



BIOGRAPHY

A DOCUMENTED ORIGINAL TUSKEGEE AIRMAN

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

LT COLONEL BENNETT G. HARDY



Bennett G. Hardy was born 6 August 1921 in Kokomo, Indiana to the late Joseph and Eula Hardy. He graduated from Kokomo High School in 1939 and upon graduation, worked in the Kokomo foundry. He tested for the Tuskegee Airman program and was awaiting a reply when he was drafted into the United States Army during WWII. Once he completed his Army training, he was about to leave for overseas duty when he was pulled from his unit to begin training in the Tuskegee Airman flight training program. He went to Tuskegee, Alabama, where he graduated as a Fighter Pilot in the Army Air Corps, graduating in 1945 from Class 45-F. He married Betty Newsom in 1943.

During his 29-year career in the Air Force, Lt Colonel Bennett was stationed in Japan, Turkey, Vietnam, Scott Air Force Base, Missouri, and McGuire Air Force Base, New Jersey. While traveling from base to base, he and his wife raised eight children. In 1970, he retired from the Air Force and he and his family settled down in Willingboro, New Jersey. For the next 20 years, Lt Colonel Bennett and his wife worked as Cottage Technicians at the ER Johnstone Training and Research Center in Bordentown, New Jersey, an institution for the developmentally disabled.

Lt Colonel Bennett's military education includes: Flight School

Lt Colonel Bennett's civilian education includes: Unknown

Lt Colonel Bennett's civic awards and honors: Unknown

Lt Colonel Bennett's military awards include: The Bronze Star Medal

Lt. Col. Bennett G. Hardy passed away on 10 May 2006. He was 82 years old. His wife of 62 years, Betty Jane Newsom Hardy joined him on 16 June 2014. They are survived by children, Patricia Enous of Atlanta, GA; Roderick Hardy of Willingboro, NJ; Wesley Hardy of Edgewater Park, NJ; Toni Tengelsen of Colorado Springs, CO; Robert Hardy of Baltimore, MD; Eugene Hardy of Orlando, FL; and Quinton Hardy of Willingboro, NJ; grandchildren, Darren Hardy, Erin and Carrie Tengelsen, Chavala and Jordan Hardy and Atira Enous, and great-grandchildren, Tiana, Bennett and Matthew Hardy. Their son Thomas Hardy of Willingboro, NJ passed away in 2007.

