



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).

March 2023

The season has begun with our almost annual visit to Tallahassee, Florida where Dr. A.J. Bricker hosts the Rise Above exhibit and the airplane for an entire week of school visits during Black History Month.

Dr Bricker and his team lined up young people from schools in Northern Florida, and we were busy. In the morning it was school kids, and the afternoons were open to the general public.

As a bonus, unbeknownst to any of us, The CAF Airpower History tour scheduled a stop in Tallahassee as well. They were there with the B-24 "Diamond Lil," a C-45 Twin Beech, T-6, Stearman, and a T-34. This created lots of excitement at the airport and everyone benefited.

Speaking of benefits, as we travel across the country telling the stories of the Tuskegee Airmen and the WASP, there are times when the days, and the road, get long the sun gets hot, and one's mind can wander and wonder about the impact we have, but I have two stories to share.

I was working the registration kiosk at the exhibit when a tall young man came up to me and introduced himself. His name was Ali. He told me he wanted to thank me for what we do. He had seen the exhibit several years prior in Tallahassee and he told us that it was a pivotal point in his life. It was in our exhibit when he realized what he wanted to do with his life and today he is a senior in a college aviation program and will graduate in the spring with all of his pilot ratings.

Sadly, I was so overwhelmed by his story that I neglected to get his contact info or take a picture. As soon as he was gone I realized my error. But knowing that we had impacted this young man was a highlight of the week for me.

Another encounter that I did get a picture of happened right here at my home airport in Mason City, Iowa. Liam Kyle recently celebrated his 9th birthday and he came out to my hangar this weekend. He said he had something he wanted to give to me. He handed me a handful of cash and checks. Liam told his family and friends that he wanted his birthday presents this year to be donations to the Rise Above Squadron. His parents were, rightly, incredibly proud, and I was profoundly touched by his generosity.



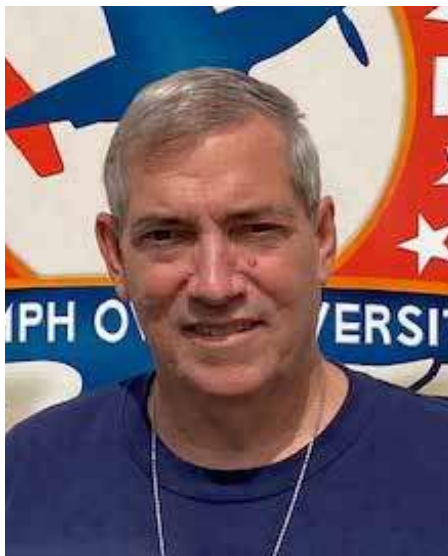
We experience these stories often, but we know the majority of the stories of impact by the Rise Above program never make it back to us. It is rewarding work, and we thank our supporters for your role in making that happen.

Tailwinds,
Doug Rozendaal
Squadron Leader

**Thank you to our
Ambassadors for
being our “Boots
on the Ground” at
Tallahassee!**

CAF RISE ABOVE is looking for
exceptional volunteers to become
CAF Rise Above Ambassadors!.

[Click here to learn more.](#)



Gary Garrett



Pat Sutterfield

Event photos, Tallahassee, FL - February 14-18, 2023

Thank you to Dr. A.J. Brickler and friends who worked tirelessly to bring us back to Tallahassee!
We had numerous school groups with a total of 490 guests!



Dr. Brickler's Acura NSX was also a big hit with
the students!

Every student who visited received a free dog tag featuring the Six Guiding Principles and a Rise Above booklet!

[Watch this video](#) of a student sharing what his takeaway is after watching the CAF Rise Above WASP movie in the exhibit. **AIM HIGH!**



NOTEWORTHY NEWS!

The Future: Gabriel Carothers, New Mexico's youngest African American pilot



"I wasn't thinking about making history. I was thinking about flying and doing what I like to do every day. Making history was just a side effect of it —something that happened along the way," Carothers said. "I don't even recognize it, but then it's days like this that really makes me feel it and reflect on it. The past 4 to 5 years of me training and doing ground school of me waking up in the morning knowing I get to look forward to something like my check ride."

Gabriel's interest in aviation began at 5-years-old in the back seat of a family friend's Cessna 182. According to his father, Alex, Gabriel's interest grew to an obsession at age 8 when he took on the controls of an airplane in flight for the first time during an 'Experimental Aircraft Association Young Eagles' event at the Moriarty Airport in New Mexico.

