



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 2021

As a non-profit organization our donors are our life-line that enable us to continue to build out the RISE ABOVE® Triumph Over Adversity® message to educate audiences across the country about the history and legacy of the Tuskegee Airmen and the Women Airforce Service Pilots – so 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.

We work hard to listen to our donors and take time to personally reply to letters, phone calls and emails. It is encouraging to receive affirmation that our efforts are making a difference!

Please be assured that the CAF RISE ABOVE Squadron responsibly and carefully allocates donation dollars to further our mission. The values based educational potential of these two initiatives are relevant and important for young people today and we would appreciate your continued support. We also welcome your comments and input you have to offer.

You listened when I requested two caps. Thank you. The tie tack is made in the USA. Double thank you for USA sourcing.

To get back to the cap: Up close, this cap is even better than pictured. The design, quality, and overall workmanship are superior to anything I have seen before. Your logo is impressive in black and white - in color it's outstanding. Patch after patch contribute to make a colorful, PRIDEFUL, cap to wear with honor for all those who served. The designers and makers are to be credited.

We are losing our youth and using them to front for adult problems and conflicts. You're taking such a valuable message to everyone. My folks were of the Greatest Generation. They were important, their values were important. They were not perfect, but their messages of work-ethic, self-respect, self-reliance and basic decency are not to be trashed or forgotten. As you promote: you overcome your obstacles by self-reliance and persistence and using your brain and talents. Something we all need to remember to bring to mind a positive attitude. Everyone, regardless of age, race, or even country benefits from these values and I'm happy to support you.

Thank you for these super caps and tie tack. I've enclosed an additional gift of \$50; just a token of the value of these caps and tie tack.


Barbara Hejdoneck

Our mission in action!

Hi LaVone,

I wanted you to know that even though we had to decline displaying at the local air show due to their restrictions, we felt that we still needed to acknowledge the Tuskegee Airmen in some non confrontational way. So Bruce Stewart, Leroy Gibson and myself show up at the air show on Sunday but, we came representing the Red Tails literally from head to toe, (See attached photos) and I'm glad we did.

Not only was the P-51D Mustang that had been painted to look like Lt. Colonel Bob Friend's plane there and flew, but more importantly, we were constantly approached by people in the crowd who wanted acknowledge their appreciation for contributions of the Tuskegee Airmen. They were stopping us to take photos with them and asking questions about the "Redtails". Needless to say, we were all but to happy to accommodate their questions and give them a lasting photo reminder that the Tuskegee Legacy is still relevant.

Attending the show despite not having a booth actually gave us an opportunity mingle with the crowd and sharing the importance of never forgetting the impact the Tuskegee experience has made to this country and our world. It was also confirmation that there is still an audience out there that desires to know and celebrate our heroes and, although initially not the way we intended, we stayed the course and accomplished our mission!

At the end of the day, we felt vindicated with a sense of pride knowing that even when people, being ignorant of history, attempt to rewrite or erase a segment of history that have impacted society for the betterment of all mankind, it's our obligation and duty to remind them that the legacy of groups like the Tuskegee Airmen has been written in indelible ink and their stories demand to be told.

Again, I want to thank you for all your support and encouragement. You're truly appreciated by us simple folks here in Oxnard. I almost forgot, we're preparing to send you a Redtail P-51 mustang to include in your collection. I'll let you know when it's on its way. Stay safe and may God continue to bless you!

Lawrence Lee

Representing H.E.R.O.E.S & The Tuskegee Legacy and Beyond Project





America's Tribute to the Tuskegee Airmen

FEATURED TUSKEGEE AIRMEN PROFILE

CMSgt Fred Archer

July 20, 1921 - September 1988

Chief Archer was the first Afro-American to earn the rank of CMSgt and the first to be nominated (three times) for the position of Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force.

Archer served under West Point graduate Benjamin O. Davis., whose father was the regimental commander for the 369th. After two years, he went on active duty with the Army Air Corps in 1941.

Archer and 13 others left New York for Chanute Field, Ill., where they received technical training to become aircraft armorers. He also attended gunnery training at Eglin Field, Fla.

These Airmen become the support crew for a group of pilots at Tuskegee Airfield that would later be called the Tuskegee Airmen, the first African Americans to enter the Army Air Corps.

Private Archer was assigned to the 99th Pursuit Squadron, again under the command of Capt. Benjamin O. Davis. In April 1943, the 99th left Tuskegee to join the war overseas.



[Read the complete profile of CMSgt Fred Archer 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

The Tuskegee Airmen, as they came to be known, were the first black pilots in the U.S. military, and they proved their worth. "At that time, blacks were not considered intellectual enough to do many things. We deserved that chance."

~Tuskegee Airman John Adams, Jr.



A B-25 crew consults a flight plan in April, 1945, prior to a training mission

Photo courtesy Air Force Historical Research Agency, Maxwell, AFB, AL



Honoring the Women Airforce Service Pilots

FEATURED WASP PROFILE

Edith “Edy” Clayton Keene

December 19, 1920 - April 25, 1944

Class: 44-W-1

Entered Army Air Force flight training: Avenger Field, Sweetwater, Tex, August 9, 1943

Graduated: February 11, 1944

Training location: Avenger Field (Sweetwater, Tex.)

