



Tuskegee Airmen, Inc.

Buford A. Johnson Chapter Newsletter

March, 2019



March Meeting

Our March meeting will be held on Saturday, March 9th at Altura Credit Union located on the corner of Graham and Cactus in Moreno Valley at 10:00 AM sharp. We will discuss an amendment to the current bylaws and there will be a report on our Black History Month Activities. It is not too late to pay dues or join the chapter, so feel free to bring a friend. Our secretary needs to leave early, so if you plan to turn in application forms, please do so early in the meeting. Stickers for the cards have arrived for those who already have cards. For some, cards are being made and have not arrived. Please join us.

Mr. Berry Featured in Perris Progress News



Mr. Berry salutes the flag.

Fourth Annual Tuskegee Airmen Day



The fourth annual Tuskegee Airmen Day celebration will be held in the Tuskegee Room of the Proud Bird Restaurant in Los Angeles on March 28th from 5:00 to 7:00 PM. All are invited and the admission is free. There will be speakers as well as opportunities to meet DOTAs, raffles, and refreshments. The Proud Bird is located at 11022 Aviation Avenue in Los Angeles. You will need to RSVP in order to receive the complimentary gift bag. RSVP Joyce Tomlin at (323) 754-0536, Monica Isabell at (323) 924-6322, or Sallie Pratt at (323) 734-3804.

Out and About Black History Month

Red, Black, and Green Ball

On Saturday, February 9th, Lt. Col. Harlan Leonard (USAF, Ret.) an original Tuskegee Airman, was honored at the annual Red, Black, and Green Ball hosted by the African American Coalition. He received the Outstanding Leadership to African American Leadership and Traditions award.

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Red, Black, and Green Ball (Cont. from page 1)



Lt. Col. Leonard speaks to the attendees at the Red, Black, and Green Ball



Judy White and Donald Fleming



Lt. Col. Leonard displays his award.



LaDonna Jempson and Lt. Col. Leonard



Lt. Col. Leonard speaks with veteran Carla Thornton



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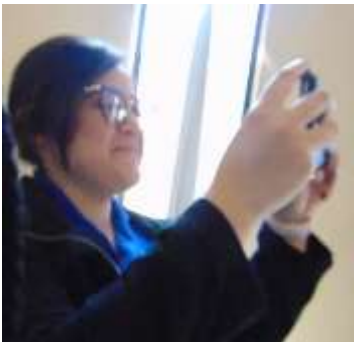
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Kansas Avenue Seventh Day Adventist Church

On Saturday, February 16th, members of the Buford A. Johnson Chapter of the Tuskegee Airmen attended services at the Kansas Avenue Seventh Day Adventist Church in honor of their African American Celebration. Members of the church often celebrate history or the military and have invited us to many events during the years.



Flags from different countries represent African and African American roots.



Social Media Guru Lexie is working hard to get pictures for our website.



Chapter members Jackie and LaDonna Jempson, Lt. Col. Leonard, Dessely and Bishop Herman Hodges, Edison T. Marshall, Jr., and Curtis Russell attended the services.



Left to right: Curtis Russell, Col. Bill Howe, and Jonathan Vaughn



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Moreno Valley Senior Center



February 21, 2019 found us at the Moreno Valley Senior Center where Lt. Col. Leonard had been invited to speak. Following the speech, entertainment and a soul food luncheon were provided.



A picture of a Redtail P-51 belonging to the chapter was also featured.



Before the event, Mr. Marshall set up a display on the Tuskegee Airmen using items from his personal collection.



Lt. Col. Leonard with Juanita Cullen-Austen, who served as Mistress of Ceremonies



Lionel Duncan (right) poses with a friend.
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Senior Center (Cont. from page 4)



Left to right: Edison T. Marshall, Jr., Lionel Duncan, Jackie Jempson, and LaDonna Jempson



Nisha L. Elliot recited "Still I Rise"



Standing for Lift Every Voice and Sing



Melvin and Wanda Scruggs played "Oh Happy Day."