"My father had a family friend who had an airplane that used to fly, so he thought it'd be interesting to take me and my brother up for a flight when we were five and six years old — just to get a feel for it. 'It might be interesting. Catch your attention,' and for me, it did. So, that was my first experience around an airplane," Carothers said. "I had what we call 'bitten by the bug.' So, it took off for me. I found that this was an interesting career path for me, and I can have fun and make money doing it, but it's more fun."

[Read the full story!](#)

Gabriel, his mom Carri and his dad Alex are a military family who volunteer with us. They will be volunteering at the BARKSDALE AFB, LA - DEFENDERS OF LIBERTY AIR SHOW March 23-26. See event details at <https://cafriseabove.org/events/>

Honoring a Legacy



TUSKEGEE AIRMEN FIGHT SONG

**CONTACT – JOY STICK BACK – SAILING THROUGH THE BLUE GALLANT
SONS OF THE 99TH – BROWN MEN TRIED AND TRUE WE ARE THE
HEROES OF THE NIGHT – TO HELL WITH THE AXIS MIGHT FIGHT!
FIGHT! FIGHT! FIGHT!**

**FIGHTING 99TH. RAT-TAT, RAT-TAT-TAT – DOWN IN FLAMES THEY GO
THE WITHERING FIRE OF THE 99TH – SENDS THEM DOWN BELOW WE
ARE THE HEROES OF THE NIGHT – TO HELL WITH THE AXIS MIGHT
FIGHT! FIGHT! FIGHT! FIGHT!**

**FIGHTING 99TH. DRINK-K UP-P, DRAIN YOUR CUP-P – TO THOSE
DARING MEN (TO THOSE DARING MEN) FLYING TORCH OF FLAME, OH
GOD-D – RED WHITE AND BLUE**

**AMEN. FOR-R WE-E AR-RE – HEROES OF THE NINTH TO HELL WITH
THE AXIS MIGHT FIGHT! FIGHT! FIGHT! FIGHT! FIGHTING 99TH**

WINGS!!



UPCOMING SERVICE Celebration Of Life

March 4, 2023

12:30 p.m.

Liberty Aviation Museum

3515 E State Road

Port Clinton, OH 43452

The CAF Rise Above team will be forever grateful for the friendship and passionate support of Dr. Harold Brown for our educational outreach programs to educate and inspire the youth about the history of the Tuskegee Airmen and WASP.

Clear skies and Tailwinds, Sir!

[Listen to the Tuskegee Airmen Fight Song](#)



Winners will be announced March 15th! Be sure to check our Facebook and website for more information!

SHOP WITH WITH A PURPOSE!

Find great treasures AND honor the history and legacy of the Tuskegee Airmen and WASP!
[Visit our online store.](#) *Shipping is included for state-side orders!*



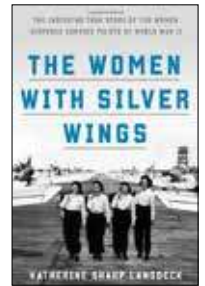
[Apparel - Tuskegee Airmen](#)



[Apparel - WASP](#)



[Books - Tuskegee Airmen](#)



[Books - WASP](#)



[DVDs & Educational Resources](#)



[Gifts](#)



[Sale items](#)

For \$99 you can join the exclusive ranks of the Top Flight Club!

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!

[Join RISE ABOVE: RED TAIL](#)

[Join RISE ABOVE: WASP](#)





FEATURED TUSKEGEE AIRMEN PROFILE

America's Tribute to the Tuskegee Airmen

James Alonzo Walker

September 20, 1918 - August 23, 2004

Class 43-E-SE

Graduation date: 5/28/1943

Unit: 332nd Fighter Group

Service # 0804562

Walker trained at the Tuskegee Army Air Field and was assigned to the 332nd Fighter Group, whose major responsibility was escorting bombers. After flying more than 80 missions, Walker's P-51 fighter plane was shot down over Yugoslavia in July 1944. In enemy territory, he was confronted by an armed teenager named Aleksandr Zivkovic. Luckily, the young man was a partisan who helped downed fliers escape capture. Walker returned to duty in just 39 days thanks to Zivkovic's help, and he had the rare chance to thank his rescuer 50 years later when he ran into Zivkovic at a Tuskegee Airmen convention in Chicago

After a distinguished 26-year military career with service in 102 missions, Lt Col Walker started working at Wells Fargo in 1965. Starting as a loan officer in Hayward, California, Walker became the first African American personal banking officer at Wells Fargo. In 1979, he retired to an active life of community volunteerism until his death in 2004 at the age of 85.

