



Tuskegee Airmen, Inc.
Alfonza W. Davis Chapter
Ever Onward, Ever Upward!



A.C. Lofton

Nebraska's Tuskegee Airmen



LTC (Ret) Paul Adams Lincoln, NE

Dreaming of being a pilot since childhood, Paul Adams entered Tuskegee Air Base in Alabama in 1942. This dream was made possible because in 1940, the U.S. War Department asked the training unit to establish an experimental program to prove that blacks could become good pilots and flight instructors.

As a cadet in 1942, Paul Adams began fighter pilot training, and he received his commission as a Second Lieutenant in 1943, class 43-D, assigned to fly the P-40 Warthog in the 332nd fighter group. Upon arrival to Italy with the 332nd Fighter Group, 2LT Adams was reassigned to fly the P-39 Belaire Cobra to patrol the Naples Harbor.

During World War II, the Tuskegee Airmen participated, as members of the four squadron 332nd Fighter group, in more than 1500 missions in Europe and North Africa, losing only 98 pilots, the only unit to obtain such distinction.

In 1945, CPT Adams returned the US and was discharged from the Army Air Corps. In 1946, Mr. Adams married Alda Thompson, and thus reentered the Army as ILT Adams to attend Supply School. After assignments to Lockborne AFB in Columbus, Ohio, as the supply officer, and Travis AFB as the Fleet Service Officer, the Army Air Corps became the US Air Force, and racial integration began.

Other assignments included: Hickam field AFB in Honolulu, HI, in Headquarters Pacific Air Division; instructor at Howard University, Washington, DC; Denver, CO for Photo Interpretation School; Westover, MA, with dual responsibilities as Supply and Intelligence Officer; Goose Bay, Newfoundland as an Intelligence Officer; and finally as Deputy Base Commander at Lincoln, NE.

After three children, Deloris, Gloria, and Michael, and obtaining the rank of Lieutenant Colonel in the Air Force, and 20 years of service, LTC Paul Adams

retired in December 1963. During his service, LTC Adams served in nine major campaigns and received the Commendation Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters.

After retiring from the Air Force, LTC Adams joined the teaching staff at Lincoln High School as an industrial Arts teacher in 1964. He was one of Lincoln's first three African American teachers. He continued to teach until 1982 and retired.

Since then, LTC Adams is a member of Capital City Kiwanis, served as past president of the Lincoln NAACP, served as an officer with the Retired Officers Association, organized a Builders Club at East High School, and served as a Kiwanis Grandpa at Elliott School. LTC Adams remains active in the Masons and in his church.