



# 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).

October 2022

While the 2022 season has ended, the holidays are rapidly approaching, and we're all overdue that long winter's nap, the Rise Above team is far from settling down with 'kerchief and cap. No ho ho....we're polishing our smiles, practicing our handshakes and dusting off our dancing shoes, 'cause we're going to Vegas, baby! Ok, ok...it'll be mostly work and little play, but I'm more excited about next week than the Grinch was about stealing Christmas!

In case you've never heard of it, the International Council of Air Shows' convention, (ICAS for short), takes place next week in Las Vegas, and is the first chance I'll have to finally put faces to names for all of the amazing people behind the curtain that make the magic happen. ICAS was founded in 1967, and is now recognized as a world leader on a wide range of air-show related issues, including safety, regulatory concerns, industry standards and best practices, interaction with the military, and professional ethics. As a new member to the team, and the air show industry, this is a unique opportunity for me to gain tons of knowledge in a short period of time. From "Maneuver Sequence Development Roundtables" to "40 Tips in 40 Minutes: Building a Better Ramp," my head is already spinning with joy. In addition, I'll get face-to-face time with not only my CAF family, but other squadrons and air show organizers from across the country, many of whom I've spent countless hours on the phone with chatting about the 2023/24 schedule. If you happen to be there also, please come by our booth in the exhibit hall, say hello and be inspired by our Rise Above message. The team would love to meet you!

Speaking of 2023, we're putting the finishing touches on the tour and can't wait to share it with you, but you can expect to see us in Florida, Texas, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Nebraska, New York, Wisconsin, Indiana, Arkansas and Oklahoma, just to name a few! Stay tuned to our website for the entire tour to be added in the coming month. And hey, west coast....we're coming to you in 2024! Have a stop you'd like to suggest? Email us! [logistics@cafriseabove.org](mailto:logistics@cafriseabove.org)



Keri Ryan  
Rise Above Logistics Director



## Essay Contest

For students in 4th - 12th grade!

**Aim High, Believe in Yourself, Use Your Brain, Be Ready to Go, Never Quit, Expect to Win**

Inspire your students with the remarkable story of the Tuskegee Airmen and Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASP) by participating in the CAF Rise Above Squadron's Essay Contest!

The contest is a fun way to help students learn about the achievements of the Tuskegee Airmen and the WASP. They will get the chance to put into action what they have learned about the importance of education, training and especially determination, based on the Tuskegee Airmen and WASP example of overcoming adversity.

[Click here for the guidelines and prize information!](#)

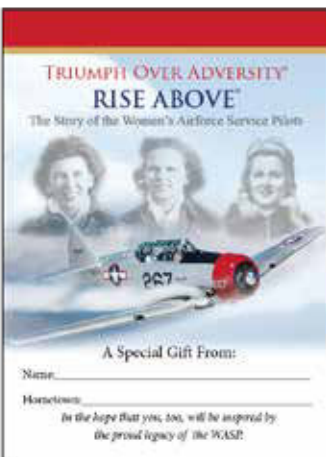
## Educational resources



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](#).



Thanks to Greg Morehead for capturing these photos of our P-51C Mustang, the *Tuskegee Airmen*







*America's Tribute to the Tuskegee Airmen*

## FEATURED TUSKEGEE AIRMEN PROFILE

### **Douglas Bembr**

January 3, 1924- January 5, 2017

Douglas Bembry was Corporal Bembry in the 100th squadron of the Tuskegee Airmen stationed in Italy during WWII. He was part of the ground crew, trained in welding and sheet metal.

"If it hadn't been for the ground crew, the plane would have never got off the ground," he stated proudly in an interview with "Only in Indiana" in July 2015. He fondly remembered when then-First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt visited the Tuskegee Institute and wanted to go up in a Redtail trainer. All the trainer pilots at the time were white.

"So she pointed at this guy and said she wanted to take a trip. He pointed to a white guy and she said, 'No, I want him,' and Eleanor climbed up into this two-seater, the A18, and took a trip in the trainer. She sure did. Ya buddy," he remembered.

Bembry has all the medals and as a member of the Tuskegee Airmen was recognized by President George W. Bush.

"It only took 60 years to get there. We felt like we should have got that before. I'm proud of it. I wouldn't take anything for it," he said. "We made a trip from southern Italy all the way to Berlin and Hitler had jets, and with our props, we shot down three jets."

It's still a point of pride, but there is also a point of prejudice.

