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Chicago DODO Chapter,
Tuskegee Airmen, Inc.®



The Flight Plan

Vol. XVI no. 1 January 2009 Chicago DODO Chapter, P. O. Box 19063, Chicago, IL 60619
Beverly L. Dunjill, President

Carrying on the legend and teaching young people about the opportunities in aviation.

On January 20th, 2009, Barack H. Obama was sworn in as the 44th President of the United States of America - the first African-American ever to hold the office of U.S. Commander-in-Chief. The event was witnessed by well over one million attendees in chilly Washington D.C., and by many millions more through coverage on television and the Internet.

Collected throughout the "Flight Plan" are photographs of the event, the participants, and some of the witnesses around the world.



U.S. Navy Chief Petty Officer Bill Mesta replaces an official picture of outgoing President George W. Bush with that of newly-sworn-in U.S. President Barack Obama, in the lobby of the headquarters of the U.S. Naval Base January 20, 2009 in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. (Brennan Linsley-Pool/Getty Images)

Chicago DODO Chapter Tuskegee Airmen, Inc. ®

Mission Statement

"The Chicago "DODO" Chapter of TAI is a 501(c) (3) charitable organization whose mission is to perpetuate the historic legacy of the Tuskegee Airmen and to encourage and assist minority youth in pursuing post-secondary education and careers in the aerospace industry."

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Please submit all articles or pictures **no later than the 25th** of each month. Articles will be accepted via fax, as well as via email or in other electronic form. Pictures and other items can be mailed by the above deadline; also preferred to receive in any digital format for better quality printing. Typed or printed submissions are strongly preferred to handwritten ones. Submissions received after the 25th of the month will be included in the following month's issue unless otherwise indicated.

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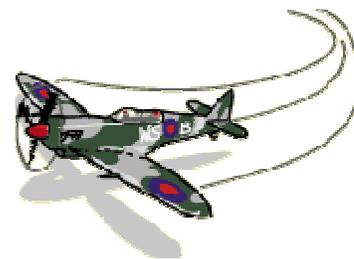
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CALENDAR OF



THIS MONTH IN HISTORY



February 10th
6:30PM - 8:30PM
TAI Director Meeting
Chicago Public Library
8134 S. Stony Island

February 14th
9:00AM
Young Eagles Rally
Gary Airport



February 17th
@ 6:30 PM
Chapter Meeting
Chicago Public Library
8134 S. Stony Island

March 10th
TAI Director Meeting
Chicago Public Library
8134 S. Stony Island

March 14th
9:00AM
Young Eagles Rally
Gary Airport

Emancipation
Proclamation
January 1st, 1863

Congressional Black
Caucus organized
January 4th, 1971

New Orleans Slave Revolt
January 8th, 1811

Fisk University
Nashville, Tenn.
Founded
January 9th, 1866

Andrew Young's U.N.
appointment confirmed
by the US Senate
January 29th, 1977

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
born
January 15th, 1929

Capt. B. Collins Patented
Portable Electric Light
January 18th, 1938

January 22nd, 1793
Benjamin Banneker
assisted in the planning
of Washington, D.C.



HOTLINES

CHAPTER HOTLINE:
(312) 409-3624

CHICAGO YOUNG EAGLES HOTLINE:
(312) 409-5621

GARY YOUNG EAGLES
HOTLINE: (888) 235-9824
(888) 2FLY—TAI

Note: *Call the Young Eagles Hotline
after
7:30 a.m. on the morning of a flight for
any cancellations.*

CHAPTER WEBSITE:
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Note:

Officers Installed:

Bev Dunjill – President
Kenneth Rapier - 1st Vice
President
Maj. Duane Hayden - 2nd Vice
President
Camille Johnson - Recording
Secretary
Karon Thompson - Correspond-
ing Secretary
Vince Saunders -
Treasurer
Quintin T. Smith - Assistant
Treasurer
Robert L. Martin, Sr. -
Parliamentarian
Dr. Bobbie Anthony-Perez - His-
torian



E-Mail Column

Flight Plan Publisher EMAIL is ehoosman@sbcglobal.net



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Tuskegee Airman James Williams at inauguration

Brenda Payton
Sunday, January 25, 2009



Tuskegee Airman James Williams at inauguration

James B. Williams, 89, attends the inauguration of Barack Obama along with other members of the Tuskegee Airmen, an all-black squadron. (Brenda Payton / Special to The Chronicle)

Well, just as I thought, my father didn't cry. When President Obama took the oath of office, his hand on Lincoln's Bible, my father watched intently. He seemed mesmerized during Obama's inaugural speech, suddenly oblivious to the biting cold that turned our breath frosty and made us wiggle our toes to try to keep them warm. In closing, Obama pointed out that here he was, the son of a father who would not have been served in local restaurants 60 years ago, here he was, the president of the United States. My father finally smiled.

