

The Tuskegee Airmen and the Six Principles

When we think about red and white stripes, and fifty stars that represent each one of the states in the United States, most envision a harmonious, patriotic nation that has bred men who so ambitiously fought for the liberty of its people. But how easy was it for American citizens to mold America into the nation it is today?

The United States has been through a number of battles that have drastically impacted society. One specific group of brave men who were involved in the abolition of segregation were the Tuskegee Airmen. This was a group of African American airmen who were deployed in the military during the 1940's. These men were some of the most successful airmen in US history because they followed the six principles: aim high; believe in yourself; use your brain; be ready to go, never quit, expect to win.

In the mid 1900's many job opportunities were kept from African American citizens. Although there were very few who were fortunate enough to work in the same place as a white American, the patronizing treatment and racist remarks they regularly received from those in a higher position than them were dehumanizing to say the least. Because of this, African Americans were forced to work harder than the average white American by aiming high and believing in themselves. When they found themselves surrounded by individuals who prayed on their downfall, they channeled confidence from within themselves and found power in others who thought like them. The Tuskegee Airmen applied themselves and worked as a true team; remembering that there was nothing they couldn't achieve through hard work and resilient perseverance.

Another set of principles that guided African American pilots to victory were “use your brain” and “be ready to go”. As most people may imagine, conducting a plane is still not a simple task and it requires a lot of skill. According to public reports, many African Americans who wanted to join the military were taught overseas or by one-another so that white Americans limited their interaction-time with African Americans. Because the Executive Order 9981, the order that abolished “discrimination “on the basis of race, color, religion or national origin” in the United States Armed Forces”, wasn’t passed until July of 1948, every minority, including African Americans, who entered the military was racially discriminated against. Not only were the Tuskegee Airmen neglected because of their skin color, but they were obligated to train with generals who called them racial slurs, physically abused them, and humiliated them. Surrounded by a great deal of negativity, these airmen learned how to work under pressure and ignore all of the background noise. By the time they were sent into the war, these airmen were able to focus on their missions, concentrate on their tasks, and were ready-to-go in any situation.

Lastly, the Tuskegee Airmen vigorously proved their abilities by never quitting and expecting to win every mission they were sent on. These airmen felt the need to prove their worth through these missions and were conscious that any wrong move granted them worse treatment from anyone in a higher range than them. However, this set of principles were by far one of the most useful principles when it came to fighting for their country. The Tuskegee Airmen showed many African Americans who were overcoming similar racial standards as their own that fighting for the change you want to see in this world will eventually lead you to success. No matter how tough those generals spoke to them, research shows that the Tuskegee Airmen never lost a battle.. It was all about the mindset with which they approached their duties.

The Tuskegee Airmen gave us an example of what it means to work as a team. These brave men are remembered in US history because of their strength and tough skin. They pushed and pushed against segregation, and although many of them didn't live long enough to witness the America they dreamed of, they rest in peace in faith that they opened the way for their future generations. In hindsight we acknowledge that every struggle that these airmen conquered was not in vain.

Sources:

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