

BIOGRAPHY

A DOCUMENTED ORIGINAL TUSKEGEE AIRMAN

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

NORRIS CONNALLY



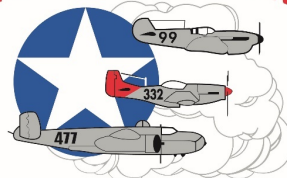
Norris Connally was born March 15, 1921. He joined the Lonely Eagles July 2016. He grew up in Atlanta, Georgia, and attended Laboratory High School, Morehouse College and Atlanta University Graduate Schools. Norris Connally grew up in the embrace of the Herndon Family being the grand-nephew of Alonzo Herndon (the Founder and First President of the Atlanta Life Insurance Company in Atlanta, Georgia). Norris became a Tuskegee Airman while attending Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia. Norris, along with 12 other "Morehouse Dropouts" (as they refer to themselves) and 10 of the Morris Brown College's National Black College Football

Champions, all volunteered in Atlanta for the Army Air Corps service as soon as they admitted Young Black Men.

Norris had the highest average of all the test scores and was designated Temporary Sergeant assigned to escort the Tuskegee Troup Trainees from Montgomery, Alabama, to Chanute Field, Rantoul, Illinois. Because of his high test scores and technical abilities, he became a Staff Sergeant Crew Chief and Instructor along with 12 others, training over 126 Mechanics of the Mechanic Crews on 7 different types of aircraft for the 99th Fighter Squadron. Norris, along with the rest of the 99th Fighter Squadron, arrived in Casablanca, Morocco aboard the SS Mariposa Easter weekend of April 1943 for combat duty. A year later, the 332nd Fighter Group comprising the 100th, 301st, and 302nd African-American Fighter Squadrons, arrived overseas. In July 1944, the 99th Fighter Squadron joined the 332nd Fighter Group where they were stationed at Ramitelli in Italy.

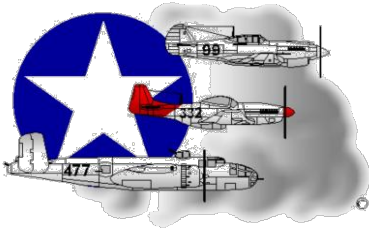
The 7-different types of aircraft were: the PT-17 Trainer Boeing Stearman, the BT-13 Vultee Vailian, the T6-AT6 Texan by North American, the P-40 Curtiss Dell and Air Cobra (P-39); and the Fighter Planes were: the Republic P-47 Thunderbolt and the famed North American P-51 Mustang (whose tails were painted Red) thus the nick

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75th ANNIVERSARY

1941 ★ 2016



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name of the Squadron "The Red Tails" in 1944. Norris's travels with the "Red Tails" Squadron abroad included North Africa, Sicily and then Italy. Upon his return to the United States, the Air Force asked him to attend Flight Training at an Air Force Base in Texas, but, he decided to return to his studies at Morehouse College.

Norris rejoined the Atlanta Life Insurance Company after the end of World War II. His illustrious career at Atlanta Life Insurance Company culminated in 2002 when he retired as Senior Vice-President, General Auditor and Vice-Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Company, Vice-Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Herndon Foundation, and President of the Atlanta Life Insurance Company Credit Union. In 1982, Norris became a member of the Board of Directors of the Citizens Trust Bank in Atlanta, Georgia, and remained on the Board of Directors until his retirement in 2005. Norris was the sole remaining Charter Member of the Original Tuskegee Airmen who founded the Atlanta Chapter of Tuskegee Airmen, Inc. In 2007, Norris and all of the other Original Tuskegee Airmen received the Congressional Medal awarded by President George Bush.

