



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 2025



Supporters who check the [RISE ABOVE events calendar](#) regularly will recognize that new show locations are frequently added, and some scheduled locations are occasionally modified or even removed as hosts' circumstances change. In the latter instances, we do everything possible to cover cancellations with new shows ... which can present exciting new and unexpected opportunities to showcase the histories of the Tuskegee Airmen and the WASP in parts of the country particularly attuned to what those stories mean.

When two New England area sponsors had to cancel planned events in May, a chance emerged to support the Commemorative Air Force's Birmingham Alabama Escadrille. CAF Squadrons are largely independently-functioning entities,

responsible for restoring and operating their assigned aircraft, but all are united under the overarching headquarters organization - and all look to reinforce the efforts of others.

In this instance, this led to CAF Birmingham inviting CAF RISE ABOVE to be the centerpiece of their Memorial Day weekend event: the Traveling Exhibit, in conjunction with the Southern Museum of Flight, will anchor the holiday weekend from Thursday through Monday 10am - 4pm, with the P-51C Mustang acting as a centerpiece of historic aircraft via the Birmingham CAF on display at the MillionAir hangar at Birmingham Shuttlesworth International Airport: Stearman, PT-19 and AT-6 trainer planes, all aircraft the Airmen would have transitioned through in their heroic advance toward becoming the most requested escort squadron of World War II.

Seeing them all together should engender an appreciation for how involved that process was, and how significant the Tuskegee Airmen's accomplishment. Moreover, Birmingham is just a short drive north of Tuskegee itself, and just as close to the Selma to Montgomery Alabama Freedom Trail: I can attest to the power of approaching and crossing the Edmund Pettus Bridge, and the feelings that evokes.

If you are a supporter of the RISE ABOVE Squadron, you know the significance of these places, these stories and these deeds. We invite you to join us there later this month to experience them personally!

Respectfully,

Rise Above Road Exhibit Director

2025 RISE ABOVE TOUR SCHEDULE

[Check online for updates and more information!](#)

May 22-26	AL - Rise Above/Air Power History Tour, Birmingham
Jun 10-11	VA - Aim High for Excellence
Jun 13-14	VA - TAKE IT TO THE STREETS
Jun 21-22	OH - Dayton Air Show
Jun 27-28	OK - Tinker Air Show
Jul 3-6	OH - Liberty Aviation Museum
Jul 11-13	OH - Lorain County Discover Aviation Airplane & Car Show
Jul 21-27	WI - EAA AirVenture, Oshkosh, WI
Aug 15-17	NH - Aviation Museum of New Hampshire
Aug 22-24	OH - Columbus Air Show
Aug 30-31	MO - Wings of Pride Air Show
Sep 13-14	TN - Smyrna Rotary Intl Wings of Freedom
Sep 18-21	CO - Great Colorado Air Show
Sep 27-28	CO - Wings of Pride Air Show
Oct 16-19	TX - Amigo AirSho
Oct 30 - Nov 2	MS - Thunder Over The Sound
Nov 11 - 16	MO - Negro Leagues Museum

My name is Annie and my daughter Willow goes to STEM Summer Camp next week. She could not be more excited for camp.... she's been talking about it for days! She participated in STEM Club at school this past year too (she was one of two girls in the club) and we are always looking for fun activities to do at home!

Anyway... the CAF RISE ABOVE Additional Resources page was such a help for us!

We've been on the hunt for some STEM info and resources to look into for the rest of summer... Willow was so happy to see some new resources she hadn't seen before. :)

Annie Pruitt



Each year, students like sixth grader Zhariah-May learn about heroes who contributed to and helped secure victory in World War II.

After realizing a special connection, Zhariah-May chose to write about [Louise Virginia Lomax](#). Like Lomax, who was a nurse, Zhariah-May wants to work in the medical field. But her dream of becoming a veterinarian seemed overwhelming and stressful at times, especially when she thought about all of the schooling necessary.

Zhariah-May discovered that Lomax faced resistance and obstacles while trying to enlist in the Army Nurse Corps. But with help from the National Association of Colored Graduate Nurses, Lomax persevered and went on to serve as a first lieutenant. Zhariah-May wrote in her essay:

“She shows me that if I ever feel like giving up that I can remember how she showed that if I want this bad enough, then I need to go for it. I plan to succeed like my role model, Louise Virginia Lomax. I will use the Six Guiding Principles as I follow my dream, and I will always believe in myself.”

RESOURCES AVAILABLE

RISE ABOVE Resource Kits Our free, downloadable RISE ABOVE Resource Kits provides users access to posters featuring the Six Guiding Principles, PowerPoint's, classroom activities and a wealth of material about the Tuskegee Airmen and the WASP.

Aim High: “The Aircraft of the Tuskegee Airmen” This free online tool contains sound effects, slide shows and interactive questions designed to inform and entertain. Learn about the inspiration is history of the Tuskegee Airmen, their aircraft and their legacy to triumph over adversity!

