

# Newsletter

FALL 2019

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## TUSKEGEE AIRMEN INC.

*Post-Convention, Fall News & Upcoming Events*



Thirteen Documented Original Tuskegee Airmen attended the 48th Annual National Convention in Orlando, FL. *Photo courtesy of TAI National Office*

**President** - Brig. Gen. Leon Johnson, USAF (ret.)  
**1st Vice President** - Brig. Gen. Randolph Scott, USAF (ret.)  
**Exec. Recording Secretary** - MSgt. Amani Philips, USAF  
**Financial Secretary** - Mr. Richard Baugh  
**Treasurer** - Mr. Cedric Flounory  
**Parliamentarian** - CMSgt. Quincy Mosby, USAF (ret.)  
**Public Relations Officer** - Lt. Col. Rick Sinkfield, USAF (ret.)  
**Eastern Region President** - CMSgt. Quincy Magwood, USAF (ret.)  
**Central Region President** - MSgt. Marv K. Abrams, USAF (ret.)  
**Western Region President** - Ms. Leslie Orticke

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## *President's Message*

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Ladies and Gentlemen,

November 2019

In August we concluded a very successful 2019 National Convention at the Rosen Centre Hotel in Orlando, Florida.

Thirty-five (35) individuals were honored and recognized as joining the Lonely Eagles Chapter during the Lonely Eagles Ceremony at the start of the convention.

Clarence Johnson, Director Diversity Management Operations Center, Defense Human Resources Activity, Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness gave an overview of the Department of Defense diversity efforts. Trent Dudley, Deputy Director Air Force Operations Group from Headquarters USAF gave a presentation on demographic trends in the Department of Defense in general and specifics about rated demographics in the Air Force. He also highlighted the military seminars and panels that were going to be conducted at the convention in parallel with the TAI business sessions.

Fourteen (14) Documented Original Tuskegee Airmen (DOTA's) attended the convention. There were also three (3) surviving spouses.

The AFJROTC Cadets from Zebulon B. Vance High School gave an excellent report on their efforts in executing the Tuskegee Airmen Ribbon Program.

This year we again repeated the change to the footprint of the convention that moved the entertainment to the Welcome Reception which was held in the Exhibit Area to allow attendees to mix and mingle with our sponsors. Melinda Doolittle, who was a finalist in the 6th season of American Idol and has become a very successful R&B performer, put on a show that had everyone in attendance rocking. We hope to have her join us in 2020 in San Antonio. At the opening of the Welcome Reception I presented one of my Presidential Awards to Harris Rosen, the founder of Rosen Hotels & Resorts and serves as the company's president and chief operating officer.

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### **Corporate sponsors in attendance:**

- + American Airlines as the Platinum Sponsor
  - \* American Airlines has provided Frequent Flyer Miles for DOTA travel
- + Southwest Airlines sponsored the Youth Program and the Youth Luncheon
  - \* Southwest also sponsors the Continuing the Legacy Program annually
- + Southwest provides travel vouchers used for youth and DOTA travel
- + Department of Defense sponsored the Military-Diversity Luncheon
- + Rosen Centre Hotel and Resort hosted the Welcome Reception
- + USAA sponsored the attendee name badges and convention bags



*TAI President  
Brig. Gen. Leon Johnson, USAF (ret.)*

## *TAI 48th Annual National Convention*

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Melvin Morris, Vietnam War Congressional Medal of Honor (MOH) Recipient was the Military-Diversity Luncheon speaker. He was one of the first Army Green Berets and received the MOH for his valorous actions on Sept. 17, 1969, while commanding the Third Company, Third Battalion of the IV Mobile Strike Force near Chi Lang. Then-Staff Sgt. Morris led an advance across enemy lines to retrieve a fallen comrade and single-handedly destroyed an enemy force that had pinned his battalion from a series of bunkers. Staff Sgt. Morris was shot three times as he ran back toward friendly lines with the American casualties but did not stop until he reached safety. He spoke to the luncheon attendees about how important it was to him to reach out to youth.

The recipients of the Tuskegee Airmen Military Awards were announced at the Military-Diversity Luncheon.



