



# 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).

January 2022



Last month we attended the annual International Council of Airshows, ICAS, Convention in Las Vegas where the industry meets to prepare for the next airshow season. Our traffic was brisk and our schedule is robust, including several bookings for 2023 as well. It is rewarding that even after 10 years demand for our airplane and exhibit is as strong as ever.

Repairs on the airplane are progressing well and we look forward to flying again this spring. All of the disassembly is complete and reassembly is in progress. We have found no surprises and we have located all the parts that we need, so now it is just a matter of driving thousands of rivets.

Our search continues for a drive team for the exhibit. It is no secret that finding workers is difficult in these times but we are confident that we can find the right team to continue going forward. If anyone is interested send us an email at [info@cafriseabove.org](mailto:info@cafriseabove.org).

The biggest challenge for our program and everyone is the persistence of Covid-19. It has impacted so many aspects of our lives in ways we don't fully understand. At times like these showing young people how they can overcome the adversity they find in their lives and sharing the great stories of hope and opportunity that is exemplified by the Tuskegee Airmen and WASP stories is more relevant now than ever.

Children, and adults need to know that like the Tuskegee Airmen and the WASPs they too can Rise Above adversity, no matter how difficult, and move forward in a positive way. That is our message and we will continue to carry it forward despite the adversities that we face.



Tail Winds,

Doug Rozendaal

CAF RISE ABOVE Leader

*Photo courtesy Scott Slocum*

## Our mission in action!



On Friday, December 3, Alan LeBlanc, Red Tail Ambassador in Dallas Texas, had the opportunity to talk to 125 students at the Roberta Tipps STEM Academy in Mansfield, Texas.

He started the presentation with a short Commemorative Air Force motivational video followed by 20 minutes of aerodynamics and math, relating to aviation and flight characteristics.

"Sometimes it's hard for students to understand the importance of math and science, And how they relate to everyday life".

"Using examples of an airplane in flight, (pitch, roll, yaw and degrees of angle of bank and climb), helps the scholars understand the importance of math and how it applies to flight". 90, 180, 270, and 360 degrees of roll or ascent/descent.

The last 10 minutes of the presentation are designed to be motivational and aspirational. Reminding the scholars that there is no mountain they can't climb...and no career they can't pursue.

With dedication and perseverance, all things are possible.

He closed the presentation out with another motivational video, Q/A, and reciting (in unison) The Six Guiding Principles....And 3 "Rise Above Cheers"!!

Thanks to the CAF Red Tail Squadron for allowing me to pass these principles on to our youth.....And using the Tuskegee Airmen as an example of how we can RISE ABOVE Any circumstance in life!







*America's Tribute to the Tuskegee Airmen*

## FEATURED TUSKEGEE AIRMEN PROFILE

**Christopher W. Newman**

**Class:** 43-I-SE

**Graduation Date:** 10/1/1943

**Unit:** 332nd Fighter Group, 100th Fighter Squadron

**Service #** 0814201

Before joining the Army, Newman routinely spent nearly half of his \$14-a-week pay as an elevator operator to take private flying lessons. Newman enlisted in the Army Air Corps, and was sent to Tuskegee Army Air Field, AL., for flight training. He graduated on Oct. 1, 1943.

"That was the first thing in my life that I really, really wanted to do," Newman said in a 2006 documentary. "I almost washed out in the beginning and it scared me to death, but I made it. But my determination to make it ... I put everything I had into it because, golly, our class started with 72 in it and we graduated 23."

In December, he deployed to Italy with the 100th Fighter Squadron, part of the 332nd Fighter Group.

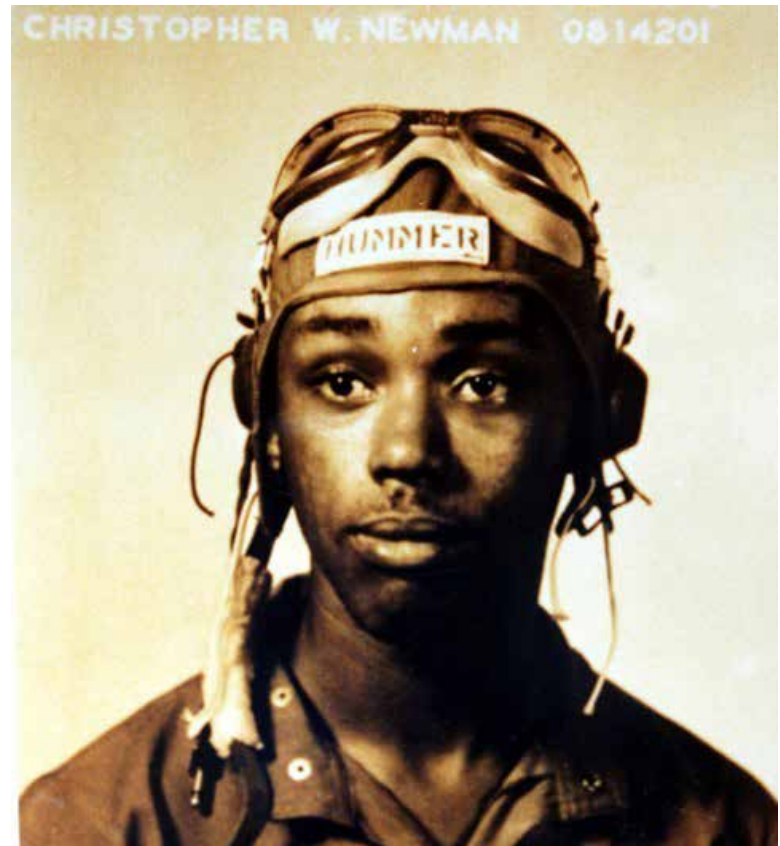
The 100th Fighter Squadron flew its first combat mission on Feb. 4, 1944, flying P-39 Airacobras.

