Chris Allen
Traveling Exhibit Manager
Exhibit@cafriseabove.org

Follow us on Facebook

[CAF RISE ABOVE: Red Tail](#) - Share the inspiring legacy of the Tuskegee Airmen, America's first black military pilots and their support personnel. Their strength, courage, and ability to triumph over adversity during WWII can serve to inspire others about how to succeed today.

[CAF RISE ABOVE: WASP](#) - Share the story of the Women Airforce Service Pilots in order to inspire others, especially girls and young women, to RISE ABOVE expectations and find a greater appreciation of their potential.

Follow us on Instagram

Check out archived photos and highlights as we tour the country!

[RISE ABOVE: Red Tail](#)
[RISE ABOVE: WASP](#)

See us in action on YouTube

[RISE ABOVE: Red Tail](#)
[RISE ABOVE: WASP](#)

RISE ABOVE: Red Tail - Keep an eye on our blog and don't miss out on a single story

Find an archive of all our best articles, featuring closer looks at original Tuskegee Airmen, the P-51C Mustang *Tuskegee Airmen*, and many more in-depth stories in our blog. [Check it out!](#)

RISE ABOVE: Red Tail - Stay up to date in real time on Twitter

Join the conversation [@cafredtail on Twitter!](#) There's a lot going on here and you don't want to miss it. Want to help educate others about the history and legacy of the Tuskegee Airmen? Retweet to spread the word!