



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).

June 2023



Memorial Day is behind us and our tour season is going strong. The schedule is packed, and we have had great crowds at our events. Kevin Sutterfield started the month with the airplane and exhibit at Langley AFB in Hampton Roads, Virginia. Next up, Kim and I participated with both airplane and exhibit in the North Coast Flight School event in Meadville Pennsylvania. It was a short hop to Youngstown, Ohio where Matt Quy flew and then made the long hop to finish the month in Omaha, Nebraska. '=

While the pilots and our volunteers bop in for a week or a weekend, what remains constant is the Road Crew. Chris Allen, Amy Beechler, and Don Larson are the road warriors who tirelessly work long days without many breaks. Sometimes they start early in the morning and work into the late evening, then pack up, hit the road, and move to the next venue. Their dedication is impressive, and it is appreciated.

And if you mention to them how hard they work they tell us how rewarding it is to be involved. Looking forward, the days until AirVenture is now being counted in weeks and days instead of months. The Rise Above Traveling Exhibit will again be set up at KidVenture where we there will be thousands of kids exposed to many facets of aviation and the stories of the Tuskegee Airmen and the WASP.

The numbers of Original Tuskegee Airmen are dwindling, but we hope to have 3 veterans, Lt. Col. George Hardy, Lt. Col. James Harvey, and Brig. Gen. Enoch Woodhouse with us this year. This is a fantastic opportunity to meet and greet these great men who make an indelible impression on the young people in attendance. Our airplane "Tuskegee Airmen" will be on display in Fightertown, and is currently scheduled to be featured in "Warbirds in Review" on Saturday.

Anyone who will be at AirVenture, stop by and say hello! We look forward to seeing you there! Thanks again for all your support. We are doing this good work because of you.

Tailwinds,
Doug Rozendaal Squadron Leader

Meet Tuskegee Airmen at AirVenture, Oshkosh, WI!

July 24 – 29, 2023

Location at KidVenture (behind the museum)



[Lt Col James Harvey](#)

[Brig Gen Enoch Woodhouse](#)

[Lt Col George Hardy](#)

[Check online schedule for updates](#)

MONDAY July 25

9:00 – 11:00 Airmen at Exhibit
10:15-10:30 Brig Gen Woodhouse at the Announcers Stand
1:30- 3:00 Airmen at Exhibit

TUESDAY July 26

9:00 – 11:00 Lt Col Harvey at Exhibit
10:00 -10:15 Lt Col Hardy at the Announcers Stand
1:00-2:15 Airmen presenting at the Skyscape Theatre

WEDNESDAY July 27

9:00 – 11:00 Lt Col Hardy at Exhibit
10:00 -10:15 Lt Col Harvey at the Announcers Stand
1:30- 3:00 Airmen at Exhibit

THURSDAY July 28

9:00 – 11:00 Airmen at Exhibit
9:00 Lt Col Hardy at Plane Talk
1:00- 3:00 Airmen at Exhibit

FRIDAY July 29

9:00 – 11:00 Airmen at Exhibit
9:00 Lt Col Harvey at Plane Talk
1:30- 3:00 Airmen at Exhibit

SATURDAY July 30

9:00 – 11:00 Airmen at Exhibit
9:00 Brig Gen Woodhouse at Plane Talk
1:00- 3:00 Airmen present at Warbirds in Review

Be sure to check the schedule to see when authors Erin Miller "What Grandma Did" and Kate Sharp Landdeck "The Women with Silver Wings: The Inspiring True Story of the Women Airforce Service Pilots of World War II " will join us at KidVenture!

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



Bob Sheppard and Mark Osinski



Duane Sims



Janie Cunningham



Barret Allen



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

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.

“It’s the, ‘How do children know where they’re going in life if they don’t know where they came from?’ I just love the name of this event – Rise Above. It describes perfectly what these groups did, and it’s so inspirational.”
~James Valesky, president of the Warren Heritage Center, OH

On Friday, May 12, Alan LeBlanc, Red Tail, Ambassador in Dallas Texas had the opportunity to talk to 150 students at the Asa Low Intermediate School in Mansfield, Texas.

He started the presentation with a short, Red Tail, motivational video, followed by 20 minutes of aerodynamics and math, relating to Aviation and Flight characteristics. 'STEMA' is vital to the growth and success of our young scholars.

"Sometimes it's hard for students to understand the importance of math and science, and how they relate to every-day life".

Using examples of an aircraft in-flight, (pitch, roll, yaw, and degrees of angle of bank and climb), the scholars understand the importance of math and how it applies to flight. 90, 180 ,270 and 360° degrees of roll or pitch.

