



# 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).

May 2022

The Randolph JBSA Airshow was well attended - we had over 1800 experience our amazing exhibit. A huge shout out of thanks for the assistance from the Reeve's family: Albert, Portia and Jayson!

The static display section was amazing and it was cool seeing them all fly in on Thursday. Speaking of static displays, we were placed in a REDTAIL corner! There was an A1 jet that was labeled Tuskegee Airman and had a beautiful big red rail along with an F16 from Alabama that also had a big red tail. It was great to see us all together.



Kelly Collin  
CAF Traveling Exhibit Coordinator

## **Thank you to our volunteers, the Reeves family, at the Randolph AFB, TX airhow!**

Me and my family had a fun and rewarding experience as CAF Rise Above volunteers at the Great Texas Airshow at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph on April 23-24, 2022. It was a special learning experience for all of us. My wife, Portia really enjoyed the interaction she experienced with the public. My son, Jayson said it was great talking to the older, more experienced generation about the challenges the Tuskegee Airmen went through proving that they were fully capable of flying. Additionally, I expressed their efforts in opening the doors of opportunity, which led me to being able to complete a 25-year aviation career in the U.S. Air Force. Collectively, we expressed the values of the Tuskegee Airmen: Aim HIGH, Believe in Yourself, Use Your Brain, Never Quit, Be Ready To Go, and Expect To Win. We knew our volunteer service will only help the public understand that through dedication and hard work, along with following the values of the Tuskegee Airmen, one can overcome obstacles and challenges



Alfred Reeves



Portia Reeves



Jayson Reeves

## Thank you to our guests for sharing their experience with us!

We at North Coast Chapter Tuskegee Airmen Incorporated (TAI) have certainly enjoyed our partnership with the CAF Red Tail Squadron. Your entire organization has done so much to keep alive the spirit of the Greatest Generation. You've very effectively translated their values in order to inspire youth of all ages that we can accomplish amazing things just like the women and men did of the WWII Experience.

I first got to know you folks, starting nearly 20 years ago when our chapter brought *By Request* and one of its pilots - the ever-popular Doug Rozendaal - to CNAS. By the way, our Documented Original Tuskegee Airmen (DOTAs) never had so much fun or attention at that air show. One of my favorite memories is of 4 of them sitting in the shade under the wing of *By Request* signing autographs for hours!

Thanks for all that you and everyone else at CAF does, especially for highlighting contributions of the women during WWII!

Richard Enty  
Vice President & Past President of North Coast Chapter TAI

My hubby and I thoroughly enjoyed this educational experience. We had heard of the Red Tails and of course the movie really piqued our interest.  
Thank you so much!

~Margaret Cardenas

I was pleased to attend the 'RISE ABOVE' exhibit presented by the Commemorative Air Force'. A hobby I have is studying history and military developments over the centuries. Naturally, I had heard of the Tuskegee Airmen and their participation in World War II.

I felt the presentation did a good job of showing young people, and especially young people of color, that they can do what they set their hearts to achieve. The legend and stories of the Tuskegee Airman is a great example of this achievement. Denied opportunity due to their race, they were determined to serve their country, and to prove to the doubters that just because their skin color is different, they can and did achieve what they set out to do, becoming hero's in their nation's struggle against Hitler's desire to conquer Europe and eliminate those deemed 'undesirable' by the Nazi party.

I was saddened to learn of the death of Don Hinz, flying the aircraft. I had not heard of this accident. I am sure he was proud to have flown the aircraft after such hard work getting it restored.

~Jeff Hickerson





Alice High School. AFJRRUTC. Group TX 931



Sporting our Squadron patch hat, Vernon R. Cartwright, USAF, from Fort Worth, TX drove four hours to come see the Traveling Exhibit!



San Marcos High School. AFJRRUTC

We live in a time when our children are being taught that they live in a country where systematic racism and injustice will never allow them to reach their goals or pursue their dreams. They are being discouraged and that has led to a loss of hope. I felt the need to look back at a time when there were real systematic racism and black people had to strive very hard to overcome when the odds were so heavily stacked against them. The Tuskegee Airman fought for a nation that was unjust and robbing them of their basic human dignities. They knew that someday things would change and how important it was that they gave their best to win the hearts and minds of their fellow Americans. We owe them a debt of gratitude we cannot pay for their sacrifices to get us this far. We need to RISE ABOVE those who seek to keep us from realizing the richness of this great nation. The Tuskegee Airman blazed the trail we must follow. By supporting the CAF Red Tail Squadron, it is the least I can do to show honor and respect to these heroes.

~Vernon Cartwright





Somerset JROTC. Bulldog Battalion led by C/CDT David Morin



The Ogbogu family



The Williams family



His grandfather, Ciprino Martinez, was an Airmen First class.  
July 1944-Jan 1955



*America's Tribute to the Tuskegee Airmen*

## FEATURED TUSKEGEE AIRMEN PROFILE

### **William Elwood Rice**

December 4, 1923 –

**Class:** 44-G-SE

**Graduation Date:** 8/4/1944

**Unit:** Flight Officer with the 332nd Fighter Group

**Service #** T64641

William Elwood “Woody” Rice was 19 years old when he enlisted in the Army in 1942. “I had always been interested in flying. I grew up watching National Guard airplanes and Navy dirigibles flying over Swarthmore, PA where I grew up”.