"Obama gave a good speech," he said, nodding.

My father, Dr. James B. Williams, 89, was invited to the inauguration as a member of the Tuskegee Airmen, the all-black combat unit in World War II. I got to tag along as his guest. The Tuskegee Airmen are famous for disproving the prevailing belief that Negroes didn't have what it took to be pilots. They achieved a remarkable track record of escorting bombers to and from their targets.

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Brenda Payton / Special to The Chronicle



People gather to watch US President Barack Obama's sworn in as the 44th US president by Supreme Court Chief Justice John Roberts in front of the US Capitol in Washington, DC on January 20, 2009. (JEWEL SAMAD/AFP/Getty Images)

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In another chapter in their story, my father and 100 other Tuskegee Airmen refused to sign an order establishing a whites-only officers club. They were placed under house arrest and faced a charge of treason, punishable by death. They were eventually released, but a letter of reprimand saying they were a disgrace to their country and their race stayed in their files for 50 years. Their protest, called the Freeman Field Mutiny, was later credited by historians as contributing to the desegregation of the armed forces.

When Obama took the oath of office, Section 15 of the West Front of the Capitol, where the Tuskegee Airmen were seated, didn't erupt in cheers and applause. They seemed more like they were holding their breath, waiting to make sure it was really happening. About 170 of the surviving members, now in their 80s and 90s, endured the travel, the crowds, the cold, to stand witness to one of the most significant moments in American history.

"I never thought I would see that (a black president)," my father said. "I'm thrilled. I'm glad to see the country has grown up to the point it could accept that. I give a lot of credit to the young whites who were very enthusiastic about him. He couldn't have done it without them."

For me, the emotion of the inauguration of the nation's first African American president came unexpectedly and in waves. When a female military officer directed us to "the first entrance on the right," I became acutely aware of the shared purpose of the crowd - the reason more than a million people had come to the Capitol and the National Mall - and got so choked up I couldn't tell my father what she'd said.

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Barack H. Obama is sworn in as the 44th president of the United States as his wife Michelle Obama holds the Bible and their daughters Malia Obama and Sasha Obama look on, on the West Front of the Capitol January 20, 2009 in Washington, DC. (Chuck Kennedy-Pool/Getty Images)

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I wonder how often people have been so conscious they were participating in history as it was being made.

We walked to our seats, and the sweet voices of the San Francisco Boys Chorus and San Francisco Girls Chorus played an innocent contrast to the weighty significance of why we all were there.

"Congratulations, Mr. President," Chief Justice John Roberts said. My stomach tightened and I struggled not to burst into tears. The journey through generations of slavery, Jim Crow, lynchings, freedom rides, bus boycotts, the Civil and Voting Rights acts, the backlash, had brought us to this moment.

This wasn't our first historic trip together. My father took me to Martin Luther King Jr.'s funeral. I was 15. I remember walking in a long procession to the church.

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40 years after their silent protest at the 1968 Olympics, Gold Medalist Tommie Smith hugs Bronze Medalist John Carlos, and their wives Delois Smith and Charlene Carlos after Barack Obama is officially sworn in as the President of the United States. Photo taken in the Smith room at the Sheraton Boston in Boston, MA. (Boston Globe/Stan Grossfeld)



People cheer at the Washington Monument during the inauguration ceremony of U.S. President Barack Obama in Washington January 20, 2009. (REUTERS/Mark Blinch)



