



# BIOGRAPHY

**A DOCUMENTED ORIGINAL TUSKEGEE AIRMAN**

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## DONALD STUBBS JAMISON



Enlisted Service No.: 16080872  
Flight Officer Service No.: T-140106

“From high school to flight school” was a slogan that the U.S. Army advertised for many years as an inducement to draw recruits to its aviation branch. The opportunity to become a military pilot without a college degree still exists in today’s Army, whereby flight school graduates become warrant officers and rank separately between enlisted personnel and commissioned officers. A similar rank called flight officer was approved by Congress in May 1942 in order to mobilize large numbers of personnel to fill what had traditionally been commissioned aircrew positions (pilots, navigators, and bombardiers) in the Air Corps and later Army Air Force. When the pool of candidates meeting the original requirements of 21 years old and two years of college was not enough to meet demands, the age requirement was reduced to 18 and training opened to anyone who could pass the entrance tests. Personnel meeting these new requirements and who completed training graduated as flight officers. This opportunity yielded a number of high-performing individuals, including war ace and renowned test pilot Chuck Yeager. Another member of this group, Donald S. Jamison, distinguished himself in service to his country as well as in a postwar career in which he personally excelled and helped others in their journeys to achieve their own educational goals.

Donald was a native of Delaware who was born on January 13, 1920, to noted Dental Surgeon Dr. Francis T. Jamison, Sr. and long-time local NAACP leader Jeanne Stubbs Jamison of Wilmington. Family members on both sides were prominent in the community. His maternal grandfather was Dr. J. Bacon Stubbs, an Ear/Nose/Throat specialist who practiced medicine in the area for many years, and his maternal grandmother Blanche W. Stubbs was a graduate of Howard University and teacher in Wilmington before becoming a civic leader. Their son Dr. Frederick Douglass Stubbs, Donald’s uncle, became one of the nation’s leading Thoracic Surgeons and in 1946, his wife Marion Turner Stubbs founded what would become the national organization Jack and Jill of America Inc. In addition, his brother was Dr. Francis T. Jamison Jr., a graduate of Howard Medical School and decorated Army Surgeon in Japan during the Korean War.

After graduating from Wilmington’s Howard High School in 1937, Donald went to nearby Lincoln University in Pennsylvania before transferring to the University of Chicago. Prior to graduating from this prestigious institution, he received several accolades that included selection as one of the undergraduate members of the Anthropological Club at the school.

While in Chicago, Donald signed up in the Army’s Enlisted Reserve in May 1942 and was called to active duty in May 1943. At some point afterwards, he tested high enough to be accepted for training as a Bombardier in the 477th Bombardment Group, a segregated unit training for combat in B-25 aircraft. He completed the 29-week Aerial Observer (Bombardier) course and graduated in class 45-B-3 at Midland AAF, TX, on December 11, 1944.

Donald appears to have worked in his role for just a short time, as he took advantage of an opportunity to become a Pilot in his new unit. After what was usually a 40-week course, he graduated in class 45-F-TE at Tuskegee AAF, AL, on September 8, 1945. However, the war with Japan officially ended that same month, which put a stop to plans for the reorganized 477th Composite Group to carry out combat missions after deploying to the Pacific Theater. As a result, he was discharged on an unknown date after the cessation of hostilities.

Like many veterans, Donald began to prepare for a postwar career by returning to college under the G.I. Bill. He completed studies at Temple University in Philadelphia, PA, which resulted in his earning a Master's Degree in Education. He then embarked on a career as a science teacher in the public school system in Philadelphia and later in his hometown of Wilmington, DE.

In his retirement, Donald was a prolific contributor to local newspapers' op-ed sections, writing thoughtful and well-crafted observations on civil rights, cultural norms, government policies, and almost any other aspects of life on community and national levels.

After fighting a long battle with cancer, Donald Stubbs Jameson joined the "Lonely Eagles Chapter" on December 22, 2001, just over a month short of his 82nd birthday.

