



# 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).

September 2023



One of the CAF Rise Above Traveling Exhibit stops last month was at the Manassas Regional Airport in Manassas, Virginia. Our host was the Sigma Epsilon Boule Foundation, an organization that seeks to develop leaders in the minority communities of Prince William County Virginia. They raised funds and community support for our visit and it was overwhelming!

The event kicked off on a Tuesday morning with opening ceremonies that were well attended by all the local politicians and Virginia Governor Glenn Youngkin. The Governor gave an inspiring speech that was well received by those in attendance.

Those attending included representatives from the East Coast Chapter of Tuskegee Airmen International including our dear friend Yvonne McGee. Yvonne is the daughter of Tuskegee Airmen Brigadier General Charles McGee. Yvonne is a great supporter of the Rise Above Squadron and it is always great to see her at our events.

Following the ceremonies, the Governor checked out our P-51C Mustang "Tuskegee Airmen" and tried on the cockpit for size. He was pretty sure his 6'4" frame would not fit in the airplane. From the airplane he went to the exhibit and learned about what we do and how we tell the inspiring stories of the Tuskegee Airmen and the WASP.

This set the stage for an incredible week of non-stop visits by the local residents. The entire road crew including Amy Beechler, Chris Allen, and Don Larsen, worked hard all week. We had long lines for both the exhibit and to buy merchandise, but the people of Prince William County were patient, and generous at the donation box. It was a great event!

Events like this are energizing and humbling and remind us of the importance of the work we do. Several years ago at the AirVenture show in Oshkosh, Wisconsin I was driving Brigadier General Charles McGee in a golf cart. We were talking about the Rise Above Squadron and he told me that when he was gone that he would rest easy knowing that we would continue to keep the story of the Tuskegee Airmen alive.

Tailwinds,  
Doug Rozendaal Squadron Leader

Brigadier General Charles McGee always took time to listen to and inspire the youth by sharing his 4 P's: PERCEIVE, PREPARE, PERFORM, and PERSEVERE.



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



Milton McGee



Sonya Underwood



Shaunine Nixon  
No photo available

## 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](mailto:logistics@cafriseabove.org) for more information.

Thank you so much for sharing these important stories!

My wife and I are retired educators and we left saying we would have brought these films and stories to our students if we had known about them.

My wife's family was career Air Force with her father being a pilot in Korea and Viet Nam. Living on bases all over the world she was aware of the ongoing need to share the stories of the contributions of women and Blacks to the successes of our military at present and throughout our history.

Thank you for your work. We will continue to share with others the importance of supporting your mission!

Edward Barker

I truly enjoyed the Tuskegee Airmen and WASP presentations. In addition, I found the staff to be extremely friendly, supportive and professional. I have shared my favorable experience with others and look forward to attending the next northern Virginia RISE exercise as understanding all of America's history is of educational benefit to all Americans.

Best Regards,  
D. Jones



On 'Tuskegee Airmen and WASP Day' in Manassas, Virginia, and as Prince William County, Virginia, issues a proclamation honoring the Tuskegee Airmen, the Women Air Force Service Pilots and the CAF Rise Above Traveling Exhibit continuing to tell their stories, Virginia Governor Glenn Youngkin welcomes all to Manassas Regional Airport for the opening ceremonies.









## Governors Proclamation



# CERTIFICATE of RECOGNITION

*By virtue of the authority vested by the Constitution in the Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia, there is hereby officially recognized:*

## **TUSKEGEE AIRMEN AND WOMEN AIRFORCE SERVICE PILOTS COMMEMORATION DAY**

**WHEREAS**, when the United States was drawn into World War II, African Americans and women were aspiring to more meaningful jobs in the military, including flying and maintaining aircraft; and

**WHEREAS**, the rapid expansion of aircraft production during the war created a greater need for military pilots, and public outcry strongly encouraged the War Department to extend the opportunity to fly airplanes to all military members including federal service women; and

**WHEREAS**, the United States War Department's Civilian Pilot Training Program authorized colleges and universities to train students to increase the number of civilian pilots, and thereby, increase the nation's military preparedness; and

