



# BIOGRAPHY

## A DOCUMENTED ORIGINAL TUSKEGEE AIRMAN

Tuskegee Airmen Inc. Public Relations, P.O. Box 830060  
Tuskegee, AL 36083

### **ROBERT (BOB) HUGHES**



Born in Los Angeles, California, Bob Hughes was drafted in the US Army in 1942. Hughes was classified for Pilot Training and graduated from Pilot Training in 1943 as Single Engine Fighter Pilot. Hughes's first assignment was as a Flight Instructor advanced Single Engine T-6's and P-40's.

In January 1944, Hughes was one of the few White Officers that was sent to Tuskegee Army Air Field as a Flight Instructor for the Tuskegee Experience. While there in March 1944, Bob met his future wife, Pat, who attended Alabama Polytechnic College (later renamed Auburn University). They married in just under six months on September 9, 1944. Upon completion of his assignment at Tuskegee, he transferred in 1946 to Randolph Field near San Antonio, Texas to serve again as a Flight Instructor, concentrating on teaching international students from China and Turkey.

From there Hughes transferred to Okinawa, Japan in 1947 where he flew P-51 Fighters. While in Japan, he cross-trained in electronics with the U. S. Army at Kio University and later served with the U. S. Army's Signal Corps as a Radar and Communications Maintenance Officer. Subsequent assignments brought the Hughes family to Vermont, Canada and Ohio.

In 1952, Hughes deployed to Korea and flew combat missions in the B-26 Marauder Medium Bomber. He distinguished himself by flying 62 Low-level night interdiction missions in support of coalition ground forces. After finishing his Korean tour of duty, Hughes served in various squadrons in Strategic Air Command, where he flew as a B-47 Aircraft Commander during the Cold War. By 1964, he then was reassigned to fly the U-2 Dragon Lady and distinguished himself during the Cuban Missile Crisis.

Bob retired from the USAF in 1965 at the rank of Lt Col and moved his family to Florida where he entered the real estate and construction industry. In reflecting on his military career, Bob was quoted as saying "One of my most memorable moments was; watching the first group of Black cadet's graduate that I helped train." On March 29, 2007, Hughes was among the 300 Documented Original Tuskegee Airmen to receive the Congressional Gold Medal of Honor from President George W. Bush at the ceremony in the U.S. Capitol rotunda, the highest Civilian Honor that Congress can bestow.

Bob is an active member of the Gen. Daniel "Chappie" James, Jr. Chapter in Orlando, FL, where he spends his time speaking to students and throughout the community. To learn more about Mr. Bob Hughes, other Documented Original Tuskegee Airmen, please visit the Website at the following location:  
[www.TuskegeeAirmen.org](http://www.TuskegeeAirmen.org).

