

# BIOGRAPHY

A DOCUMENTED ORIGINAL TUSKEGEE AIRMAN

Tuskegee Airmen Inc. Public Relations, P.O. Box 830060  
Tuskegee, AL 36083

## JOSEPH D. WHITEN, SR. 1919 – 1979



Joseph Daniel Whiten, Army serial number 0817604, was part of Tuskegee Class #43-K-TE. He was born in Fredrick, MD, and completed his flight training at Tuskegee. On graduation day, after receiving his Pilot Wings, he married Eleanor Gaines of Atlanta, GA, as it was verboten to be married while in flight training.

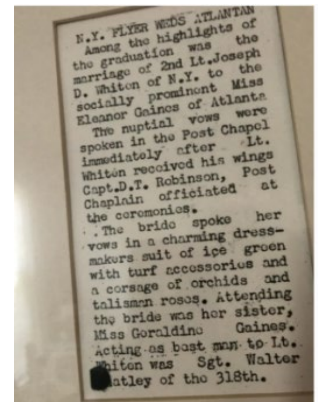


Lieutenant Whiten's military occupation specialty code was as a Bomber Pilot-2 Engine Officer. He was attached to the 477th Composite Group when he received orders to deploy. While on final leave before his overseas assignment in August 1945, the Armistice was signed ending future deployments. Joseph Whiten left active duty as a Captain and was recommended for and notified of his promotion to Major shortly before his separation from the Air Force Reserves in 1963.



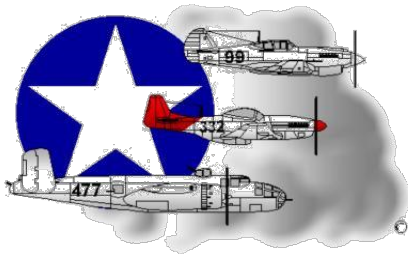
Joseph and Eleanor Whiten (both college graduates) settled in New York City where they raised their three children, Gary, Joseph Jr. and Marc. The Whiten family were original tenants of the Riverton Apartments in the Harlem community. Joseph Sr., worked as part of the Management

Team at Riverton. Always community minded, he supported his Tuskegee Airmen friend Percy Sutton on his political rise to the Borough Presidency.



Riverton was a major draw for returning Tuskegee Airmen. John L.S. Holloman, Flight Surgeon at Tuskegee, was the Whiten's family doctor. Dudley Glasse, another friend and Airmen joined Joseph, Sr. in establishing an Air Explorers Unit under the Boy Scout program for the local young boys. Other Tuskegee friends including Wilfred DeFour and Floyd Carter and brother-in-law George Arnold Lynch and Bascom Hodge were a continuing presence in the Whiten family life. Joseph, Sr. and most of his fellow Airmen in Harlem were members of the 369 Armory Association lending support to other Veterans.

On November 17, 1979, Joseph D. Whiten, Sr. joined the Lonely Eagles Chapter. Two of DOTA Whiten's three sons had children and they are as follows: Claude B. Govan Tri-State Chapter President Marc Whiten's two daughters are Kimberly Whiten and Kelly Whiten Perez. Kelly's three children are



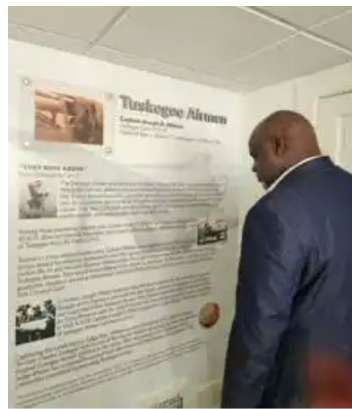
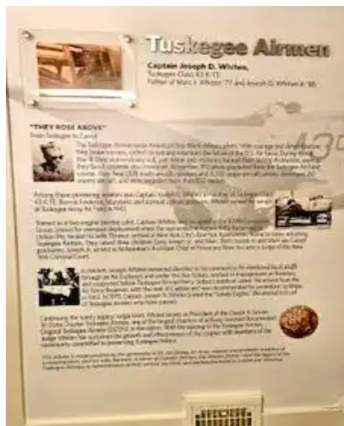
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Donovan, Everett and Eleanor. Joseph Whiten, Jr. has two children; Joshua and Joseph, 3<sup>rd</sup>. Joshua's two daughters are Audrey and Aria, while Joseph, 3<sup>rd</sup>'s daughter is Magnolia.

DOTA Whiten was honored in 2025 for his service as a Tuskegee Airmen, with a wall dedication in the Military House on the Carroll University campus (Wisconsin) where his sons, Joseph Jr. and Marc, attended and graduated from college. Multiple photos follow below.



Ref: U.S., Newspapers.com Obituary Index, 1800s-current; Daily News; Publication Date: 20 Nov 1979.

