

## **Ind. man who was among Tuskegee Airmen dies at 87**

Associated Press

March 30, 2009

INDIANAPOLIS –

One of Indiana's last living members of a famed World War II group of black fighter pilots known as the Tuskegee Airmen has died.

Walter Palmer died at his Indianapolis home Saturday of stomach cancer, according to his daughter, Janice Carter. He was 87.

Palmer flew on 158 missions over Italy and Germany during the war. The all-black Tuskegee 99th Fighter Group was formed in 1941 and trained in Tuskegee, Ala., but faced racism in the segregated South. Palmer was 21 when he became an airman in June 1943.

An eye injury in an auto accident ended Palmer's military career. He and his wife Rosalind Palmer moved to Indianapolis from his native New York in the early 1970s.

Since then, the Tuskegee Airmen's exploits slowly gained recognition, and Palmer gave motivational talks to schools and civic groups.

"He would tell the young children not to let anything get in their way," Carter said.

In 2007, Palmer was among about 300 Tuskegee Airmen who received the Congressional Gold Medal from President George W. Bush.

At least six other surviving Tuskegee Airmen are believed to be in Indiana.

His funeral is scheduled for April 11 at Lavenia Smith & Summers Home for Funerals in Indianapolis.

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Information from: The Indianapolis Star, <http://www.indystar.com>