Inspiration Packs Perfect for the parent, teacher, youth leader or community group looking for a tangible reminder of the lessons of the Tuskegee Airmen and the Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASP)!

Each kit includes 50 dog tags featuring the Six Guiding Principles and the “Triumph Over Adversity – RISE ABOVE: The Story of the Tuskegee Airmen” or the “Triumph Over Adversity – RISE ABOVE: The Story of the WASP” booklets.

Other Educational Resources

Purchase dog tags featuring the Six Guiding Principles, DVDs, and other materials to enhance your classroom activities in the online store.

Please consider [making a donation](#) to help us to continue offering these resources and to keep the legacy of the Tuskegee Airmen and the WASP alive.



America's Tribute to the Tuskegee Airmen

FEATURED TUSKEGEE AIRMEN PROFILE

2d Lt Walter Peyton Manning

May 3, 1920 - April 1, 1945

Class 44-D-SE

Graduation Date: April 15, 1944

Unit: 332nd Fighter Group, 301st Fighter Squadron

Walter Peyton Manning was an American fighter pilot of the primarily African American Tuskegee Airmen. He flew 50 missions, and was awarded the Air Medal for heroism six times.

Manning was involved in a dogfight with German planes on Easter morning, April 1, 1945, over the Danube river in Austria. The Tuskegee Airmen were escorting B-24 bombers on a bombing mission to the town of St. Polten, Austria. On the return trip to their base at Ramitelli Air Field in Italy, the group spotted enemy planes near Wels, Austria. There were seven Tuskegee Airmen flying the mission that day who engaged the German planes. The American pilots shot down 12 German planes in the dogfight. However, three of the Tuskegee Airmen's planes were shot down in return: one pilot was able to crash-land in friendly territory, one was killed outright when he was shot down, and the third pilot was Manning; his plane was damaged

so badly that he had to bail out.

During the early morning hours of April 3, 1945 (3:30AM) two Luftwaffe officers presented forged orders to the jailer at the Horsching Air Base where Manning was detained, ordering Manning's release into their custody. The jailer released Manning, as stated in the orders. The next morning Manning was found hanging from a nearby light pole. Manning is the only known black man to have been lynched in Austria during World War II.

Manning is buried at the Lorraine American Cemetery and Memorial in France. According to a government database, he was awarded an Air Medal with five oak leaf clusters and a Purple Heart for his military service.

[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.

“When a pilot [gets] in his airplane, he’s got his goggles on, he’s got his helmet on ... and his shades down. You don’t know whether he’s black or white.”

Tuskegee Airman George Porter



99th FS pilot Captain Edward Thomas posing with a P-51D



Many Mustangs flown by the 332nd FG were C models.



Honoring the Women Airforce Service Pilots

FEATURED WASP PROFILE

Carla Howard Horowitz

May 28, 1922 – February 19, 2018

Class: 44-W-8

Training Location: Avenger Field (Sweetwater, Tex.)

Assigned Bases: Blackland Army Air Field (Waco, Tex.)

Planes flown: PT-17, BT-13, AT-6, AT-10



Carla Howard Horowitz was born May 28, 1922, in Chicago. It was there she began her schooling until her second year of high school, when she attended The Edgewood School, in Greenwich, Connecticut. This was a small co-ed boarding school (a shocking concept in 1936).

She returned to Chicago for her freshman college year at Northwestern University and then transferred for her next three years to the much smaller Carleton College in Northfield, Minnesota. (Gym was skiing from September through April.)

In her senior year, she joined the Civil Air Patrol, where she had some ground school, but never flew. When she graduated from college, she applied to the WASP, was accepted, and in March, 1944, traveled to Sweetwater to enroll in the class of 44W8. About half of her class washed out, so she felt very lucky to receive her silver wings in September 1944.

She was assigned to Blacklands Airforce Base in Waco, Texas, where she flew as an engineering test pilot until December 20th, 1944, when the WASP program was terminated. She felt the women were told, in effect, that there were now enough male pilots and they were no longer needed. It is noteworthy also that the women service pilots were paid less than the men.

After the WASP were deactivated, Carla moved to New York City where she worked in publishing for a number of years as assistant editor of Black Mask and Dime Detective, classic pulp publishers of Dashiell Hammett, Erle Stanley Gardner, etc. After that, she worked at Merrill Lynch, Pierce Fenner & Beane in the public relations department and later became a financial reporter for their publication Investor's Reader.

[Read her profile online!](#)

Learn more about the [CAF 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.

"It seemed to me that there were very clear issues in World War II, and I wanted to be part of it...to tell the truth, I really wanted to be a hero."

WASP Carla Howard Horowitz, Class 44-W-8



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

Why does the military sing songs?

