

Pilot Profiles



99th Fighter Squadron

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332nd Fighter Group

**TUSKEGEE AIRMEN**

# Benjamin O. Davis, Jr.



**Born:** 18 December 1912  
Washington, D.C.

**Education:** United States Military Academy at West Point, June 1936 (10494)  
Morgan State College, Honorary L.L.D., 1963

**Decorations:** Distinguished Service Medal w/ 2 Oak Leaf Clusters  
Silver Star  
Legion of Merit  
Distinguished Flying Cross  
Air Medal w/ 8 Oak Leaf Clusters  
Army Commendation Medal w/ 2 Oak Leaf Clusters

## Military Experience:

24th Infantry, Ft. Benning, GA  
Infantry School, Ft. Benning, GA  
4th Cav. BGE., Ft. Riley, KS  
Tuskegee Army Air Field Flight Training  
Commanding Officer, 99th Fighter Squadron, 1942  
Commanding Office 332nd Fighter Group, 1943  
Commanding Officer Godman AAF, KY, 1945  
Commanding Officer, Lockbourne AAF, OH, 1946-1949  
Air War College, 1949-1950  
Command Div., Director of Operations & Fighter Branch, 1950-1953  
Commanding Officer, 51st SIW, Korea, 1953-1954  
Director of Operations & Training HWFEAF, 1954  
Commanding Officer ATF 13, 1955-1957  
Chief of Staff, 12th AF, 1957  
Deputy Chief of Staff, Operation, USAFE, 1957  
Director Manpower & Organizing, Pentagon, 1961-1965  
Chief of Staff, UN Forces Korea & Chief of Staff UN Command, 1966-1967  
Commanding Officer 13th AF, 1967-1968  
Strike Command, 1968-1970  
Retired 1970 — Lt. General



Director of Civil Aviation Security, 1970. Assistant Secretary of Transportation for Safety & Consumer Affairs, 1971-1975. Battle Monuments Commission. Elected Alabama Aviation Hall of Fame, 1987, Virginia Aviation Hall of Fame, 1993, National Aviation Hall of Fame, 1994.

CLASS SE-42-C  
GRAD 07 March 1942  
SVC# 020146

# Howard L. Baugh



**Born:** 20 January 1920  
Petersburg, Virginia

**Education:** Virginia State College (University) 1941

**Decorations:** Distinguished Flying Cross  
Air Medal w/ 3 Oak Leaf Clusters  
American Campaign Medal  
European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal w/ 4 BSS  
WWII Victory Medal  
National Defense Service Medal w/ 1 BSS  
Air Force Outstanding Unit Award

## Military Experience:

Combat Missions: 135  
Aviation Cadet, March 1942  
Commissioned November 1942, 2nd Lt., 99th Fighter Squadron, 332nd Fighter Group  
Flew P-40, P-51, Sicily, July 1943  
Assigned to Tuskegee AAF November, 1944  
Taught Instrument Flying to Advanced Cadets in T-6s  
Instructor Tow Engine B-25  
Flight Instructor TE Group Cmdr.  
Director of Flying Training  
Air Force Instructor at Howard University, Washington, D.C.  
Professor Aerospace Studies, Tennessee A&I State University, Nashville  
Chief, Systems Plans Div., HQ CTTC, Chanute AFB, IL  
Retired 30 June 1967 — Lt. Colonel



Employed with Eastman Kodak in Rochester, NY. Retired in 1984 after 16 years with Eastman.

CLASS SE-42-J  
GRAD 10 Nov. 1942  
SVC# 0793705

# William A. Campbell



**Born:** 12 April 1917  
Tuskegee Institute, Alabama

**Education:** Tuskegee University, BA 1937  
University of Pittsburgh, MA, Industrial Mgt.  
Air Command & Staff School, Academic Instructors' School

**Decorations:** Air Medal w/ 13 Oak Leaf Clusters  
Bronze Star  
Distinguished Flying Cross w/ 1 Oak Leaf Cluster  
Legion of Merit w/ 1 Oak Leaf Cluster

## Military Experience:

Combat Missions: 146  
Aviation Cadet Program, 1942  
Commander 99th Fighter Squadron, 1944-1947  
Commander, 332nd Fighter Group, 1947-1949  
Flew P-39, P-40, P-47, P-51  
Far East Air Forces, 1950-1952  
Air Command & Staff School, 1953  
Fifth Air Force, Korea, 1954  
Commander 25th Fighter Interceptor Squadron, 3/54  
PAS Tuskegee University, April 1955  
Director of Operations, Air Base Group, Cannon Air Force Base, 1958  
Joint US Military Mission to Turkey, 1961  
Air Staff, Headquarters, USAF, 1963  
Director of Operations, Air Force Advisory Group, Viet Nam, 1967  
Comptroller, 14 Aerospace Force, ENT AFB, Colorado, 1968  
Retired, ENT AFB, 1970 — Colonel

Professor, Naval Post Graduate School, October, 1970, Monterey, CA, Retired, 1983

