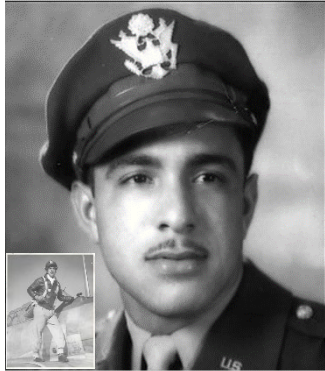
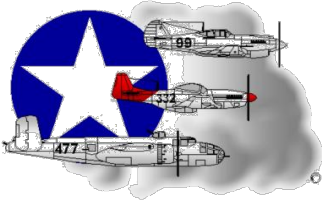


# BIOGRAPHY

## A DOCUMENTED ORIGINAL TUSKEGEE AIRMAN

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

## AUGUSTUS L. PALMER



August L. Palmer, known as Gus, was born October 8, 1923, in Newport News, Virginia. He was the eighth of nine children born to the parents of Annie and Augustus Palmer. He graduated from Huntington High School in 1941 and enrolled at Hampton Institute (now known as Hampton University), where he was drafted and placed in Aviation Cadet Training at Tuskegee Army Air Field, Alabama. Hampton Institute was one of six Negro Colleges (now Historically Black Colleges & Universities) that had been selected to participate in the Civilian Pilot Training Program (CPTP) that had been established in 1939 by the Civilian Pilot Training Act. Upon his Honorable Discharge from the Army Air Corps in 1946, he returned to Hampton Institute to complete his Undergraduate Degree studies in 1947 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Accounting and Economics.

That same year, Gus married Mercedes Hardwick in Savannah, Georgia and they settled in Hampton, VA where he started his career as a University Administrator at Hampton Institute. He moved rapidly from Budget Clerk to Chief Accountant and was employed at Hampton Institute until 1956. He attended New York University and earned a Master's Degree in Business Administration. The growing Palmer family moved to Houston, Texas for him to become a Business Manager and later the Vice President for Fiscal Affairs at Texas Southern University. By the time Gus and his family left Houston, they had left their mark on the community and the family had grown to include five children.

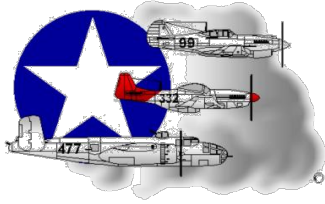


Drawn to the Washington area to reunite with family and better career opportunities, Gus joined the Administration for Washington Technical Institute (later the University of the District of Columbia) as Vice President for Resources Management. In 1971, he accepted an appointment at Howard University and started his 20 year career there as Financial Director for Howard University's Hospital and Assistant Treasurer for the University. In 1991, he retired as the Associate Vice President for Health Affairs.

Gus worked with various professional, civic and church organizations during his life most notably the Hampton Alumni Association, National Association of College and Business Offices, the Legal Aid Society of Washington, DC (for which he received the Servant of Justice Award in 1991) and the East Coast Chapter of Tuskegee Airmen, Inc., where he and other Documented Original Tuskegee Airmen received the Congressional Gold Medal. He also served on the Vestry of St. Paul's Episcopal Church.



# BIOGRAPHY



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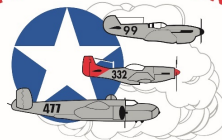
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Gus, Sr. enjoyed swimming, tennis, golf, fishing and annual family vacations in Hilton Head Island, South Carolina. At age 85, Gus passed away on January 20, 2009, from prostate cancer...the same day President Obama was inaugurated as the 44<sup>th</sup> President of the United States of which he did get to see on television from his hospital bed. His beloved son, Gus, Jr. preceded him in death a month earlier (December 2008). In addition to his wife Mercedes of 61 years, Gus, Sr. is survived by four children, Rodney L. Palmer (Rosalind), Anne Palmer Moss, Mercedes Renee and Robert L. Palmer (Lucy Pope), daughter-in-law Denise Robinson Palmer; sisters Nannette Jackson (Jack), Ada Henry (Lester); sister-in-law, Dolores H. Martin (Harold); and brother-in-law John Hardwick (Elsie); ten grandchildren - Ryan, Jay, Bradley, Kelsey, Lindsay, Jasmine, Randy, Chloe, Nina and Robert -and numerous nieces, nephews and cousins.



*To Augustus Palmer  
With respect and appreciation,*

TUSKEGEE AIRMEN



75<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY  
1941 ★ 2016