



BIOGRAPHY

A DOCUMENTED ORIGINAL TUSKEGEE AIRMAN

TUSKEGEE AIRMEN INC. PUBLIC RELATIONS,
P.O. Box 830060, TUSKEGEE, AL 36083

RUTH SPEIGHT

2LT Ruth Speight was a Surgical Nurse at Tuskegee Army Air Field (TAAF). She was promoted to First Lieutenant while there. She separated from the service by 1946. The former Military Nurse joined the Lonely Eagles Chapter on Wednesday, December 14, 2016. She was born on June 14, 1918 in Wilson, North Carolina. She graduated in 1940 from St. Agnes Nursing School in Raleigh, North Carolina. She worked at a segregated African-American hospital in Florida before joining the Army Nurse Corps (ANC). While at Tuskegee, she met her future husband, Trent Russell, Sr. He was a biologist working in the base laboratory. They married in 1948 and had a son Trent (Vern) Russell, Jr.



She later continued her education studying for the Bachelor of Science Degree in Nursing at Catholic University in Washington, D.C. The former military nurse completed her degree at the University of Buffalo in New York in 1951. We understand that she did not realize she had made history as a Tuskegee Airmen nurse until she saw a picture of herself and other nurses from the base hospital in one of her class textbooks.



Smithsonian, L-R Abbie Voorhies, Ruth Speight, Della Raney and Mencie Trotter

DOTA Ruth Speight is listed on page #383 of the "Known Participants" in the Ted Johnson database.

Source: www.TuskegeeArmyNurses.info