The practice of singing began as a top-down expression of power, with military leaders using it as a tool to impose their will on subordinates. But the power structure quickly developed complexities as the soldiers asserted their own power of choice by embracing some songs, altering others, and writing their own.

WASP Song

With the wind and the sand in our eyes
And our goal placed up high in the skies
We are the WASP who serve the Air Corps so true,
We're coming, just watch us ZOOM. . . down upon you!
On through the storm and the sun
Fly on till our mission is done
From factory to base, let the WASP set the pace,
We're a thousand strong!

Words and music by Loes Monk 43-W-8

Courtesy of The Woman's Collection, Texas Woman's University



Tuskegee Airmen Fight Song

Contact - Joy stick back - Sailing through the blue Gallant sons of the 99th -
Brown men tried and true We are the Heroes of the night -
To hell with the Axis might FIGHT! FIGHT! FIGHT! FIGHT!

Fighting 99th. Rat-tat, Rat-tat-tat - Down in flames they go The withering fire
of the 99th - sends them down below We are the Heroes of the night - To hell
with the Axis might FIGHT! FIGHT! FIGHT! FIGHT!

Fighting 99th. Drink-k up-p, Drain your cup-p - To those daring men (To those
daring men) Flying torch of flame, Oh GOD-D - Red White and Blue -
Amen. For-r We-e Ar-re - Heroes of the ninth To Hell with the Axis might
FIGHT! FIGHT! FIGHT! FIGHT!
Fighting 99th WINGS!!

[Listen to the song here!](#)





USAF Captain (ret) Graciela Tiscareno-Sato, Genro Sato and daughter Milagro 'experienced' the Exhibit's two documentaries in a special showing before the beginning of the Aviation Nation 2025 air show outside Las Vegas, allowing Milagro, who is vision-challenged, to have what she was hearing elaborated upon by her parents. RISE ABOVE!



Volunteer Ambassador Eric Rebstock



Katie comes from an aviation family; she visited the Red Tail Mustang with her parents and grandparents at Altus Air Force Base, Oklahoma!



Even inclement weather did not dissuade a USAF Dad and family of future pilots from seeing Rise Above at Dyess AFB, TX/

SHOP WITH WITH A PURPOSE!

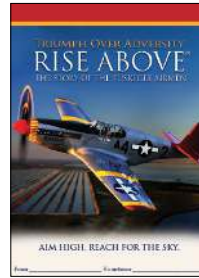
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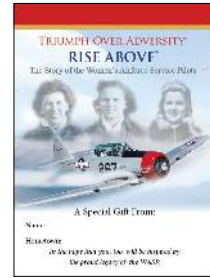
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For \$99 you can join the exclusive ranks of the Top Flight Club!

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.



WASP WINGS



TUSKEGEE WINGS





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 the CAF Rise Above Squadron at (802) 371-8838 or email logistics@cafriseabove.org for more information.

We Need Your Support!



The CAF RISE ABOVE is a part of the Commemorative Air Force (CAF), a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization.

The mission of CAF RISE ABOVE is to educate audiences across the country about the history and legacy of the Tuskegee Airmen and the WASP - so their strength of character, courage, and ability to triumph over adversity may serve to inspire others to RISE ABOVE obstacles in their own lives and achieve their goals.

The operation of the P-51 C Mustang Tuskegee Airmen and the RISE ABOVE Traveling Exhibit are dependent on the generous support from people like you!

Here's how you can help:

[Make a one-time or recurring donation online.](#) Dedicate your gift in the following ways:

- Make a memorial gift to the Squadron to honor someone's memory. For donations of \$50 or greater the names will be listed on the online [Honorary Flight Log](#).
- [Join the Top Flight Club: Red Tail!](#)
- [Join the Top Flight Club: WASP!](#)

Purchase memorabilia, books and gifts from our [online store](#)

Join [The Heritage Club](#): The Heritage Club is made up of CAF supporters who have included CAF in their estate planning. Email development@cafhq.org for more information.

Check out [FreeWill](#), a **free** estate planning tool which is provided as a benefit for our CAF members and supporters. Gifts from your estate may be designated as unrestricted or restricted to a specific aircraft, unit, or the CAF's endowment.

Do you need to make a charitable gift from your IRA before the end of the tax year?

Check out [Smart Giving from Your IRA](#) on the CAF website or contact your IRA administrator **TODAY** to arrange a QCD before the end of the year.

Please mail correspondence or donations to our home office at:

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



RISE ABOVE contacts:

LaVone Kay
Marketing Director / Information
info@cafriseabove.org
(888) 928-0188

Doug Rozendaal
Squadron Leader
leader@cafriseabove.org

Kim Pardon
Public Relations/Media
PR@cafriseabove.org

Chris Allen
Traveling Exhibit Director
Exhibit@cafriseabove.org
(802) 371-8838

Milton McGee
Volunteer Coordinator
volunteer@cafriseabove.org

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[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](#)



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