Lt. Col. Leonard spoke on the Tuskegee Airmen



Lovella Kearney Singer, director of the Perris Black History Museum spoke on Black Migration.

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Senior Center (Cont. from page 5)



Lerna Campbell presented a dramatization, "In the Morning" by Paul Laurence Dunbar



Tami Drayton performed a praise dance.

Moreno Valley High School



On February 22nd, our President, Donald Fleming spoke to students at Moreno Valley High School about the Tuskegee Airmen as a part of their Black History celebration. After the talk, Donald and others from the chapter adjourned to the quad to speak with students personally and to answer questions.

African American History Celebration in Foss Field Park, Perris, CA



On Saturday, February 23, the Buford A. Johnson Chapter of the Tuskegee Airmen traveled to Foss Field Park in Perris, CA to participate in the 9th annual African American History celebration. The chapter hosted an informational booth and sold T-shirts as a fundraiser. A special thanks to the Jempsons and to Lionel Duncan for all of their hard work.



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Vista Heights Middle School

Several members of our chapter took part in a history day at Vista Heights on February 28th. President Donald Fleming spoke to the students about the Tuskegee Airmen. Then we adjourned to separate areas and spoke to small groups of students about our experiences and about the Tuskegee Airmen.



Denise Fleming, PhD opened the program



Donald Fleming addressed the students



Edison T. Marshall, Jr.



Chapter members Lionel Duncan and Sterling Evans



Donald Fleming and Sterling Evans



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Edison Marshall and Lt. Col. Leonard



Donald with students



Lt. Col. Leonard shares his experiences with students.



Dessely Hodges speaks to the students about the Tuskegee Airmen.



Edison Marshall answers questions from students.



Lionel Duncan speaks one on one with a student.

After two sessions, lunch was served and then another session was held in the afternoon. Living history is something that has not been experienced in the middle schools until this time. Dr. Fleming is to be commended for helping to bring this type of program to younger students.



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King High Remembers

On March 1st, Martin Luther King High School held its annual King High Remembers where veterans meet with students and are interviewed. The students then write a biography on the veteran and submit it to the vet for corrections. Most of the students are juniors who are studying American History. After the interviews are over, a lunch is provided for the students and veterans. Attending were Donald Fleming, Col. Charlie Hale (USAF ret.), and Edison and Dixie Marshall. Speakers included Congressman Mark Takano and Undersecretary for Memorial Affairs Randy Reeves. John Corona, who began this event and who has run it for many years is retiring at the end of this year. He promised he will return to help with it in the future.



Donald Fleming waves from the bleachers where vets gathered for opening ceremonies.



Historian Col. Charlie Hale (USAF ret.) looked good in his uniform.



U.S. Congressman Mark Takano

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King High Remembers (Cont. from page 9)



Edison Marshall talks about his career with students.



Donald Fleming is interviewed by students.

Keep in Prayer

Please keep Stephen White in your thoughts and prayers as he recovers from surgery.

Please pray for Simeon Ginyard from the Los Angeles chapter who suffered a stroke recently.

Correction



The gentleman receiving the award from Altie at the Boots of Honor event was misidentified in the February issue. His name is Terry Dilley.

Important Days in History—Tuskegee Airmen

Daniel “Chappie” James, Jr.

General Daniel “Chappie” James, Jr. was a well-known Tuskegee Airman. A pilot, he flew 179 combat missions during the Korean and Vietnam wars and, when he retired in 1978, he retired as the first African American four-star general.

He was born in Pensacola, Florida on February 11, 1920. He was the youngest of 17 children. He began attending Tuskegee Institute (later Tuskegee University) as a physical education major. He was expelled for fighting in his senior year and did not receive his degree until years later.

In 1943, James returned to the Tuskegee Institute and graduated from the military cadet flying training program. Later he trained pilots during WWII.

During the 1950s and 60s, he served in various Air Force units both at home and abroad. In the 1970s, he became the first African American four-star general in the Air Force and led the North American Air Defense Command and the Aerospace Defense Command. He died of a heart attack on February 25, 1978 in Colorado Springs and is buried at Arlington National Cemetery.



Chappie James