**WHEREAS**, the Women's Auxiliary Ferrying Squadron and the Women's Flying Training Detachment were combined to form the Women Airforce Service Pilots to perform non-combat flight operations to preserve male pilots for combat duties during World War II; and

**WHEREAS**, the Tuskegee Institute in Alabama was one of six African American schools chosen to participate in the Civilian Pilot Training Program, later selected to offer advanced training, and eventually was the sole site for segregated military flight training; and

**WHEREAS**, the outstanding performance and heroism of the Tuskegee Airmen was key to the United States' air success in the European theater during World War II; and

**WHEREAS**, the Women Airforce Service Pilots were stationed at 122 air bases across the United States and flew almost every type of aircraft flown by the United States Army Air Forces during World War II; and

**WHEREAS**, July marked the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Executive Orders 9980 and 9981, the desegregation of the Federal Workforce and Armed Forces; and

**WHEREAS**, on Tuskegee Airmen and Women Airforce Service Pilots Commemoration Day, we recognize these distinguished pilots for overcoming obstacles to serve our country during World War II and for paving the way for others to follow their enduring legacy;

**NOW, THEREFORE, I** Glenn Youngkin, do hereby recognize August 22, 2023, as **TUSKEGEE AIRMEN AND WOMEN AIRFORCE SERVICE PILOTS COMMEMORATION DAY** in the COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA, and I call this observance to the attention of our citizens.



*Glenn Youngkin*  
Governor

*Ray C. James*  
Secretary of the Commonwealth



*America's Tribute to the Tuskegee Airmen*

## FEATURED TUSKEGEE AIRMEN PROFILE

**PRESS RELEASE | Sept. 1, 2023**

**WASHINGTON –**

**The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) announced today that U.S. Army Air Forces 2nd Lt. Fred L. Brewer Jr., killed during World War II, was accounted for Aug. 10, 2023.**

**Fred Lee Brewer, Jr.**  
**August 1921 – October 29, 1944**  
**Class: 44-C-SE**  
**Graduation date: 3/12/1944**  
**Rank at time of graduation: 2nd Lt**  
**Unit: 100th Fighter Squadron of the 332nd Fighter Group**  
**Service # O824827**  
**From: Charlotte, NC**



Travelin' Lite was a good airplane. On scores of missions, the P-51 fighter with a skinny rabbit painted on its nose had brought its pilots home. Now, at an American air base in Italy, the Lite One, as the plane was called, was about to carry another aviator into action.

Shortly before 9:30 a.m. on Sunday, Oct. 29, 1944, 2nd Lt. Fred L. Brewer Jr., 23, one of the renowned World War II African American pilots known as the Tuskegee Airmen, climbed into the cockpit for a mission to escort bombers attacking Regensburg, Germany.

A member of the ground crew strapped him in, closed the canopy and rode on the wing as the plane taxied to the runway. Brewer gave him the okay sign with his hand. The ground man hopped down, and Brewer took off. He was never seen again.

Last month, the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) said it had concluded that previously unidentified remains recovered from northern Italy after the war were those of Brewer.

He is only the second Tuskegee Airman missing from World War II to be accounted for. The first, Capt. Lawrence E. Dickson of New York, whose P-51 went down in Austria, also in 1944, was officially identified in 2018.

Twenty five still are missing, the DPAA says. The agency, which is based in Arlington, Va., seeks to account for service members missing in action from the country's wars beginning with World War II.

**[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.



**We do not hate those we fight; we do not love those we defend.  
– Unknown, Tuskegee Airman motto during World War II**

### **Records and highlights:**

During WWII, the Tuskegee Airmen flew 1267 missions and 6381 combat sorties with the 12th Air Force (June, 1943 to May, 1944); 311 missions and 9152 combat sorties with the 15th Air Force (June, 1944 to May, 1945)

179 bomber escort missions, with a good record of protection, losing bombers on only seven missions and a total of only 27, compared to an average of 46 among other 15th Air Force P-51 groups.

