



BIOGRAPHY

A DOCUMENTED ORIGINAL TUSKEGEE AIRMAN

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WALTER GILBERT ALEXANDER II



2d Lieutenant Walter Gilbert Alexander II was born 6 July 1922 to a Dentist Father and a Social Worker Mother in Petersburg, Virginia, and named after his Great Uncle. LT Alexander was born into a family of physicians who migrated from Virginia to New Jersey. As a youngster, LT Alexander was interested in aviation and used to build model airplanes.

LT Alexander attended Rutgers University on a scholarship and in 1943 became the first African American student to graduate from the School of Engineering. He graduated 7th in his class, earning a degree in Mechanical Engineering. LT Alexander was a member of Tau Beta Pi, the Engineering Honor Society. In addition to his

studies,

LT Alexander participated in cross country and track and field. cold so while on the track team, LT Alexander borrowed tight shirts from the wrestling team to keep warm. After graduation, he Engineering job with Douglas Aircraft, then decided to take the military service. He passed and enlisted in the U.S. Army Air

LT Alexander first went to Fort McArthur, San Pedro, Los Mississippi, where he took and passed his physical exam. He training in Tuskegee, Alabama. As a pre-aviation cadet, LT about six months because there were more candidates for training accommodate. He completed Pilot training at Tuskegee Army Air Field in Tuskegee, Alabama on 27 June 1945, Class 45-D-SE, just as World War II was coming to an end. He never flew a combat mission. After his discharge from the military, LT Alexander struggled to find an Engineering job in the post-war job market in a profession that only offered African Americans limited opportunities.

Because his job opportunities were limited, LT Alexander decided to fulfill his father's hope of carrying on the family legacy in medicine. He went to Dental school at Howard University and in 1952 graduated with a degree in Dental Surgery. He returned to New Jersey to practice Dentistry alongside his Brother, a Doctor, who had set aside some space in his Orange office for his Brother. Twenty years later, he became the first African American to serve on the New Jersey State Board of Dentistry, a post he held from 1972 to 1977. He practiced Dentistry for 50 years in South Orange, NJ, retiring in 2007. The Orange Housing Development Corporation, in conjunction with other affiliates, created a redevelopment project known as the Dr. Walter G. Alexander Village.

In the final years of his life, LT Alexander was honored twice by Rutgers alumni organizations. In 2007, he was inducted into the Rutgers African American Alumni Alliance Hall of Fame. Then in 2009, he was inducted into the Rutgers Hall of Distinguished Alumni. LT Alexander died 2 August 2010. He is survived by his wife Ann, two daughters, and two grandchildren.



He was a skinny kid and always and snug fitting long sleeved went to Los Angeles for an exam to see if he could qualify for Corps.

Angeles, California and then to embarked on the next phase of his Alexander was stationed there than the training facility could

