



***Tuskegee Airmen National Historical Museum and
Flight Academy
Preserving Legacy, Inspiring the Future***

The Tuskegee Airmen National Historical Museum (TANHM) and Flight Academy is committed to honoring the legacy of the first black military aviators in U.S. History. Through interactive exhibits, historical artifacts, and immersive storytelling, visitors gain a deeper understanding of the bravery, skill, and perseverance of the Tuskegee Airmen during World War II and beyond.

Our mission is to preserve history while shaping the future – empowering the next generation of aviators, engineers, and aerospace professionals.



Welcome from the Tuskegee Airmen
National Historical Museum and Flight
Academy!

As we soar into 2025, we reflect on the
incredible milestones and moments of
impact our museum has had over the past
few months. We are honored to continue
preserving and sharing the legacy of the
Tuskegee Airmen while inspiring future
generations through education,
celebration, and historic preservation.





July 2024

Honoring a Century of Excellence

Lt. Col. Harry Smith's 100th Birthday!

Last year, we had the distinct privilege of celebrating the 100th birthday of Tuskegee Airman Harry Smith, a living testament to resilience, service, and the enduring legacy of the Red Tails. His remarkable contributions to aviation and history continue to inspire young aviators and historians alike. We were thrilled to gather with the community, honoring his legacy with stories, tributes, and reflections on a century well-lived.



Lt. Col. Stewart was not just a pilot; he was a pioneer and a role model for all who dreamed of flying higher, said Dr. Brian R. Smith, President and CEO of the museum. His legacy will forever be remembered in the skies and in our hearts.



Now, in the wake of his passing, Stewart's remarkable story remains a testament to the courage and resilience of the Tuskegee Airmen. His memory will continue to be honored through educational programs, museum exhibits, and the ongoing mission of the Tuskegee Airmen National Historical Museum to preserve and share the history of these American heroes.



HARRY STEWART AND MR. AND MRS. RAINY HAMILTON



LORI STEWART, GREG BOWN, AND DR. SMITH

December 2024

TUSKEGEE AIRMEN'S ANNUAL CHRISTMAS TOY GIVEAWAY!



Bringing Holiday Cheer to Families Across Metropolitan Detroit A Season of Giving and Joy!

On Thursday, December 12, 2024, the Hangar transformed into a winter wonderland as we hosted our annual Tuskegee Airmen's Annual Christmas Toy Giveaway! Over 150 children and their families joined us for a heartwarming evening filled with festive decorations, holiday treats, and the pure joy

of receiving gifts. The spirit of the season was alive as laughter and excitement filled the air, creating unforgettable moments for families throughout Metropolitan Detroit. Thanks to our generous donors and dedicated volunteers, we were able to make this holiday season extra special for so many deserving children. **SAVE THE DATE FOR 2025!** Mark your calendars! This year's celebration will take place in December 2025.

Did You Know?

The Tuskegee Airmen Flew Over 15,000 Combat Missions in WWII

The Tuskegee Airmen were the first African American military aviators in the U.S. Armed Forces. Despite facing racial discrimination, they excelled in their missions, earning more than 150 Distinguished Flying Crosses. Their dedication paved the way for the desegregation of the U.S. military in 1948.



Curator's Corner The P-39 Airacobra Conservation Project



One of our most exciting conservation efforts is the ongoing restoration of a P-39 Airacobra discovered in 2023 near Oscoda, Michigan, on the shores of Lake Huron. This rare World War II aircraft, flown by Tuskegee Airman Frank H. Moody, is undergoing meticulous preservation by our team of historians, preservationists, and aviation experts. From the initial dives to its careful restoration, we are

dedicated to ensuring this incredible piece of history is preserved for future generations. We are documenting the process, hoping to include a time-lapse video, to capture the journey from conservation to stabilization. Stay tuned for an exclusive look behind the scenes!

February 2025 - Celebrating Black History Month



Our 2025 Black History Month Program, ***Wings of Legacy “Honoring the Past and Elevating the Future”*** was a tremendous success! Featuring an inspiring documentary screening, Flight Academy graduation, panel discussion, and interactive Tuskegee Trivia Games, this event truly brought history to life. The evening was a testament to our ongoing mission to educate and engage the public with the heroic stories of the Tuskegee Airmen while looking ahead to the future of aviation and aerospace.

**MICHIGAN SECRETARY OF
STATE BENSON AND THE
TANHM GRADUATES**

Event Highlights Included:

Thirty students were recognized for completing aviation and STEM programs, including:

- ✈ Private Pilot Ground School Students Who Are Excelling
- 🚀 Students Who Built & Launched Rockets
- ✂ Students Who Passed Their FAA Part 107 Drone Exam
- 🏆 Students Who Flew Solo & Completed Check Rides
- 🔧 Aircraft Mechanics Course Completed

Inspiring the Next Generation

We were honored to welcome Michigan Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson, a dedicated advocate for education and equity, who delivered an inspiring address. She shared her admiration for the perseverance of the Tuskegee Airmen and the bright future ahead for our students.



