

Chicago DODO Chapter,
Tuskegee Airmen, Inc.®



The Flight Plan

Vol. XV no. 3 March 2008 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.

DODO's Make Rockford Appearance in Celebration of Black History Month By Vince Saunders

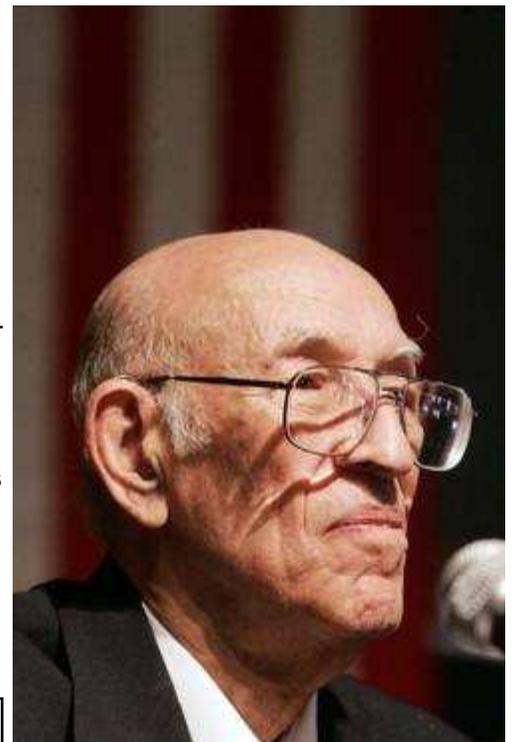


**Chicago "DODO" Chapter President
Lt. Bev Dunjill**

On Friday, Saturday & Sunday (2/22 - 2/24/2008), 10 chapter members (including 3 OTAs) were given a hero's welcome at Rockford's Veterans Memorial Hall. Chapter members traveled about 100 miles to Rockford Illinois, to participate as guests of honor in their program "The Tuskegee Airmen in Rockford". The weekend long event was as part of Rockford's celebration of Black History Month, and was organized by the chairman of the board of trustees of the Rockford Veterans' Memorial Center, Mrs. Eunice Bailey.

Chief Pilot Ken Rapier orchestrated a flight of two Redtails piloted by members Keith Renfroe & Vic Croswell, who deployed to Rockford in support of the event. The program actually began on Friday with a formal press conference at the Clock Tower Resort and was covered by all of the major news media (electronic & print). According to Ken Rapier, "the people of Rockford really rolled out the red carpet for us and presented our OTAs with gift baskets as well as a proclamation by the mayor declaring Saturday, February 23rd, 2008, "Tuskegee Airmen Day" in Rockford.

The Saturday and Sunday program held in the auditorium consisted of the Originals telling "War Stories" from their past experiences followed by an autograph session held in the library that was extremely well attended each day. Attendance was about 225 people on Saturday and about 275 on Sunday and provided the chapter with a very successful merchandise sales fundraising opportunity. New generation members: Cathy Bell, friend Brenda, Vic Croswell, Moses Jones, Melvin Knazze, Ken Rapier, Keith Renfroe and Rob Strickland took care of the merchandise sales while also telling attendees about the chapter's Educational Assistance and Young Eagles programs.



Dr. Welton Taylor

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."

Publisher

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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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Dr. Bobbie Anthony-Perez



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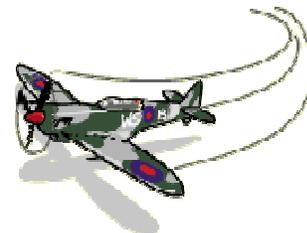
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CALENDAR OF



April 15th
6:30PM
Chapter Meeting
8134 S. Stony Island

May 10th
@ 9:00am
Young Eagles
Gary-Chicago Airport

May 13th @ 6:30pm
TAI Directors Meeting
8134 S. Stony Island

May 20th
6:30PM
Chapter Meeting
8134 S. Stony Island

Annual Scholarship Fundraiser

Saturday, April 19th
NIKOS
Cocktails: 6:00 –7:00pm
Dinner 7:30 p.m.
7600 S. Harlem Ave
Bridgeview, IL 60455
Evening or Business Attire
Donations \$60.00
(Tax deductible as allow by law)

