



Tuskegee Airmen, Inc.

Buford A. Johnson Chapter Newsletter

February, 2016

February Meeting



Our February meeting will be held on Saturday, February 13th at the Altura Credit Union located on the corner of Cactus and Graham in Moreno Valley at 10:00 AM sharp. Please come and see the awards presented to the chapter by Senator Richard Roth's office. We will look forward to seeing you there.

Membership Cards and Applications

For those of you who paid your dues by January, the cards are here. They will be handed out at the meeting. For those who were not able to attend the January meeting, we will have applications for you to fill out and will collect your dues at that time. The annual dues are \$60.00. We were able to enroll 25 members in January. We will be happy to help the rest of the membership enroll at this meeting.

Upcoming Events of Interest

Submitted by Public Relations Officer Jackie Jempson and LaDonna Jempson

- 1) Red, Black, and Green Valentine Ball Dinner and Dance
Friday, February 12, 2016 from 6 PM to 12:00 AM
Marinaj Banquets and Events
22445 Alessandro Blvd.
Net proceeds go toward the MVUSD Annual Black Baccalaureate Event
\$45.00 per person
- 2) Black History Parade in Riverside
Saturday, February 13, 2016, 10:00 AM
- 3) Moreno Valley Historical Society
Annual Fundraising Event
Net proceeds go toward the establishment of a
Moreno Valley Museum

- 3) Friday, April 8, 2016 from 6-9 PM
March Air Field Museum Van Buren Blvd. and the 215 Freeway
Cost: \$35.00 for nonmembers
- 4) Rededication of the Old 215 Highway to Historic 395
Monday, May 30th at 9:00 AM Ribbon Cutting
Corner of Alessandro at the Old 215 Highway
No cost
- 5) Memorial Day Remembrance Ceremony
City of Moreno Valley
Monday, May 30th at 3:30 PM
Military Circle

For more information, contact Jackie Jempson at 951-756-1382.

Scheduling of Events



All future events for the chapter, including those where Mr. Johnson is requested, **must** be scheduled through our Public Relations Officer, Jackie Jempson. To contact Mr. Jempson, call him at 951-756-1382 or email him at Jempsonfam@msn.com.

Scholarship Applications



The Buford A. Johnson Chapter received fourteen scholarship applications this year. After careful consideration, five were selected to advance to the next level. Their applications will be evaluated to determine whether they will qualify for a \$1500.00 scholarship.

Play “Fly” Pays Tribute to Tuskegee Airmen

On January 26th, Alvin Ward, Edison Marshall, and Dixie Marshall attended the play “Fly” at the Pasadena Playhouse. This play, by Trey Ellis and Ricardo Khan pays tribute to the Tuskegee Airmen. The set is creative and portrays the front of an airplane. Scenes from the Tuskegee Experience and from the war are projected on the “windows”.



This creative set was designed by Beowulf Boritt.

The play begins with the pilot training and explores the prejudice and difficulties experienced by the men. The men come from diverse backgrounds, but learn to work together. The cast does a good job of conveying the struggles the airmen face and showing the appreciation of the pilots the Airmen escorted. The play runs through February 21st. Group rates are available and DOTAs are admitted free. More information will be available at our meeting on Saturday.



Omar Edwards, who plays the tap griot, shakes hands with Mr. Marshall.



Edison and Al leave the theatre.



Edison and Dixie
**Chapter Members Bid Farewell to
Ralph Alvin White**



Members of the Buford A. Johnson Chapter of the Tuskegee Airmen gathered with family and friends of Ralph Alvin White who were holding a Memorial for Mr. White who passed away on January 9, 2016. Mr. White was an aircraft mechanic in the Army Air Corps and was stationed at Tuskegee Army Airfield where his wife also worked as a secretary. After the war, Mr. White owned many businesses and then went to work for Western Airline as an aircraft mechanic. He worked his way up to safety inspector. Mr. White was 94 years old at the time of his death.



Attending were from left to right: Alvin Ward, Donald Fleming, Edison Marshall, Buford Johnson, Dixie Marshall, and Jackie Jempson

Buford A. Johnson Speaks at Event put on by the Inland Empire Buffalo Soldiers Association and the Community Association of Perris

On February 6, 2016, DOTA Buford A. Johnson spoke at an event held at Pinnacle Peak Restaurant in Colton, CA. Members of the chapter attended in support of Mr. Johnson. Attending were Yolonda and Gilbert Williams who are founding members of the local Buffalo Soldiers chapter, Vice-President Marva X., Phoenix Collins, Public Relations Officer, Jackie Jempson, President Donald Fleming, Parliamentarian Edison Marshall, and Secretary Dixie Marshall.

Mr. Johnson spoke of the Tuskegee Experience and of his own experiences in the military. Trooper Rachael Hilliard enacted the story of William Cathay (also known as Cathay Williams) who was a female Buffalo Soldier. Colonel Franklin J. Henderson also spoke, and a posthumous award was presented to a nephew of Bessie Coleman. Astronaut Mae Jemison was also honored.



Mr. Johnson addresses the crowd.



Trooper Rachael Hilliard as William Cathay



Altie Holcomb (center) presents a posthumous award for Bessie Coleman to Mr. and Mrs. Coleman. Mr. Coleman is the nephew of Bessie Coleman.



Colonel Franklin J. Henderson speaks.



Members of the Buford A. Johnson Chapter display proclamations and awards presented by Altie Holcomb, field representative for State Senator Richard Roth.

While at the event, Altie Holcomb gave the Buford A. Johnson Chapter an award as nonprofit of the year. These awards will be on display at our meeting on Saturday.

Moreno Valley High School holds Living History Day

Four members of the Buford A. Johnson Chapter of the Tuskegee Airmen joined other members of the community for a living history day at Moreno Valley High School, which is our adopted school. Attending were Donald Fleming, Jackie Jempson, Edison Marshall, and Dr. Denise Fleming.

Participants are interviewed by students who ask what historical event has affected them most profoundly and how it affected them. We are asked to participate in several of these each year. Often, the purpose of these events is to honor veterans and active duty military. It is a chance for more of us to participate. What seems like daily life to you is a fascinating lesson in history to young people who are often not aware of the major events in history that we have lived through.



Principal Brough opens Living History Day



Left to right: Principal Brough, Edison Marshall, Donald Fleming, Dr. Denise Fleming, and Jackie Jempson



Community members who participated in Living History Day