



BIOGRAPHY

A DOCUMENTED ORIGINAL TUSKEGEE AIRMAN

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

ROBERT L BAKER



Robert L. Baker was born on 2 March 1921 to the late Laramore and Eva Baker in Trenton, New Jersey. He graduated from New Lincoln Elementary in 1936 and Trenton Central High School in 1939, where he earned three letters. Robert ran track at Trenton Central High School and was rewarded for his speed, becoming the first black captain of the track team. Before graduating in 1939, he received many honors, including the state championship trophy presented to him by then Governor, The Honorable Arthur Harry Moore. Receiving a track scholarship in 1940, he enrolled at Tuskegee Institute, Tuskegee, Alabama, however, Robert was drafted during his junior year in college.

Mr. Baker served in the Army Air Corps with the 332nd Fighter Group known as the Tuskegee Airmen. He served with three other men from Trenton, New Jersey; Elwood Driver, Roland Daniels, and Paul Kornegay. Although not a Pilot, as an Aeronautical Engineer, Mr. Baker made sure the planes were in their best flying condition.

Once the war ended, Mr. Baker resumed his education at Tuskegee Institute. Upon graduation, Mr. Baker went to work for the General Motors Fisher Body Plant, where he worked for 32 years. He became the first black production supervisor, retiring in 1982.

Mr. Baker was a life member of Mitchell A. Davis American Legion Post 182 in Trenton, New Jersey.

Mr. Baker's civilian education includes: A Bachelor of Science in industrial education, Tuskegee Institute.

Mr. Baker died 2 September 2015 in Hopewell, New Jersey. He was 94 years old. His wife, Mildred Gibbs passed away in 2016 at the age of 93. He is survived by daughters from a previous marriage, Barbara Faulkner, Deborah Baker, and Joy Baker, and stepdaughter Karen Hodge.

