



# 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 2022



As I take pen to paper in the bustling Terminal 5 of NYC's JFK airport, I'm eagerly awaiting the next flight that will deliver me not only to Kansas City, but our exhibit team and an exciting weekend at the Kansas City Air Show! While I only joined the squadron recently, the drive team and our dedicated volunteers have spent the summer criss-crossing the country, sharing inspiration with the next generation of aviators and encouraging all they encounter to overcome obstacles and Rise Above. Perhaps you had the chance to see the exhibit in one of our recent visits to Akron, O'Fallon or Oshkosh? If not, there's still time - be on the lookout for us coming to a city near you! Up next? Tulsa, Oklahoma! We're excited to join the Tulsa Air & Space Museum in celebrating their Tuskegee Legacy

Exhibit. After that, a quick trip up to Chicago's Prairie State College, followed by McConnell AFB, Seymour, IN, Charleston, WV and finally, Windsor, CT. Be sure to check our [online events schedule](#) for all of the latest updates and locations, and if you get the chance to come see us, say hello! If you would like more information about how to bring the Rise Above exhibit to your community, let us know! You can email me at [logistics@cafriseabove.org](mailto:logistics@cafriseabove.org).

Keri Ryan  
Rise Above Logistics Coordinator







Akron Mayor Dan Horrigan talks with volunteer and Air Force Veteran Bill Wade on Wednesday after viewing The Rise Above Traveling Exhibit featuring Women Air Force Service Pilots and Tuskegee Airmen parked in front of Canal Park. *PHIL MASTURZO, AKRON BEACON JOURNAL*



### Thanks to our Ambassadors

for volunteering with the CAF RISE ABOVE Squadron. As Jimmy Doolittle once said, "There's nothing stronger than the heart of a volunteer."

Your support is greatly appreciated and is vital to the success of our mission to carry on the history and legacy of the Tuskegee Airmen and the Women's Airforce Service Pilots.



Terry Loudermill



Jim Shryock



Ronell Copeland Sr. and Donnell Copeland. Richard Pulliam is their Uncle in the large photo, 3rd from the right on the bottom row



Rise Above Squadron Leader, Doug Rozendaal, engages with a young visitor at the Traveling Exhibit



The Robinson family children



# THANK YOU FOR SHARING YOUR THOUGHTS!

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.

~Jeff Hickerson



I was taken aback by the WASP and Tuskegee videos. I nearly cried when the WASP video showed. It reminded me of the tenacity and quiet determination of my own Mother.

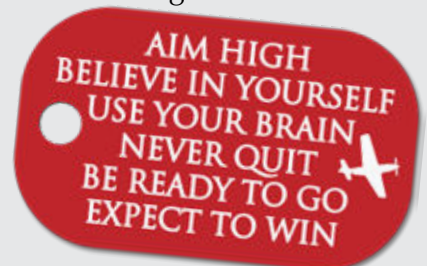
I am so proud of our country to have come so far with women and black relations. We still have far to go, but we are on our way.

The people at the presentation were kind and professional and very knowledgeable. It was well worth the time to get more educated on the subjects.

Thank you,  
~Scott Huggins

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





*America's Tribute to the Tuskegee Airmen*

## FEATURED TUSKEGEE AIRMEN PROFILE

### **Alva Temple**

September 5, 1917 – August 28, 2004

**Class:** 43-G-SE

**Graduation Date:** 7/28/1943

**Service #** 0809256

Alva Temple was born in Carrollton, Alabama and studied Agricultural Education at Alabama A & M University. After college he went into the Army Air Corp and then to Tuskegee for Pilot Training. He graduated in class 43-G and subsequently assigned to the 99th Pursuit Squadron.

He completed 120 Combat Missions over Europe and retired from the USAF with a rank of Lieutenant Colonel.

In Charles E. Francis' "The Tuskegee Airmen: The Men Who Changed a Nation" (2002, revised), Temple was described as a "reliable, dependable and unexcitable" pilot "who loved to fly and was always willing to make a mission though he realized the risk involved."

On 26 July 1948 the 332nd Fighter Group was deactivated, those who had trained for air combat at Tuskegee and remained in the Air Force postwar would be assigned to new squadrons. However, the members of the 332nd had one last hurrah before being assigned to other units. In May 1949, two months before deactivation, the unit participated in the first-ever [USAF Gunnery Meet](#) in the Nevada desert. Each stateside FG sent three pilots and one alternate to represent their units. Those pilots were selected via an internal competition against their fellow pilots: First Lieutenant James Harvey, III, First Lieutenant Harry Stewart, Jr., Captain Alva Temple, and First Lieutenant Halbert Alexander (alternate pilot).

The team from the 332nd won the propeller-driven category by scoring 45% of 1,200 possible points. The jet team from the 4th Fighter Group won their class with 49% of 1,000 possible points. It has been said that the skilled members of the 332nd's team won the competition because they earned the most points: 536.588 vs. 490.180 for the jet class. However, it is important to remember that the gunnery competition actually had no overall winning team because there was no way to make it a head-to-head contest: The jet teams couldn't compete in the rocket class so had fewer points to work with.

Temple said in an interview that he hoped the airmen had played a part in integration. "All I can say is, things are not as bad as they used to be. New opportunities have been opened up to our blacks," he said.

