



# 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).

November 2023



The countdown has begun for our return to the International Council of Air Show's annual conference, which takes place in Las Vegas each year in December. Hailed as the mecca for air show newbies and long-time veterans alike, the ICAS convention is the week we all look forward to - the week we get to see familiar faces, meet the ones we've only spoken with over the phone or emails, and introduce ourselves to folks we'd like to work with. The International Council of Air Shows was founded "to provide information to air show sponsors and pilots; to promote safety at all aviation events; and to work with government agencies to develop air show safety standards."

In addition to the unveiling of the military performance schedules, the week is punctuated by informative educational sessions covering topics from "Crisis Communication" to "Developing at Air Show Operations Manual." One of my favorite moments during the week is immediately following Tuesday morning's opening general session, when the military performance schedule for the next year excites everyone to start planning their season and we all make a dash for the exhibitor hall. A handful of Commemorative Air Force squadrons share a large exhibition space, which allows for a week of catching up with teammates, coworkers and dedicated volunteers in between shaking hands with air show directors and coordinators. Our 2024 calendar is in the works, and you can look forward to seeing us all across the country, including a return to some familiar shows such as Columbus and Tallahassee, as well as some unique special events, such as the Red Tail Squadron Celebration in Montgomery, AL. If you'd like to see the Rise Above Exhibit visit your community, reach out to us at [logistics@cafriseabove.org](mailto:logistics@cafriseabove.org). We can't wait to see you on the road!

Keri Ryan  
Rise Above Logistics Director

Sitting at lunch near the air show, restaurant owner came out to talk to me because of the squadron shirt I'm wearing: his father was a medic with Patton's 3rd Army. He said his Dad didn't share much, but he shared a love of WWII aircraft because when they were in the air, it changed everything for the chances for the men on the ground. Before he finished talking to me about his Dad, he was in tears, just talking about how happy it made him to hear a P-51 fly over his restaurant. Reminds you this thing we do matters.

Chris Allen  
CAF Rise Above Traveling Exhibit Manager





## 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!

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

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

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

**Mark your  
calendars!  
GIVE TO THE  
MAX DAY  
November 16!**



We are happy to announce that we are participating in the Give to the Max Day 24-hour extravaganza of generosity, a nationwide fundraising initiative for schools and non-profit organizations.

[Give to the Max Day](#) takes place November 16, with Early Giving beginning November 1 through the end of November!

Funds raised goes to support our educational outreach programs, maintenance of the P-51C Mustang Tuskegee Airmen and the RISE ABOVE Traveling Exhibit.

[Please give online](#), by calling 888-928-0188, or by mail at:

CAF RISE ABOVE Squadron  
PO BOX 416  
Red Wing, MN 55066

Please be assured that the CAF RISE ABOVE Squadron responsibly and carefully allocates donation dollars to further our mission. If you believe, like we do, that the values based educational potential of these two initiatives are relevant and important for young people today, we would appreciate your continued support.

The CAF RISE ABOVE® is an educational outreach program of the Commemorative Air Force, (CAF) a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, FEIN # 74-1484491. Your contribution is tax deductible.

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



Duane Sims



John Halbur



Jalen Gilbert, a 19-yr-old aspiring A&P, joined the Squadron for the Indianapolis Crossroads Air Show

### 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.

I first learned of this exhibit back in August when I visited the Southern Heritage Air Foundation Museum in Mound, Louisiana. I was so excited to see this exhibit in order to learn more about the Tuskegee Airman and the WASP!

My husband and I toured the exhibit on October 12 and it was a fabulous exhibit! Everyone at the exhibit were very knowledgeable and friendly. We were escorted in to the “auditorium” to watch the movie. Both segments of the movie were very informative. Afterwards, we had an opportunity to walk out onto the airfield and get a closeup look at a restored P-51 Mustang! We had our picture made with the plane and I took several photographs of the plane.

We came away from the exhibit with a greater appreciation of the sacrifices and bravery these young men and women exhibited to protect our great nation. We were very glad that we made the short drive from our home in Vicksburg to see this exhibit!

Thank you very much for such an outstanding exhibit!

Sincerely,  
Elizabeth Joyner





5th graders from Quincy, Illinois' Iles Elementary - the 'Red Tails!' - meet their namesake!



Dawn and Sherry Warren and Ty Bernaugh, cousins and nephew respectively of Tuskegee Airman Colonel George Iles, joined the Red Tail Squadron in Quincy, IL.





The Iles Elementary school proudly displays the [Six Guiding Principles](#) on students t-shirts and throughout the school!



Mayor Michael A. Troup proclaimed October 1-7, 2023 'Tuskegee Airmen and Women Airforce Service Pilots Commemoration Week' in Quincy, Illinois, during the CAF Rise Above stay. The proclamation was read into record at the exhibit at Quincy Regional Airport/Baldwin Field by the Mayor himself, with residents of the Illinois Veterans' Home in attendance.



Last week in Tallulah/Vicksburg, I had the privilege of photographing the CAF Rise Above Squadron's P-51C "Tuskegee Airmen" and WASP Squadron's AT-6 Texan "Nella" in formation as they flew over the Mississippi River at sunset. The importance of this flight and pairing was not lost on me, and I hope my photos can be of use for the Squadrons and the CAF as a whole.

