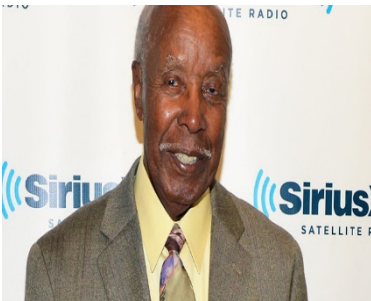


BIOGRAPHY

A DOCUMENTED ORIGINAL TUSKEGEE AIRMAN

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

MALCOM ELIJAH NETTINGHAM



Malcolm Elijah Nettingham was born 1 October 1918 to John and Alice Nettingham in New York City, New York. His family moved to the Jerseyland section of Scotch Plains, New Jersey when he was five years old. He graduated from Scotch Plains High School in 1939. He is a member of the Varsity Wall of Fame. After high school, Mr. Nettingham enrolled in the Jersey City Technical Institute. Two years later, he received his certificate of completion as an Electronics Technician.

Mr. Nettingham was drafted into the Army in 1944. He completed basic training at Ft Dix, New Jersey and was accepted as a candidate in the Army Air Corps as a Flight Radio Operator/Gunner on a B-25 bomber. He was a member of the 477th Bombardment Group. After successfully completing his training, he was one of five blacks who became members of the first racially integrated Flight Radio Class in the Army Air Corps. The Black Soldiers were put in a class with 25-White Soldiers to see if the Black Soldiers had the will to succeed. Although they never saw combat, they resolved to be ready to demonstrate that they could make the grade.

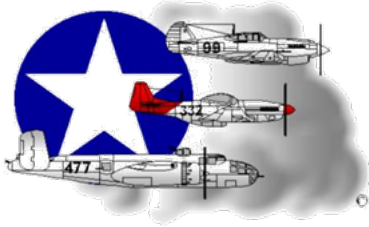
He was honorably discharged in 1946 and was employed by Communications Measurements Laboratory, as a Contract Administrator in the Electronics Industry for over 30 years. Mr. Nettingham always wore a collared shirt, a tie, and pressed pants. After retirement, he worked as a Radio Station Engineer for WNJR in Newark, NJ. He remained fiercely independent and continued to drive to nearby appointments and errands until recently. Mr. Nettingham was active in the Scotch Plains community and lived there until the end of his life.

For 96 years, he was a member of Metropolitan Baptist Church, Scotch Plains, NJ where he taught Sunday school and sang in the choir. He was a Prince Hall Affiliated Master Mason, Alpha Lodge # 116, Free & Accepted Masons (F&AM) in East Orange, NJ. Mr. Nettingham was a consummate photographer. So much so that the family has very few photos of Mr. Nettingham. He lived a long life—long enough to attend both inaugural ceremonies for President Barack Obama. He also had a picture of President and Mrs. Obama with a signed letter acknowledging his 98th birthday.

Mr. Nettingham's military education includes: Flight Radio Operator School.

Mr. Nettingham's civilian education includes: Certificate of Completion, Electronics Technician, Jersey City Technical Institute.





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Mr. Nettingham's military awards include: Unknown.

Mr. Nettingham's civic awards and honors include: New Jersey NAACP Soldier of Valor Award; Fanwood Memorial Day parade Grand Marshal; honored by Alpha Lodge # 116, F&AM in East Orange, NJ; honored by Metropolitan Baptist Church, Scotch Plains, NJ; and honored by Scotch Plains Township, Scotch Plains, NJ.

Mr. Nettingham passed away 14 September 2020. He was a few weeks shy of his 102nd birthday. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, a graveside service was held at Fairview Cemetery, Westfield, NJ. He was predeceased by his wife of 72 years, Lorena Coles who passed away in 2011. Mr. Nettingham is survived by son Malcolm V. of Piscataway, NJ, daughter Deborah of Scotch Plains, NJ, five grandchildren and six great grandchildren.