May 8th @ 6:30pm
TAI Directors Meeting
8134 S. Stony Island

All General Meetings will be held at the New Chicago Public Library
8134 S. Stony Island

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:
www.taichicago.org

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Arlington, VA 22209
(703) 522-8589

Note:

Officers Installed:

Bev Dunjill – President
Kenneth Rapier - 1st Vice President
Maj. Duane Hayden - 2nd Vice President
Camile Chappell - Recording Secretary
TBA - Corresponding Secretary
Alcus Cromartie - Treasurer
Moses Jones - Assistant Treasurer
Judge Earl Strayhorn - Parliamentarian
Dr. Bobbie Anthony-Perez - Historian

THIS MONTH IN HISTORY



U.S. Congress Enacts
Law Ending African Slave
Trade
March 2nd, 1807

U.S. Supreme Court
Rules On The Dred Scott
Decision
March 6th, 1857

Lorraine Hansberry's Play
"A Raisin In the Sun"
Opened on Broadway
March 11th, 1959

The Confederate Army
Allowed Slaves To Be
Soldiers
March 13th, 1865

Napoleon Abolished Slave
Trade
March 29th, 1815



Freedom's Journal, First
African American Newspa-
per Published
March 16th, 1827

Civil Rights March From
Selma To
Montgomery
March 22nd, 1965

Seven African Americans
Challenged Taxation With-
out Representation
March 26th, 1780





E-Mail Column



Flight Plan Publisher EMAIL is ehoosman@sbcglobal.net

For those of you who wish to start receiving the Flight Plan via email vs. US mail please forward your email address to ehoosman@sbcglobal.net. for consideration.

Death of Lonnie M. Cheers Ladies Auxiliary of the Chicago DODO Chapter

Thank you for the many expressions of sympathy to my family and me on the occurrence of my Mom's transition. She lived to be 86 and had a long, full happy life. She was my treasure and I will miss her greatly. My gift was being her daughter. Thank you again for every kind expression and please continue to keep me in your prayers.

Sheila M. Webber

EAP Planning, Coordination and Initiative Pays Off in 2008!

In 2 meetings conducted in record time, 11 applications were evaluated for completeness, essays read, recommendations counted, grade points compared, test scores reviewed and financial data integrated to expedite the award selection process. In total, the Chicago Chapter of the Tuskegee Airmen received 5 National, 7 EAP applications from Chicagoland and Gary, Indiana high school students.

The EAP Committee would like to thank Quentin Smith and Alcus Cromartie for identifying and encouraging students in Gary to complete the application process within deadline. Five applications will be sent to National to compete for 2008 Tuskegee Airmen Scholarship Foundation Scholarships; six finalists have been selected for the local EAP along with 1 finalist for the Dr. Andrew S. Perez Award.

In terms of next steps, finalists will be notified and names submitted to the Spring Fling Committee in advance of the April 19th fundraising event.

It was a delight working the 2008 EAP.

The EAP Committee

	<u>2008 EAP Award</u> <u>Recipients</u>	<u>College/Univ</u>	<u>Major Field of Study</u>
1	Jacqueline Hamp	Indiana State University	Criminal Justice / Social Work
2	Lydia Mari Johnson	Butler University	English Literature
3	Winford Parker	Butler University	Math / Physics
4	Shannon R. Dixon	Ohio State University	Psychology
5	Asia Danzy	Indiana State University	Dental Hygiene
6	Joshua Chestang	Howard University	Business

Teens set new aviation world records



Kelly Anyadiki became the youngest black female to solo in four different aircraft on the same day.
Photo courtesy Tomorrow's Aeronautical Museum

Compton, California — March 18, 2008 —You're busy. Between sports, clubs and homework, it's hard to find time for anything else.

But two 16-year-olds from California found time for something else. And they set new world records Saturday while doing it.

