

TUSKEGEE AIRMEN

332nd Fighter Group

302nd Fighter Squadron



Pilot Profiles

Lee A. Archer, Jr.

CLASS	SE-43-J
GRAD	28 July 1943
SVC#	0809236



Born: 1921
New York City, New York

Education: University of California, Associate in Arts in Geography
New York University, B.A. in International Relations
University of Pittsburgh, Doctoral Studies in International Policies
Kings College, Advanced Financial Management Program, Honorary Ph.D.

Decorations: Distinguished Flying Cross
Air Medal w/ 18 Oak Leaf Clusters

Military Experience:

Combat Missions: 169
302nd Fighter Squadron, 332nd Fighter Group
Largest number of victories by a member of the 332nd, having downed 4 1/2 enemy fighters

Flew P-51
Flew as a jet pilot in Korean conflict and commanded several fighter squadrons
Command Executive Officer and Deputy Commander of Bases, USAF Southern Command-Panama Canal Zone
Rank upon leaving service — Lt. Colonel

Was a professor of geopolitics in the Air Science Department at New York University and later taught government and politics at the University of Maryland and the University of Florida, Overseas Divisions. Retired, corporate Vice President for Urban Affairs, General Foods Corporation; Chief Executive Officer, North Street Capital Corporation and Chair, Hudson Commercial Corporation — specialized small business investment companies (SSBIC's) wholly-owned subsidiaries of General Foods Corporation.



Charles M. Bussey

CLASS	SE-43-E
GRAD.	28 May, 1943
SVC#	0804548



Born: 23 April 1921
Bakersfield, California

Education: San Francisco State University, 1959
Columbia Pacific University, 1982

Decorations: Silver Star
Legion of Merit
Bronze Star Air Medal
Army Commendation Medal
Purple Heart

Military Experience:

Combat Missions: 70
Fighter Pilot, 302nd Fighter Squadron, 332nd Fighter Group, 1944, Europe
Commander of Engineer Combat Company, Korea, 1950
Commander of Topo Aviation Company, 1956-1958
Aviation Staff Officer, HWS XV Corps, 1958-1960
Facilities Engineer, HQS. USAREUR, 1960-1963
Aviation Staff Officer, HQS Sixth Army, 1963-1966
Retired 1966 — Lt. Colonel

Consultant, Bechtel Corp.; Sr. Construction Engineer, Alaska Pipeline; Sr. Construction Engineer, Jubail, Saudi Arabia; Instructor in high school and community college. Author of published book Firefight at Yechon and one soon to be published Cottonwood Road; Author (contributor) to Military Encyclopedia.



Vernon Vincent Haywood

CLASS	SE-43-C
GRAD	29 April 1943
SVC#	0801168



Born: 24 October 1920
Raleigh, North Carolina

Education: Hampton Institute, 1938 - 1942, BGE.
University of Nebraska, Omaha, 1964
University of Arizona, 1976, B.S. Public Management

Decorations: Legion of Merit
Distinguished Flying Cross
Air Medal w/ 4 Oak Leaf Clusters
Joint SVC Commendation Medal
Distinguished Unit Citation
Outstanding Unit Award
World War II Victory Medal
United Nations SVC
Vietnam Campaign Medal

Military Experience: Combat Missions: 70
Entered Military Service August, 1942
Served as Flight Commander, Operations Officer and Commander of 302nd Fighter Squadron, 332nd Fighter Group
Assistant Section Commander and Section Commander, 3525 Pilot Training Wing
Overseas tours with the 35th Tactical Fighter Wing in Japan, and at HQ 13th Air Force, Clark AFB, Philippines
Chief TACAIR Branch, HQ MACV, Saigon, Vietnam
Kirtland AFB, New Mexico, 93rd FIS, Director of Operations and Training, 34th Air Division
Stewart AFB NY, Director of Safety, 64th Air Division
Davis-Monthan AFB, Arizona, Deputy Director for Operations, 4453rd Tactical Training Wing and Special Assistant to the Commander, Military Aircraft Storage & Disposition Ctr.
Flew P-39, P-47, P-51
Retired October 1971— Colonel



Member Arizona Aviation Hall of Fame, 1993. Order of Daedalions-Old Pueblo FLT. 12. CMS. Fred Archer Chapter, Tuskegee Airmen, Inc. Tucson Council for International Visitors. Tucson Assoc. for the Blind and Visually Impaired.