*Medal of Honor Recipient,  
Melvin Morris*



### **2019 Awards**

2019 Convention Photos by:  
Rlta Raines

#### **General Benjamin O. Davis Jr Field Grade Officer Award**

- + Major Richelle N.J. Hill (USAF)
  - \* Chief, Services' Policy Integration Branch
  - \* Headquarters U. S. Air Force, Directorate of Services (AF/A1S)
  - \* Pentagon, Washington District of Columbia

#### **Captain Robert W. Williams Company Grade Officer**

- + Captain Tamiko T. Gheen (USAF)
  - \* Flight Commander, TRICARE Operations & Patient Administration
  - \* 375th Medical Support Squadron
  - \* Scott AFB, Illinois 62225

#### **Chief Master Sergeant Fred Archer Senior NCO Award**

- + Senior Master Sergeant Eric A. Simon (USAF)
  - \* Program Manager, Maintenance Manpower
  - \* Directorate of Logistics, Force Protection, and Engineering (ACC/A4)
  - \* Headquarters, Air Combat Command
  - \* Joint Base Langley-Eustis, Virginia

#### **Senior Master Sergeant Margaret Frances Barbour NCO Award**

- + Technical Sergeant Terrance D. Cooley (USAF)
  - \* NCOIC, Commander's Support Staff
  - \* 837th Cyberspace Operations Squadron
  - \* Joint Base San Antonio – Lackland, Texas

*President's message continued on next page*

## *TAI 48th Annual National Convention*

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The Heritage Luncheon featured DOTA's James Harvey and Harry Stewart as speakers. They were members of the Tuskegee Airmen team that won the 1949 US Air Force initial Top Gun competition. They talked about the team selection, preparation for the competition, and their experiences during the competition. Richard Baugh told the audience about the fact that the winning trophy was lost, and the results not recorded in USAF documentation. Historian Zellie Orr was able to do research and discover the location of the trophy and obtain recognition for the team from the 332nd Fighter Group. At the beginning of the luncheon, I presented one of my Presidential Awards to Lt. Gen. (ret) Stayce Harris.

There was a two-day Youth Program for 50 participants. On Day 1 the youth visited the award-winning Orlando Science Center, participating in multiple hands-on exhibits. On Day 2 the Central Florida Wing of Civil Air Patrol (CAP) conducted a hands-on demonstration of several of their STEM Kits with the youth getting to assemble and work with rocket kits. We have invited the Texas Wing of CAP to join us in 2020 to repeat this very successful youth activity.

The Youth Luncheon sponsored by Southwest Airlines (SWA) features a trio of their employees as presenters: Hope Stevens, Claude R. Platte Chapter member, Robin Rhodes, San Antonio Chapter member and Sandra Hall, a SWA Flight Attendant with over the top enthusiasm. They talked about their roles at SWA and answered questions from the audience. They concluded the luncheon by announcing that 48 attendees of the luncheon were winners of \$100 Southwest gift cards for future flights. In attendance were Southwest Airlines employees from a variety of work groups.

The Tuskegee Airmen Scholarship Foundation gave a presentation on their activities and conducted served sessions including one on wealth management during the convention.

Life Membership Certificates and cards were distributed for 16 members at the convention. Certificates and cards for those not in attendance were given to a member of their chapter or their Region President. The Charter for the reactivated Lake Charles Louisiana Chapter was presented.



# *TAI 48th Annual National Convention*

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## **The winners of the Regional and National Awards were:**

### **President's Award**

Harris Rosen (Founder, President & CEO of Rosen Hotels and Resorts)

Lt. Gen. (ret) Stayce Harris (Los Angeles Chapter)

Hope Stevens (Claude R. Platte Chapter)

Karen Price-Ward (Southwest Airlines)

### **Eastern Region Award**

Jerry Burton (East Coast Chapter)

### **Central Region Award**

Darryl Shirley (Greater Cincinnati Chapter/Ohio)

### **Western Region Award**

Larry Jackson (Archer-Ragsdale Chapter)

### **Lemuel Custis Award**

"T.J." Spann (Tidewater Chapter)

### **Noel Parrish Award**

Ralph Smith (Los Angeles Chapter)



*President Johnson awards Harris Rosen*



*Eric Palmer and the Detroit RedTail*



*TAI Heritage Chapter Exhibit Booth*



*American Airline Pilots attend the 48th National Convention*

## ***TAI 48th Annual National Convention***

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2019 was not an election year but we did conduct voting on resolutions and the 2020 TAI Financial Plan. At convention this year it was determined that due to an oversight the seven (7) Resolutions that were out for vote had not been properly approved in accordance with Article 12 of the TAI Bylaws.