Kelly Anyadiki became the youngest black female to solo in four different aircraft on the same day. Jonathan Strickland established a new record as the youngest black male to solo six different airplanes, and a second record for soloing six airplanes plus one helicopter on the same day.

The teens flew in and out of [Compton Airport](#) as part of a Black History Month Celebration honoring the [Tuskegee Airmen](#), a group of nearly 1,000 black pilots recruited by the Army to fly and maintain combat aircraft between 1942 and 1946.

Maj. [Levi H. Thornhill](#), 85, was one of four original Tuskegee Airmen on hand Saturday to watch Strickland and Anyadiki make their record-breaking flights, according to the [Press-Telegram](#) of Long Beach, California.

Thornhill hopes young prodigies like Strickland and Anyadiki will influence other kids to join aviation programs.

"We gotta keep the kids off the streets," he said.

The young pilots learned to fly through [Tomorrow's Aeronautical Museum](#), which provides aviation-themed after-school programs for more than 800 children in kindergarten through 12th grade.

"These new world records the kids set are an example of where the past meets the present and the future," said [Robin Petgrave](#), founder of Tomorrow's Aeronautical Museum. "We're trying to show (the Tuskegee Airmen) that the legacy is alive. Anything is possible for these kids. We're not limited by color."

Strickland, a Los Angeles resident, has been flying since he was 12. During a trip from Compton to Canada at age 14, he became the youngest black pilot to solo an airplane and a helicopter on the same day, the youngest black pilot to fly a helicopter internationally and the youngest black pilot to fly a helicopter on an international round-trip.

"Today we're seeing history in the making," Petgrave said. "So few African-American kids are introduced to aviation, by the time they do it, everything they do is a record."



Jonathan Strickland broke two records — the youngest black male to solo six different airplanes the same day, and the youngest to solo six airplanes plus one helicopter on the same day. Photo courtesy Tomorrow's Aeronautical Museum.

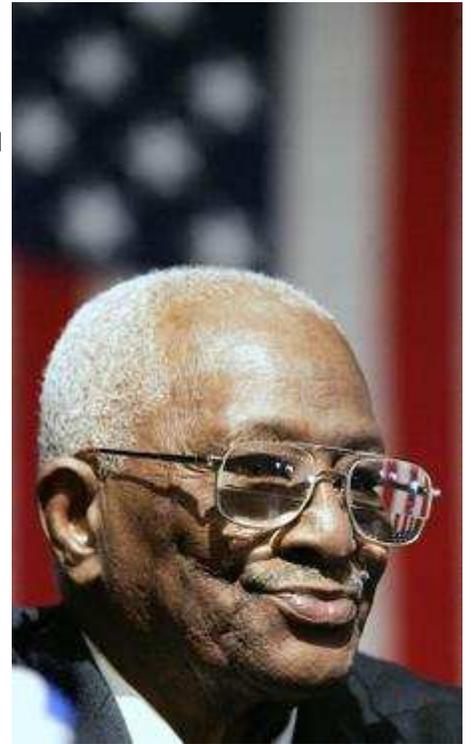
Source: EAA Young Eagles Magazine

Continue from cover page:

OTAs, Lt. Col. Julius Jackson; Lt. Bev Dunjill; and Dr. Welton Taylor, spoke of their desire to serve their country and fight to protect the United States despite the racial discrimination they endured. As usual, the recollections and stories they told based on their personal experiences captivated (numerous standing ovations) and inspired the hundreds who came to see some of the nation's first black military aviators who fought for their country from 1942 to 1946.

Litesa Wallace of Rockford brought her 4-year-old son, Isaiah Shelton, to meet the Airmen so he could experience history and explore his interest in airplanes. He left with a book about the Tuskegee Airmen, a replica model of a P-51 Mustang and a smile on his face. "One of the Airmen said he's seen our country come 180 degrees in his lifetime in terms of discrimination," Wallace said. "I wonder what that must be like, living through the segregation and desegregation to today seeing an African-American running for president."