Melvin T. Jackson

CLASS	SE-42-J
GRAD	10 Nov. 1942
SVC#	0793708



Born: 18 October 1918
Warrenton, Virginia

Education: University of Connecticut, M.A., Social Work

Decorations: Distinguished Flying Cross
Air Medal w/ 8 Oak Leaf Clusters
Korean Service Medal
Purple Heart
French Crois de Guerre

Military Experience: Combat Missions: 157
Flight Leader in 100th Fighter Squadron, 332nd Fighter Group, 1942
Squadron Commander, 302nd Fighter Squadron, 332nd Fighter Group
Assistant to Brig. General B. O. Davis, Sr., Office of the Inspector General, Pentagon
Squadron Commander, 99th Fighter Squadron, Lockbourne AFB, Columbus, Ohio
Squadron Commander, HDQTRS Squadron, 332nd Air Base Group, Lockbourne AFB, Columbus, Ohio
Shot down and injured in combat in Korea
Flew P-51
Discharged in 1953 — Major



Director of Social Services, Hartford, CT Council of Churches; Cleveland Area Council of Churches; Instructor of Social Work Research at University of Connecticut School of Social Work; Assistant Professor of Social Work Research at Howard University, Washington, D.C., Center Director in Community Action Program in Washington, D.C. Retired in 1987.

Charles Edward McGee

CLASS	SE-43-F
GRAD	30 June 1943
SVC#	0807103



Born: 1919
Cleveland, Ohio

Education: University of Illinois, B.A., Business Administration

Decorations: Legion of Merit w/ OLC
Distinguished Flying Cross w/ 2 Oak Leaf Clusters
Bronze Star
Air Medal w/ 25 Oak Leaf Clusters
Army Commendation Medal
Air Force Commendation Medal with O/C
Distinguished Unit Citation
Korean Presidential Unit Citation
Hellenic Republic WWII Commemorative Medal

Military Experience: Combat Missions: 143
Commissioned 30 June 1943, 2nd Lt., 302nd Fighter Squadron in Europe
Flew P-39, P-47, P-51
Flew P-51 in Korea with the 67th Fighter Bomber Squadron and the RF-4C in Southeast Asia while commanding the 16th Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron
Commander of the 1840th Air Base Wing and Richards-Gebaur AFB
Retired 31 January 1973 — Colonel

Served as Director of Real Estate and Purchasing for ISC Financial Corp. and Vice President of Real Estate for Interstate Securities Co. Active with the Boy Scouts of America, Boy's and Girl's Club of Greater Kansas City.



William R. Melton

CLASS	SE-43-G
GRAD	28 July 1943
SVC#	0809249



Born: 24 October 1920
Columbus, New Mexico

Education: University of California, Los Angeles, B.A.

Decorations: Air Medal w/ 4 Oak Leaf Clusters

Military Experience: Combat Missions: 108
Entered Military Service January, 1942
Member of the 302nd Fighter Squadron, 332nd Fighter Group
Flew P-39, P-47, P-51
Towards end of WWII returned to Tuskegee Army Flying School as Flight Instructor and Air Inspector for Training Operations
Air Rescue Service, Tripoli, Libya, 1951-1952
Discharged 1953 — Captain

Mr. Melton is the son of a Buffalo Soldier. Founding member of Board of Governors, Tuskegee Airmen National Scholarship Fund, member of Board of Governors, Tuskegee Airmen National Museum, Detroit, MI. National Director of Public Relations and National Newsletter Editor, Tuskegee Airmen, Inc. 1979-1986. Co-planner of, and contributor to "Tribute to Original Tuskegee Airmen." National Historian, Tuskegee Airmen, Inc. Technical consultant to Lucasfilm, Ltd. production of Red Tails and author of Molding a Black Legacy — The Chronicle of Tuskegee Airmen.