Young Eagles Column



Here's wishing you a safe, healthy, happy and prosperous New Year. 2008 proved to be a challenge as far as our Young Eagles rallies went. We were forced to cancel 8 out of 12 months. 6 due to weather and 2 due to air show conflicts. We flew 120 Young Eagles in 4 rallies, giving us an average of 30 youngsters per rally compared to our previous average of 45. The total number of Young Eagles flown at Gary is 2,200 since September, 2002, when we began operations at the Gary-Chicago Airport. Our goal for 2009 is to continue operations and despite the economic down-turn and increased fuel prices, increase our rally average for this year. Why not plan to join us for our next regularly scheduled Young Eagles rally to be held at the Gary-Chicago International Airport (GYY) on Saturday, February 14, 2009. The pilot briefing will be at 8:30 A.M. with flights beginning at 9:00 A.M. We will operate out of the terminal building and refreshments will be provided for all pilots and volunteers. Be sure to call the hotline after 7:00 A.M. on the morning of the rally to check flight status. In Illinois call 312-409-5621; In Indiana call toll free: 888-235-9824. Press 3 to access the flight status mailbox. We're expecting 2009 to be a much better year and we look forward to seeing you at the Gary Airport.

Happy Flyin'!

Ken Rapier, Chief Pilot
Tuskegee Airmen Young Eagles Program



TUSKEGEE AIRMEN GROUP LOOKING FOR SUPPORT

The Tuskegee Airmen, the first African American fighter pilots, recently received the group's second congressional recognition. With the conclusion of Black History Month, the group knows full well that its veterans are dwindling in numbers. Hoping that the legacy will not die with them, the nonprofit [Tuskegee Airmen Inc.](#) is looking for dedicated people to join the organization and carry out its mission of inspiring young people to achieve goals and take on leadership roles in society.

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Maybe I remember the mule-drawn wagon or maybe I've just seen the pictures - the banks of speakers broadcasting the speeches and sermons to the thousands of us standing outside the church. I don't recall any of the words. I remember an enveloping, palpable sadness that would spark decades of hopelessness and anger.

On Tuesday, Aretha Franklin transforming "My Country 'Tis of Thee" into the very expression of soul. The historic inauguration made more real with each blast of the 21-gun salute. President Obama's words echoing in front of the Capitol and down the mall as they traveled through the sound system of the jumbo screens.

And me singing the National Anthem. I mean, singing it. Surprised I knew the words. Experiencing a strange feeling that's recurred since Nov. 4, a pride of my country. The dawning of what "my country" really means.

I am so happily surprised by white America's jubilation. Then, I've always believed our failure to live up to our country's promise wasn't just black America's pain - we all shared it. Now we share this triumph.

The inauguration was exhilarating, still unbelievable, physically and emotionally draining.

"I don't know that I would do that again," my father said, remarking on the cold. Then he added, "But I don't have to."

Brenda Payton is a Bay Area writer. Contact us at forum@sfchronicle.com.

This article appeared on page **G - 2** of the San Francisco Chronicle

JANUARY IN BLACK HISTORY

Are you aware of the significant events in our history that occurred during the month of JANUARY? For example, did you know that on January 23rd, 1964, the 24th amendment to the United States' Constitution, abolishing the poll tax in federal elections, was ratified. The poll tax had been used extensively in the South as a means of preventing African Americans from voting?

Or did you know that on January 23rd, 1945, the Army Nurse Corps discontinued its color barrier and began admitting nurses without regard to race. This is due primarily to the pressure applied by the National Association of Colored Nursing Graduates (NACGN) and other groups. This was 3 years earlier than the signing of the Executive Order in 1948 which ended segregation in the military.

In January 1972 - Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm began her campaign for President of the United States. Although she will ultimately be unsuccessful, she made known the concerns of African Americans across the country.

In January 1893 - Bessie Coleman was born in Atlanta, Texas, the tenth of thirteen children. She will grow up to become the first African American female pilot (June 15, 1921) and the first woman to obtain an international flying license (from the Fédération Aéronautique Internationale). She will join the ancestors on April 30, 1926, after being thrown from her airplane in Jacksonville, Florida.

In January 1943 - Sherian Grace Cadoria was born in Marksville, Louisiana. She made her career in the United States Army after graduating from Southern University in Louisiana. In 1985, she was promoted to brigadier general, making her the highest ranking African American woman in the U.S. military. She was the first woman elevated to that rank in the Provost Marshal Corps. She eventually became Director of Manpower and Personnel for the Organization of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. General Cadoria has said that she has "gotten more pressure from being a woman in a man's world than from being black." General Cadoria has accomplished many firsts: she was the first woman to command a battalion; the first woman to command a criminal investigation brigade; the first African American woman director for the Joint Chiefs of Staff; and the first woman to attend the Army's top colleges, Command and General Staff College and the U.S. Army War College. She was the senior African American female general in the U.S. Armed Forces upon her retirement in November 1990 after serving 29 years. Following retirement, General Cadoria founded her own business, Cadoria Speaker and Consultancy Service. On November 11, 2002, she became the first woman and the first African American inducted into the Louisiana Military Veterans Hall of Honor.