Assignments: Training cadet navigators, Towing targets, Ferrying, Administrative

Assigned bases: Hondo Army Air Field (Tex.) and Moore Army Air Base (Mission, Tex.)

Planes flown: PT-19, BT-13, AT-6, C-45, UC-78

Edith had learned to fly in the Pomona Junior College Civilian Pilot Training program, given at Brackett Field, an airfield located between the cities of La Verne and Pomona, California.

After graduation from WASP basic Edith reported to Hondo Army Air Field in Hondo, Texas, where she piloted twin engine aircraft to train student navigators. From there she went to Moore Army Air Base in Mission, Texas.

Edith was flying an AT-6 Texan on April 25, 1944 with Robert Kuenstler Jr., who had enlisted in the Army a year earlier and had graduated from advanced flight training at Moore Field. Edith was helping Kuenstler with his navigation and instrument flight training. She had traded places with another WASP for the afternoon flight.

Kuenstler was at the stick of the AT-6, while Edith observed from the back seat. Just after 2:30, flying about 12 miles northwest of the field, Kuenstler was going through the usual dips, turns, and rolls before dropping into a dive. As he pulled back on the stick to recover, they both could hear the straining scrape of metal as one of the wings separated and fell away. The aircraft began to fall and Kuenstler quickly unfastened his harness and jumped to safety, but Edith could not. Perhaps struck by the wing, her canopy would not open and she went down to her death with the plane.



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.

"...once a bird soars, it can never settle for a stroll... first thing in the morning you check the weather, wind direction and cloud cover"

~ WASP Evelyn "Pinky" Pinkert Brier, Class 44-W-9



In August 1943, the Women Airforce Service Pilots program was formed. The WASP helped free men for combat and other duties, creating a legacy for U.S. Air Force female pilots who chose to follow in their footsteps. Though WASP played an important role during WWII, they were not recognized as military pilots until 1977, after Congress distinguished them as WWII veterans. (U.S. Air Force courtesy photo)



Back-to-School Campaign

During difficult times it is instructive to look back and learn from others who have triumphed in the face of adversity. For education leaders, it is especially important to support the social-emotional health of students, families, and staff.

Download the **free** Toolkits featured in the [Commemorative Air Force® RISE ABOVE® Back-to-School Campaign](#) and watch the introduction featuring video interviews with Lt Col Harold H. Brown, USAF, Ret, Tuskegee Airman.

Additional educational resources!

Find a wealth of information about the Tuskegee Airmen or WASP, educational resources and more. Look for [RESOURCES](#) in the menu bar!

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.

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



Comments from teachers on the CAF RISE ABOVE Online Resources:

"I used the materials to guide my lessons and present to students. Our school hosts a Black History Month assembly every year. This year, we decided to have 7th school complete a poster project on the Tuskegee Airmen. My students benefited from the visual posters, and the information they learned helped them to complete their assignment. It was an excellent resource. I wouldn't change anything."

~Adrienne, Detroit, Michigan

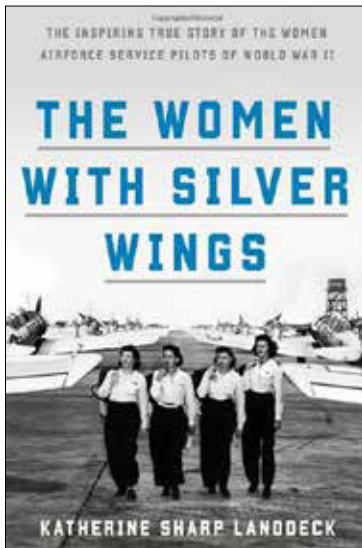
Featured items, visit our [online store](#) to see more!

2022 Commemorative calendars \$15.00

This year we are offering two commemorative calendars!

Honoring the Tuskegee Airmen scrapbook calendar includes a monthly inspirational story of a Tuskegee Airman - learn more about the obstacles they faced, as well as their tenacity to survive and succeed.

Or, check out the Red Tail Squadron Mustang calendar featuring breathtaking photographs of our beautiful P-51C Mustang "Tuskegee Airmen" as well as a brief bio on a featured Tuskegee Airman.



The Women with Silver Wings: The Inspiring True Story of the Women Airforce Service Pilots of World War II \$28

Hardcover – Illustrated. Author Katherine Sharp Landeck

"With meticulous research and breathless pacing, "The Women With Silver Wings" will make you soar with pride at the daring and commitment of America's first women military pilots—and cheer for the men who backed them to the end."—Elizabeth Cobbs, Professor and Melbern Glasscock Chair in American History at Texas A&M University

WE NEED YOU!

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!

[Give online](#), or call 888-928-0188, or by mail at:

**CAF RISE ABOVE
971 Hallstrom Drive
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

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.

[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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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!