



PACIFIC AVIATION MUSEUM

PEARL HARBOR

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After Obama Inaugural, Tuskegee Airmen Fly in to Speak At Pacific Aviation Museum Pearl Harbor, February 1 & 7

Two of the all-Black elite force of WWII pilots known as the Tuskegee Airmen will speak at Pacific Aviation Museum Pearl Harbor, as part of the Museum's Lecture Series. The famed airmen will be fresh from being special invited guests at Commander-in-Chief Barack Obama's inauguration, but during and after WWII, they faced major prejudice in service to the country they loved.

Their lectures are titled, "From Tuskegee to Triumph" with Lt. Col. Bill Holloman speaking on Sunday, February 1 at 2PM. Saturday, February 7 at 2 PM, Lt. Col. Alexander Jefferson joins him. Tuskegee Airmen book signings and "Red Tail" P-51 model aircraft signings will follow in the Museum Store. Alexander Jefferson's book is titled, Red Tail Captured.

For reservations and information, call the Museum at 808/441-1008 or email tourcoordinator@PacificAviationMuseum.org by February 3. General admission: \$14, adults; \$7, children. Kama`aina and Military admission: \$10 adults; \$5, children. Admission is free to Museum members and military in uniform. More information is available at www.PacificAviationMuseum.org.

In the 1940s, nearly 1,000 Black pilots received segregated training at Tuskegee, Alabama while over 10,000 Black maintenance personnel trained at Chanute Field in Illinois. However, discrimination and unequal treatment did not stop them from becoming WWII heroes. Over 550 pilots and their crews trained as bomber pilots and

crew. An additional 445 fighter pilots and their crews operated in raids such as Anzio Beach and the Ploesti Oilfields. Their goal was to prove that black men could fly and fight as well as any other American.

Obama invited the entire remaining members of the Tuskegee Airmen (about 400 men) to be his inaugural guests, seated on the terrace below the podium, along with former members of Congress. Lt. Col. Bill Holloman who speaks both days at the Museum, was one of the 10 airmen invited to ride in the inaugural parade. Obama has acknowledged his debt to the airmen in a statement in 2007 when they received the much-belated Congressional Gold Medal. In part, it said: “My career in public service was made possible by the path heroes like the Tuskegee Airmen trail-blazed.”

“We’ve come a long way,” Holloman said. “I never thought I’d live to see this day. In fact, I never thought I’d make it to the rank of captain in the Air Force,” the lieutenant colonel said.

Lt Col Holloman, USAF (Ret) flew P-51s with the 99th Fighter Squadron/332nd Fighter Group, in WWII. After World War II he flew P-47s with the 301st Fighter Squadron/332nd Fighter Group, and during the Korean War was a MATS pilot. He was recalled to active duty in 1966, serving in Vietnam and later in Europe as the first black helicopter pilot in the Air Force.

Lt. Col Alex Jefferson, USAF (Ret) flew P-51s with the “Red Tail” 332nd Fighter Group 301st Fighter Squadron escorting B-17s and B-24s. He was shot down over Germany after flying 18 long range missions and was a prisoner of war for nine months. After the war, he became a science teacher and later an assistant principal in the Michigan school system.

Holloman continues, “...I’m proud to be associated with that group of men who not only fought racism among the Nazis, but also here in America. Some of our pilots who were captured by the Germans were asked, why would you fly for a country that treats you as second-class citizens? Compared to what the Nazis were doing, America is the greatest nation on Earth.”

In addition, Holloman will give a special school group presentation on “Field Trip Fridays”—each Friday in February—February 6, 13, 20 and 27, 9am to 12noon. The presentation and Museum Tour is \$5 for students. Reservations are required and seating is limited.

The Museum's restaurant, Laniakea Café and The Museum Store will be open during both events. Pacific Aviation Museum is located at 319 Lexington Boulevard in Hangar 37 on Ford Island at Pearl Harbor.

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