



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 2024



The second leg of the CAF Rise Above Squadron's 2024 season is well underway, after successful military air shows in Belle Chasse, Louisiana, at Naval Air Station/Joint Reserve Base New Orleans, and Tampa, Florida, at MacDill Air Force Base closed out March, and April began with a return to central Alabama - where the story of the Tuskegee Airmen started, over eighty years ago - in Montgomery, at Maxwell Air Force Base, the first weekend in April.

Mid-April will see both exhibit and P-51C at Sun N' Fun in Lakeland, Florida, and April concludes in South Carolina, at Air Show Joint Base Charleston.

Weather was exemplary at all three completed shows, which resulted in equally-outstanding attendance. MacDill reported visitors in the high 70,000s on day one, and over 100,000 day two - and Rise Above, situated show center with the Mustang on display all weekend, benefited, with long lines to see each documentary all day.

Eager crowds (and winds over 30 knots in Belle Chasse!) would not have been as manageable nor moved through the registration and exhibit process as efficiently without the help of volunteers Milton McGee in Louisiana, Gary Garrett and John Halbur in Florida and Gary Chambers in Alabama; if you have never contacted Volunteer Coordinator Melanie Burden about physically supporting the message Rise Above shares at Air Shows, schools and special events, please consider it: I can promise you we will not ask you to do things you are not comfortable doing - and perhaps more importantly, if there is something you do enjoy we *will* let you do that (so long as you are in CAF compliance and do it well enough to credit the organization, the squadron and - most importantly - the message). Milton, a veteran supporter and volunteer, did the majority of documentary introductions in New Orleans, and accepted an award presented to the exhibit by the Air Show, because he represents the message with such command of fact and evident passion. We need that...and are lucky to have it. John Halbur turned the waiting line at MacDill into a model of organization, deftly arranging it so as not to obstruct sightlines to the Mustang or pathways around aircraft and exhibit on the ramp - while adding something of an impromptu quiz show atmosphere about WASP and Tuskegee Airmen history as he insured as many queued up had properly registered first as possible. Perhaps a turn volunteering will reveal you are the squadron's next such outstanding asset...we return to Florida in May, at Panama City Beach, as well as striking north with the warming weather, to Wassau, Wisconsin and Terre Haute, Indiana.

Come put on CAF blue-and-khaki and Squadron red and help make a little bit of difference sharing the history of the Women Airforce Service Pilots and the Tuskegee Airmen!

Respectfully,
Chris Allen
CAF Rise Above Road Exhibit Director

EVENT PHOTOS



Veterans O'Niel
Ducharme, Robert
Bouley, Vernon
Cummings, and
Tuskegee Airman
Daniel Keel pose by
the Mustang



Gwen from the Florida Honour Ride shows off
her new Red Tail Mustang cycling jersey which
she will wear on her next ride honouring our
military veterans!

Xavier and Austin - two military hopefuls joined the CAF Rise Above at the New Orleans Air Show!



Ambassador Milton McGee and guests sport the ever-popular Rise Above glasses!



Thank you to our Ambassadors for being our “Boots on the Ground”



Milton McGee



John Halbur



Gary Garrett



Gary Chambers

BE OUR **BOOTS** ON THE **GROUNDS**



We are looking for exceptional volunteers to become CAF Rise Above Ambassadors!
[Click here to learn more.](#)



FEATURED TUSKEGEE AIRMEN PROFILE

America's Tribute to the Tuskegee Airmen

2nd Lt Clarence Clifford Jamison, Sr.