Take a look at the [REEL](#) to see our great event in action.

March 2025

***Celebrating one hundred Years,
Tuskegee
Airman
Cleveland
Williams***



What an extraordinary and

heartwarming experience it was to honor Tuskegee Airman Cleveland Williams on his special day! Surrounded by family, friends, and senior living neighbors, Mr. Williams was celebrated in a truly memorable way.

The event was graced with touching proclamations and remarks from esteemed guests, including Nadia Fadel-Bazzi, wife of Mayor Bill Bazzi of Dearborn Heights, representatives from the office of State Senator District 2, Sylvia Santana, and many more. Each speaker expressed deep gratitude for Mr. Williams' service and legacy, emphasizing the profound impact of the Tuskegee Airmen.

A highlight of the celebration was Dr. Brian R. Smith's presentation of a

holographic Lucite featuring the iconic North American P-51D Mustang, a powerful symbol of the courage and excellence of the Tuskegee Airmen.

This incredible gathering was a testament to the enduring legacy of Mr. Williams and the admiration he continues to inspire. We were honored to celebrate this remarkable man and wish him an incredibly happy birthday!



TUSKEGEE AIRMAN, CLEVELAND WILLIAMS, AND MRS. WILLIAMS

TANHM Upcoming Events and Annual Programs!

- **Air Traffic Control (ATC) Application PREP Workshop: Friday, March 14 @ 6:00 PM & Saturday, March 15, 2025 @ 11:00 AM** - In March, we welcomed individuals ages 16–30 to explore the dynamic world of Air Traffic Control through our ATC Application PREP sessions. Attendees gained hands-on insight into the career path, including application walkthroughs, resume reviews, and networking with professionals in the field. **Missed it? Don't worry, we'll be hosting another workshop in late summer or early fall 2025!**
- **For more information, call 313.843.8849 and get on the list for the next session.**

Aviation S.T.E.M. Career Days Tuesday & Wednesday, April 29–30, 2025

Focused on middle and high school students, this two-day event connects youth with aviation and STEM professionals, offering real-world exposure to exciting career paths in science, technology, engineering, and math. This is a must-attend experience for students with big dreams of working in the skies—or beyond.

Tuskegee Airmen National Museum

PARTNER WITH US

VENDOR & EXHIBITOR CALL

Inspire the Next Generation of STEM & Aviation Leaders

Join the Tuskegee Airmen National Museum for a powerful two-day STEM experience connecting middle and high school students to careers in STEM and Aviation through hands on engagement, interactive demos, and meaningful exposure to professionals and pathways

Vendor/Partner Opportunities

- Showcase Careers & Technology
- Lead Hands-On Activities
- Engage with over 500 students
- Build Future Talent Pipelines
- Network with Industry Leaders

Who's Invited

- STEM Companies & Innovators
- Aviation Professionals & Pilots
- Aerospace Engineers & Drone Technicians
- Local Colleges & STEM Programs
- Interactive STEM Groups
- Aviation & Airport Management Orgs
- Meteorologists, Aviation Medical Examiners, Dispatchers
- Military, FAA, Airlines, Legal Experts in Aviation

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

Become a Vendor, Sponsor, or Presenter TODAY!
 RSVP by March 31, 2025
 Contact: krystalj@tuskegeemuseum.org
www.tuskegeemuseum.org | 313-843-8849 | Detroit City Airport Hangars



Young Eagles Rally – Taking Flight Monthly!

Kicking off Sunday, April 13, 2025, and every 2nd Sunday through October: Location: Coleman A. Young International Airport. Next Rally is Sunday, May 18, 2025.

The Detroit-Tuskegee Airmen EAA Chapter 1351 invites youth ages 8–17 to experience the thrill of aviation with a free airplane ride over the city of Detroit. The Young Eagles Rally introduces young people to the world of flight and serves as a launchpad for our broader aviation education programs. No experience is needed; just bring your curiosity and love for adventure!



Every Thursday, over fifty young people step through our doors to explore the rich legacy of the Tuskegee Airmen while experiencing hands-on aviation activities, from flying drones and launching rockets to piloting airplanes. During the summer months, participation increases even further as we empower young people with skills that enhance their everyday lives and fuel future careers.

Classes are on Thursday evenings year-round, 6-8 pm • Call 313 843-8849 to confirm your participation ([Click here to learn more](#))

We are in the news! Here are some links to the latest media coverage.

<https://youtu.be/azhTNZVRvN0?si=AaLwTwAhSWfw2LdQ>

Detroit Tuskegee Airmen Museum hosts graduation ceremony honoring aviation students - CBS Detroit

Tuskegee Airmen in the national spotlight

<https://youtu.be/ihThec3xzJw>

Thank you for being a supporter of the Tuskegee Airmen National Historical Museum and Flight Academy. Please share this newsletter and find out more about how you can enroll your young aspiring aviator in our programs, and visit our website, [Tuskegee Airmen National Historical \(tuskegeemuseum.org\)](https://tuskegeemuseum.org) If you want to support our ongoing mission, [make a donation](#)