### **ARTICLE XII**

#### **AMENDMENTS**

*To the maximum extent permitted under the DC Code, these Bylaws may be amended by resolution and adoption by at least two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Board. Any other amendments to these Bylaws, including amendments that would authorize a purchase of Memberships, divide a class of Members into two (2) or more classes, or affect certain Members within a class differently than other Members of that class, shall require approval by at least two-thirds (2/3) of the Board and the approval of a majority of the Voting Members or of the applicable class of Members, to the extent required by the DC Code. In addition, any amendment to these Bylaws that would adversely and disproportionately affect any group of Voting Members shall require approval by at least two-thirds (2/3) of the Board and the approval of a majority of the Voting Members.*

The Body referred the Resolutions back to the Board for the required two thirds vote. In a meeting on 29 August 2019 it was determined by a majority vote that the Board would vote on each of the seven (7) Resolutions individually rather than in a single motion that covered them all. None of the them achieved the required two thirds vote to be moved forward to the Body for vote based on an interpretation of the Bylaws language above.

What does this mean? It means that the results of the voting on the seven (7) Resolutions remains with the vendor. The results for the vote on the TAI 2020 Financial Plan were obtained and it passed.

What's being done fix the problem? Recommended changes to procedures will be obtained from the pertinent committees and approved by the Board to assure this does not occur again.

The Board appreciates your commitment to TAI and will make sure that nothing like this occurs again. The report of the Balloting and Election Committee was received by the Board at our meeting on 17 October 2019. That report can be viewed by accessing the Tuskegee Airmen Box using the instructions below.

The reports of officers, committee chairs and region presidents can be found in the Tuskegee Airmen Box online at <https://Tuskegeeairmen.app.box.com>. All members have access to the information in the Box by using the login information below.

+ <https://Tuskegeeairmen.app.box.com> - website URL

+ [Tuskegeemember@yahoo.com](mailto:Tuskegeemember@yahoo.com) - email address

+ TAImember12! - password

## *TAI 48th Annual National Convention*

At 3:20pm on Friday the 16th of August the President of the Lake Charles Louisiana Chapter, Franklin J.P. Augustus, died when his Pitts aerobatic aircraft crashed near the New Orleans Lakefront Airport. Nancy Parker a New Orleans TV news anchor who was onboard the aircraft doing a news story also died. Franklin Augustus for over 30 years had flown on the airshow circuit as the Drug Fighter, encouraging youth to avoid drugs. He had been one of the attendees at the convention the previous week. Information can be found at [tuskegeeairmen.org/pressroom](http://tuskegeeairmen.org/pressroom).



Nancy Parker, Source: WVUE



Franklin Augustus shown flying his Pitts Special stunt plane during a Naval Air Station Show.  
Photo by Robert T. Steiner

Our 2020 Convention will be August 6-8, 2020 at the Hilton Palacio Del Rio in San Antonio Texas. Our goal is to make the 2020 Convention outstanding with increased military participation, new sponsors and more vendors for the exhibit area. Increased membership attendance is critical as we commemorated the accomplishments of our Documented Original Tuskegee Airmen and do the business of the organization. I hope to see many of you there.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Leon A. Johnson". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Leon A. Johnson

National President Tuskegee Airmen, Inc.



## *Sunnye Simpson's 48th Convention Feature Story*

### **Love Stories as told by Tuskegee Airmen Wives and others**

Standing in boots, jodhpurs, goggles, a leather cap, and a long white silk scarf, Gigi Coleman created an original re-enactment of Bessie Coleman, flying experiences in the early years of flying. Creatively interweaving the Tuskegee Airmen Aviation story, and Bessie Coleman's story, Gigi Coleman wove the two threads together into a tapestry that highlighted obstacles Bessie Coleman overcame to become a history maker. This love story told of Bessie's determination to succeed. She moved to Paris, France to learn to fly and she became licensed pilot. After returning and using money she earned as a manicurist Bessie bought a rickety airplane. Gigi compared Bessie's determination to the determination Tuskegee Airmen possessed and used to train, learn, pass ground and flight school exams to become 1st lieutenants and aviators flying rickety aircraft in their early years.

Nancy Lawrence, Ph.D., an associate professor of Applied Aviation Sciences Aerospace & Occupational Safety at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, and a Bessie Coleman authority, shared little known details about Bessie's life. Interestingly, several audience members were quite knowledgeable about Bessie Coleman, but Gigi's performance and presentation exceeded their expectations.