February 25, 1918 – March 6, 2014

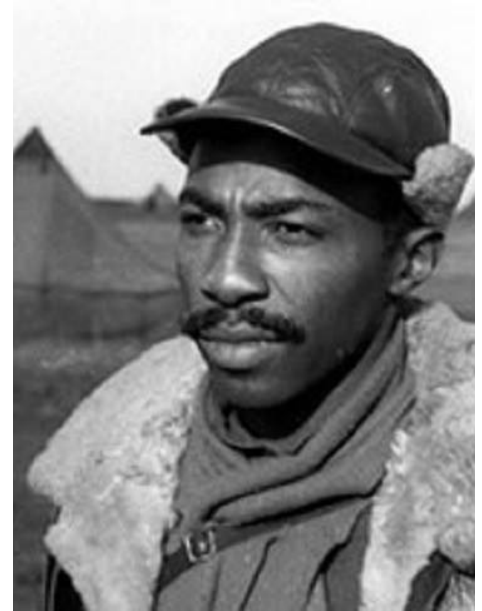
Class: 42-D-SE

Graduation Date: 4/29/1942

Unit: 99th Fighter Squadron of the 332nd Fighter Group

Service # 0789120

Clarence learned about the formation of the first African American squadron being formed by the United States Army Air Force. Realizing that the program offered the opportunity for Clarence to serve as an officer, he applied to the Tuskegee Army Air Field training program. After hearing nothing about his application status, Clarence wrote a personal letter to First Lady of the United States Eleanor Roosevelt who had been a vocal supporter of the cause. While Clarence never received a direct letter back, five weeks after writing to Mrs. Roosevelt, he was accepted into the Tuskegee program and believed with certainty that the First Lady had intervened on his behalf. He was accepted as a cadet and enlisted on August 21, 1941.



On April 29, 1942, Clarence graduated from the Tuskegee Army Air Field. His class, SE-42-D, was only the second class to graduate the program. Of the 13 men who started with his class, only 3 would graduate: Sidney P. Brooks, Charles W. Dryden, and Clarence Jamison. Despite being ready to serve, it would take several more classes of graduates before the 99th Fighter Squadron had the prerequisite number of pilots to officially form. During the wait, the pilots continued to train and prepare.

Finally, during April of 1943, the 99th Fighter Squadron, including then Captain Jamison, went to North Africa and would fly the first ever combat mission with African American pilots on June 2, 1943. The mission was the liberation of the Pantelleria Island from the German Army. Its success was a victory both for the Allied efforts abroad and the beginnings of the modern Civil Rights Era in America.

Captain Jamison would fly 67 combat missions, with perhaps the most harrowing being the time when his squadron came under fire from 22 German planes in a battle over the skies of Anzio, Italy. While flying at speed of more than 275 miles an hour at tree-top level, the gun of Captain Jamison's P-40 Warhawk fighter plane jammed with four enemy planes firing upon him. After leading the enemy fighters on a chase, his P-40's engine was finally hit by fire and Lt. Col. Jamison was forced to crash on the Anzio beachhead, amazingly unhurt. With Captain Jamison's leadership, and despite the 99th being outnumbered 2-to-1, the Americans completed the mission.

[Read his profile online!](#)

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.

“Whatever legacy remains of the Tuskegee Airman is attributed to Col. Benjamin O. Davis Jr. We carried out our missions and did it despite the segregation going on at the time.”
~Tuskegee Airman Thurston Gaines



P-40 in Line for Takeoff, Selfridge Field, Michigan, 1943

Col. Benjamin O. Davis Jr. and Capt. Edward Gleed stand in front of Lt. White's "Creamer's Dream".
Photo by Toni Frissell





Honoring the Women Airforce Service Pilots

FEATURED WASP PROFILE

Dorothy A. Avery

Feb 12, 1917- Dec 29, 1999

Class: 43-W-7

Training Location: Avenger Field (Sweetwater, Tex.)

Assigned Bases: Mather Army Air Base (Sacramento, Calif.) and March Army Air Base (Riverside, Calif.)

