



Tuskegee Airmen, Inc.

Buford A. Johnson Chapter Newsletter

May, 2017

May Meeting

We will meet at the Altura Credit Union on Saturday, May 13th at 10:00 AM sharp. Our entire meeting will be dedicated to our late DOTA, Buford A. Johnson. We will honor him with our memories. Please come and share your recollections of Mr. Johnson and to be together as family. We will also speak of ways to keep his legacy alive.

*Until We Meet Again
One Last Goodbye*



DOTA Buford A. Johnson

On April 25th and 26th, our chapter gathered with friends and family of Mr. Buford A. Johnson for a last goodbye. We will remember him for his accomplishments, of course, but even more for his gentle spirit, his unfailing courtesy, and good humor.

On April 25th, we attended the viewing for Mr. Johnson. We shared memories of our dear friend and consoled each other for his loss. Words used to describe him included Grandfather, Father, best friend, and hero. In his quiet way, he influenced several generations. Women recalled the respect he showed to every woman he met. He was what is all too rare in this day and age, a decent man.



Members of the Buford A. Johnson Chapter and DOTA Ted Lumpkin from the Los Angeles Chapter at the viewing.



DOTA Ted Lumpkin beside a tapestry of Mr. Johnson.



Mr. Johnson's casket is covered with the American flag. The heart-shaped arrangement is from our chapter. The library staff from UCR, where the archives are located, and Mr. Albert Crawford, a past president of our chapter also sent flowers.



Youth member Phoenix Collins reads Mr. Johnson's favorite poem, "A House by the Side of the Road." Phoenix told us that Mr. Johnson was like a grandfather to him.



Alvin Ward, Edison T. Marshall, Jr. and other members of the chapter escort Buford from the chapel.



Freedom Riders, a motorcycle group who honors veterans, line the sidewalk forming an honor guard as Mr. Johnson is escorted from the chapel. The Freedom Riders escorted the hearse bearing Mr. Johnson's body all the way to the National Cemetery and then stood as honor guard as the Air Force took the casket to the shelter.



Getting ready to go to the cemetery.



Brothers in Arms bring Mr. Johnson into the shelter.



Final salute as Mr. Johnson is brought to the shelter.



The folding of the flag



The family is given the flag from a grateful nation.



The Missing Man flyover symbolizes a lost airman. One of the pilots was a past president of the San Diego Chapter.

Repast

A repast was held at the March ARB Museum, hosted by the chapter with food provided by the New Hope Missionary Baptist Church. At the repast, others shared memories of Mr. Johnson.



National Archivist Dr. Ruth Jackson



Simeon Ginyard of the Los Angeles Chapter



Dr. Denise Fleming



Mrs. Yolonda Williams made a presentation to the family.



Western Region President Rodney Gillead



Remembering the Forgotten Mechanic

Through the history of world aviation many names have come to the fore Great deeds of the past in our memory will last as they're joined by more and more.

When man first started his labor
in his quest to conquer the sky
he was designer, mechanic, and pilot
and he built a machine that would fly.
But somehow the order got twisted,
and then in the public's eye
the only man that could be seen
was the man who knew how to fly.

The pilot was everyone's hero,
he was brave, he was bold he was grand,
as he stood by his battered old biplane
with his goggles and helmet in hand.
To be sure, these pilots all earned it,
to fly you have to have guts.
And they blazed their names in the hall of fame
on wings with bailing wire struts.

But for each of these flying heroes
there were thousands of little renown, and
these were the men who worked on the planes
but kept their feet on the ground.

We all know the name of Lindbergh,
and we've read of his flight of fame.
But think, if you can, of his maintenance man.
Can you remember his name?

And think of our wartime heroes,
Gabreski, Jabara, and Scott.
Can you tell me the names of their crew chief?
A thousand to one you cannot.

Now pilots are highly trained people,
and wings are not easily won.
But without the work of the maintenance man,
our pilots would march with a gun.
So when you see mighty jet aircraft
as they mark their way through the air,
The grease stained man with a wrench in his
hand
is the man that put them there.
Anonymous

Continuing the Legacy

On April 27th, President Donald Fleming, Merchandising Officer Bill Richards, Secretary Dixie Marshall, member Marva X, and Parliamentarian Edison T. Marshall, Jr. attended the Rancho Remembers event at Rancho Cucamonga High. Mr. Johnson asked us at the last meeting to continue the legacy of the Tuskegee Airmen. In addition, it is a chance for your story to be told. Please join us at Arlington High School as we give out awards to the ROTC on this Friday night at 6:00 PM. On the 24th, we will be at Corona High School. This means so much to the students, and gives them a chance to learn of history from someone who was there.



Banner thanks vets for their service



Bill Richards with student



Student's question the veterans for reports.



Donald tells students about his service in the Navy and about the Tuskegee Airmen.



Marva X gives good advice to a young man considering college.

Where are you?



Students wait for a vet to come and talk with them. Even if you did not serve, you have a story to tell. Perhaps your parents served, or perhaps you were a spouse of a service person. We cannot keep the legacy alive without you.