Total Missions: 1578

Total Combat Sorties: 15,533

Total Aerial Kills: 112

### **Combat Record – Destroyed, Damaged or Sunk**

409 Aircraft (in air and on ground)

112 enemy aircraft destroyed in the air, another 150 on the ground and 148 damaged. This included three Me-262 jet fighters shot down

40 Boats and barges destroyed

950 rail cars, trucks and other motor vehicles destroyed (619 rail cars)

126 Locomotives

23 Buildings and Factories

2 Oil and Ammunition Depots

87 Motor Transports

1 Destroyer

9 Radar Installations

### **Awards and decorations included:**

744 air medals awarded

3 Presidential Unit Citations awarded

150 Distinguished Flying Crosses awarded

1 Legion of Merit awarded

1 Legion of Merit awarded

1 Silver Star awarded

2 Soldier Medals awarded

8 Purple Hearts awarded

14 Bronze Stars awarded

1 Red Star of Yugoslavia awarded

*Statistics provided by the Air Force Historical Research Agency, Maxwell AFB, Alabama*

**[Read more about the Airmen's War Service online](#)**



*Honoring the Women Airforce Service Pilots*

## FEATURED WASP PROFILE

**Lois Maxine Dobbin Auchterlonie**

**Class 43-W-8**

**April 14, 1917 - March 24, 2013**

**Planes flown:**

**PT-19, BT-13, AT-6, UC-78, B-26**

**Assigned Bases:**

**Williams Army Air Base (Chandler, Ariz.)**

Lois graduated from East High in Wichita, Kansas and later attended Wichita State University, where she was President of the Delta-Omega Sorority in her senior year.

In 1941, while still enrolled in college, she had the opportunity to take the CPT (Civilian Pilot Training) program. After earning her Bachelor's Degree and her civilian private pilot's license, she went to work at Boeing's Stearman Plant in Wichita. It was there she heard about the WASP program to train women pilots to fly military aircraft.

Lois applied and was accepted for military flight training in class 43-8. In 1943, she paid her way to Avenger Field, Sweetwater, Texas, to enter the Army Air Force training program for women pilots. Of the 95 women pilots who entered class 43-8, Lois was one of only 48 who successfully completed the six months of training and graduated.

After earning her silver WASP wings, Lois received her official AAF orders, sending her to Williams Field, Arizona for duty as an AT-6 engineering test pilot. Her dedication and service, together with that of the other Women Airforce Service Pilots, released hundreds of the Army Air Forces desperately needed male military pilots for combat duty.

After the WASP were deactivated, Lois built a career around aviation-related jobs: working at flight schools; writing pilot flight manuals at North American (AJ-1 and XA25-1); working as a secretary for an aircraft parts service company in Wichita; and eventually working for over thirty years as a technical editor and proposal coordinator for Raytheon in Massachusetts.

In 1981, Lois became a charter member of the Women Military Aviators (WMA), an organization that included both WASP and other women military pilots. She helped write the original by-laws and continued networking with members from various flying branches of the military for many years.

[\*\*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.



**“It is natural for a person to seek happiness in life. However, I believe that this desirable aim is never achieved if one attempts to find it directly. Instead, happiness is found indirectly as a by-product from devoted service to the lives of others.”**

**WASP Marie Mountain Clark, Class 44-W-1**



Enid AAF Enid, Oklahoma. WASP squadron in front of AT-6. They did utility and administrative flying, engineering testing and some ferrying. (l to r) Evelyn Stewart (43-W-6), Meriem Roby (44-W-4), Harriet Jean Moore (44-W-2), Flora Smith (44-W-2), Lucille Carey (44-W-5), Juner Bellew (44-W-6), Mary Quinlan (44-W-3), Sylvia Miller (44-W-7)

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



## SHOP WITH WITH A PURPOSE!

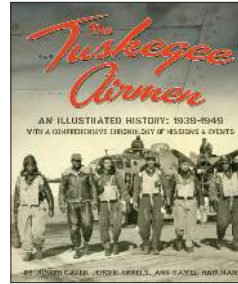
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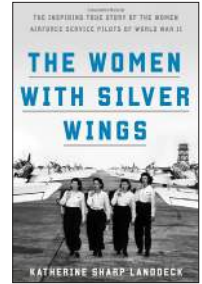
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### [Join RISE ABOVE: RED TAIL](#)

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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**See us in action on YouTube**

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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!](#)

**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!