



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 2021

OUR MISSION IN ACTION!

AIM HIGH
BELIEVE IN YOURSELF
USE YOUR BRAIN
NEVER QUIT ✈️
BE READY TO GO
EXPECT TO WIN

Good day to you.

I am the Communications teacher at a middle school in Lansing, Illinois. As part of our Black History Month celebration, I asked my students to write letters to the remaining Tuskegee Airmen following our discussions about the Air Corps, segregation, and breaking racial barriers through hard work, sacrifice, and excellence. Students had to choose to which Airmen they would write; they then read their biographies and composed their letters based on what they knew and what they learned.

I am proud and humbled by the letters I am enclosing with this letter. These were written by students between the ages of 11 and 14 in sixth through eighth grades.

I hope these letters reach their intended audience, and I appreciate the work you do to expand history through this important program.

Respectfully,
Lisa Lawrence Heritage Middle School
19250 Burnham Avenue
Lansing, IL 60438

Dear Mr. Stewart,

Hello. I am a student who attends a middle school in Lansing, Illinois. I read biographies about you and learned many things. You are such an inspiration to many people. You are smart, brave, courageous, and successful. I am writing to you to thank you.

I read about the many great things you achieved. One being that you became one of our country's first black military aviators. That's a huge accomplishment that not all people could have done but you managed to do it. You proved something very motivating.

I am so grateful for everything you have done. Your service and powerful actions that can motivate many people. You played a part in changing the world. Everything that you have earned for accomplishing what you did you deserve.

I hope you are doing well. Thank you for everything you did that changed how we live today. You are an inspiration to many, never forget that.

Best regards,

A grateful middle school student



America's Tribute to the Tuskegee Airmen

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.

FEATURED TUSKEGEE AIRMEN PROFILE

George Elbert Gray

October 5, 1920 – April 5, 1951

Class 43-E-SE

Units: 99th Pursuit Squadron of the 332nd Fighter Group; 12th Fighter Bomber Squadron - Flying Tiger Squadron "Foxy Few from Old Taegu" of the 18th Fighter Bomber Wing

MIA Status: Declared Dead while Missing

Cause: Hostile, Killed in Action

Conflicts: WWII, KOREAN WAR

[Read the complete profile of Capt Grey online!](#)



TUSKEGEE AIRMEN QUOTE OF THE MONTH

“I’m proud of the legacy that we have. A lot of us came from all over, Tuskegee Airmen, we had people who came off of farms and those who came out of cities, but what came out of that experience had an impact on our whole culture at that time, largely because of the success that we had and what that meant for other opportunities.”

~Tuskegee Airman Rudolph “Val” Archer





Honoring the Women Airforce Service Pilots

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.

FEATURED WASP PROFILE

Betty Huyler Gillies

January 1, 1908 - October 14, 1998

Class: WAFS "The Originals"

Planes flown: PT-19, AT-6, A-20, B-17 BT-13, P-61, P-39

Training Location: New Castle Army Air Base (Wilmington, DE.)

Assigned Bases: New Castle Army Air Base (Wilmington, DE.)

[Read the complete profile of Betty Huyler Gillies online!](#)



WASP QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"I was sent on a temporary basis from the Fifth Ferrying Group at Love Field to tow targets at Camp Davis, NC for anti-aircraft training. On arrival we were told the planes were expendable and so were we. Major Stephenson, base commander, left no question as to what he thought about women in the military, especially as pilots...advising us to go home and knit socks for the troops."

~WASP Marion Hanrahan, Class 43-W-3



Check out our educational resources!

Find a wealth of information about the Tuskegee Airmen or WASP, educational resources and more.
Look for [RESOURCES](#) in the menu bar!

Purchase dog tags featuring the Six Guiding Principles, DVDs, and other materials to enhance your classroom activities in the [online store](#).



I would just like to say a quick word of thanks! As a youth services librarian and educator, I've been running a fun aviation history and beginner aircraft modeling class for 10-14-year old's online during these challenging times of remote learning and social distancing, and thought you might enjoy hearing that we've been able to get some great use out of your organization's aviation resource links lists. Thanks so much for sharing with us!

I hope you don't mind, one of our youngest, Amelia has also asked me if I could share a piece that she and her father found together which initially sparked her interest in aviation history, [The Cars, Tanks and Airplanes of World War II](#), which includes a great breakdown on the aerial warfare advancements of the time.

~LouAnne Taylor



...Here's an idea!

The Sierra Hotel Sponsor Group of the CAF located in Guthrie, Oklahoma sponsored a coloring contest as part of the Rise Above presentation given at Guthrie Upper Elementary School. The overall winner was Maddie Skin. She is pictured with the groups A-26.

Our free RISE ABOVE Resouce Kits include coloring sheets, posters featuring the Six Guiding Principles, PowerPoint's, classroom activities and a wealth of material about the Tuskegee Airmen and the WASP.

[Download the kits and use the resources to create your own contest!](#)

Please mail correspondence or donations to our home office at:

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[CAF RISE ABOVE: WASP](#) - Share 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.

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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!