# Lemuel Rodney Custis



**Born:** 04 June 1915  
Hartford, Connecticut

**Education:** Howard University, BS, 1938  
University of Connecticut, School of Law

**Decorations:** Distinguished Flying Cross w/ 2 Oak Leaf Clusters

## Military Experience:

Combat Missions: 92  
Aviation Cadet Program, 1942  
Assigned to the 99th Fighter Squadron stationed in North Africa, Sicily & Italy  
Flew P-40  
Advanced Flight Instructor, Tuskegee Army Air Field  
Discharged 11 November 1946 — Captain

Prior to entering the military he was the first black on the Hartford, CT police force. After WWII, he was employed in

# Charles Dryden



**Born:** 16 September 1920  
New York City, New York

**Education:** Hofstra College, Hempstead, New York, B.A., Political Science  
Columbia University, M.A. International Relations

**Decorations:** Air Medal w/ 6 Oak Leaf Clusters  
Army Commendation Ribbon  
American Defense Service Medal  
European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal  
WWII Victory Medal  
Korean Service Medal

Air Force Longevity Service Award w/ 4 Bronze Oak Leaf Clusters  
United Nations Service Medal

## Military Experience:

Combat Missions: 80  
Commissioned 29 April 1942, 2nd Lt., 99th Fighter Squadron, 332nd Fighter Group  
Served in Sicily, North Africa, Italy and Europe during WWII  
Led flight of 6 pilots in his P-40, nicknamed "A-Train," to engage enemy aircraft in aerial combat over Pantelleria, Sicily. First time in aviation history that Black American pilots engaged enemy aircraft in combat.  
Retired 31 August 1962 — Lt. Colonel

Founding member of the Atlanta Chapter, Tuskegee Airman Organization. Convention chairman for the National Tuskegee Airman Organization, Atlanta, 1980 and assisted in raising funds for the Tuskegee Airman, Inc. Scholarship Fund. Created two calendars depicting actions and events of members of the 99th pursuit squadron, 332nd Fighter Group. Served as lay-leader of the Ben Hill United Methodist Church and was awarded the "1987 Man of the Year."



CLASS SE-42-D  
GRAD 29 April 1942  
SVC# 0789119

# Louis R. Purnell



**Born:** 05 April 1920  
Snow Hill, Maryland

**Education:** Lincoln University, PA, 1939-1941, 1946-1947, B.S. Psychology, Honor Student  
Howard University, Washington D.C., Graduate Studies Clinical Psychology  
George Washington University, Washington D.C., Graduate Studies Oceanography, 1962-1963

**Decorations:** Distinguished Flying Cross  
Air Medal w/ 6 Oak Leaf Clusters

## Military Experience:

Combat Missions: 87  
Entered Military Service July 1942  
Fighter Pilot, Asst. Group Operations Officer, 99th Fighter Squadron, 332nd Fighter Group  
Group Tactical Inspector  
Air Safety Investig.  
Flew P-39, P-40, P-47, P-51  
Discharged August 1946 — Captain

Chief Investigator, Identification Section (Air Force Casualties) Office of the Quartermaster General, Washington, D.C.  
Librarian, U.S. Book Exchange (Ford Foundation) Library of Congress, Smithsonian Institute, Museum of Natural History, Department of Paleobiology, Division of Invertebrate Paleobiology, Curator, Spacecraft, Smithsonian Institution, National Air and Space Museum. Retired 01 January 1985.



CLASS SE-42-F  
GRAD 03 July 1942  
SVC# 0790463

# Curtis C. Robinson



CLASS SE-43-D  
GRAD 29 April 1943  
SVC# 0801174

**Born:** 25 August 1919  
Orangeburg, South Carolina

**Education:** Claflin College, B.S. Chemistry, 1940  
Howard University School of Pharmacy, Washington, D.C.

**Decorations:** Air Medal w/ 1 Cluster  
Distinguished Unit Citation  
European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal

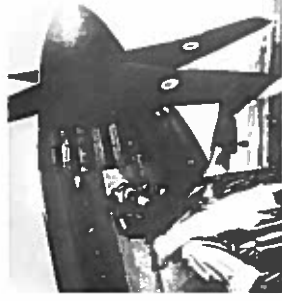
## Military Experience:

Combat Missions: 33  
Entered Military Service April, 1943  
Completed Flying School as 2nd Lt.  
Joined the 99th Fighter Squadron, 332nd Fighter Group, Europe  
Advance Flight Instructor, Tuskegee Air Base  
Acting Base Technical Air Inspector, Lockbourne Air Base, Ohio  
Discharged January, 1947 — 1st Lt.

Employed by the National Security Agency. Upon graduating from Howard University opened a chain of pharmacies and a medical appliance store.



# Lee A. Archer, Jr.



CLASS SE-43-G  
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, M.A. in International Relations  
UCLA, B.A. in Political Science  
New York University, Doctoral Studies in International Policies  
University of Pittsburgh, Advanced Financial Management Program  
Kings College, Honorary Ph.D.

**Decorations:** Distinguished Flying Cross  
Air Medal w/ 8 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, P-39, P-47, P-40  
Flew as a reciprocating reconnaissance 541 Weather Recon Group pilot in Korean conflict and commanded a fighter squadron

Command Executive Officer and Deputy Commander of Bases, USAF Southern Command-Panama Canal Zone

Rank upon leaving service — 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 CEO, Hudson Commercial Corporation — specialized small business investment companies (SSBIC's) wholly-owned

