

Tuskegee Airmen Inc.: *Then and Now*



BRIEF HISTORY

The Tuskegee Airmen are the Black Pilots, Bombardiers, Navigators, Maintainers, Supply and Support Personnel who began training in 1941 and participated in World War II. The Fighter Pilots of the 99th Fighter Squadron and the 332nd Fighter Group of the U.S. Army Air Corps, led by Colonel Benjamin O. Davis, Jr., distinguished themselves flying combat missions in North Africa, Mediterranean and European Theaters during WWII. The 477th Bombardment Group (Medium) was also activated during the war and was scheduled to fight in the Pacific Theater, but the war ended before it could be deployed. The 332nd Fighter Group was comprised of the 99th, 100th, 301st and 302nd Fighter Squadrons, while the 477th Bombardment (Medium) Group was comprised of the 616th, 617th, 618th and 619th Bomber Squadrons.

The Tuskegee Airmen, Inc. (TAI) is a national non-profit organization founded in 1972 to preserve the history of Black Fighter Pilots accomplishments during WWII, and to inspire youth to pursue careers in aviation, engineering technology and aerospace. Through the Tuskegee Airmen Scholarship Foundation, the organization awards 41-Scholarships each year to deserving high school seniors for their college education. There are 50 individually chartered TAI Chapters across the United States and its Territories.

The Tidewater Chapter TAI (TC-TAI) is located in Hampton, VA. The TC-TAI Charter was approved by National TAI in December 1982 and its non-profit and organization status to operate within the State of Virginia were respectively approved by the Internal Revenue (29 February 2012) and the Virginia State Corporation Commission (11 January 2011). Five Documented Original Tuskegee Airmen (DOTA) helped found TC-TAI, however, over a dozen graced our Chapter Meetings with their presence and historical gems that were imparted at regular monthly meetings during the DOTA Reflection period. Awesome information was shared that was not always captured in today's novels, media outlets, et cetera.

Monthly TC-TAI General Membership Meetings are held every 2nd Wednesday of each month, 6:00 pm, at the Ruppert Sargent Building (downtown Hampton), 1 Franklin Street, Hampton, VA, 23669. If you'd like to join us or have questions, please click on the website hyperlink below and the Contact Us text on the home page.

[HTTP://WWW.TAI-TidewaterChapter.Com/](http://www.TAI-TidewaterChapter.Com/)