"When we were over in Italy and everybody was shooting at each other, the Germans and the Italians, everybody was like brothers. But as soon as we were coming back and we looked up and saw that Statue of Liberty, I was black again," he said in a tone that hovered somewhere between disbelief and acceptance.

Upon their return, some of his friends re-upped and they even asked him, "'Corporal Douglas Bembry, would you like to re-up?' I said, 'Sir, give me bus fare to Atlanta, Georgia. I'm gone'."

He would eventually land in Indianapolis. In an interesting aside, in spite of being a Tuskegee Airman, Bembry said flying was not his bag. In fact, he says he only flew commercially once and never planned to do it again.

[Read his 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.

I'd been reading about pilots and World War I. They were all brave. They were all handsome. They all wore long white scarves and I said, 'This is the kind of combat I want to be in.'"

~Lt. Col. Lee Archer, Pilot, 332nd Fighter Squadron



TONY EVANS



*Honoring the Women Airforce Service Pilots*

## FEATURED WASP PROFILE

### Virginia Mae Hope

August 17, 1921- December 7, 1944

Class 43-W-7

Planes flown: AT-11, B-25, C-60, UC-78

Assigned Bases: Asheville Weather Wing HQ, (AACS) (N.C.) and Patterson Field, 2nd Weather Region HQ (Fairfield, Ohio)

The women of Minnesota pitched in to do their part during World War II, breaking out of traditional roles. Some signed on to work in defense plants, while others took advantage of opportunities in the military.

Virginia Mae Hope was born August 17, 1921, the daughter of Robert Q. and Adaline A. Hope of Winnebago, Minnesota. Early in 1941, during a term at Northwestern University, she enrolled in a flight training course and obtained a pilot's license. In 1943 she enrolled in the Women's Air Service Pilots (WASP) and spent six months at its training camp in Sweetwater, Texas.

The WASP was part of the Army Air Forces' World War II civilian pilot recruitment program, instituted to free military pilots for combat duty. In September 1942, its Air Transport Command had created the Women's Auxiliary Ferrying Squadron (WAFS), made up of experienced pilots, and also initiated a women's pilots' training program. On August 5, 1943, these two programs were merged as the WASP, under the direction of Jacqueline Cochran. After completing their training, most WASPs were assigned to the Air Transport Command, their main task being to ferry aircraft and supplies from base to base in the United States, although they eventually participated in other service missions. The WASP was deactivated on December 20, 1944, when military victories freed male pilots for non-combat missions.

Virginia Hope was assigned to Army Air Forces Weather Wing, 69th AAF Base Unit, at Patterson Field, Fairfield, Ohio, in November 1943. The Weather Wing at that time supervised all weather units assigned to the Army Air Forces. Her duties included ferrying Weather Service personnel and planes on military missions.

Virginia was known to say, "Isn't it just wonderful!" about her WASP career, though she and other female pilots faced blatant discrimination simply because they were women.

In November 1944, she secured a position in Oklahoma City ferrying surplus army planes to civilian airports for resale. On December 7, 1944, she and 16 other pilots were killed in a plane crash at Omaha, Nebraska.

[Read her profile online!](#)