Planes flown: A-24, A-25, B-25, B-34, B-26, P-63

Dorothy Arlene "Dottie" Avery was born in Salt Lake City, UT to Marlene L Matthews and Chester Avery. She had a twin brother, Chester. Dottie joined the Women Airforce Service Pilots in May 1943, training to fly Army Air Corps planes at Avenger Field in Sweetwater, TX. Upon graduation in November 1943, she was sent to Mather Field near Sacramento, CA for advanced training. She was then stationed at March Field near Riverside, CA. After the WASP disbanded, she worked as an inspector at the Navy Lockheed Service Center, a maintenance facility for military aircraft in Riverside, CA.



Visit the [CAF WASP Virtual Museum](#) to see some great wartime WASP photo's, wartime paperwork file with some very interesting reading, ID card, a \$2 'shortsnorter' she and other's signed, a 'real' WASP reunion wing, reunion badges, her Fifi pin, discharge button, and the USAAF Honorable Discharge she was finally granted in 1979 with accompanying paperwork.

[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

Dearest Sis,

I am enclosing a picture of our AT6. This is real FLYING. We call it our pin-up ship. 620 horsepower and a beauty. The difference between the BT and this AT6 is about the same as that between an Oklahoma work horse and a Blue Grass bred racer. This is a streamline baby. Handles like a dream. Jacqueline Cochran was here this week. She told us that our class has been assigned to the Army Training Command. We have seventeen girls in training now at a four engine Flying Fortress school in Ohio; our class will go to Army Navigation, Bombardier, and Gunnery Schools; we will train to fly the cadets on their routine mission flights. Doesn't that sound exciting? The future of this experiment depends wholly on us.

What a responsibility. Oh, there is never a dull day at Avenger.

Love, Spook

WASP Adaline Alma Blank, Class 43-8, Avenger Field, Sweetwater, TX

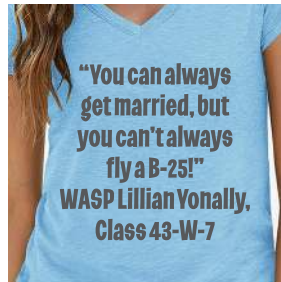


SHOP WITH WITH A PURPOSE!

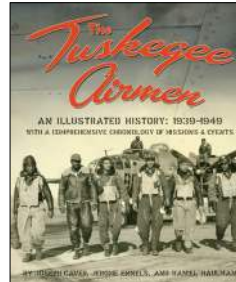
Find great treasures AND honor the history and legacy of the Tuskegee Airmen and WASP!
[Visit our online store.](#) *Shipping is included for state-side orders!*



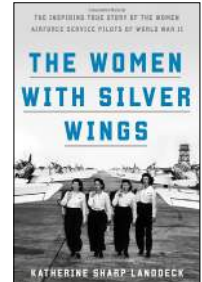
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For \$99 you can join the exclusive ranks of the Top Flight Club!

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!

Why 99? *(for each annual membership)*

[Join RISE ABOVE: RED TAIL](#)

The 99th was originally formed as the U.S. Army Air Forces' first African American fighter squadron, then known as the 99th Pursuit Squadron. The personnel received their initial flight training at Tuskegee, Alabama earning them the nickname Tuskegee Airmen.

[Join RISE ABOVE: WASP](#)

The Ninety-Nines was founded November 2, 1929, at Curtiss Field, Valley Stream, Long Island, New York. All 117 women pilots at the time were invited to assemble in mutual support of the advancement of women in aviation. In 1942 members of the Ninety-Nines were asked to join the Women Air Force Service Pilots (WASP) class of 43-W-1 in Houston, Texas.



Be A Hometown Hero – Bring The RISE ABOVE Traveling Exhibit To Your Community!



The CAF RISE ABOVE Traveling Exhibit could be available to make a stop in your hometown. Imagine the draw an exhibit like this would be at your airshow, community event or festival!

Contact Keri Ryan, CAF Rise Above Squadron Logistics Coordinator, at (802) 371-8838 or logistics@cafriseabove.org for more information.



Please mail correspondence or donations to our home office at:

CAF RISE ABOVE®

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[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.

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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!](#)



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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!