I am grateful to all of those who made this possible and placed their trust in me to capture the photos that would truly do justice to this opportunity, particularly Jordan Brown, who graciously allowed us to use his C-45 as the photo ship for the shoot. The crew was as follows:

C-45 photo ship: Jordan Brown, Curt Lewis

P-51C: Doug Rozendaal, Kim Pardon

AT-6: Savannah Weaver, Jon Hullsiek











## FEATURED TUSKEGEE AIRMEN PROFILE

*America's Tribute to the Tuskegee Airmen*

**Capt William John Faulkner, Jr.**  
**1918 - November 6, 1944**  
**Class: 43-D-SE**  
**Graduation Date: April 29, 1943**  
**Graduation Rank:**  
**Unit: 332nd Fighter Group, 301st Fighter Squadron**  
**Service # O-801166**

William "Billie" J. Faulkner was a Tennessean who heroically served and perished in World War II. A North Nashville native and graduate of Pearl High School, Nashville, TN.

He had enlisted in the United States Army Air Forces. Entered the service via Regular Military. Served during World War II. Faulkner had the rank of Captain. His military occupation or specialty was Pilot. Service number assignment was O-801166. Attached to 332nd Fighter Group, 301st Fighter Squadron.

Capt Faulkner was shot down over Austria on his 56th mission and was reported missing and ultimately declared dead on November 6, 1944. Recorded circumstances attributed to: "Non Hostile, Died while Missing, Air Crash". Incident location: Austria.

Member of the Tuskegee Airmen. He went missing over Austria during a bomber escort mission to the Vienna area. At some later point his remains were found.

William J Faulkner is buried or memorialized at Plot A Row 22 Grave 59, Lorraine American Cemetery, St. Avold, France. This is an American Battle Monuments Commission location.



[\*\*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.



**"Throughout my career I was focused and set goals,"  
~Tuskegee Airman Lt Col Harold Brown**



Lt. Lee "Buddy" Archer of the 301st FS being congratulated by his crew chief after one of his victories. They are posing with their P-51 "Ina the Macon Belle" #72. Archer often teamed up with Wendell Pruitt to score victories. The two of them were nicknamed the "Gruesome Twosome".



*Honoring the Women Airforce Service Pilots*

## FEATURED WASP PROFILE

**Betty C. Tackaberry Blake**

**October 29, 1920 – April 9, 2015**

**Class: 43-W-1**

**Training Location: Houston Municipal Airport (Tex.)**

**Assigned Bases: Long Beach Army Air Base (Calif.)**

**Planes flown: B-17, B-24, B-26, C-21, Cessna 170, DC-3, P-38, P-39, P-40, P-51, P-63, X-47**

Blake, who began flying at the age of 14 in 1934, became even more interested in airplanes when she met Amelia Earhart at the University of Hawaii in January 1935. Earhart traveled to the islands on her quest to become the first pilot to solo the 2,408 miles across the Pacific Ocean between Honolulu and Oakland, California.

She attended University of Hawaii, was accepted into the college's Civilian Pilot Training program and earned her license. She then flew tourists around the Islands. On Saturday, Dec. 6, 1941, she had passed tests for commercial license and instructor rating and was scheduled to fly a tourist around the island at 6:30 am. He

canceled that afternoon. On December 7, 1941, Betty was at home with Ensign Robert Tackaberry, a young sailor from the USS California, when Pearl Harbor was attacked. Fortunately, Ensign Tackaberry was at the Guild home and not on the ship at the time. Betty and "Tack" did see the attack, however, from her home above Honolulu. She felt lucky that she had cancelled an island tour for Sunday or she might have been the "first casualty" on December 7th. Betty's father helped get Tack back to his ship, though they had to hide in the Pearl Harbor gatehouse until the second raid ended. Later Betty was secretly married to this lucky young ensign by the man who wrote "Praise the Lord and Pass the Ammunition," a popular wartime song. When her husband returned to duty, Betty continued her dream of flying.

In 1942, the Women's Air Ferrying Service, or WAFS, started accepting application for female pilots in Delaware. Black quickly went down from Philadelphia to sign up. However, she was turned down because she was short fifty hours of the required flying time. Shortly afterwards, she received a letter from Jackie Cochran, appointed by General. "Hap" Arnold, the director of the Women's Flying Training Detachment (WFTD) to be in the first class. Only two hundred hours were needed for the class. The 23-week training program began in Houston, Texas, at Howard Hughes Field. Later, classes moved to Sweetwater, Texas. There were 32 women in her class. They were dubbed. "Guinea pigs" because they were the first class of that kind. Blake graduated on April 24, 1943, at Ellington Field, Houston, in the first WFTD class 43-W-1 of 23 women.

[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.



## WASP QUOTE OF THE MONTH

**Remember, these are years when few women even had driver's licenses. It's not a time where little girls growing up thought, "one day I'll fly military airplanes."  
Deborah G. Douglas, WASP Historian**



**Nadine Bernice Ramsey, Class 43-W-5**

## SHOP WITH WITH A PURPOSE!

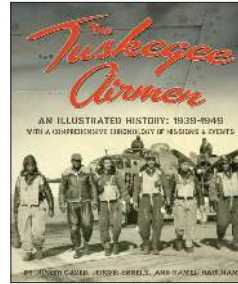
Find great treasures AND honor the history and legacy of the Tuskegee Airmen and WASP!  
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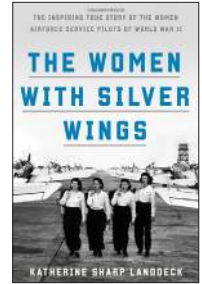
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## For \$99 you can join the exclusive ranks of the Top Flight Club!

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





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:

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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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**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!

