



BIOGRAPHY

A DOCUMENTED ORIGINAL TUSKEGEE AIRMAN

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

JOHN EDWARD PRITCHETT



John E. Pritchett was born 4 December 1919 to the late Beatrice Pritchett Perry. He was educated in Merchantville, New Jersey and Washington, D.C. school districts. In 1942, while home on a pass, he married the love of his life, Gladys Collins whom he fondly referred to as “Peach.” Together they raised eight children.

Mr. Pritchett was drafted into the US Army in 1941 and was put on a train at age 21, reporting to Tuskegee, Alabama. He served with the 301st Fighter Squadron, 332nd Fighter Group in the Maintenance career field during World War II. Not knowing the importance of his service to America, Staff Sergeant (SSG) Pritchett did not attend the Congressional Gold Medal ceremony held at the US Capital on 29 Mar 2007. He did not believe his service warranted a Medal. According to SSG Pritchett he “was just going his job”. As a member of the Hannibal M. “Killer Cox, Jr. Chapter, the members found out that SSG Pritchett never received a Medal so arrangements were made to present him the Medal. Chapter members learned that had SSG Pritchett not been drafted into the military, he would have been a Black Baseball Player. To make the presentation extra special, the Chapter arranged to have his Medal presented at a Philadelphia Phillies game by members of the team.

SSG Pritchett always worked more than one job at a time to take care of his family. He worked for the US Postal Service, retiring in 1978 after 30 years of service and was also owner of a commercial cleaning business, Classic Maintenance Co.

SSG Pritchett’s military and civilian education includes: Unknown. SSG Pritchett’s military awards include: Unknown.

SSG Pritchett’s civic awards and honors include: New Jersey NAACP Soldier of Valor Award and the Unit Congressional Gold Medal.

SSG Pritchett passed away 12 January 2019 at the age of 99 years old. He and Mrs. Pritchett are buried at Sunset Memorial Park, Pennsauken, NJ. His “Peach” and wife of 71 years, Mrs. Gladys Collins Pritchett, preceded him in death on 12 August 2013. He’s survived by the following children: John Pritchett, Jr.; Patricia Walker; Diane Simpson, Deborah Brooks, Stephen Pritchett, and Garrett Pritchett. SSG Pritchett was preceded in death by two sons: Arnold Pritchett (aka Mike) and Eric Pritchett.