The Memorial Hall Board of Trustees graciously provided participating chapter members with accommodations at the Clock Tower Resort & Conference Center in the downtown business district during their stay in Rockford. Chapter members were invited to a delightful Sunday breakfast at the home of former neighbors of Ken Rapier, Mr. and Mrs. Earl and Rubie Cobbs. Ken said, "they provided us with what was probably the highlight of the trip. The spread was spectacular and the food was magnificent."



Lt. Col. Julius Jackson



◀ Memorial Hall

Picture credits: JOHN F. ELBERS
The Rockford Register Star

Chapter members said that they were truly touched by the community's outpouring of affection, which made their weekend in Rockford a memorable one. And Eunice L. Bailey, chairman, Memorial Hall board of trustees, said that our presentation "...provided an opportunity to teach lessons that we needed to learn and that we will not forget"

UPCOMING FLYING DESTINATIONS:

West Lafayette, Ind. A Purdue Fly-in/Drive-in takes place April 12 at Purdue University (LAF). For more information, [e-mail flyinpurdue@yahoo.com](mailto:flyinpurdue@yahoo.com).

Detroit, Mich. An Alpha Eta Rho pancake breakfast fly-in takes place April 19 at Willow Run (YIP). For more information, contact Tom Huehl, 734/395-6001

Rantoul, Ill. A University of Illinois fly-in pancake breakfast takes place April 20 at Rantoul National Aviation Center Airport-Frank Elliott Field (TIP). For more information, contact Alice McCormack, 314/882-6892.

Source: AOPA ePilot

“SOUL SOLDIERS”
HONORS UNSUNG HEROES OF VIETNAM ERA Groundbreaking Exhibition
To Open At The DuSable Museum April 18, 2008

The DuSable Museum of African American History will present the most comprehensive exhibition to ever explore the issues of the Vietnam War from an African American perspective. “Soul Soldiers: African Americans and the Vietnam Era,” which tells the story of the impact of the Vietnam War on African American life and culture by examining both Vietnam and the Civil Rights Movement. The exhibition, developed by the Senator John Heinz History Center in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania will open on Friday, April 18, 2008 and continue through Sunday, July 27, 2008 at the Museum which is located at 740 East 56th Place (57th Street and South Cottage Grove Avenue) in Chicago.

In April of 1967, the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. spoke at Riverside Church in New York City and outlined his opposition to the continuing crisis in South East Asia. One month later, Time Magazine published correspondent Wallace Terry’s groundbreaking articles based on interviews of African-American GI’s in Vietnam. These two events helped frame the African American social and political perspective of the 1960s that went beyond civil rights. The exhibition demonstrates that Vietnam was no isolated battleground; it was a crucible for African-American soldiers’ emerging political and cultural consciousness. “SOUL SOLDIERS” explores the issues, actions, reactions, and expressions of life and culture of African Americans as they were impacted by Civil Rights and the war in Vietnam.

“SOUL SOLDIERS” showcases nearly 200 artifacts, including a number of key items from veterans, such as soldiers’ rucksacks, uniforms and dog tags; historic articles on the life of African American soldiers from Time Magazine, Ebony Magazine and the Pittsburgh Courier; nurse uniforms and photographs from the era; armed forces recruitment posters and other propagand materials; and soldiers’ diaries and letters back home.

This multimedia exhibition will also show how the Vietnam War played a critical role in African American popular culture by helping to shape the soul, jazz, rock and gospel genres in the 1960s and 1970s. A number of audio stops are featured throughout the exhibition that include such Black Power anthems as “Say It Loud (I’m Black & I’m Proud),” by James Brown, and “What’s Going On,” by Marvin Gaye. In addition, a 13- minute original documentary “The Soul of Vietnam” is also included.