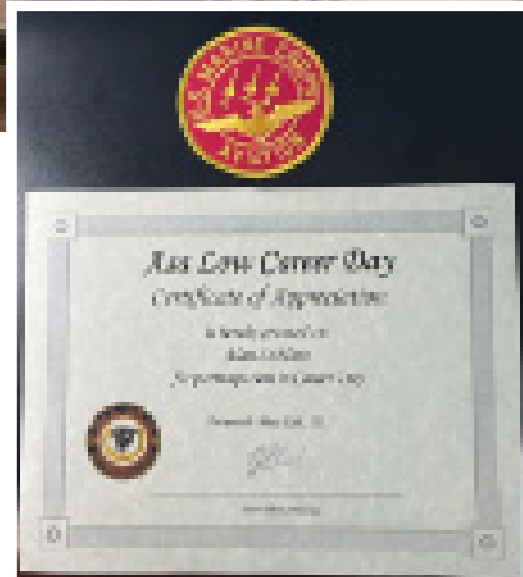
The last 10 minutes of the presentation are designed to be motivational and aspirational. Reminding the scholars there is no mountain they can't climb, and no career they can't pursue.

With dedication and perseverance, there is an opportunity for a bright future. Alan closes the presentation with another motivational video, question and answer, and reciting (in unison) the Six Guiding Principles..... And 3 'Rise Above' Cheers!!

Thanks to the CAF Red Tail Squadron for allowing me to pass these principles on to our youth, and using the Tuskegee Airmen, as an example of how we can Rise Above difficult circumstance in life!



Alan mentoring students at Rise Above Career Day. Shown with Asa Low and his certificate for completing the program.



Event photos, Air Power Over Hampton Roads, Langley AFB, VA



Chris Allen speaks with a group of school children



PreK classrooms from George P Phenix Elementary visit the Rise Above Exhibit in advance of the weekend's air show. Every child who visits the exhibit receives a free dog tag!



Semper Fi & Son

Lt. Colonel Calvin Peterson, call-sign 'Quake,' commands the F-22A Raptor 27th Fighter Squadron Joint Air Base Langley, and was assisted in his dream to attend the US Air Force Academy



Pilot Kevin Sutterfield gives students an up close tour of the P-51C Mustang *Tuskegee Airmen*



Original Tuskegee Airman Sgt Thomas Newton served with the 99th Fighter Squadron 1946-1949



That's My Boss!



Learning about the WASP and Tuskegee Airmen



Amy Marie Beechler with the Harkness family from north Pennsylvania get up-close with the 'cadillac of the skies,' the Red Tail P-51C Mustang *Tuskegee Airmen*, at the Aviation Legends event in Meadville. Both daughters dream of aviation careers!



Newest Top Flight Club member
Emil Spadafore, Jr



Jefferson Elementary in Erie, Pennsylvania traveled to the Aviation Legends celebration at North Coast Flight School in Meadville to learn more about the WASP and Tuskegee Airmen



Re-enacting the Big Red One



I used to be an airdrop loadmaster and I've been able to travel the world, get degrees and really build a great life with the AF Reserve. What you are doing means a lot to young minority men and women. As a career enlisted aviator, there aren't many that look like I do and any chance we get to spread the value of what the Tuskegee Airmen and WASPs were able to achieve for our military will inspire more minority men and women to serve and believe in more opportunities. Thank you for what you're doing! - SMSgt Joey Poltor



Staff photo / R. Michael Semple Fifth-graders from Jefferson PK-8 view the CAF Red Tail Squadron's P-51C Mustang aircraft named the "Tuskegee Airman."

Event photos, Omaha Memorial Day Celebration NE



The National History Day team from Sioux City, Iowa completed their project on the Red Tail Squadron and won local, state and regional competitions - they head to Nationals in Washington DC in mid-June to continue telling the heroic story of the Tuskegee Airmen!



The CAF Rise Above Rise Above Traveling Exhibit and P-51C *Tuskegee Airmen* participated in the Memorial Day Patriot Parade in downtown Omaha, Nebraska, and welcomed the son and extended family of Omaha native Tuskegee Airman Ralph Orduna to the exhibit.



America's Tribute to the Tuskegee Airmen

FEATURED TUSKEGEE AIRMEN PROFILE

2d Lt John H. Chavis
August 19, 1921 - February 16, 1945
Class: 44-D-SE
Unit: 332nd Fighter Group, 99th Fighter Squadron
Service # O-828047

Chavis of Raleigh, N.C., graduated from flight training on April 15, 1944, at Tuskegee Army Air Field in Alabama, and soon deployed to Italy with the 99th Fighter Squadron.

