

### The Tuskegee Airmen Essay Contest

As a young American I feel the Tuskegee Airmen are especially important to our country.

Being the first all Black American squadron in the Army then the Air Force, all the men that had the courage to go out into battle. They fought for our country, even though they faced discrimination and unjust governance such as the Jim Crow laws. They barred going through all the hate from everyone. That is what inspires me and hopefully one day inspires you ; to always do what can't be done.

The Tuskegee Airmen carried six guiding principles that got them through everything. The two that meant the most to me were , Believe in yourself and Never quit. These principles are very important if you want to complete your goals and have great success. For example the AAFC's influential, Benjamin Oliver Davis .Jr who didn't lack to work hard. As he persevered through the shrewd injustice he faced as a Black American in the United States Military. In West Point, New York during his junior year of military academy he attempted to join the Army Air Corps but was rejected because it did not accept blacks. (1)

Segregation laws such as separation of white and non-white American troops, quotas, restriction of people of color troops to support roles, and outright bans on blacks and other people of color serving in the military held Benjamin Davis back. Albeit, He never stopped believing in himself and he didn't quit. So he was instead assigned to the All-Black 24th infantry regiment. Where he worked to earn his respect and graduated in 1936 ranked 3rd of his class. He then joined the Air Force as the only black officer other than his father who also worked in army services. (1)

The Air Force soon integrated their services in 1949 amounting Blacks in the Air Force to 375 officers stat; which was only 0.6 percent of the entire force. As you can see , Benjamin Davis .Jr never stopped believing in himself. Which got him a long way - Earning himself the head spot of the Tuskegee Airmen and becoming the Air Force's first black general. (1)

Work Cited

- 1) **(Tuskegee Airmen Profiles, Benjamin Davis .Jr ,Tuskegee museum, 2021-02-08) (Britannica, The Editors of Encyclopaedia. "Black code". Encyclopedia Britannica, 20 Aug. 2019.)**