Submitted by: Vince Saunders

No Mickey Mouse Offer: Disney Offers Military Discounts

Military members, including National Guard troops who have orders showing active status after Jan. 1, 2008, are eligible for free multi-day admission to Disney's U.S. theme parks, reduced rates at select Walt Disney World Resort and Disneyland Resort hotels and additional special ticket offers for family members and friends.

"For so many men and women who serve in our U.S. military, time together with their families is cause enough for celebration," said Jay Rasullo, chairman of Walt Disney Parks and Resorts. "We are grateful for their service and hope Disney's Armed Forces Salute will allow our troops to create wonderful, magical memories with their family and friends."

Disney's Armed Forces Salute is offered through June 12 at Disneyland Resort in southern California. It includes one complimentary three-day ticket and reduced rate for family members. More information is available by calling 714-956-6424.

At Walt Disney World Resort in Florida, each eligible military member may receive a complimentary five-day ticket and reduced rates for family members. Information is available at www.disneyworld.com/military.

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“DODO” 2008 Installation Brunch

Bobbie M. Anthony-Perez



The December 6 installation brunch at Harambee House was attended by an overflow group of “DODO”s and their guests. An additional table had to be set up to seat them all. For the first time, as promised by chief organizer Yola Moore, those present were served by waiters, instead of having to stand in a long buffet line. After the social hour, President Beverly Dunjill called for order and Ladies Auxiliary Chaplain Dolores Highbaugh gave the invocation.

After the delicious and bountiful house buffet, Disc Jockey Marvin Lynch paused for the installation of officers by Velda Wright-Hamberlin and the awards presentation by President Dunjill and Quentin Smith. Alcus Cromartie was a schedule for both presentations.

A sizeable number of awards were presented, as opposed to in 2007. Although not all awards recipients were present, they included the three “DODO”s who participated in the Tuskegee, Alabama spreading of George Taylor’s ashes, namely, Kenneth Rapier, Victor Crosswell, and Keith Renfroe, as well as Georges window, Joan Taylor. Yola and Velda also received awards, as did Barbara Werner who works hard for the “DODO”s and the Ladies Auxiliary and Camille Johnson, “DODO” Recording Secretary.

The installation luncheon committee consisted of Shelia Weber, Yola Moore, Barbara Werner, Bobbie M. Anthony-Perez, and Vincent Saunders, III who left for the Grand Canyon the day of the installation. The 2009 chapter officers are listed below.

<u>“DODO” CHAPTER</u>	<u>OFFICE</u>	<u>LADIES AUXILLARY</u> <u>-NO ELECTION-PENDING</u>	<u>OFFICE</u>
Mr. Beverly Dunjill	President	Francis Hale	President
Kenneth Rapier	1st Vice President	Yola Moore	Vice President
Maj. Duane Hayden	2nd Vice President	Johnny Nell Wilson	Recording Secretary
Camille Johnson	Recording Secretary	Barbara Werner	Financial Secretary
Karon Thompson	Corresponding Secretary	Shelia Weber	Treasurer
Vincent Saunders (pending)	Treasurer	Sonjie Hall*	Corresponding Secretary
Quentin T. Smith Sr*	Assistant Treasurer	Dolores Highbaugh	Chaplain
Robert L. Martin, Sr*	Parliamentarian	Lu Williams	Parliamentarian
Dr. Bobbie Anthony-Perez	Historian	Dr. Bobbie Anthony-Perez	Historian

DIRECTORS

Milton Williams Victor Crosswell* Kenneth Rapier Marvin Robinson* Robert Mullins Keith Renfroe

(*) Indicates Officer-elect installed in Dec. 2007

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Also, Shades of Green, a resort hotel at Walt Disney World Resort in Orlando, Fla., is available only to service members and their families, including retirees and civilian employees of the Defense Department. The hotel is run by the Army's Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation Command based in Alexandria, Va.

