

TUSKEGEE AIRMEN

332nd Fighter Group

99th Fighter Squadron



Pilot Profiles

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

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

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.

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

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

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.

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

CLASS	SE-42-F
GRAD.	03 July 1942
SVC#	0790453

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

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
American Campaign Medal
WWII Victory Medal
Korean Service Medal
Air Force Longevity Service Award w/ 4 Bronze Oak Leaf Clusters
United Nations Service Medal

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

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."



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

CLASS	SE-42-C
GRAD	07 March 1942
SVC#	0441128

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 the tax department for the state of Connecticut. He retired in June, 1980. Currently he is active in community projects and on the board of directors for the New England Air Museum located at Bradley International Airport, Windsor Locks, CT.

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

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

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 Investg.
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 Institution, Museum of Natural History, Department of Paleobiology, Division of Invertebrate Paleobiology, Curator, Spacecraft, Smithsonian Institution, National Air and Space Museum. Retired 01 January 1985.



Curtis C. Robinson



Born: 25 August 1919
Orangeburg, South Carolina

Education: Claftin 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

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

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 subsidiaries of General Foods Corporation.

