



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).

October 2023



Essay Contest

Calling all students 4th through 12th grade!

Submit your essay for the CAF Rise Above Squadron's annual essay contest saluting the Tuskegee Airmen and WASP!

Inspire your students with the remarkable story of the Tuskegee Airmen and Women Airforce Service Pilots by participating in the CAF Rise Above Squadron's essay contest!

The contest is a fun way to help students learn about the achievements of the Tuskegee Airmen and Women Airforce Service Pilots. They will get the chance to put into action what they have learned about the importance of education, training and especially determination, based on the Tuskegee Airmen and WASP examples of pursuing excellence and overcoming adversity.

Entries must be emailed prior to 5:00pm on or before February 15, 2024. Email your entry to: info@cafriseabove.org

Essay contest winners will be announced on March 15, 2024.

[Click here for the guidelines and prize information!](#)



[DONATE TODAY AND HELP REMAKE THE RISE ABOVE: RED TAIL MOVIE!](#)

Since the launch of the Rise Above Traveling Exhibit in 2011 over 300,000 guests have viewed the free movie and over 150,000 children have received the free Rise Above dog tag!



If you haven't made a gift yet to preserve and update this vital piece of American history, please donate \$41 or more today in honor of the Tuskegee Airmen.

Without your support today, the history of the Tuskegee Airmen is at risk of becoming outdated, and it is our duty to ensure that doesn't happen on our watch.

Brig. Gen. Charles Edward McGee dedicated his life to keeping the legacy of the Tuskegee Airmen and all that they stood for alive. He had one of the most celebrated careers in the Air Force and beyond, completing 409 missions. And one of only a few fighter pilots to fly more than 100 combat missions in the wars fought in his lifetime: WWII, Korea, and Vietnam.

Brigadier General McGee knew the Tuskegee Airmen were making history. And he was dedicated to educating and inspiring children to follow in their footsteps.

Please honor Brig. Gen. Charles Edward McGee and the other Tuskegee Airmen by making a gift today. Your gift will help us update the film telling their story in our mobile movie theater while advancing our overall mission to recognize their impeccable service, their incredible sacrifice, and the countless ways they changed the future.

[PLEASE DONATE NOW](#)

Tailwinds,
Doug Rozendaal Squadron Leader

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Doug Rozendaal".

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



Duane Sims



Noah Shiffer



Austin Hancock



Bevin Lynn

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.

I want to let you know how happy and proud I am that you're keeping the the name and record of the Tuskegee Airmen in the forefront of American History! I am the 80-year-old daughter of a Tuskegee Airman! I was born in Detroit, MI where a number of men were drafted into the Tuskegee regiment. I remember the day my dad went to the largest airport in metro-Detroit to apply for a position as a pilot or airplane mechanic. When he came home from the only airport near Wayne County and Detroit in Ypsilanti, Michigan, he was in full-blown RAGE! He told my mom the white guys in charge at the Willow Run Airport told him they weren't hiring any "Ns" today! His leather sheepskin jacket was thrown out with the trash along with his leather aviator's cap! When I was little, my Mom would put the jacket on me so I could prance around looking at myself in the mirror.

My dad's name was William Shuford, who was born in 1921. He passed away in June 1991. I will be proud and and humbled to wear the Tuskegee Airman's hat! My husband (who is still a full-time Pastor at 76 years of age) wants to wear the Rise Above lapel pin on his Disabled Veteran from the Vietnam War hat.

My dad resented his heritage as a Black Man and Cherokee Indian. If he had lived just a few more months, he would have been over-joyed to see the film about the Tuskegee Airmen starring Lawrence Fishburn. The thing he used to tell us about the days in the Army Airforce, and when he was growing up were unbelievable!

Sincerely,
Beverly Ruth Sullivan

Event photos, Buffalo, NY





FEATURED TUSKEGEE AIRMEN PROFILE

America's Tribute to the Tuskegee Airmen

1st LT Newman C. Golden
Oct 12, 1919 - Oct 17, 1951
Class: 44-G-SE
Graduation Date: August 4, 1944
Graduation Rank: 1st Lt
Unit: 99th Fighter Squadron of the 332nd Fighter Group
Unit Korean War: 39th Fighter-Interceptor Squadron, 18th Fighter Bomber Group
Service # 0-934440

1st Lt Golden graduated from the Tuskegee Flight School in 1944. The Army sent him to Italy to fly the P-51 Mustang with the 99th Fighter Squadron during World War II. Mechanical problems forced him to bail out March 20, 1945, over Wels, Austria, where he was captured by Germans. He spent the remainder of World War II in the Stalag VII-A prisoner-of-war camp before being released when Allied forces prevailed.



During the Korean War, Golden's P-51D Mustang night fighter was shot down Oct. 17, 1951. His fighter took a direct hit from anti-aircraft fire, burst into flames and crashed. He was initially listed as missing in action, but his status was changed on March 31, 1954, to killed in action, body not recovered.