"Rise above" these words were frequently spoken by Willa Brown to Sheila Chamberlain. Rise above situations that make you lose focus of your goals, rise above family situations that keep you from moving forward, rise above the hurt and anger you feel when people treat you or your loved ones badly, even horrifically. Rise above.

According to Sheila, Willa Brown shaped and shifted her view of her role in society, just as Willa shaped and the views, skills, and knowledge of young African Americans wanting to fly and take their place in the history of military aviation. Many of these African American pilots became Tuskegee Airmen.

Prior to a shift in her social consciousness, Sheila described herself as a smart, caring and self-absorbed young helicopter pilot. Willa changed all of that. The portrait drawn of Willa by Sheila explains her commitment to "rise above". Sheila's activism in the military, politics, and women's rights ensures Willa Brown's legacy. Willa Brown's love story as told by Sheila Chamberlain was well received by audience members.



*Picture of Bessie Coleman, artist unknown.  
Photos by: Sunnye Simpson*



*Seated, Ted Lumpkin, Tuskegee Airman;  
going clockwise: Sheila Chamberlain, Gigi  
Coleman, Nancy Lawrence, Gloria Gaynor,  
and Thelma Rudd.*

## USAFA Class of 2022 selects

### Gen. Daniel "Chappie" James Jr. as first black Exemplar

September 19th, 2019

DOTA, Gen. Chappie James was selected as the U.S. Air Force Academy's 2022 Class Exemplar. The Class Exemplar program began with the Class of 2000, as they chose an Exemplar to lead them in the new millennium. The Exemplar program is intended to provide a clear and visible attachment to the great leaders of the past for a new generation of air leaders who will face new challenges in the next millennium and beyond. The Class Exemplar serves as the honorary leader of the class, setting its personality and character through a model of innovative, pioneering leadership.

Class Exemplar photos are on display in Exemplar Hall which is in Fairchild Hall. It was an initiative at USAFA to try to expose the cadets to a more diverse (race and gender) slate of Exemplar candidates. Chappie is the first African American Class Exemplar. The James family and many TAI members were in attendance at the ceremony dinner, including the guest speaker, TAI National VP, Brig. Gen. Randolph Scott (USAF ret.)



Photo courtesy of Britt James



USAFA Class of 2022

Photo Cred: USAFA WebTeam

## USAFA Names Airfield in honor of Gen. Benjamin O. Davis

November 1st, 2019

Claudette Roulo, defense.gov

*Excerpt*

The USAFA named its airfield today in honor of Air Force Gen. Benjamin O. Davis Jr., the service's first black general and the commander of the Tuskegee Airmen in Africa and Europe.

Davis was "instrumental in driving this institution towards a much more diverse and a much more inclusive population, reducing attrition rates of minorities, and crucial in developing the plan to integrate women at the United States Air Force Academy," USASFA Superintendent Silveria said.

"Davis' life served as an example of the power of perseverance, courage, character and extraordinary competence," Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. David L. Goldfein said at the naming ceremony. "Some have had to bear a heavier burden than others to teach us all what right looks like," Goldfein said. "Today, we celebrate one of these men."

The academy's Airmanship Programs — soaring, parachuting and powered flight — operate out of the airfield, which opened in 1974.



Photo courtesy of Britt James



Photo Credit: Mike Kaplan

September 29th, 2019  
Gage Gouling, wtov9.com

*Excerpt*

## Edwards Brothers honored in TAI mural, dedicated in downtown Steubenville

Nearly 100 people were in attendance at the dedication ceremony to honor and remember John and Jerome Edwards. The brothers flew as part of the 332nd Fighter Group of the U.S. Air Force - also known as the Tuskegee Airmen.

"I'm just so elated and just excited about this come to today," said Deborah Keith, a direct descendant of the brothers. "I just said your efforts will not go in vain."

Steubenville Mayor Jerry Barilla was also in attendance and says the mural is a great addition to the portfolio of murals around the city.

"This is a historic moment for Steubenville," said Mayor Barilla. "This mural is dedicated to two young men from Steubenville that fought in World War II."

But the mural is more than just a painting, says the chairwoman of the project. It's a look into the future.