More than a dozen photographs from Wallace Terry, former Vietnam correspondent for Time Magazine and author of “Bloods: An Oral History of the Vietnam War by Black Veterans,” will also be on display. Nine prominent Vietnam Veteran artists produced a variety of mixed media artwork that is included in Soul Soldiers. The materials are on loan from the National Vietnam Veterans Art Museum in Chicago. “Soul Soldiers: African Americans and the Vietnam Era” is made possible in part by the Chicago Park District, The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, the Alphawood Foundation, the Illinois Arts Council, a state agency and United Airlines, the official airline of the DuSable Museum. Admission to the DuSable Museum is \$3 for adults; \$2 for students and senior citizens; \$1 for children ages 6 through 12 and children under the age of 6 are admitted free. Sundays are FREE TO ALL courtesy of “Bank of America FREE SUNDAYS.”

Source: Antoinette Wright

Young Eagles Column



After a nearly three month lay-off due to weather cancellations, the Tuskegee Airmen Young Eagles Team will conduct the regularly scheduled Team Meeting. Please join us for the Young Eagles rally to be held this Saturday, May 10, 2008 at the Gary-Chicago International Airport (GYY). We will operate out of the Tuskegee Airmen Young Eagles Team Headquarters located next to Gate 4. All aircraft parking will be West of Gate 4. Refreshments will be provided for all pilots and volunteers. The pilot briefing will be at 8:30 A.M. with flights beginning at 9:00 A.M. Young Eagles pilots requiring a BFR are eligible to receive same at no cost by scheduling same with the chief pilot. Call the hotline after 7:00 A.M. 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 mail-

box. 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.](http://www.tuskegeeairmen.org) 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.



Published: March 12, 2008

Source: The New York Times (
<http://www.nytimes.com/2008/03/12/us/12wells.html>)

By DOUGLAS MARTIN

Henrietta Bell Wells, the only woman, the only freshman, and the last surviving member of the 1930 Wiley College debate team that participated in the first interracial collegiate debate in the United States, died on Feb. 27 in Baytown, Tex. She was 96.

The story of the team, called the Great Debaters in last year's movie of the same name, began in 1924 at Wiley College, a small liberal arts college in Marshall, Tex., founded a half century earlier by the Methodist Episcopal Church to educate "newly freed men."

Melvin B. Tolson arrived at the all-black school that autumn to teach English and other subjects. He also started a debate team. Mr. Tolson, who would win wide distinction as a poet, saw argumentation as a way to cultivate mental alertness. Wiley was soon debating and defeating black colleges two and three times its size. In 1930, Mr. Tolson decided to break new ground. He managed to schedule a debate with the University of Michigan Law School, an all-white school. Wiley won. Other debates with white schools followed, culminating with Wiley's 1935 victory over the national champion, the University of Southern California.

Mr. Tolson's stunningly successful debate team was portrayed in "The Great Debaters," directed by Denzel Washington. Describing the cinematic young debaters in The Chicago Sun-Times, the critic Roger Ebert wrote, "They are black, proud, single-minded, focused, and they express all this most dramatically in their debating."

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Wiley College

Melvin B. Tolson, second from left, with Henrietta Bell and the rest of the 1930 debate team at Wiley College in Marshall, Tex.



In the fall of 1930, Henrietta Bell, who would later marry Wallace Wells, was a freshman in an English class taught by Mr. Tolson. The professor urged her to try out for the debate team, because she seemed to be able to think on her feet. She was the first woman on the team. In an interview with *The Houston Chronicle* in 2007, she said the boys "didn't seem to mind me." But the work was far from easy. Miss Bell attended classes during the day, had three campus jobs and practiced debating at night. The intensity of debating was reflected in Mr. Tolson's characterization of it as "a blood sport."

But the hard work paid off. In the interview with *The Chronicle*, Mrs. Wells declared, "We weren't intimidated." Henrietta Pauline Bell was born on the banks of Buffalo Bayou in Houston on Oct. 11, 1912, and raised by a hard-pressed single mother from the West Indies. When riots broke out in 1917 over police treatment of black soldiers at a World War I training camp, the family's house was searched. Mrs. Wells recalled being unable to try on clothes in segregated stores.