His daughter, Marilyn Beecham-Hood, who was 9 years old when her father died, works to carry his memory forward. Beecham-Hood remembers the 1951 day when Soldiers came to the house in Richmond, California, to say Golden was missing.

"I was outside, playing, like we did in those days," she said. "These three Soldiers came. My mother was really upset and crying. I didn't know the magnitude of what was going on at the time, but I remember these Soldiers coming to the house and later on that day, I found out that my dad had been shot down."

Beyond his service, Beecham-Hood said her parents were "staunch advocates for the rights of people" in the 20th century fight for civil rights. When she was 4, her mother fought to integrate the swimming pool on a base that was segregated. Her father was active as well.

[**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.

**“Excellence will overcome obstacles. Excellence was our mantra.”
~ Tuskegee Airman Dr. Roscoe Conkling Brown, Jr.**



617th crew returns from bombing mission.

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

**AIM HIGH
BELIEVE IN YOURSELF
USE YOUR BRAIN
BE READY TO GO
NEVER QUIT
EXPECT TO WIN**





Honoring the Women Airforce Service Pilots

FEATURED WASP PROFILE

Meriem Lucille Roby Anderson

July 12, 1921 – January 5, 2018

Class: 44-W-4

Training Location: Avenger Field (Sweetwater, Tex.)

Assigned Bases: Enid Army Air Base (Okla.)

Planes flown: PT-17, BT-13, BT-15

Anderson was born July 12, 1921, in Eureka. Her parents – E.C. and Leota Roby – had means. She attended elementary and high school at Mrs. Harris' School for Girls in Miami Beach, Florida, where her parents lived during the winter. The Robys would return each summer to their Flint Hills ranch. According to her daughter-in-law, Madeline Anderson, the first winter a young Meriem stayed in Eureka, she helped train 400 head of horses to send to the Army in France.

In 1942, she joined the Civil Air Patrol in Wichita as a lieutenant, transportation officer and pilot. She began flying in Wichita that year and would commute from the ranch in Greenwood County to Wichita on a motorcycle. She joined the Women Airforce Service Pilots on Oct. 4, 1945. She was one of five women from Wichita's air patrol who received WASP wings.



"I wanted to fly ever since I was a little kid," Anderson told The Wichita Eagle in 2004. "My parents weren't real happy about it, but they felt differently after I got my wings."

WASP took the same ground school and flight training as the men, except for combat flying. They flew aircraft from factories to overseas bases, towed targets for live anti-aircraft practice, transported cargo and test-flew repaired planes at U.S. bases before they were turned over to the male pilots. It was a select but dangerous duty. Of the 1,074 women who passed all the training, at least 38 were killed in the service.

Anderson was stationed at Enid Army Air Base in Oklahoma, test-flying trainers after they had been repaired or worked on for any reason.

Anderson was a life member of the Women Airforce Service Pilots, the Women Military Aviators Association and The Ninety-Nines, International Organization of Women Pilots.

She continued flying until the 1970s.

[**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.

"I was one of the lucky women who were part of the experiment that proved women could fly as well as men."

Ann Russell Darr, Class 44-W-3



Biggs AAF, El Paso, Texas. Standing: Ellington (43-W-4), Jones (43-W-5), Lowe (43-W-4), Landry (43-W-7), Thompson (43-W-7). Squatting: Bayley (43-W-7), Menges (43-W-3), Major Aiken, Stevenson.



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

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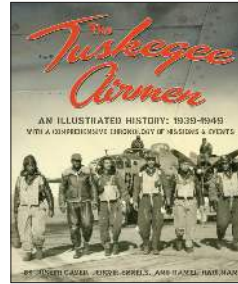
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[Visit our online store.](#) *Shipping is included for state-side orders!*



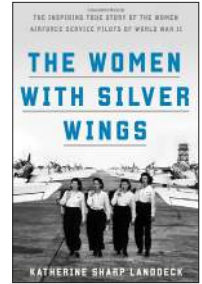
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For \$99 you can join the exclusive ranks of the Top Flight Club!

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



Please mail correspondence or donations to our home office at:

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



To bring RISE ABOVE to your event, contact:

Keri Ryan
Senior Logistics Coordinator
logistics@cafriseabove.org
(802) 371-8838

Doug Rozendaal
Squadron Leader
leader@cafriseabove.org

Kim Pardon
Public Relations/Media
PR@cafriseabove.org

For general inquiries, contact:

LaVone Kay
Marketing Director & Donor Support
info@cafriseabove.org
(888) 928-0188

Melanie Burden
Volunteer Coordinator
volunteer@cafriseabove.org

Chris Allen
Traveling Exhibit Manager
Exhibit@cafriseabove.org

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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!