"People need to remember us. People need to know that you can make it through anything and succeed."

[\*\*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.

**“Purposeful and malicious roadblocks were set before us to cause our failure. Not just me, but it’s what the entire group had to overcome to accomplish our goals. It is significant, and young people today can learn from it. Find your passion, find what you love. Set goals and go after them with your whole heart. That’s the best way to find success. That’s how we overcame our obstacles to become Tuskegee Airmen.”**

**~Lt Col Harold Brown PhD, Original Tuskegee Airman  
99th Fighter Squadron, 332nd Fighter Group**



617th crew returns from Bombing Mission.





*Honoring the Women Airforce Service Pilots*

## FEATURED WASP PROFILE

### Jean Landis

1918 -

**Class:** 43-W-4

**Training Location:** Houston Municipal Airport (Tex.) and Avenger Field (Sweetwater, Tex.)

**Planes flown:** B-17, C-47, P-39, P-40, P-47, P-51, P-63

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

Jean Landis as a child, dreamed of learning to fly, a not-so-easy task in the 1920s. Landis would eventually become a Women's Air Force Service Pilot and one of World War II heroes.

Landis was born in 1918 and raised in El Cajon, California, near the City of San Diego; she attended San Diego State College and graduated with an A.B. degree in Physical Education in 1940.

When the country entered World War II, Jean volunteered and was chosen for the Women Airforce Service Pilots, a paramilitary organization, where women pilots flew military aircraft on noncombat missions to allow more male pilots for combat missions.

She served until the military deactivated the program in 1944. Women in the WASP program were classified for many years, leaving Landis unrecognized for her contribution to the war.

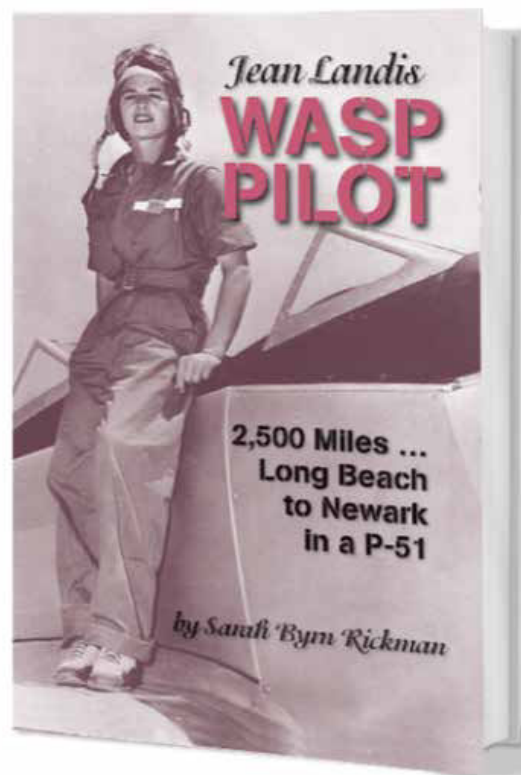
Landis often flew planes to the east coast for the European front and was instructed to transport the aircraft gently; however, she stated that she tested what the airplane could do going over wheat fields in Kansas.

According to Landis's statement, in her final P-51 delivery, Landis flew around the Statue of Liberty and wept in reflection of the past years during World War II.

WASP like Jean Landis broke barriers, cleared a path for women in the military, and showed strength, pride and patriotism in a field dominated by men.

Visit our online web store to purchase ["Jean Landis WASP Pilot"](#). Books are softcover and autographed by author Sarah Byrn Rickman.

[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.

**“Flying military airplanes was beyond my wildest dreams. Just looking out and seeing the Air Force star and insignia on the wing was a thrill to me. We couldn’t believe our luck. First, we flew all over the country in Cubs and PT-19s, then later the bigger stuff, and we got paid for it!”**

**“I feel we were the forerunners of today’s women in the military and especially the Air Force.”**

**WAFS, Gertrude Meserve Tubbs LeValley**



WASP ferrying new planes from manufacturer to new duty stations



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!

**WANT TO MAKE YOUR DONATION TO THE CAF RISE ABOVE GO FARTHER?** 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.

[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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REMEMBER THE  
TUSKEGEE AIRMEN  
AND WASP.  
NO MATTER HOW  
HARD, WORK TO  
MAKE IT REAL.  
AND IN TRYING  
YOU WILL SUCCEED.



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

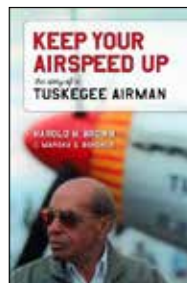
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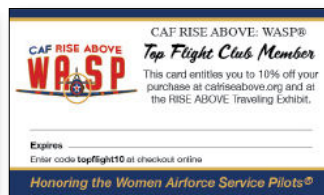
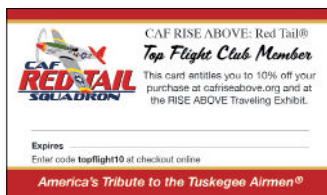
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There's no better way to support our mission to educate, inspire, and honor through flight and living history experiences than by joining a Top Flight Club!



**Why 99?** *(for each 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:

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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!](#)



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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!

