



# BIOGRAPHY

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## A DOCUMENTED ORIGINAL TUSKEGEE AIRMAN

Tuskegee Airmen Inc. Public Relations  
P.O. Box 830060 Tuskegee, AL 36083

### **JAMES O. BRYSON, JR.**



James Osborn Bryson, Jr., was born to James, Sr. and Claudia (Foster) Bryson on March 5, 1926, in Ft. Benning, GA. He was the second born of two children. James was the proud little brother of his sister, Jean. He was near the end of his first semester at Hampton Institute (now known as Hampton University) in Virginia when he applied for the Army Air Corps and was inducted shortly after his 18th birthday.

James was assigned to Class 45-D and graduated as a Flight Officer on June 27, 1945. He was slated to go to Japan for a combat assignment. Japan surrendered before he could go overseas. With World War II ending, James remained at Tuskegee Army Airfield serving as an Airdrome Officer and a Special Mission Pilot. He bravely served his country in the Army Air Corps from 1944 through 1946.

After military service, James returned to Hampton Institute in 1946 to complete his Bachelor's Degree in Architectural Engineering. While at Hampton, he lettered in football, track, and swimming. He was an honor roll student and received his degree in 1950. In 1954, James obtained a position as a Structural Engineer with the National Bureau of Standards, a division of the Department of Commerce. He worked in the building research division. His assignments involved testing structural materials and components for safety. He continued his education while in this position and received a Master's Degree in Civil Engineering from Catholic University in Washington, DC in 1958.

In 1965, James had the opportunity to participate in a program at White Sands Missile Range in New Mexico. This program was implemented to help determine the effect of sonic booms on residential structures. James was fortunate to participate in a number of assignments in his National Bureau of Standards career that dealt with determining building safety. In 1966, he developed and led a study of occupancy loads on buildings. The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) reports that building industry officials in the U.S. and around the world praised the study. NIST also reports that in 1971, James led a program that studied the design and analysis of manufactured buildings. James spent a 35-year career working for the Bureau of Standards.

He retired in 1982 as Chief of the Office of Testing Laboratory Evaluation Technology. After retirement, he worked as a civil engineering consultant. He was a partner in his own Civil Engineering company named BKLB in Rockville, MD. He later served as Vice President of United Design Engineers, a consulting firm. He officially retired and moved to Florida in 1993.

James published a speech guide for Tuskegee Airmen, Inc. He was the author of a number of technical papers and reports. One research report was for the U.S. Air Force to show the use of waterproofing materials on concrete masonry walls. He also tested precast concrete showers for the Federal Housing Administration to determine the structural characteristics needed in a concrete shower floor to allow it to be used without a metal shower pan according to NIST. He received several awards during his engineering career. One award was the American Society of Civil Engineers' State of the Art that was awarded to him in 1973. In his leisure time, James was an avid golfer

James was married to Doris (Dorsey) Bryson and had two bonus children, Darrell and Karen. James joined the Lonely Eagles Chapter on April 18, 2006 in Palm Coast, FL. He is interred at Flagler Memorial Garden in Flagler Beach, FL.

