



# 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).

May 2023



## Welcome to the Rise Above team!

Amy Marie Bechler - Rise Above Exhibit Manager

We are now heading into our busiest months of the season, and what a better time to be announcing a new addition to our team. Please join me in welcoming Amy Beechler as the new Tour Manager, who will be working along side our Tour Director Chris Allen, and Tour Driver Don Larson.

Amy is eager and excited to start her CAF Rise Above journey at the Langley AFB event in Virginia this week. Amy comes to us with a vast amount of community service experience, both as a professional and a volunteer. She started her career as a paramedic, advanced to a firefighter, and subsequently became an instructor for the NYS Association of Fire Chiefs, and for the National Honor Guard Academy. However, her role as an instructor doesn't end there as Amy is also a dance instructor for the Buffalo City Ballet Company and a supernumerary performer at the John F. Kennedy Centre for the Performing Arts in Washington, DC. Amy has also volunteered with many community organizations including the CAF Buffalo Wing, the National Warplane Museum in Geneseo, New York, and she has toured around the U.S. and England displaying hands on living history presentations and historical lectures about the WASP.



Amy's skills will be an asset to the team, and her accomplishments serve as a reminder that you can do anything you set your mind to: **Aim High, Never Quit, Believe In Yourself, Use Your Brain, Expect to Win and Be Ready to Go!**

*Bill Shepard*

Bill Shepard  
CAF Rise Above Manager

**Thank you to our Ambassadors for being our “Boots on the Ground”  
at the National Multicultural Western Heritage Museum in Ft Worth, TX**



John and Judy Halbur



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





## Event photos, National Multicultural Western Heritage Museum in Ft Worth, TX



Three generations of the McKinney family saw the Rise Above movies in Ft. Worth. Five-year-old Vivienne's favorite aircraft was 'definitely' the Red Tail P-51C Mustang!



Second grade students from Walker Elementary in nearby Crowley travelled to the CAF Rise Above exhibit in Ft. Worth, Texas; at least six proclaimed they would become pilots afterward!



Jim Austin, founder and director of host National Multicultural Western Heritage Museum and staff accept a signed and numbered Tuskegee Airmen print for display in the museum



James and Landon will commemorate their Rise Above experience with a P-51C of their own!



Tony and Connie Jones, who count Tuskegee Airman Quentin Smith as a family member. Tony spent years assembling various aircraft, military and civilian, in and around the same Dallas, Texas, plant where the 99th Pursuit Squadron's red-tailed P-51Cs



Scouts from Troops 528 and 216, Ft Worth, Texas





Deirdre Sykes attended the CAF Rise Above exhibit in Gastonia, NC to relay the story of her son, Delante, who was inspired by the Tuskegee Airmen's story, and is now a commercial pilot himself. Delante has a goal of joining the Commemorative Air Force!



We had a very exciting exhibition. It was due to the great personalities of Don and Chris, and your constant communication with me. It was an awesome experience for the Marshall Cabinets Family.

Kind regards,  
Dot Guthrie

*Pictured left to right: Chris Allen, Dot Guthrie, Don Larson*

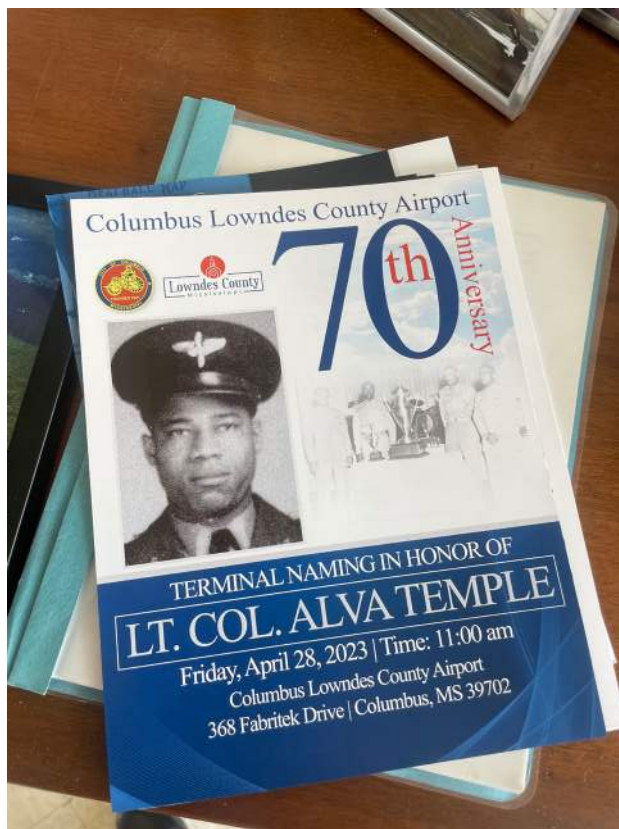


Residents of The Center Assisted Living in Gastonia, NC



Retired Air Force Master Sgt and Phoenix Police Detective Les Britton wanted to express his thanks to the Squadron for the work sharing the Tuskegee Airmen story by the field team in Gastonia, NC.





Columbus, Mississippi has renamed their municipal airport terminal for Tuskegee Airman Lt. Col. Alva Temple. The Lt. Col. moved to Columbus after his service, and the airport - originally serving the regional carrier Southern Airlines - was built on his land.



Columbus, Mississippi Seniors came out to the municipal airport for the dedication.



Several classrooms from the Columbus, MS, Municipal School District attended the CAF Rise Above exhibit at the dedication of the local airport terminal to Tuskegee Airman Lt. Col. Alva Temple.

## SHOP WITH WITH A PURPOSE!

Find great treasures AND honor the history and legacy of the Tuskegee Airmen and WASP!