## USAF & DelState pay homage to TAI with new planes

Acting Secretary of the Air Force Matthew Donovan announced on Monday that the service's advanced trainer aircraft, the T-X, has officially been named the T-7A Red Hawk. The aircraft will feature a distinctive red tail that pays tribute to the signature red tails painted on the Tuskegee airmen's planes 75 years ago. DOTA, Charles McGee, was on stage at the 2019 Air Force Association's Air, Space and Cyber Conference in Maryland on Monday as the T-7A Red Hawk was unveiled. "The name Red Hawk honors the legacy of Tuskegee Airmen, and pays homage to their signature red-tailed aircraft from World War II," Donovan said. "It's also a tribute to the Curtiss P-40 Warhawk, an American fighter aircraft that first flew in 1938, flown by the 99th Fighter Squadron, the U.S. Army Air Forces' first African American fighter squadron."



Photo credit: Royce Rolls @roycewtrf

"Yes, we're honoring and celebrating them, but today is about the future," said Mayor Barilla. "They wanted to get their word out about how to overcome obstacles. Their idea was more things were conquered with excellence, racism is conquered with excellence."

Behind the brush, painting the entire mural in just over a month, was one man.

"Words can't describe how I feel," said Claude Ruston Baker. "When you spend all day in 90 degrees on rough walls like this, you never forget why you're doing what you're doing. And so it means a lot to me."



Below photo by Mark Eichmann WHY

Photo courtesy of ABC



Student pilots at Delaware State Univ. are training on 10 new Vulcanair V1 airplanes and a new twin engine Piper thanks to \$3.4 mill. in funding from the General Assembly. All DelState planes have been painted with red tails since the program restarted in 1987. DOTA and DelState alum, Norman Thomas, christened a new plane.

## **First African American Fighter Pilot, Eugne Bullard, honored with statue at Georgia USAF museum**

October 2019

COL Brad M. Beasley, U.S. Army (Ret)

*Excerpt*

On the 125th anniversary of his birth, a life-size bronze statue of U.S. Air Force 2nd Lt. Eugene J. Bullard, the first African-American fighter pilot, was unveiled by the Georgia World War I Centennial Commission during a Memorial Dedication Ceremony at Robins Air Force Base, Georgia Aviation Museum on Oct. 9, 2019. Several members of TAI including the Maj Gen Joseph A. McNeil Chapter of Warner Robins, GA attended the statue dedication ceremony of Eugene Jacques Bullard, first African American Fighter Pilot.

Among its many Centennial projects, the Georgia World War I Centennial Commission decided to properly memorialize and honor Eugene Bullard with the creation and installation of a full-size, bronze statute, to be placed on the grounds of the Air Force Museum of Aviation on Warner Robins Air Force Base, Warner Robins, Georgia. To achieve this goal the Commission asked five major donors to raise the funds needed to make this project possible.



Photo courtesy of Brig. Gen. Leon Johnson



Photo by Stan Coleman

## **TAI presented with \$100,000 by Southwest Airlines**

On October 11th, 2019, long-term supporter, Southwest Airlines, held its 34th Annual LUV Classic Golf Tournament in Dallas Texas with over 500 golfers representing Southwest vendors and suppliers from across the nation whose companies support the LUV Classic. This year Tuskegee Airmen Incorporated was selected to be one of five charities to receive a donation from the 2019 Southwest Airlines LUV Classic. Gary Kelly, Board Chair and CEO of Southwest Airlines, presents the donation to USAF Brig. Gen. Leon Johnson, President of Tuskegee Airmen Incorporated.



Photo by Rita Raines

## **Tuskegee University inducts five new members into ROTC Hall of Fame**

November 2019  
tuskegee.edu/news  
*Excerpt*

On November 8th, 2019 Tuskegee University inducted five new members into its ROTC Hall of Fame. "We salute this year's inductees whose remarkable military and professional careers have deemed them worthy of quintessential honor of being inducted into Tuskegee University's ROTC Hall of Fame," said President Lily D. McNair, "Their service to our country and their representation of Mother Tuskegee through their valor and patriotism are indeed commendable." This year's inductees, combined with the 85 others preciously inducted, bring the Hall of Fame's membership to 90 retired and killed in action servicemen and servicewomen.



tuskegee.edu



*2019 Hall of Fame inductees (clockwise, from top left):  
Lt. Col. Allen '73, Brig. Gen. Boddie, Col. Johnson '74,  
Capt. Silyey '67, and Lt. Col. England '64*



## **NYC Plaza named after DOTA, Dr. Roscoe C. Brown Jr.**

November 21, 2019  
africanamericanreports.com  
*Excerpt*

Local leadership and descendants of DOTA, Dr. Roscoe C. Brown Jr., gathered in NYC to rename the newly renovated M.L.K. Plaza after in honor of Dr. Brown. "Roscoe Brown was an internationally recognized trailblazer in the fields of military service, community service and education. This plaza will help us remember his impact on our borough, our city and our nation..." said Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr.

