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Happy January! And if you are in Chicago, that's a happy COLD January, with temperatures at 20 below zero this week! That doesn't stop things from heating up with the Chicago "DODO" Chapter of the Tuskegee Airmen.

As part of our mission to preserve the legacy of the Tuskegee Airmen, we are delighted to share these histories and stories, including those of our brave heroes from the Chicago Metro area.

We hope you enjoy this issue. Please hit reply with your questions or to share your own stories.

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## America's First Top Guns!

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When most of us think about "Top Gun," we usually associate it with Tom Cruise's character during the '80s movie showcasing the Navy's F-14 Tomcat exploits and

over-the-top maneuvers. But in reality, it was a Tuskegee Airman who took part and won the military's first "Top Gun" style competition. The United States Air Force held their "First Ever" Weapons Meet at Las Vegas Air Force Base, Nevada on 2 May 1949.

The famous 332nd Fighter Group Team, of Captain Alva Temple, 1st Lieutenant Harry Stewart, 1st Lieutenant James Harvey and alternate pilot 1st Lieutenant Halbert Alexander won the Competition. However, the 332nd Fighter Group was never recognized as the "Winner" until April 1995. Forty-Six years after winning the Weapons Meet.

After the 1986 Hollywood release "Top Gun," there has been a wide misconception that this country's first Top Gun Program was developed by the Navy in the 1980's, competing in F-14 Tomcats. Again, not the case.

[Click here to read the full story.](#)



From "FIRST TOP GUNS" by Zellie Rainey Orr. A must read for all interested in the untold stories of the Tuskegee Airmen.

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## **Joseph E. Chineworth, Sr. Tuskegee Airman, Podiatrist & Entrepreneur**

Joseph E. Chineworth was a 1st Lieutenant in the US Army Air Corps and served during WWII as a member of the 100FS, 332FG.

A Chicago area native (from Rock Island), Joseph Chineworth graduated from St. Joseph's High School in Rock Island and later attended St. Ambrose College and Northwestern University where he



earned a degree in Podiatric medicine.

He was also a pilot graduate of the Tuskegee Flight School, class 44-E. He was deployed with his unit, the 100th Fighter Squadron of the 332nd Fighter Group to Europe where he served as a combat fighter pilot and a member of the legendary group that after the war would come to be known as the “Tuskegee Airmen”.

[Read more about Joseph E. Chineworth here.](#)

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