



# BIOGRAPHY

## A DOCUMENTED ORIGINAL TUSKEGEE AIRMAN

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James Alonzo Walker, a native of Manning, South Carolina, embarked on a unique educational journey from Baltimore, Maryland, to the Hampton Institute in Virginia. His academic pursuits culminated in his graduation as a 2nd Lieutenant from class 43E single-engine from Tuskegee Institute on May 28, 1943. Assigned to the 332nd Fighter Group, Lt. Walker undertook the daunting task of flying 80 missions escorting bombers in the Southern European Theatre during WWII. His journey took a dramatic turn on July 22, 1942, when his fighter went down near Kraljevo, Yugoslavia, while escorting B-24 bombers of the 55th Bomber Wing from Ploesti, Romania.

After crashing in enemy territory, an armed, friendly teenager named Aleksandr Zivkovic found him. Zivkovic helped him avoid capture, and after 39 days, Lt. Walker returned to duty. After returning to duty, he flew another 22 missions. LTC Walker was a Fighter Pilot and Flight Instructor during his career. LTC Walker retired from the US Air Force in 1964 with 21 years of service. Fifty years later, at a Tuskegee Airmen Convention in Chicago, Walker got the chance to thank his rescuer.

In 1964, the Walker family moved to Hayward, California, where Mr. Walker joined Wells Fargo Bank. Mr. Walker worked as a Credit, Banking Service, and Personal Banking Officer at Wells Fargo. He retired from Wells Fargo in 1979. Mr. Walker's dedication to serving others in the Hayward Community during his retirement did not go unnoticed. In 1990, the community honored him with their "Senior Award" for his volunteer service, a testament to his selfless contributions. He was also an active member of the First United Methodist Church of Hayward, the local VFW Chapter, the National Hampton Alumni Association, and the Tuskegee Airmen Inc.

Lieutenant Colonel James Alonzo Walker joined the Lonely Eagles Chapter on August 23, 2004.