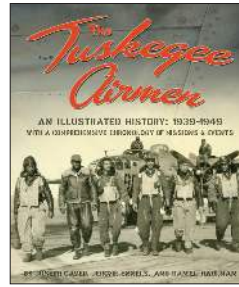
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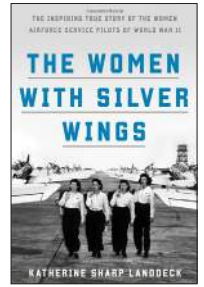
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There's no better way to support our mission to educate, inspire, and honor through flight and living history experiences than by joining a Top Flight Club!

**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







*America's Tribute to the Tuskegee Airmen*

## FEATURED TUSKEGEE AIRMEN PROFILE

**Major L. Anderson II** was born March 5, 1925 in Jacksonville, Florida and graduated high school with the class of 1942. He was drafted at the age of 18 in 1943 and entered the Army Air Corps. He received basic training at Keesler Air Field, Biloxi, MS and trained as a sheet metal worker, he was assigned as support personnel to the Ground Support Group of the 477th Bomber Group, 616th Squadron based at Godman Field, Kentucky. His assignment was repairing bullet-hole punctures and damages to the B-25 Bomber Aircraft. In March of 1946, Major Anderson was honorably discharged. He attended Howard University in Washington, D.C. from 1946-1949 majoring in Mechanical Engineering. In 1973, he received a Bachelor's of Business Administration (B.B.A.) degree from Federal City College, currently known as the University of the District of Columbia (UDC).

He witnessed one of the most indelible scenes of his life. He and the other enlisted members of the 477th Bomber Group had just completed a parade at Godman Field, Kentucky, as the units' officers came marching into view, the medals pinned to their dress uniforms glinting in the sun. Among them was the first black military officer the private had ever seen.



"It was the most spectacular thing, how spiffy, how amazingly good those officers looked in their pretty uniforms with polished insignias," he said in an interview.

After 30 months of service, the War ended and Major L. Anderson, III was honorably discharged "at the convenience of the government."

Blacks had mostly non-combat roles in the military until Congress passed Public Law 18 in 1938, giving hope to those who craved more with the creation of training for the first African-American pilots. About 1,000 black pilots were trained in Tuskegee, Alabama, and went on to protect B-17 and B-24 bombers from the Luftwaffe by escorting them into enemy territory in Germany and central Europe.

Tuskegee Airmen also include over 10,000 blacks who served as navigators, crew chiefs, nurses, mechanics and other support staff for the aviation 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.

## TUSKEGEE AIRMEN QUOTE OF THE MONTH

**“There were those who were convinced it was going to fail ... but we were given a chance and that’s what people in American have always asked for, a chance, equal opportunity and this has proven how equal opportunity has made American better.”**

**~Tuskegee Airman Staff Sgt. Leslie Edwards**



*Photos courtesy Air Force Historical Research Agency, Maxwell, AFB, Alabama*





*Honoring the Women Airforce Service Pilots*

## FEATURED WASP PROFILE

### **Lorraine Marion Nelson Bain**

April 16, 1920 - May 23, 2014

Class 44-5

Planes flown: PT-17, BT-13, AT-6, AT-17, UC-78

Assigned Bases: Pecos Army Air Base (Tex.)

Following high school, Lorraine went to work in a doctor's office, saving money to go to nursing school. Her primary ambition was to be an airline stewardess, and requirements for stewardesses also included a nursing degree. One Sunday afternoon, she was able to go for her first airplane ride. Immediately, she was hooked on flying. Eventually, she used all the money she had saved to take flying lessons. She earned her private pilot certificate in Billings, Montana on August 6, 1941.

In 1944, Lorraine heard about the training program for women pilots and applied. She passed all the requirements and was accepted into class 44-5. Lorraine and 123 other young women pilots paid their own way to Sweetwater, Texas in December of 1943 to enter training.

After successfully completing seven months of Army Air Forces flight training, Lorraine and 71 of her classmates graduated, earned their silver WASP wings and were given their official Army orders. Lorraine was sent to Pecos Army Air Base in Pecos, Texas, as a maintenance pilot for the twin engine UC-78.

After the WASP were deactivated in December of 1944, Lorraine moved to Seattle, Washington and enrolled in the CAA Aircraft Communication Training course. After passing the course, she was stationed in Gustavus, Alaska as aircraft communicator then transferred to CAA 8th Region, Anchorage, Alaska as a Link trainer instructor, where she worked until January of 1947. From September 1948 to October 1949, she worked as a Link trainer instructor and assistant to the Chief Pilot for Alaska Airlines.

On February 3, 1950 she married James A. Bain, who was in the United States Air Force. Upon their retirement, Jim and Lorraine moved to a small farm outside of Chireno, Texas, where she volunteered for several organizations including a Nacogdoches Hospice; she also taught computer skills for SeniorNet.

[\*\*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.

**“Already my big worry is that I might wash out. It’s going to be plenty tough to come up to Army standards. Several from W-7 ‘washed’ today. Everyone gets depressed when they go; tonight the Recreation Room was like a morgue—you just can’t help wondering “Will I be next? “**

**Adaline Alma Blank, WASP Class 43-8**



Instructor Norman Schaeffer (L) going over a map with Janet Zuchowski (C) and Alice Jean May (R) at Avenger Field in Sweetwater Texas - 1943. LIFE Magazine - Peter Stackpole Photographersmate; Class (44-W-6)





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

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**PO Box 416**  
**Red Wing, MN 55066**

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Please mail correspondence or donations to our home office at:

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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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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!

