

The Tuskegee Airmen Made Theirs Dreams Come True

The United States of America is a world superpower today, and it is a beacon of hope to people worldwide. We stand out among our allies, not just because of our sophisticated technology or the opportunities for our citizens to succeed, but also because of the unflagging commitment and heroism of our military. The U.S. Armed Forces consist of thousands of selfless men and women who prioritize the safety of our country. However, our military has evolved to become more accepting of its militia. Unfortunately, there was an era in American history where our society was divided by Jim Crow laws. It resulted in both the American military and federal government becoming racially segregated. In these melancholy times, the Tuskegee Airmen fought against the racial barriers using the Six Guiding Principles for an opportunity to serve their country when it needed the most.

In the 1920s and 1930s, young African Americans who aspired to become pilots or pursue a career in the military were subjected to inferior comments and obstacles disabling them from receiving training and education. In September of 1940, President Roosevelt's organization responded to the lobbying campaigns of civil rights groups such as the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People by offering to train African American pilots. Just years later, the Tuskegee-trained 99th Pursuit Squadron was deployed and flew thousands of sorties in World War II. Unfortunately, they were scrutinized for their abilities. For instance, there was a myth that African American pilots could not perform as well in combat as their white counterparts. This misconception was easily shattered once their performance was analyzed and the conclusion was derived that the Tuskegee Airmen lost significantly fewer bombers than the average number lost by other fighter groups in the Fifteenth AirForce. Their commitment is moving and their actions show the Guiding Principles including "Aim High," "Believe in Yourself," and "Expect to Win." They could have easily let the negative comments affect them but they knew that their actions would be the precursor for everyone that came after them. Tuskegee Airmen (including Benjamin O. Davis Jr., George S. "Spanky" Roberts, and Daniel "Chappie" James Jr.) all became an inspiration for the generations to come because of their determination and talent.

The Air Force ideals and achievements remain to be influenced by the Tuskegee Airmen even today. They believed that opportunities should be available equally to everyone, rather than just a selective group. With proper assistance and guidance, there is no obstacle that one can't overcome or reward one can't achieve. As a member of the Civil Air Patrol: U.S. Air Force Auxiliary, I vow to live by expectations of the Air Force (simultaneously venerating the honorable Tuskegee Airmen). In reality, they represent the Air Force and the United States with flying colors and thanks to their determination, our military has evolved for the greater good. The Tuskegee Airmen were icons that demonstrate how dreams really do come true.