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

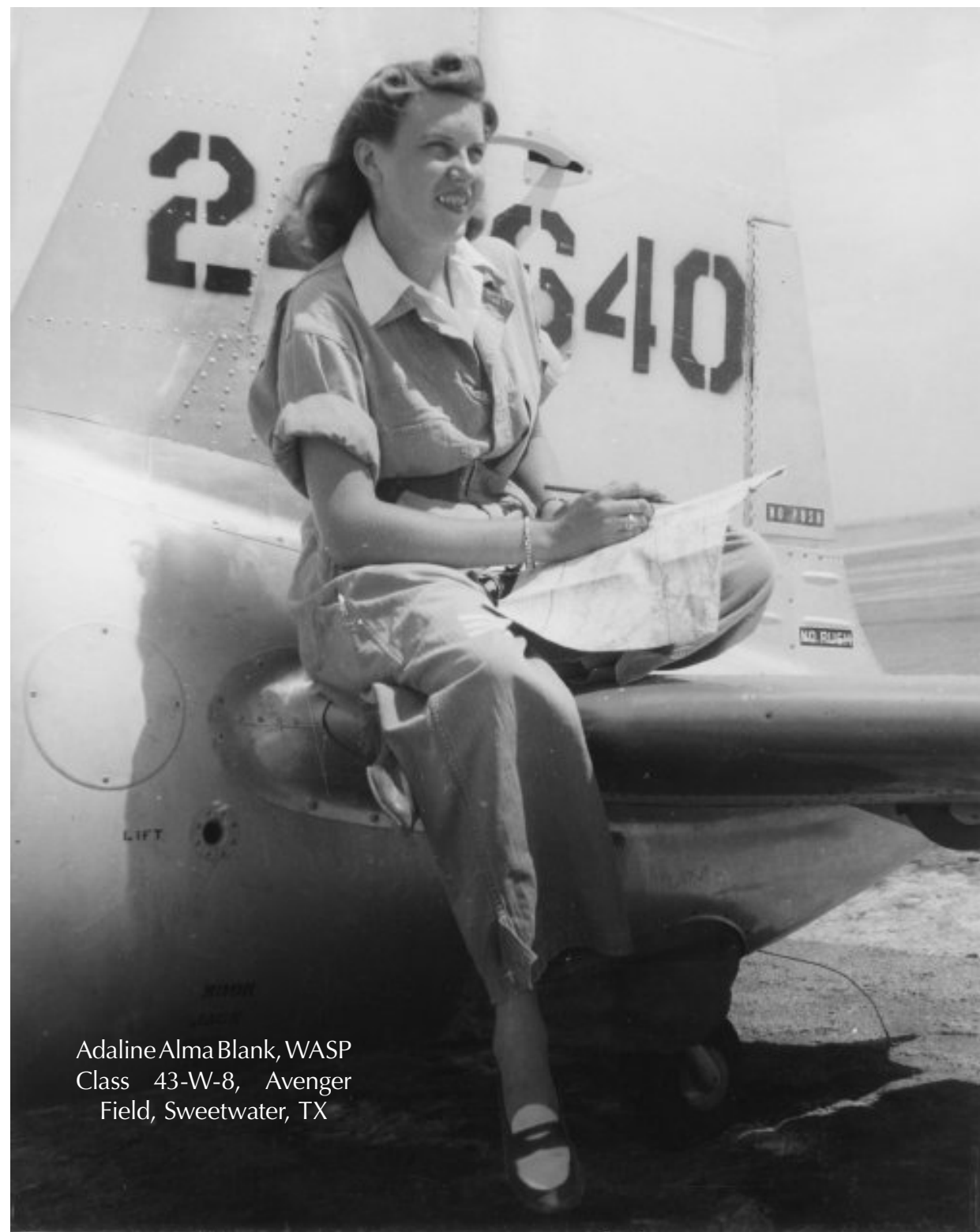
July 8, 1943

Dearest Sis,

Kindly note change of address. I am so happy to be here and can hardly realize that I am actually a part of this marvelous new program. It was a real thrill when I first saw these tremendous air fields, the huge hangars, and the beautiful planes in the air; my heart simply started to pound.

Love, Spook

WASP Adaline Alma Blank, Class 43-8, Avenger Field, Sweetwater, TX



Adaline Alma Blank, WASP  
Class 43-W-8, Avenger  
Field, Sweetwater, TX

Images courtesy of The  
WASP Archive, The  
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University, Denton, Texas



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!

## WAYS TO GIVE

- Does your employer have a matching gift program? Your donation to the CAF Rise Above may be able to be doubled or tripled. Ask your employer for details.
- Include the CAF Rise Above as a beneficiary in your will
- Name the CAF Rise Above as a beneficiary of a gift that pays you income (a remainder trust or gift annuity)
- Name the CAF Rise Above as the beneficiary of your investment portfolio or retirement account (IRA, Roth IRA, 401K, etc.)
- Leave a gift of real estate to the CAF Rise Above
- Name the CAF Rise Above as the owner and/or beneficiary of your life insurance policy

[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!

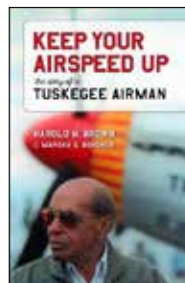
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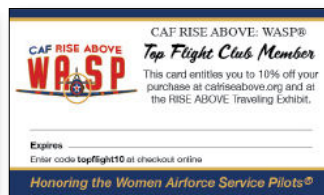
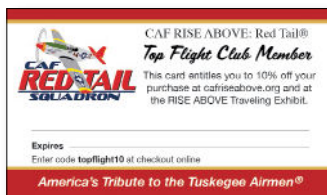
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There's no better way to support our mission to educate, inspire, and honor through flight and living history experiences than by joining a Top Flight Club!



**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:

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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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**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!

