



BIOGRAPHY

A DOCUMENTED ORIGINAL TUSKEGEE AIRMAN

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

LT. COL. WILLIAM RICHARDSON II (1920 ~ 2007)



Lt. Col. Richardson in 1943

William Richardson II was born in Rockport, Indiana on January 23, 1920, to Sally Beatrice Riley and William Nathaniel Richardson. He had one younger sister, Henrietta. At an early age, his family moved to Indianapolis, where he lived until reporting to the Army Air Corps Officer Candidate School in 1942.

In 1943, after commanding the 1916th Quartermaster Truck Company during WWII overseas as it transported bombs for the 8th Air Force, William had the opportunity to return to the U.S. and report to pilot training at Tuskegee Army Air Field, AL, as part of the Tuskegee Experience. While stationed at Tuskegee, he married Erma Meriweather of Indianapolis—a union that lasted over 61 years and produced 8 children.

In addition to his service in Europe and at home during WW II, “Rich” as he was known at that time, served in the Korean and Vietnam Wars. His Air Force career in Intelligence, Supply, and Acquisition Management included duty stations at Lockbourne AFB, OH; Walker AFB, NM; RAF Station, England; March AFB, CA; Torrejón AFB, Spain; Armed Forces Staff College, VA; Vandenberg AFB, CA; the Pentagon, Washington DC, and the Air Force Advisory Group, Vietnam. He earned a BA Degree from the University of Maryland in Business Administration, History, and Military Science in 1967. While serving in the military, he traveled extensively throughout Europe, Asia, and Africa. After a distinguished military career, he retired in 1969.

William continued Federal Government service at the General Services Administration (GSA)/Federal Supply Service (FSS) in Arlington, VA, in Wiesbaden, Germany, and in the Philippines. He later served as GSA Regional Commissioner in New York. In this capacity, his oversight covered Region 2, and included New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and Europe.

After retiring from the Federal Government in 1986, he served for 6 years as a Northrop consultant to the State Department, training Royal Saudi Air Force officers in Supply Management in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. He then embarked on a position in Security Operations for the State Department, which required travel to American Embassies in Europe, Africa, Asia, South America, and Central America. For 10 months, he also oversaw a security force at the construction site for the new American Embassy in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

William was a member of the Knights of Columbus, the Logistics Engineers of America, the Retired Officers Association, the Pentagon Athletic Association, the National Urban League, the NAACP, the American Legion, and the Aero Club at Andrews AFB. He was an active member of the East Coast Chapter of the Tuskegee Airmen, Inc. (ECCTAI) and was among the 300 original Tuskegee Airmen who were honored by President Bush in March 2007 at the Tuskegee Airmen Congressional Gold Medal Award Ceremony, held at the U.S. Capitol. He passed away on November 18, 2007, predeceased in 2005 by his beloved wife Erma.

William is remembered for his loving devotion to his family and friends, as well as for his deep faith and his wonderful sense of humor. He is interred at Arlington National Cemetery in Washington, DC.

MILITARY LOCATIONS / ASSIGNMENTS

Lockbourne AFB, OH
Walker AFB, NM
RAF Station, England
March AFB, CA
Torrejón AFB, Spain
Armed Forces Staff College, VA
Vandenberg AFB, CA
Pentagon, Washington, DC
Air Force Advisory Group, Vietnam

CAMPAIGNS / WARS

WWII
Korean War
Vietnam War

MILITARY AWARDS / DECORATIONS

U.S. Air Force Retired: 1969



GSA NY Regional Commissioner William Richardson in 1976 with direct staff

DOTA William Richardson is listed on page # 213 of the "Known Participants" in the 2002 Ted Johnson Database