She did not debate in high school but was valedictorian of her class. She earned a modest scholarship from the Y.M.C.A. to go to Wiley, *Episcopal Life* reported. In the spring of 1930, Miss Bell, her teammates and her chaperone arrived at the Seventh Street Theater in Chicago. It was the largest black-owned theater in town, because no large white-owned facility would admit a racially mixed audience, according to an article in *The Marshall News-Messenger*. Mrs. Wells remembered a standing-room-only crowd. She wore a dark suit and had her hair cut in a boyish bob. In an interview with Jeffrey Porro, one of the screenwriters of "The Great Debaters," she felt very small on that very big stage. "I had to use my common sense," she said. She remembered Mr. Tolson urging her to punch up her delivery. "You've got to put something in there to wake the people up," he had said.

Mrs. Wells told *The Chronicle*, "It was a nondecision debate, but we felt at the time that it was a giant step toward desegregation." She debated for only one year, because of the need to work for money. She kept up with drama, which Mr. Tolson also coached. After graduating from college, she returned to Houston, where she met Mr. Wells and married. He was a church organist and later an Episcopal minister. She worked as a teacher and social worker.

Mrs. Wells advised Mr. Washington on the movie, using her scrapbooks as visual aids. She urged him to play Mr. Tolson, something he at first was not inclined to do. He called her "another grandma."

Mr. Wells died in 1987. Mrs. Wells left no immediate survivors. Her advice to today's students was straightforward: "Learn to speak well and learn to express yourself effectively." She learned this lesson directly from Mr. Tolson, whom she called her crabbiest and best teacher. He was known for issuing intellectual challenges immediately upon entering the classroom. A typical salutation: "Bell! What is a verb?"

On Sunday, March 30th the Appearances & Merchandising committees joined forces again to support another highly successful chapter outreach program. This event was hosted by the congregational family of Temple Chai; a Jewish Reform Synagogue located in Long Grove IL. The temple has attributed it's growth over the last 35 years, in part to the social interaction aspect of their mission; evidence of which was exemplified by welcoming us into their facility with the greeting "B'ruchim Habaim!" (welcome to Temple Chai) for the Sunday program.



Approximately 125 to 150 people were in attendance and browsed our chapter photo display table. Membership Chair Cathy Bell and her granddaughter set up an adjacent merchandising table offering a variety of books, apparel and other memorabilia for purchase. They also distributed literature which reminded prospective purchasers that proceeds from these sales help provide support for the chapter's various activities & programs such as our Young Eagles, Educational Assistance & Chapter Outreach efforts. Melvin Knazze then provided his usual dynamic MC introductory commentary. His reflections on how his childhood heroes such as "SkyKing" and Lloyd Bridges in "Seahunt" grew into his respect and admiration for the heroic accomplishments of the Tuskegee Airmen was an excellent segue for the personal experiences as told by two of our chapter's OTA's which followed.

The first batter in the box was Welton Taylor. Never at a loss for words, Welton recounted his experiences in the Pacific while the audience listened intently. Interwoven in his speech was an interesting point that he made about how Black Army AF pilots in WWII had to fly 70 missions before they could go home, while white pilots only had to fly 50. Welton asked the pointed question, "of all of the Tuskegee pilots who were shot down and other casualties suffered by the 332nd, how many of them occurred between their 50th and 70th missions?"



Some of Welton's other observations were:

after being forced to develop a black fighter-pilot training program, the military attempted to set the admissions bar too high (college degree) in hopes of not being able to find sufficient numbers of qualified candidates to fill the available slots; but were surprised to find that there were an abundance of potential trainees with BA, MA/MS as well as PhD degrees who filled every available slot in the initial classes at Tuskegee. how & why Patton mobilized

the 761st Tank Battalion (who spearheaded Patton's 3rd Army's march into Berlin) and the Red Ball Express which kept them supplied. and his recollection about how he almost lost both of his legs following a mission toward the end of the war and was inspired to study Microbiology at Univ of Illinois. He eventually received his MS & PhD degrees which led to the critically acclaimed research in the field of tetanus / gas gangrene organisms and anti-toxins therapy.

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The Delta Connections All Black Crew

Patrick Augustin, Charlotte Sampson and Kathy Butts and Craig Harrison



Source: The Organization of Black Airline Pilots

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