



BIOGRAPHY

A DOCUMENTED ORIGINAL TUSKEGEE AIRMAN

TUSKEGEE AIRMEN INC. PUBLIC RELATIONS, P.O. Box 830060
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CLARENCE L. SHIVERS



Clarence Laudric Shivers was born on October 14, 1923, in St. Louis, Missouri. He is a graduate of Summer High School in St. Louis, MO. His parents were Clarence and Flossie Shivers and his two older sisters were Alice and Claryce.

Clarence volunteered in the military during World War II. The high score he received on the entrance exam qualified him to be accepted into the elite Tuskegee Program, where the first black military pilots were being trained. He loved flying and always said he felt "at home" the first time he sat in a cockpit. After the war ended, LT Shivers concentrated on completing his education and attended Bradley University in Peoria, Illinois, where he was an Honor Graduate and received a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree. His senior project, a huge mural at the Carver Community Center in Peoria, is still in existence today.

After college, Professor Shivers taught art at Jackson State University until he was recalled to military service during the Korean War, when pilots were much needed. He remained in the Air Force until his retirement in 1969 at the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. Upon retirement, Lt Col Shivers and his wife Peggy relocated to Madrid, Spain where they remained for ten years. Though a career military man, Mr. Shivers always maintained an active art studio. In Spain he was able to paint full time for the first time. He became well known throughout Europe for his paintings of Spanish Guardias and colorful abstracts. One of his paintings from this time was featured prominently in the film "A Piece of the Action", directed by Sydney Poitier.



The Shivers returned to live in the United States in 1979, settling in Colorado Springs, CO, where Mr. Shivers established a studio and continued to pursue his artistic endeavors. He was commissioned by Miller Brewing Company to create their 1983 and 1986 historic calendars entitled "Civil Rights Leaders" and "Black Political Firsts" respectively. In 1985, Clarence was commissioned by



the Hooks Jones Chapter of the Tuskegee Airmen to sculpt a life-sized statue as a memorial to the Tuskegee Airmen. It was unveiled May of 1988 and stands proudly on the grounds of the U.S. Air Force Academy. In 1993, Clarence and his wife established the African American Historical and Cultural Collection at Pikes Peak Library District. They also established the Shivers Fund at the Library, which supports a concert series and encourages young people in the arts by awarding grants and providing educational opportunities.



Clarence joined the Lonely Eagles Chapter in February 17, 2007. He was preceded in death by both his parents and sisters. He is survived by his wife, Peggy (pictured); two daughters, Sandra Jenkins (St. Louis, MO) and Karen Shivers Seattle, WA); and two sons, Carver Shivers (Houston, TX) and Hugh Flake (Ft. Worth, TX); two nephews, six grandchildren, two great grandchildren, and two great-great grandchildren as well as a host of cousins and dear friends. Mr. Shivers is also listed in *Mound City on the Mississippi a St. Louis History* website found at: https://dynamic.stlouis-mo.gov/history/people/detail.cfm?Master_ID=1134.



For more information about Documented Original Tuskegee Airman Clarence L. Shivers, his artistic works and other DOTAs, please visit www.TuskegeeAirmen.org.