[Read his profile online!](#)



This undated photo shows James Walker (center) during his military days in the Army Air Corps

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'm proud of the fact I was able to withstand the feelings I had to make sure the young men got the care and attention they needed... We knew we were going to overcome the prejudices and all we were faced with."

Tuskegee Airman George Watson, Sr.



Six navigators from the 616 Bombardment Squadron posed standing in front of a wall map. Photo dated 17 September 1944. Pictured here from L-R; Lt. Robert Cobbs, Lt. Fenton Sands, Lt. LeRoy F. Gillead (Squadron Commander) two unknown and far right, Lt. George Giddings.



Honoring the Women Airforce Service Pilots

FEATURED WASP PROFILE

Kathryn Bernheim Fine

WAFS, Class "The Originals"

February 1, 1911 – June 24, 1996

Planes flown: PT-19, PT-26, P-40, P-39, P-47, P-63, B-17

Base assigned: New Castle Army Air Base (Wilmington, Del.)

In the summer of 1934 Kathryn took flying lessons at the Roosevelt Field on Long Island. At Roosevelt she was taught by Sig Uydert and soloed on November 14, 1943 in a Taylor Cub, obtaining her private pilots license shortly after that. In 1938, Sig invited her to join him as a partner in his flying business. They rented an office and storage space at Hangar 9 for their three aircraft: a Travel Air 16K, a Piper J-2, and a Piper J-3C-50.

She knew Jacqueline Cochran casually because Jackie flew in and out of Roosevelt Field before the war. Through Jackie, she had the opportunity in January 1942 to qualify to fly with the Air Transport Auxiliary in England. She went to Dorval Airport in Montreal, Canada, to take the compulsory flight test. She and another Original, Barbara Poole, were there at the same time. They and four other American women pilots were flunked by the check pilot, a regular RAF officer who made no secret of his belief that women were lousy pilots.



On January 6, 1943, Bernheim became number twenty-six accepted into the WAFS squadron and remained with Betty Gillies and the 2nd Ferrying Group in Wilmington her entire two years of active duty. She was given temporary duty assignments to instrument school at St. Joseph, Missouri, May 7, 1944, and to pursuit school in Brownsville, Texas, June 16, 1944. After pursuit school, from July 24 to September 12, 1944 – still as part of the Betty Gillies' squadron – she was stationed in Farmingdale, Long Island, ferrying P-47's from the Republic factory. She was then sent to Evansville, Indiana, for temporary duty at the modifications center there, ferrying P-47's and P-51's. She also flew the P-39, P-40 and P-63 and was co-pilot on the B-17.

After deactivation on December 20, Bernheim remained on Long Island and looked around for another job in aviation. In May 1945, she returned to the Republic factory and was hired as a flight instructor, teaching members of the Republic Aviation Company Flying Club. She also worked as a flight instructor for the Lyon Flight School at Zahn Airport in Amityville.

[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.

“Don’t ever put limits on your dreams. Dream farther and higher than you can imagine. I would never have flown if I hadn’t looked to the sky and beyond.”

WASP Scotty Bradley Class 44-W-7



Images courtesy of The WASP Archive, The TWU Libraries' Woman's Collection, Texas Woman's 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

Please mail correspondence or donations to our home office at:

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



To bring RISE ABOVE to your event, contact:

Keri Ryan
Senior Logistics Coordinator
logistics@cafriseabove.org
(802) 371-8838

Doug Rozendaal
Squadron Leader
leader@cafriseabove.org

Kim Pardon
Public Relations/Media
PR@cafriseabove.org

For general inquiries, contact:

LaVone Kay
Marketing Director & Donor Support
info@cafriseabove.org
(888) 928-0188

Melanie Burden
Volunteer Coordinator
volunteer@cafriseabove.org

Follow us on Facebook



[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.



Follow us on Instagram

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

[RISE ABOVE: Red Tail](#)
[RISE ABOVE: WASP](#)



See us in action on YouTube

[RISE ABOVE: Red Tail](#)
[RISE ABOVE: WASP](#)



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!