On Feb. 16, 1945, Chavis was part of a bomber escort mission from Ramitelli Air Field, Italy, to Munich, Germany. Soon after take-off, Chavis disappeared.

“When we started up through the overcast, the formation got strung out, but I could see Lt. Chavis up in front of me,” 2nd Lt. Harold H. Brown wrote in a military report. “The clouds got so thick that I could not see him anymore, so I went on my own instruments. I broke out of

the overcast about 30 seconds later. Lt. (Wendell W.) Hockaday was on my wing then, but I didn’t see Lt. Chavis break out of the overcast.”

Hockaday said he saw each pilot fly into the clouds, but was unable to see them once he entered the overcast.

“Breaking out of the overcast, I didn’t see Lt. Chavis,” Hockaday wrote in the report. “It took approximately one minute to get through the overcast. After checking our flight, we found several men missing and Lt. Chavis was the only one unaccounted for.”

Chavis’ name is included on the Tablets of the Missing at the Florence American Cemetery and Memorial in Italy. According to a government database, he was awarded 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.

**“Do the best you are capable of doing, that’s all you can do; but do it all the time.”
~Tuskegee Airman Colonel William Campbell**



PFC John Leach and Tec 4 Charles Parkham, 1766th Ord S&M Co are shown repairing the motor of a jeep at the company garage in Jesi, Italy. Photo taken by T/Sgt Kenneth L. Janey, HQ Photo Sec



Honoring the Women Airforce Service Pilots

FEATURED WASP PROFILE

Adaline Alma Blank Adams

August 17, 1917 – July 6, 2001

WASP Class W-43-8

Planes flown: PT-19, BT-13, AT-6

Bases served: Hondo Army Air Field (Tex.) and Dodge City Army Air Base (Kan.)

July 8, 1943

Dearest Sis,

Kindly note change of address. I am so happy to be here and can hardly realize that I am actually a part of this marvelous new program. It was a real thrill when I first saw these tremendous air fields, the huge hangars, and the beautiful planes in the air; my heart simply started to pound.

Love, Spook

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



The daughter of E.J. and Alma Blank, Edna was born Aug. 17, 1917, in Ripley and had her early education in Cushing where her father was a banker. The family was active in the Presbyterian Church of Cushing.

She attended Cushing schools and graduated from Ferry Hall High School a finishing school at Lake Forest, Ill. She was a graduate of Mills College, Oakland, Calif.; and later graduated from Tobe' Cloburn Merchandising School in New York City, before being employed with Lord & Taylor department store.

As a young woman she attended Spartan School of Aeronautics in Tulsa, and was a graduate pilot of the Women's Air Force Service Pilots in Sweetwater, Texas. 1943-1944.

She was a charter member of the Rev. John Robinson Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) and a former State Indian Chairman of DAR, and on the Board of Trustees of Bacone College of Muskogee. Other memberships included Philbrook Art Museum, Tulsa Philharmonic, Tulsa Opera Guild, Tulsa Historical Society, Five Tribes Museum, Air-Space Museum and was a Gillie Volunteer for Gilcrease Museum.

[**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.

How did WASP Scotty Bradley Class 44-W-7 feel about being a WASP?

“ I want you to know that all of us were just -- some people asked us, you know, why we did this-- why we flew. It was an honor and a privilege for us to serve our country, doing what we loved best, and that was to fly. But to tell you the truth, and every WASP will agree with me on this: if I had had the money at that time, I would have gladly paid them for that wonderful training and the opportunity to fly those wonderful airplanes.”



Flight Instructor Helen Duffy (R) going over cockpit procedures with a pilot trainee at Avenger Field in Sweetwater Texas - 1943. LIFE Magazine - Peter Stackpole Photographer

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:

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Red Wing, MN 55066

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

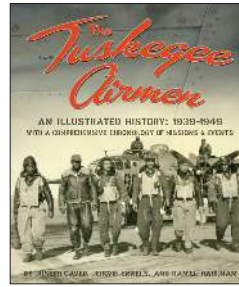
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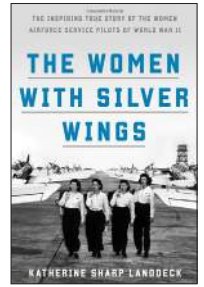
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There's no better way to support our mission to educate, inspire, and honor through flight and living history experiences than by joining a Top Flight Club!

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



Please mail correspondence or donations to our home office at:

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To bring RISE ABOVE to your event, contact:

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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.

[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.



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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!