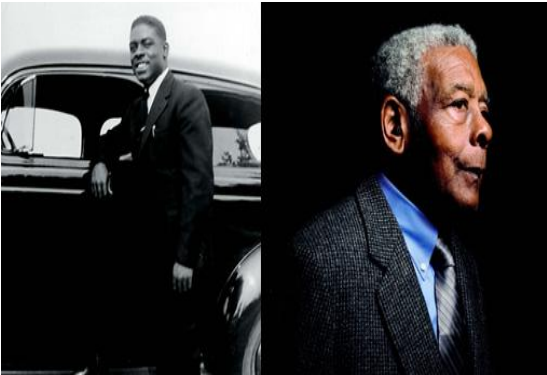


BIOGRAPHY

A DOCUMENTED ORIGINAL TUSKEGEE AIRMAN

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

DR. WILLIAM NEAL BROWN



Dr. William Neal Brown was born 24 February 1919 in Warrenton, Georgia. Dr Brown was the oldest of six children. His mother was of Native American descent and lived on a reservation in Warrenton. Dr Brown's grandfather, a freed slave, was a farmer in Georgia after receiving his freedom in 1863. Dr. Brown's father also became a farmer before moving the family to Aliquippa, Pennsylvania in 1924. He secured employment as a steel worker for Jones & Laughlin Steel Corporation. Dr. Brown's mother died when he was young, leaving Dr Brown's father to care for six children.

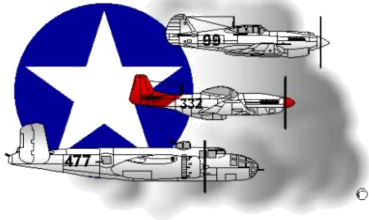
Dr. Brown was always an excellent student, graduating first in his high school class, but was denied being valedictorian because of his color. He was nearly omitted from his graduation program altogether. After graduation from high school, he attended Hampton Institute, now Hampton University, where he double majored in English and History. Not long after graduation from college, Dr Brown learned about the Pearl Harbor attack and in 1942, joined the military in the Tuskegee Airmen program. Dr. Brown trained at Tuskegee Army Air Field and served as a Special Services Officer with the 618th Bomb Squadron in the American theater of operations. His job was to boost the morale of the black pilots training in Tuskegee, Alabama.

During his years at Hampton, Dr. Brown honed his skills as a debater. In 1961, he substituted at the request of students for Rutgers School of Law professor, C. Clyde Ferguson, in a debate with Malcolm X on the subject of integration. The debate was held in the auditorium of the Rutgers School of Pharmacy, then in Newark. The two men debated for nearly two hours and 20 minutes.

After the war, Dr. Brown was discharged from the U.S. Air Force, where he worked in Englewood, New Jersey as a social worker. He also worked as a clinical social worker for the Veterans Administration. While working full time, he earned a Master's Degree in 1950. Shortly thereafter, he received his Doctorate. Dr. Brown was one of the first African American faculty members at Rutgers University. He was a member of the faculty at the School of Social Work, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, New Jersey. He worked there for 33 years, from 1956 to 1989, as professor of human growth and development. In addition, he was a visiting professor at Talladega College, the University of Pittsburgh, the University of Wisconsin, Cornell University, and Hebrew University in Jerusalem.

Upon retirement in 1989, Dr. Brown relocated to Short Hills in Millburn Township, NJ. Although frail and confined to a wheelchair, in 2009, he along with other Tuskegee Airmen, attended the inauguration of President Barack Obama. During the last year of Dr Brown's life, he spent time observing people and how they interacted with the environment. He never stopped learning, observing, and teaching. By this time, Dr. Brown was blind in one eye and had difficulty speaking. At





BIOGRAPHY

A DOCUMENTED ORIGINAL TUSKEGEE AIRMAN

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

this time, he was a client at SAGE Spend-A-Day Eldercare in Summit, NJ. Dr Brown felt more like a consultant than a client. He used his skills to report issues other clients were having to the administration; still working.

Dr. Brown's military education includes: Unknown.

Dr. Brown's civilian education includes: Bachelor's Degree, English and History, Hampton Institute, Virginia; Master's Degree, Social Work, Columbia University, New York; Doctor of Philosophy, Social Work, City University, New York.

Dr Brown's military awards include: Unknown.

Dr Brown's civic awards and honors include: Unknown.

Dr Brown passed away 17 Apr 2009. He was 90 years old.