On his 24th mission, Lt. Newman was forced to crash-land his plane. The P-39 caught on fire, trapping Newman inside.

On Sept. 22, 1944, the 332nd Fighter Group escorted B-17 bombers to Munich, Germany, when Newman's P-51 was hit by anti-aircraft fire and he was forced to bail.

By the end of the war, Captain Newman had completed 84 missions. He flew another 97 combat missions in the Korean War. After leaving the military, Newman worked as a U.S. postal clerk, then the Defense Mapping Agency.

[Read his complete 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.

**...we have overcome that which was much worse than racial barrier.  
We have overcome the barriers within ourselves and dared to dream.**

**~ Tuskegee Airman Lt. William J. Powell  
Black Wings, 1934**



Lt. Christopher Newman of St. Louis sits on his P-51 Mustang fighter plane at Ramitelli Air Field, Italy, in 1944. Newman named the plane "Goodwiggle" after a popular slow dance during world War II. Newman is one of at least 47 Tuskegee Airmen who were awarded a Purple Heart for his military service.



*Honoring the Women Airforce Service Pilots*

## FEATURED WASP PROFILE

### **Mary E. Hartson**

January 11, 1917- August 14, 1944

**Class:** 43-W-5

**Entered Army Air Force flight training:** Avenger Field, Sweetwater, Texas, April 6, 1943

**Graduated:** September 11, 1943

**Training Location:** Avenger Field (Sweetwater, Tex.)

**Stationed:** Dodge City Army Air Base, Kansas; Coffeyville Army Air Base, Kansas; Independence Army Air Field, Kansas; Perrin Army Air Base, Sherman, Texas.

**Assignments:** Engineering test pilot, Administrative flying, Instrument Instructor

**Assigned Bases:** New Castle Army Air Base (Wilmington, Del.), Dodge City Army Air Base (Kan.) and Coffeyville Army Air Base (Coffeyville, Kan.)

**Planes flown:** BT-13, PT-19, B-26



Mary was a Portland native who graduated from Washington High. Soon after graduation she began working in Washington, D.C. as a clerk in the Federal Security Agency's General Consul Office. The agency was in charge of food and drug safety as well as the Social Security program.

While in Washington, Mary received a scholarship for the Civilian Pilot Training Program that taught her to fly and earned her a pilot license. Within a year she began her six months of training with the WASP.

Although her first assignment was the Air Transport Command at New Castle Air Base, in Delaware, within a few weeks orders quickly began sending her from one Army airfield to another.

On August 14, 1944, 18 months after her WASP graduation, the sky was clear, winds from the south were light, and temperatures were simmering toward 103 degrees. Mary took off in a BT-13 from the Perrin Army Airfield in Texas with Staff Sergeant Orville Eitzen in the rear seat.

This was a basic test flight just to check out the plane's recently repaired radio. About 15 miles north of the runway, the aircraft suddenly stalled and spun into the ground. The cockpit was open and their seatbelts were undone indicating they were trying to get out, but they were too late. There were no witnesses and the cause of the crash was never determined.

[Read her complete profile online!](#)

Download the PDF "[Women Airforce Service Pilots Killed in Action](#)"

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.



## WASP QUOTE OF THE MONTH

**“The mud doesn’t matter. The continuous rain and cold don’t matter. I’m just so proud to be here, to be part of this Army. There is something a little difficult to describe about soloing a plane with a big star on it.”**

**~ Theresa James, WAFS**



Members of Jacqueline Cochran’s ‘Women’s Flying Training Detachment’ run formation drills.



Members of Jacqueline Cochran’s ‘Women’s Flying Training Detachment’ partake in daily calisthenics drills to develop the arm & leg strength required for slow rolls in PT trainer planes at Avenger Field, Texas.

## Educational resources!

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

Our **free, downloadable RISE ABOVE Resource Kits** provides users access to posters featuring the Six Guiding Principles, PowerPoint's, classroom activities and a wealth of material about the Tuskegee Airmen and the WASP.

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

### Comments from guests after visiting the CAF Rise Above Traveling Exhibit:

It was an excellent experience for me and my grand daughter.

What inspired me most was the young man who went to West Point, Benjamin O. Davis Jr. His father was in the military and you definitely have to be someone special to get into West Point yet NO ONE roomed with him, ate lunch with him OR even talked to him, yet he came through to RISE ABOVE!!!

~Ann Skemp



## WE NEED YOU!

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!

[Give online](#), or call 888-928-0188, or by mail at:

**CAF RISE ABOVE  
PO Box 416  
Red Wing, MN 55066**

The CAF RISE ABOVE® is an educational outreach program of the [Commemorative Air Force](#), (CAF) a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Your contribution is tax deductible less the value of the benefits given in return for your contribution noted above, if any. CAF FEIN # 74-1484491

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

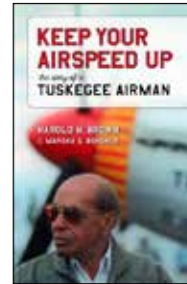
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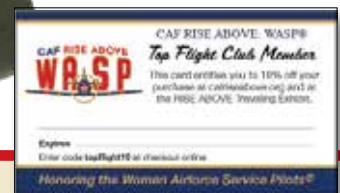
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There's no better way to support our mission to educate, inspire, and honor through flight and living history experiences than by joining a Top Flight Club!



**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:

CAF RISE ABOVE®  
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To bring RISE ABOVE to your event, contact:

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**[CAF RISE ABOVE: Red Tail](#)** - Share 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.

**[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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Check out archived photos and highlights as we tour the country!

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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!](#)



**RISE ABOVE: Red Tail - Stay up to date in real time on Twitter**

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!