Harry A. Sheppard



Born: 24 October 1917
New York City, New York

Education: College of the City of New York
University of Alaska, Anchorage AK
Oklahoma University, Midwest City, OK

Decorations: Legion of Merit
Distinguished Service Medal
Air Medal w/ 13 Oak Leaf Clusters
Meritorious Service Medal
Distinguished Unit Citation
American Campaign Medal
European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal

Military Experience: Combat Missions: 123
Entered Military Service April, 1941
Assigned to 302nd Fighter Squadron, 332nd Fighter Group
Deployed to European Theatre January, 1944
Flew P-39, P-40, P-47, P-51
Retired from USAF with 33 years, 3 months service, 506 Combat Hours and 6,500+ Flying Hours
Retired 30 June 1974 — Colonel

Author: The National Airspace System Improvement Study, 1972. Validated by U.S. State Department and U.S. Air Force for the Republic of Korea.

CLASS	SE-43-E
GRAD	28 May 1943
SVC#	0804559



Luke Weathers



Born: 16 December 1920
Grenada, Mississippi

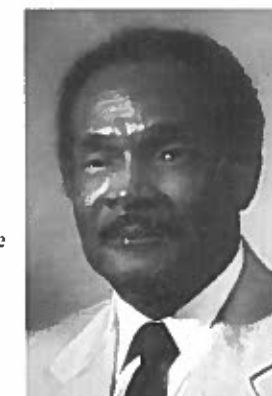
Education: Attended Xavier University, New Orleans

Decorations: Distinguished Flying Cross
Air Medal w/ 7 Oak Leaf Clusters

Military Experience: Combat Missions: 112
Entered Military Service 1942, 302nd Fighter Squadron, 332nd Fighter Group
Deployed to Italy, 1943, 2nd Lt.
Flew P-39, P-40, P-47, P-51
Destroyed two enemy aircraft 16 November 1944
Discharged 1945 — Major
Retired from Reserves, 1964 — Lt. Colonel

Employed with the Federal Aviation Administration. Retired 1985. Currently writing autobiography. Received Keys to the City of Memphis on 25 June 1945. Was first Black to be honored with story and photo by two leading newspapers of Memphis. Was also the first Black Air Traffic Control Specialist at Memphis Center.

CLASS	SE-43-D
GRAD	29 April 1943
SVC#	0801178



John J. Suggs



Born: 08 October 1915
Terre Haute, Indiana

Education: Indiana State College, 1939

Decorations: Air Medal w/ 6 Oak Leaf Clusters
Air Force Commendation Medal
Korean Service Medal

Military Experience: Combat Missions: 377
Entered Military Service September 1942
302nd Squadron, 332nd Fighter Group, Europe
Stationed Japan 1949-1952
Flew P-39, P-47, P-51
Commander 47th Air Base SQ, Sculthorpe, England
907th Air Refueling, Deputy CMDR., Services
Retired 30 March 1968 — Lt. Colonel

On the staff for ten years at the University of Maryland. Retired from the university 1978. Involved in the conversion of Tiber Island Co-op Homes in Washington, D.C. — this project includes "Law House," the former home of Martha Washington's granddaughter. Served as a consultant for Co-op education for Indiana State University. Awarded Distinguished Alumnus for Indiana State University. Was the 1st President of the East Coast Chapter for Tuskegee Airmen and former President of the National Chapter Tuskegee Airmen.

CLASS	SE-43-E
GRAD	28 May 1943
SVC#	0804561

