



Tuskegee Airmen, Inc.

# Buford A. Johnson Chapter Newsletter

June, 2017

## June Meeting

Our June meeting will be held at the Altura Credit Union at 10:00 AM sharp on Saturday, June 10<sup>th</sup>. Please join us. We will have information on the Fourth of July parade and on our August picnic at Towngate Park. Please join us and sign up to participate in these activities.

## Prayer Request

Hospitality chair, Yolonda Williams, is facing some health challenges. She will be undergoing hip surgery in August. Please remember her in your thoughts and prayers.

## May Meeting

Our May meeting was a memorial for our late DOTA Buford A. Johnson. Members shared memories. Phoenix Collins read his favorite poem and Dessely Hodges sang the "Our Father" prayer. Guests also attended to honor Mr. Johnson.



Youth member, Phoenix Collins, reads Mr. Johnson's favorite poem: A House by the Side of the Road



Phoenix later shared memories of Mr. Johnson who was like a grandfather to him.



Mrs. Dessely Hodges sang to honor Mr. Johnson



Lt. Col. John Henderson (USAF Ret.) who is the Department Chair of JROTC at Arlington High School remembers Mr. Johnson.

(Continued on page 2)

**Memorial Meeting (Continued from page 1)**



Chaplain Gilbert Williams



Bishop Herman Hodges shares his thoughts.



Webmaster Curtis Russell spoke about Mr. Johnson. A page on the website is dedicated to him.



Edison Marshall talks about losing his dear friend. He will miss their weekly talks.



New member, Mr. Thomas, father of Michael Thomas

As members shared, one theme was prevalent. All said they wished they had known that they would not see Buford in this world again when they had last seen him. It brings to mind a saying he had, "Life is too short to be anything but happy." We go forward pledging to keep the memory of Mr. Johnson and the legacy of the Tuskegee Airmen alive. From him we have learned to cherish each moment.

**Members Out and About  
Woman of the Year**



Member, Dr. Denise Fleming, (in the gold) was presented with an award as Riverside County Woman of the Year.



President Donald Fleming awarded a scholarship to Bryan Driver from Vista Verde Middle School in a program sponsored by the African American Coalition.

(Continued on page 3)

**Out and About** (Continued from page 2)  
**Tuskegee Airmen Award at Arlington High School**

On May 12<sup>th</sup>, Donald Fleming, Edison Marshall, and William Richards attended the awards ceremony for the Air Force JROTC at Arlington High School. Mr. Fleming and Mr. Richards presented the Tuskegee Airmen Award to students.



President Donald Fleming presents an award to a cadet.



William Richards presenting an award

**Corona High School Veteran's Day**

Donald Fleming, William Richards, and Edison Marshall attended Corona High School's annual Veteran's Day event. The purpose of these events is to allow students to learn about history from primary sources. In talking to veterans, they gain a view of the military and of historical events such as the Korean War or Viet Nam that they cannot understand by simply reading a book. The students are respectful and interested in what the veterans have to say. We hope that more of you will consider sharing your stories or those of your parents with these students.



Mr. Marshall salutes as Taps is played.



Mr. Fleming interacts with students.



Mr. Richards makes a point.



Mr. Marshall shares his Viet Nam yearbook with students. It is a good idea to bring pictures or items to illustrate your story.



The gentlemen pose with staff members and a young man who is visiting with his mom, a teacher, to meet veterans.



Mr. Fleming and his crew.  
(Continued on page 4)

**Corona High School** (Continued from page 3)



Mr. Richards and students



Mr. Marshall shows his book. When viewing this book, students get a real feeling for how close he was to North Viet Nam.

After the students have all of the information, veteran's share a table and talk while they enjoy lunch provided by the school.

**This Day in History**

**June 10, 1941**

The Air Corps activated a series of aviation squadrons around the country composed of black personnel. Despite the name of the squadrons, they had no pilots or aircraft, but were designed to construct or maintain airfields. (Organization record cards at the Air Force Historical Research Agency). The 99<sup>th</sup> Pursuit Squadron remained the only black flying unit in the country.

**June 10, 1943**

The 96<sup>th</sup> Service Group moved from Selfridge Field to Oscoda Field, Michigan, to which the 332<sup>nd</sup> Fighter Group had moved in April. (96<sup>th</sup> Service Group Organization record card.)

**June 10, 1944**

The 99<sup>th</sup> Fighter Squadron in Italy flew five missions, destroying twelve motor vehicles and damaging eight other. (99<sup>th</sup> Fighter Squadron War Diary for June 1944)

Thank you to the Hugh J. White Chapter from St. Louis, Missouri for the informative facts.

**Words of Wisdom**

In life you can carry a light load or you can carry a heavy load. I don't need to tell you which one will get you farther. *Buford A. Johnson*