HR 208, Qualifying Deployed Service to Accelerate Collection of Retirement Pay

SC Representative Joe Wilson wasted no time in continuing his efforts last session to correct the inequity in the 2008 NDAA that failed to recognize the service of our members who served in combat prior to January 28, 2008. On January 1, 2009 Rep Wilson Introduced HR 208, which would make “qualifying deployed service” retroactive to include 9/11 deployed service in the eligibility for lowering the 60 year eligibility age to collect retirement pay.

As you may recall, Section 647 of the NDAA for Fiscal year 2008 authorized the 60 year eligibility age to be reduced three months for each aggregate of 90 days served in support of a contingency operation or national emergency but it applied only to qualifying service rendered after January 28, 2008, the date of the enactment of the bill. NGAUS will keep you posted on the progress of this bill this session and on our other efforts to equitably reduce the archaic 60 year eligibility age.

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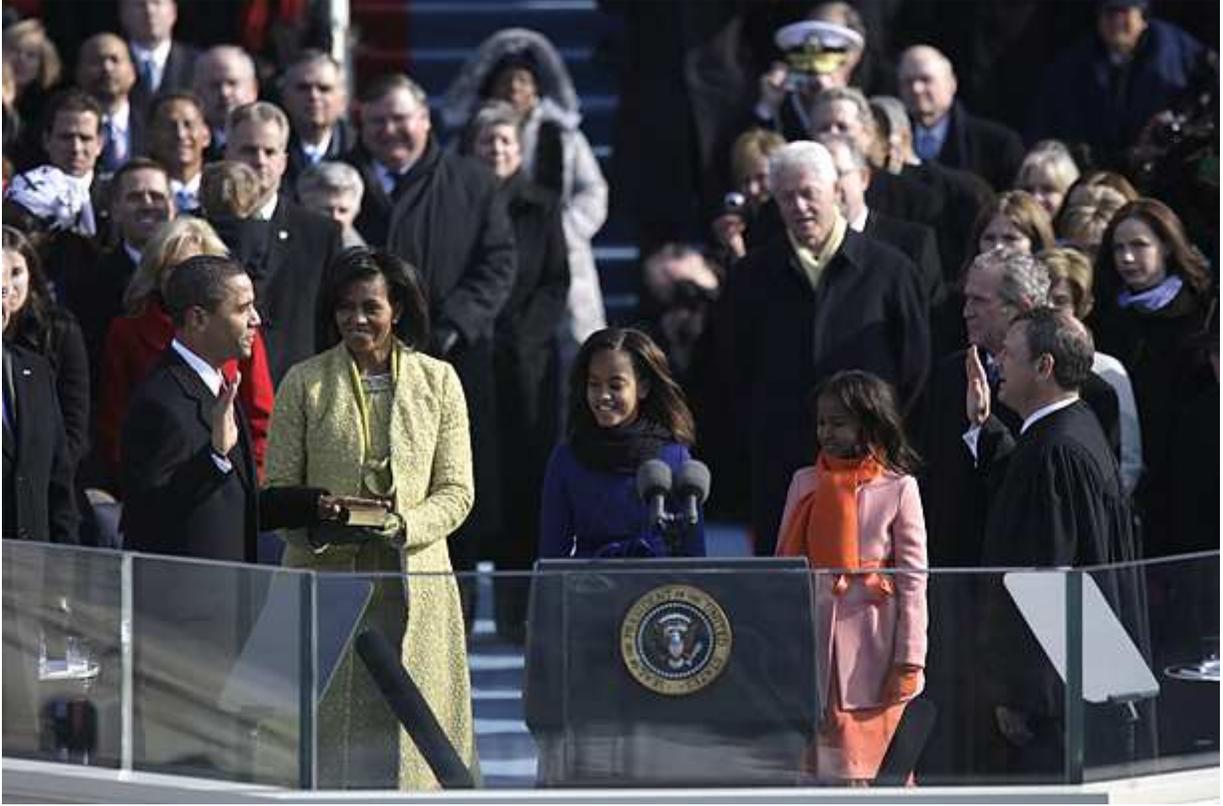
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RSVP TO CAROLE MEYER-RIETH AT (951) 827-1244 OR CAROLEM@UCR.EDU BY JANUARY 30, 2009.

With hope there can be change



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