Woody did basic training at Keesler Field in Biloxi. From there he went to Tuskegee Institute for College Training Detachment then on to Tuskegee Army Airfield for pre-flight training. Woody went back to Tuskegee Institute for primary flying training where he received his license to fly. After which he received basic and advanced flying training. Woody received his wings and the rank of Flight Officer on August 4, 1944.

In December '44 Woody received his orders to go overseas. “After receiving time off to visit our folks back home we were placed onto old Liberty ships that were loaded down with locomotives, trucks and everything else needed for the war effort. Our orders were for Ramitelli Air Field in Italy where the 332nd was located”.

Woody flew in 34 combat missions including the final and longest escort mission from Ramitelli, Italy to Berlin Germany on March 24, 1945. The purpose of the mission was to provide close escort from the B-17 bombers attacking the Daimler/Benz tank Assembly Plant in Berlin.

Rice was discharged from the Army Air Corp in 1946 achieving the rank of 1st Lieutenant. After his discharge he returned to his hometown, started a family and worked for the Pennsylvania Railroad then for the Boeing Corporation for more than 40 years, retiring in 1993.

[\*\*Read his complete 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.



## TUSKEGEE AIRMEN QUOTE OF THE MONTH

**"It was routine to be separated, and although the discrimination was uncomfortable, we were too determined to let that stop us. We were not just fighting for our country, we were fighting for our dreams, and we were willing to give our lives for it."**

**~Tuskegee Airman Captain Claude Alexander Rowe, Jr**



Ground crewmen work on a 332nd FG P-51 Mustang. L-R: Staff Sergeant Calvin P. Thierry, New York, NY - propeller specialist; Staff Sergeant William E. Pitts, Los Angeles, CA - engine mechanic; Staff Sergeant SSGT Vernon C. Richardson, New York, NY - engine mechanic; Staff Sergeant Harold T. Cobb, Atlantic Highlands, NJ - crew chief.

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



*Honoring the Women Airforce Service Pilots*

## FEATURED WASP PROFILE

### **Paula Ruth Loop**

August 25, 1916 to July 7, 1944

**Class:** 43-W-2

**Entered Army Air Force flight training:** Houston Municipal Airport, Houston, Texas, December 19, 1942

**Graduated:** Avenger Field, May 28, 1943

**Assignment:** Ferry pilot

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

**Assigned bases:** Romulus Army Air Base (Mich.) and Fairfax Army Air Field (Kansas City, Kan.)

**Planes flown:** BT-15, C-47, B-24, B-25



Maintaining a grade point average of 94.9, Paula was the first Oklahoma woman to receive one of the flight scholarships, entitling her to 35 hours of flight training at the Ponca City Municipal Airport. After her solo flight on September 22, 1940, she received her private pilot's license.

With the announcement in September of a training program that would allow women to fly military aircraft, Paula applied and met all qualifications, the most stringent of which was proving that she had flown over 200 hours. On December 13, 1942, she reported for training at the Howard Hughes Airport, Ellington Field, Houston, Texas. She was a student pilot in the second class given by the Army Air Force Women's Flying Training Detachment. Six months later, her class graduated and Paula reported to the 3rd Ferrying Group at Romulus Army Air Field, near Detroit, Michigan.

In July 1944, just a few weeks shy of her 28th birthday, and 330 miles away from her destination, Paula died alone in a fiery crash.

Paula Loop's trainer airplane, a BT-13 Valiant, had begun slicing through tall cedars in the middle of the afternoon. The left wing, nearly intact, sheared off from the fuselage and dropped about 150 feet from where the airplane ultimately struck the ground. The 60-gallon left wing fuel tank, still attached to the plane, erupted on impact, its contents exploding in a violent fire that quickly turned the remaining fuselage into a twisted skeleton framework of metal.

Why Paula's plane had suddenly crashed, just a few minutes after refueling and takeoff from the Medford, Oregon airport, was never determined.

[Read her complete 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.

**We will not again look upon a woman flying as an experiment.  
AAF Commanding General Henry “Hap” Arnold, 1944**

**In 1944, during the graduation ceremony for the last class, Gen. Henry “Hap” Arnold lauded the WASP for what they had done for their country: “The Air Force will long remember their service and their final sacrifice. So, on this last graduation day, I salute you and all WASP. We of the AAF are proud of you; we will never forget our debt to you.”**



General Hap Arnold pins brand new silver WASP Wings on Kitty Peddlar, Class 43-W-4



# 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](#).

## WE LOVE THESE ENDORSEMENTS!

The CAF Rise Above is doing such a great job of honoring our heritage and preserving our history from WWII. Thanks to all of you!

WASP Nell Bright, Class 43-W-7



## 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**  
**PO Box 416**  
**Red Wing, MN 55066**

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

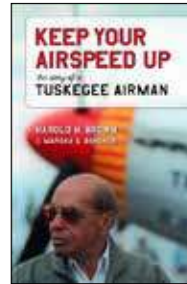
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**Why 99?** *(for each membership)*

### [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 Air Force Service Pilots (WASP) class of 43-W-1 in Houston, Texas.



Please mail correspondence or donations to our home office at:

CAF RISE ABOVE®  
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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!