



BIOGRAPHY

A DOCUMENTED ORIGINAL TUSKEGEE AIRMEN

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

TUSKEGEE, AL 36083

COLONEL PRICE DEAYLLON RICE (1916 - 1999)



Price D. Rice was born in Shelby, North Carolina, on October 22, 1916, as the 4th of 6 children of Converse Deual Rice and Dathula Roberts. The Rice family moved from North Carolina to New Jersey in 1917, where Price Rice graduated from Montclair High School in 1934. In 1938 he graduated from Springfield College, Springfield, Massachusetts, then he entered the Army Air Corp. Price graduated from Tuskegee Army Flying School on October 8, 1942, as a 2nd Lieutenant.

During WWII, PD (his nickname) was a Fighter Pilot with the famous 99th Fighter Squadron commanded by General Benjamin O. Davis, Jr. He saw combat in the North African, Sicilian, and Italian Campaigns between 1943-1944. He flew 61 combat missions.

After the war, Price continued his military career as a test pilot at Tuskegee Army Air Base between 1944 and 1946. He taught at Howard University as an Assistance Professor in Air Science and Tactics while earning a Master's Degree in Personnel and Public Administration from The American University in Washington, D.C.

Price held various command and staff positions throughout his life, including a tour of duty at Clark Air Force Base, Philippines; Selfridge Air Force Base, Michigan; Air Force Accounting and Finance Center, Denver, CO; Kunsan Air Base, South Korea; and Denver Federal Center, Denver, CO. On June 30, 1965, after 23 years of service, Price retired from the United States Air Force with the rank of Colonel.

After retirement, Price moved to San Francisco, where he was employed by the United States Customs Service in 1966. Price held many positions with the service: Management Analyst, Public Information Officer, EEO Officer, Executive Assistant, and a Deputy Assistant Regional Commission. He also held a California Teaching Credential and taught at Skyline Community College, San Bruno, CA, from 1969 to 1975.

Price's talents and hobbies included painting, photography, travel, poetry, golf, tennis, swimming, horticulture and singing in his melodious baritone voice. He was also a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity and an active member of the San Francisco Bay Area Chapter of the Tuskegee Airmen, Inc. Price's first 11-year marriage was to the late Harriett Anna Salter, a Talladega College graduate from Atlanta, GA, employed as an Accountant at Tuskegee Army Flying School. The four daughters from this union follow his family's tradition to begin girl's names with "D": Delabian L. Rice-Thurston, Diana H. Rice, Daphne H. Rice-Allen and Debra E. Rice. His second marriage of 15 years was to the late Ellamae Simmons, MD, and first African American female physician hired by Kaiser, San Francisco.

Col. Price D. Rice joined the Lonely Eagle Squadron on February 21, 1999.

