

BIOGRAPHY

A DOCUMENTED ORIGINAL TUSKEGEE AIRMAN

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

TUSKEGEE, AL 36083

GEORGE H. KYDD, III



Dr. George H. Kydd, III was born in Eagle Rock, Virginia in August 1920 to George H. Kydd, Jr. and Nellie Marshall Kydd. At the age of four, his family moved to Charleston, West Virginia for better educational opportunities for young George and his sister. In his youth, he was a member of the Boy Scouts of America and earned the rank of Eagle Scout.

Upon graduating from Garnet High School, Kydd enrolled in West Virginia State University (WVSU) to study chemistry. By September of 1939, his sophomore year, WVSU became the first of six historically Black colleges to be authorized by the Civil

Aeronautics Authority to establish a Civilian Pilot Training Program (CPTP). After graduating with his Bachelor's Degree, Kydd enlisted into the Army Air Corps. He completed his training in April 44, graduating with First Honors in his TE-44-D class. Once he graduated, he married Mary Penman of Meadville, PA at the Base Chapel.



George Kydd was assigned to serve with the 477th Bombardment Group (Medium) as a Pilot flying the B-25 Bombers. The 477th faced blatant acts of racial discrimination

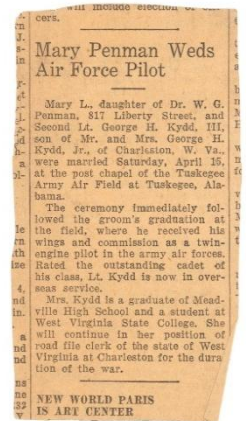


and segregation under base commanders General Hunter and Colonel Selway. Kydd and

161 Black officers were arrested for refusing to follow Base Regulation 85-2 allowing for segregated facilities at Freeman Field. However, in November 1946, he was promoted to 1st Lieutenant.

The 477th was directed to Lockbourne Field near Columbus, Ohio in 1947. Upon his discharge, he enrolled in Ohio State University. By May

of 1950, he had received his Master of Science degree and continued on to receive his Ph.D. in



Immediately following cadet graduation in the Post chapel at the Tuskegee Army Air Field, 2nd Lt. George H. Kydd III, of 98 Chest street, Charleston, W. Va., was united in holy wedlock to Miss Mary L. Penman of Meadville, Pa. His wife is a student at West Virginia State college, and the groom was the outstanding cadet of his class, receiving his wings and commission in the Army Air Forces on April 15.—Official USAAF Photo by AAF Training Command.



Physiology in March of 1955. His college advisor, Fred Hitchcock, a well-known expert in the field of Aviation Physiology, no doubt had a hand in Kydd finding employment at the Naval Air Development Center (NADC) outside of Philadelphia, PA.

George Kydd continued his research in Physiology toward advancing medicine as well as toward making sure that the early astronauts would travel safely. In the very early days of space travel, rats were launched in satellites, recovered, and Kydd compared their brain tissue to that of earth-bound control samples.

His family was familiar with containers of microscope slides of rat brains. His pioneering research on oxygen toxicity led to discoveries around retinopathy in premature babies. His research granted him world-wide notoriety as he received requests of his research papers from hospitals and colleges as far away as Denmark, Switzerland, and Australia. In addition, he also taught Physiology in the Medical School of the University of Pennsylvania from 1955 to 1970. He was an active member of the American Physiological Society, the Aerospace Medical Association, and the Aerospace Physiological Society.

By 1955, the family settled into the Mount Airy section of Philadelphia. Later, learning of other Tuskegee Airmen in the area, he and 23 other Airmen joined to form the Greater Philadelphia Chapter of TAI, Inc.

On November 5th, 1989, Dr. George H. Kydd joined the Lonely Eagles Chapter. He is survived by a daughter (Brenda), a son, Richard, Sr. (Gwendolyn), a granddaughter, Felicia (Chris), grandsons, Richard, Jr. (Shonna) & Andre (Carolina), and great granddaughters, Madyson & Matilda, and great grandsons, Rhoyale & Gabriel, and a host of nieces and nephews.

Source: Richard Kydd, Sr., 2025 TAI Eastern Region Historian Committee Representative

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