



# BIOGRAPHY

## A DOCUMENTED ORIGINAL TUSKEGEE AIRMAN

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

## **ROLAND MERRITT BROWN, SR.**



Roland Merritt Brown, Sr. was born 2 November 1923 to Dewey Brown, Sr. and Matilda Steele Brown in Morristown, New Jersey. He was one of three boys. They graduated from Morristown High School, Morristown, NJ. Major Brown grew up in Morristown and Newton, NJ. In 1945, he married Mary Lily Davis. He attended Drew University, majoring in Engineering; however, his studies were interrupted by World War II. He was among the class of 1945 at Tuskegee Army Air Field, Tuskegee, Alabama. As a Tuskegee Airman and veteran of World War II, Major Brown served as a B-25 Bombardier-Navigator assigned to the 477th Bombardment Group. He never saw combat because the war in Europe ended.

After the war, Major Brown continued his studies at Lafayette College in Easton, Pennsylvania. He served as a Professional Engineer with the United States Army Electronic Command at Fort Monmouth, NJ for 30 years. Upon retirement in 1981, he moved to Palm Coast, Florida. He retired from the Air Force Reserves and in 2000, he returned to New Jersey where he had been introduced to Golf at a young age by his father, Dewey Brown, Sr. His father was the first known African-American PGA Member. He became an avid amateur golfer winning many tournaments. He befriended and played with internationally known golfers such as Charlie Sifford, Teddy Rhodes, and Lee Elder. Among the long list of golf courses he challenged was the picturesque Cedar River Golf Course in Indian Lake, New York, owned by his father.

Major Brown's military education includes: Cadet Aviation Program.

Major Brown's civilian education includes: Drew University, Madison, NJ and Lafayette College, Easton, PA.

Major Brown's military awards include: Unknown.

Major Brown's civic awards, memberships, and honors include: Morristown High School Wall of Fame.

Major Brown died 4 January 2004 at Watchung Ridge Assisted Living, Watchung, NJ. He was 80 years old. He was predeceased by his wife Mary Davis Brown, who died in 1999. He is survived by Son, Dr. Roland Jr., daughter Gloria Jeanne, and grandson, Roland. He is interred at Cedar River Cemetery, Indian Lake, Hamilton County, New York, Memorial ID: 10663193, overlooking the Golf Course his Father used to own.

