



BIOGRAPHY

A DOCUMENTED ORIGINAL TUSKEGEE AIRMAN

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

WILLIAM J. JOHNSON



Mr. William J. Johnson was born in North Carolina 1926 and his family relocated to Glen Cove New York in 1929. While tending his parents garden, Mr. Johnson would look up and see planes from Mitchell Field as they flew over. He knew there were no Black Pilots flying those planes and resented that fact. He made it his mission to qualify for the Air Corps. After graduating with honors from Glen Cove High School, Mr. Johnson was accepted into the Flight Training Program and arrived at Tuskegee Army Air Field (TAAF) on June 6, 1944, D-Day, to begin Pilot Training. He was a member of the Tuskegee Airman Class of 45-I. Mr. Johnson stated “the first thing I did when I arrived at TAAF was to go to the flight line and watch those Black Pilots fly over. An all Black unit, we were all together. I wanted to see America become American—America the Beautiful”.

Below are some statements from Mr. Johnson about his military experience:

“The Tuskegee experience was wonderful but what was even more important was getting the chance to fight for America just like everybody else. The Tuskegee Airmen had a very positive effect on this country. It’s something that young people should know. It is important to know where we came from. We never knew the positive impact we would have on this country. What I knew was that I wanted to fly and they were telling us that Black People could not fly.”

Second Lieutenant Johnson earned the following awards during his military career:

- Meritorious Service Award – Nassau County Legislature 2006
- Trailblazer Award – New York State Unified Court System 2018
- Congressional Gold Medal 2008
- Presidential Citation – Alabama A&M University 2006
- Honorary Dr. of Public Service – Tuskegee University 2006
- Certificate of Special Congressional Recognition – NYS Senate

To learn more about Mr. William Johnson, other Documented Original Tuskegee Airmen, please visit the Website at the following location: www.TuskegeeAirmen.org.

