



TUSKEGEE AIRMEN SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**TUSKEGEE AIRMEN SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION (TASF) DOCUMENTED ORIGINAL
TUSKEGEE AIRMEN MEMBERS TO BE HONORED IN PASADENA TOURNAMENT OF ROSES®
PARADE**



Jerry Hodges



Ted Lumpkin



Oliver Goodall



Louis D. Hill



Clarence Finley

Los Angeles, California - Four Documented Original Tuskegee Airmen TASF Board members and a Board advisor will be honored on the West Covina Rose Float Foundation's 12th consecutive entry in the Pasadena Tournament of Roses® Parade on January 1, 2010 in Pasadena, California.

West Covina Rose Float Foundation's "Tuskegee Airmen - A Cut Above" will honor sixteen (16) Documented Original Tuskegee Airmen (DOTA), paying tribute to the service, bravery and commitment of the Tuskegee Airmen.

The Tuskegee Airmen were dedicated, determined young men who enlisted to become America's first black military airmen, at a time when there were many people who thought that black men lacked intelligence, skill, courage and patriotism. They came from every section of the country, with large numbers coming from New York City, Washington, Los Angeles, Chicago, Philadelphia and Detroit. Each one

possessed a strong personal desire to serve the United States of America at the best of his ability.

Col (Ret) Louis D. Hill feels that the Congressional Gold Medal – which is the highest civilian award - was instrumental in getting them recognized – and the float is a continuation of that recognition. "I feel real fine about being on the float. It's wonderful that the West Covina Float Foundation is recognizing the DOTAs and chose 16 to ride on the float."

Jerry Hodges entered military service June 12, 1944 at Camp Lewis, Virginia and transferred from there to Keesler Field, Mississippi for basic training. He was taught to fly the PT-17 and PT-13. He was then transferred to the Tuskegee Army Air Base and taught to fly the B-25. He was transferred to Lockbourne Air Base July 5, 1946 and assigned to the 617th Bomber Squadron, 477th Bomber Group. While at Lockbourne, Hodges was the Assistant Base Statistical Control Officer. He was discharged in December 1946, entered USC in September 1947 and graduated February 1950 in Accounting and Finance. He is the president of the Tuskegee Airman Scholarship Foundation.

Theodore Lumpkin was drafted July 1, 1942 at Ft. McArthur, California and immediately assigned to 689th Signal Corps Squadron, Tuskegee Air Force Base, Alabama for basic and radar training. He was selected for officer training at Miami Beach Air Force Candidate School, Florida in October 1942. He graduated January 20, 1943 as 2nd Lieutenant. US Army Air Corps, and assigned to 100th Fighter Squadron, 332nd Fighter Group, Tuskegee, Alabama. Lumpkin was assigned to Air Combat Intelligence School, August-November 1943, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, graduating as an Air Combat Intelligence Officer and reassigned to the 100th at Selfridge Field AFB, Michigan. He served as an Air Intelligence Officer for the 100th Fighter Squadron in the 12th Air Force and later in the 15th Air Force. He retired on December 30, 1970 with the rank of Lt. Colonel, USAF Reserves.

Oliver Goodall entered the service at Tuskegee in February 1943 but did not begin his training until 1944. He graduated in October 1944 as a multi-engine pilot and was assigned to the 477th Bomber Group at Godman Field, Kentucky in January 1945. With a large transition of instructors and a lot of hard work, he was able to attain his First Pilots rating in six months. He was arrested along with 160 other officers in April 1945 for entering the Officer's Club against the commander's orders known as the Freeman Field Mutiny.

Col (Ret) Louis D. Hill entered the service in September 1942 and was assigned to the Psychological Department. He was one of the few who chose to teach others to become pilots - and he is very proud of those men. His effort was to get into the minds of people and get African Americans in the main stream with marketable skills. As a civilian he became a Logistical Engineer for the Northrop Corporation. He served on

the planning committee for the Tuskegee Airmen National Historic Site. He is also on the Board of Directors of the Los Angeles Chapter of Tuskegee Airmen Inc.

In addition to the four TASF Board Members, Board Advisor **Clarence Finley** will be honored. Finley, who had a pilot's license, volunteered for an experimental fighter pilot program that prepared black men for combat. He received 27 of the top 30 awards and was commissioned a second lieutenant. Finley was executive officer of the 99th Fighter Squadron, one of four all-black squadrons that formed a special unit known as the Red-Tails, a daring and reliable escort for bombers in Africa and the South Pacific.

Oliver Goodall is happy that 16 DOTAs have been selected so that the public can see the Tuskegee Airmen are not just in one area, but all over the country. "It's an honor to ride on the float and be part of that experience so the public can see and recognize the Tuskegee Airmen for their dedicated service."

TASF is a non-profit 501(c) (3) organization located in Los Angeles, California. The Board of Directors is comprised of Documented Original Tuskegee Airmen (DOTAs) and corporate and community leaders committed to providing leadership by ensuring that funds are available to assist financially disadvantaged and deserving students in the pursuit of education, preferably leading to careers in the fields of aviation, aerospace and science technology.

For additional information please visit TASF's website: www.taisf.org

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