Following his military service, Brown completed his Master's degree and then his Ph.D., both from New York University. He continued his life of service and civil rights advocacy with organizations such as the Boys & Girls Club of America, the Jack Robinson Foundation, Libraries for the Future, and the National Park Service.

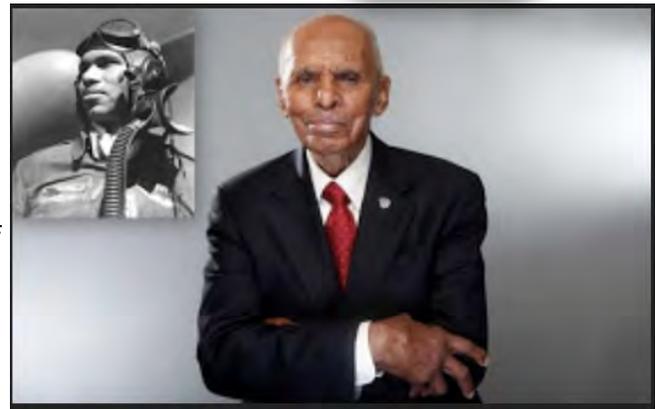


Image courtesy of africanamericanreports.com

Brown also became a prominent academic figure in New York City, becoming president of Bronx Community College in 1977, holding the post for sixteen years.

The \$2.9 million project was jointly funded by the Mayor, City Council members and the Bronx Borough President.

## Upcoming Events

### Detroit RedTail Inc. 2020 Tour



The "Detroit RedTail" will continue touring in 2020! Tentative Outreach dates listed below. Details can be found at [www.detroitredtail.org](http://www.detroitredtail.org).

The mission of Detroit RedTail, Inc is to participate in the American car culture and access those events and venues, not traditionally known for propagating military aviation history, and propagate the history of the iconic airmen of the segregated Army Air Corp of World War 2. Detroit RedTail Inc utilizes a custom wrapped Ford Mustang P-51 emulating Tuskegee Airmen tribute vehicle as an outreach tool to promote the legacy and history of the famed Tuskegee Airmen at events across the nation with the motto, "Rolling the Tuskegee Airmen Into the American Car Culture."

- +28 Feb. - 1 March 2020: Detroit AutoRama (Detroit, MI)
- +16 May 2020: MCM Great Lakes Stampede All Ford & Mustang Show (Birch Run, MI)
- +24 May 2020 – 2020 St Clair Shores Memorial Day Parade (St Clair Shores, MI)
- +7-13 June 2020 – 2020 Hot Rod Power Tour
- +8 July 2020 – Mackinaw City Mustang Stampede (Mackinaw City, MI)



Photos and schedule available: <https://www.detroitredtail.org/>

### TAI 49th National Convention

The 2020 National Convention will be August 6-8, 2020 at the Hilton Palacio Del Rio in San Antonio Texas. TAI has set goals to increase military participation, acquire new sponsors and obtain several vendors for the exhibit area. This convention will emphasis increased membership attendance as we commemorated the accomplishments of our Documented Original Tuskegee Airmen and do the business of the organization. We look forward to seeing you there!



**Tuskegee Airmen, Inc. (TAI)**

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"Tuskegee Airmen" refers to all who were involved in the so-called "Tuskegee Experience" — the Army Air Corps program to train African Americans to fly and maintain combat aircraft. The Tuskegee Airmen included pilots, navigators, bombardiers, maintenance and support staff, instructors, and all the personnel who kept the planes in the air.

**TAI MISSION**

Honoring the accomplishments and perpetuating the history of African-Americans who participated in air crew, ground crew and operations support training in the Army Air Corps during WWII. Introducing young people across the nation to the world of aviation and science through local and national programs such as Young Eagles and TAI youth programs and activities. Providing educational assistance to students and awards to deserving individuals, groups and corporations whose deeds lend support to TAI's goals. TAI also supports the Tuskegee Airmen Award presented to deserving cadets in the Air Force Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps Program.



*TAI National Convention photos by:  
Rita Raines*