

# BIOGRAPHY

## A DOCUMENTED ORIGINAL TUSKEGEE AIRMAN

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

### THOMAS H. MAYFIELD



Thomas H. Mayfield was born on 24 July 1917 to a coal miner father and a domestic worker mother in Shinnston, West Virginia. He graduated from Kelly Miller High School, Clarksburg, West Virginia. Thomas and his friends once built an airplane, hoisting it on top of a barn. He was the test pilot and boasted an impressive flight time, with a hard landing. He also got a whipping for performing such a stunt. After graduating from high school, he attended Bluefield State College in the Appalachian Mountains on a football scholarship. He went with his roommate to take the test to join the Army Air Corps. He only went in order to support his roommate. His roommate failed the exam but Thomas wound up passing without any study or preparation. He left college in his junior year to join the Army Air Corps. The year was 1941.

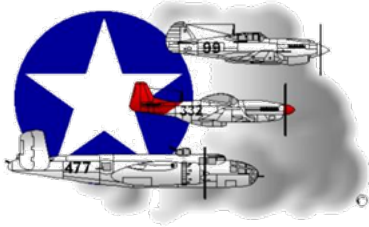
Mr. Mayfield served in the rank of Private to Master Sergeant, in a ground support capacity, while serving in the Army Air Corps with the Tuskegee Airmen. He was a member of the 99<sup>th</sup> Pursuit Squadron, 99<sup>th</sup> Fighter Squadron, 332<sup>nd</sup> Fighter Group, and the 477<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group. He received his Commission as a Second Lieutenant, became a Pilot after World War II and served in three wars: World War II, Korea, and Vietnam.

Lt Col Mayfield was stationed in Alabama, California, Oklahoma, Portugal, Illinois, Japan, Kentucky, Missouri, New Jersey, the Azores, and Bermuda. After serving in the European theater during World War II, he served in the Azores and Bermuda. While stationed in Bermuda, he met and married his wife of 55 years, Barbara Vaucrosson. He was the first Black Commissioned Officer to serve in Bermuda. After his tour in Bermuda, the Mayfield's returned to the United States and Lt Colonel Mayfield completed his college degree at Bluefield State College, West Virginia.

Some of the positions held by Lt Col Mayfield over his career were: Basic Training Director; C-47 Pilot; C-54 Pilot; Supply Officer; Chief, F-106 Weapons System Unit; Chief, C-135 Projects and Analysis Division; Squadron Commander; Chief of Supply, and C-5 Project Officer.

In 1970 after 29 years, Lt Col Mayfield retired from the United States Air Force and moved with his family to Willingboro, New Jersey. Realtors tried to steer the Mayfield family away from that area but Lt Col Mayfield was persistent. The family lived in Willingboro for more than 40 years.





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In his next career, Lt Col Mayfield became a Special Education Teacher. He taught Wood Shop to Special Education students in Pemberton Township, NJ for 14 years, retiring in 1984.

Lt Col Mayfield was an avid Golfer and loved tinkering in his garage workshop. He made custom pocket Name Badges for Chapter Members as well as awards and custom calendars. In 2007, Lt Col Mayfield was among 300 Tuskegee Airmen who received the Congressional Gold Medal in a ceremony at the nation's Capital. The Shinnston native donated his awards: both his 1932 map for the Horseshoe win and his Congressional Gold Medal, to the Shinnston Museum. He returned often to West Virginia for Kelly Miller High School reunions, speaking engagements, and the West Virginia Black Heritage Festival. Lt Col Mayfield was crowned the Festival's King in 2007. He loved his home state of West Virginia.

Lt Colonel Mayfield's military education includes: Unknown.

Lt Colonel Mayfield's civilian education includes: Bachelor's Degree, Bluefield State College, Bluefield West Virginia, Commercial Administration; Master's Degree, University of Illinois, Champaign, Illinois, Education Administration; Honorary Doctorate, Richard Stockton College, Pomona, New Jersey, Humane Letters; Certificate, International Accounting Society, Chicago, Illinois, Accounting; Certificate, Industrial College of the Armed Forces, Washington, D.C., Economics; and New Jersey Certification in Business Administration, School Administration, and Special Education.

Lt Colonel Mayfield's military awards include: Unknown.

Lt Colonel Mayfield's civic awards, memberships, and honors include: President, Hannibal Cox Chapter; Omega Psi Phi Fraternity; New Jersey NAACP 2012 Soldier of Valor Award; Del Val Golf Club; member Sickle Cell Anemia Resources; Inducted into the Bice-Ferguson Museum, Shinnston, West Virginia; West Virginia Harrison County Davis-Jackson Distinguished Alumnus Award; Legends 2009 Lifetime Achievement Award; and Knights of the Golden Horseshoe Award, the first black student in Harrison County Virginia to win the award.

Lt Col Mayfield passed away 19 October 2012 at Marcelle Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, Burlington, NJ. He was 95 years old. His wife, Barbara Mayfield predeceased him in January of the same year. She was 79 years old. They are interred at Brigadier General William C. Doyle Veterans Cemetery, Arneytown, New Jersey. Lt Col and Mrs. Mayfield are survived by daughters Dorian Nixon and her husband Greg, Barbara Mayfield, son Thomas Mayfield and his wife Elaine as well as grandchildren Kevana, Kishia, and Lauren.

