"Memories of our lives, of our works, and our deeds will continue in others."

Rosa Parks

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**The Tuskegee Airmen**

1. In 1940, facing the crisis of world war, the United States looked to African Americans to help fill out its military ranks.
2. The U.S. Army Air Corps formed an experiment to train pilots for the first all African American fighter squadron. These men later came to be known as the Tuskegee Airmen.
3. The ranks of the Tuskegee Airmen included pilots, navigators, bombardiers, instructors, maintenance, and support staff.
4. With determination these men overcame segregation and prejudice of the time to become one of the most highly respected fighter groups of World War II.
5. 990 pilots trained at the base in Tuskegee, Alabama from 1941-1946. As part of the 12th Air Force their 4 squadrons flew over 15,000 sorties in the skies over Europe.
6. 150 Tuskegee Airmen lost their lives in combat and training accidents.
7. Honors awarded for service in combat included 150 Distinguished Flying Crosses, 1 Silver Star, 14 Bronze Stars, 744 Air Medals, and 8 Purple Hearts.
8. Three of the Tuskegee Airmen went on to become generals in the U.S. Air Force: Benjamin O. Davis Jr., Daniel James, and Lucius Sheppard.
9. Along with the men and women who supported them, the Tuskegee Airmen paved the way toward full integration of the U.S. military.
10. The Tuskegee Airmen set out to prove themselves and their skills. Like all soldiers they simply did what they had to to service to our country, in the process they made History.

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**CHANGES:** Sincere thanks and gratitude to all the Tuskegee Airmen for their service. © JEPPESSEN, 2012. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.