

# BIOGRAPHY

## A DOCUMENTED ORIGINAL TUSKEGEE AIRMAN

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

### **SALEEM MUHAMMAD**



Mr. Saleem Muhammad was born under the birth name of Willie Nelson in Cuthbert, Georgia. He served under this name in WWII. In 1946 after he was discharged, he changed his name to Hajji Saleem Akhir Muhammad and moved to Elizabeth, New Jersey.

A World War II veteran, Mr. Muhammad served in the Army Air Corps as a Surgeon's Technician, enlisting at age 17 years old. He was a member of the 332nd Fighter Group, Lockbourne Air Force Base, Ohio from 1945-1946. Following his military service, Mr. Muhammad was a small business owner and entrepreneur. He was later employed by and retired from Allen Carpet Company, Rahway, NJ. Mr. Muhammad was a Committeeman in the 5<sup>th</sup> Ward, 11<sup>th</sup> district in Elizabeth, NJ, working hard to support the community he served. He was a faithful member of the Masjid Warith-Ud-Deen in Irvington, NJ.

Mr. Muhammad was part of a small contingent of Tuskegee Airmen that participated in President Obama's inauguration. Before embarking on the trip to Washington, DC, Mr. Muhammad stopped to speak to a group of 125 people about the disparity between the treatment of black troops and white troops. One young man asked how his generation can move forward in this country. Mr. Muhammad's response was ""The idea that somebody owes something to somebody does not hold water. You need to pick what you are going to do and be the best that you can be. All the knowledge is in the library. The library is free. Go there and get the knowledge you need to be successful. The person without the knowledge is the person who will be subservient. In America you have the freedom to do this".

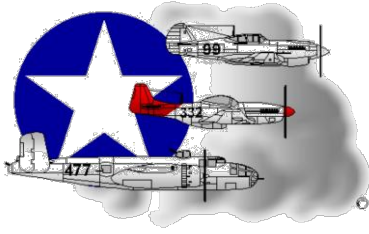
Mr. Muhammad was honored by the New Jersey House of Representatives on 14 April 2014, for his service to the United States during World War II.

Mr. Muhammad's military education includes: Unknown.

Mr. Muhammad's civilian education includes: Unknown.

Mr. Muhammad's military awards include: Unknown.





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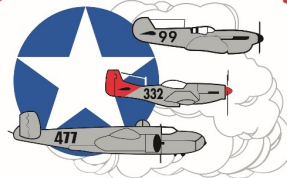
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Mr. Muhammad's civic awards, memberships, and honors include: New Jersey House of Representatives, 14 April 2014 Masjid Warith-Ud-Deen, Irvington, New Jersey.

Mr. Muhammad passed away 6 January 2012. He was 83 years old. A Muslim funeral service, known a "*Janazah*" was held for Mr. Muhammad. He is survived by his wife of 33 years, Tauheedah; daughters Gwen Nelson, Azizah Muhammad, Rashidah Muhammad, Nedra Nelson and Shahidah Wright; 11 grandchildren, and 14 great-grandchildren. Mr. Muhammad was predeceased by a son, Jerome "Slick" Nelson.

TUSKEGEE AIRMEN



75<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY

1941 ★ 2016