



DIVERSITY INCLUSION
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

February 2022

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Black History Month is an annual observance originating in the United States, where it is also known as African-American History Month. It has received official recognition from governments in the United States and Canada, and more recently has been observed in Ireland, and the United Kingdom.

It began as a way of remembering people and events in the history of the African diaspora. It is celebrated in February in the United States and Canada, while in Ireland, and the United Kingdom it is observed in October.



Brig. Gen. Charles McGee, decorated Tuskegee Airman, passed away at the age of 102, Jan. 17, 2022.

[Right click to copy online link location for more](#)



Red Tail Leadership Corner

Lt Col Prichard “Mule” Keely, 332d Expeditionary Operations Support Squadron

The 332d Air Expeditionary Wing has a neighborhood feel that keeps people smiling throughout the day and cherishing memories of their time here.

As current day Red Tails, we strive to practice radical inclusion – the intentional inclusion of people from all walks of life. However, this was not the case for the society from which the 332d Fighter Group was formed at Moton Field, Alabama.

The Tuskegee Airmen there faced challenges at every corner. They were given outdated and broken aircraft, forced into segregated training, and prevented from fighting in the initial stages of the European theater. However, even in the midst of hatred and segregation they focused on the mission. They knew that no matter the color or creed of the Airmen flying on their wing, they must get them to the target.

Much like the Tuskegee Airmen of World War II, it is the mission that brings us together. In a society fractured into factions, we have been brought together by our duty to protect our Area of Responsibility. The differences that can divide society are the greatest strengths for Red Tails. The various backgrounds, upbringings, and traditions from our racial and ethnic dissimilarities help us view problems from different paradigms. The Chief of Staff of the Air Force, Gen. Charles Brown, implores us to Accelerate Change or Lose. This cannot be done if we only look at our problems from the same set of experiences and bias. Our diversity is our greatest ally when fighting close-minded enemies.

We must take time to learn about the members of our neighborhood. One of the best ways to carry on the Red Tail standard of acceptance and understanding is to stay curious about people and cultures different from our own. Slow down and take time to recognize and reflect on diversity within your daily routines. This can be differences in race, gender, age, socioeconomics, sexual orientation, ethnicity, or religion. We must acknowledge our own, unintentional, blinders to keep our wing inclusive. Do this by spending time with people outside of our workplace or friend group. Give yourself extra time to stop throughout your daily travel to really get to know where others come from – not just in geography but the fabric of their history.

Our amazing wing is full of vibrant and diverse heritage, culture and values in both our civilian and military members. This melting pot of diversity weaves us into an inseparable and unstoppable Red Tail team.

Thank you for holding a high standard of inclusion and staying curious about the diverse group of people we proudly call Red Tails.

SPIT FIRE!



(Moton Field, Alabama, circa 1943)



LSA Observance Events



Movie Tent: The following movies will begin at 1730 with a brief summary of movie synopsis, significance of characters, and timeframe struggles/accomplishments.

Hidden Figures: Friday ... Feb 4

42 Jackie Robinson: Friday ... Feb 11

Remember the Titans: Friday ... Feb 18

Red Tails: Friday ... Feb 25



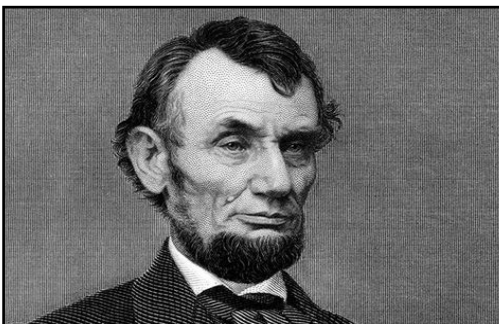
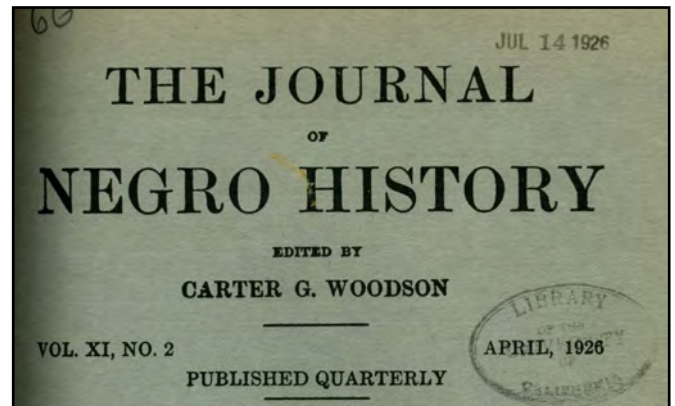
Trivia night @ Reds: A Black History month themed trivia night will take place at Reds patio on Feb 19 starting at 2000. Topics will include authors, prominent military figures, dates in history, advocates for change, and more. The winner will receive a \$25 BX gift card. Teams of four may sign up day of. *POC: SSgt Joshua Rosier*

End of month observance @ Reds: On Saturday, Feb 26, beginning at 1800 a video presentation, detailing the heritage and courage of the original Red Tails, will play with a follow on discussion about the impact and innovators that have influenced change.

Did you know...

The first iteration of Black History Month called Negro History Week originally existed as seven days of commemoration and was created in February 1926 by Carter G. Woodson, known as the “father of Black history.”

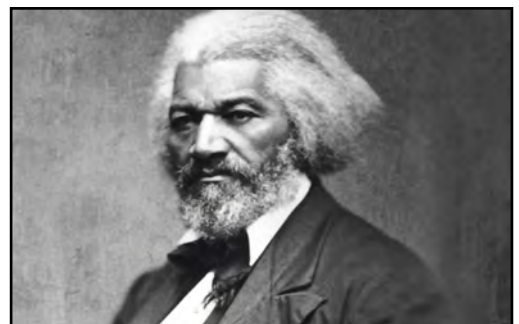
Woodson chose February specifically because it covered the birthdays of Frederick Douglass (Feb. 14) and Abraham Lincoln (Feb. 12). Fifty-years later, President Gerald Ford officially recognized Black History Month in 1976, calling upon the public to “seize the opportunity to honor the too-often neglected accomplishments of black Americans in every area of endeavor throughout our history.”



(President Abraham Lincoln)

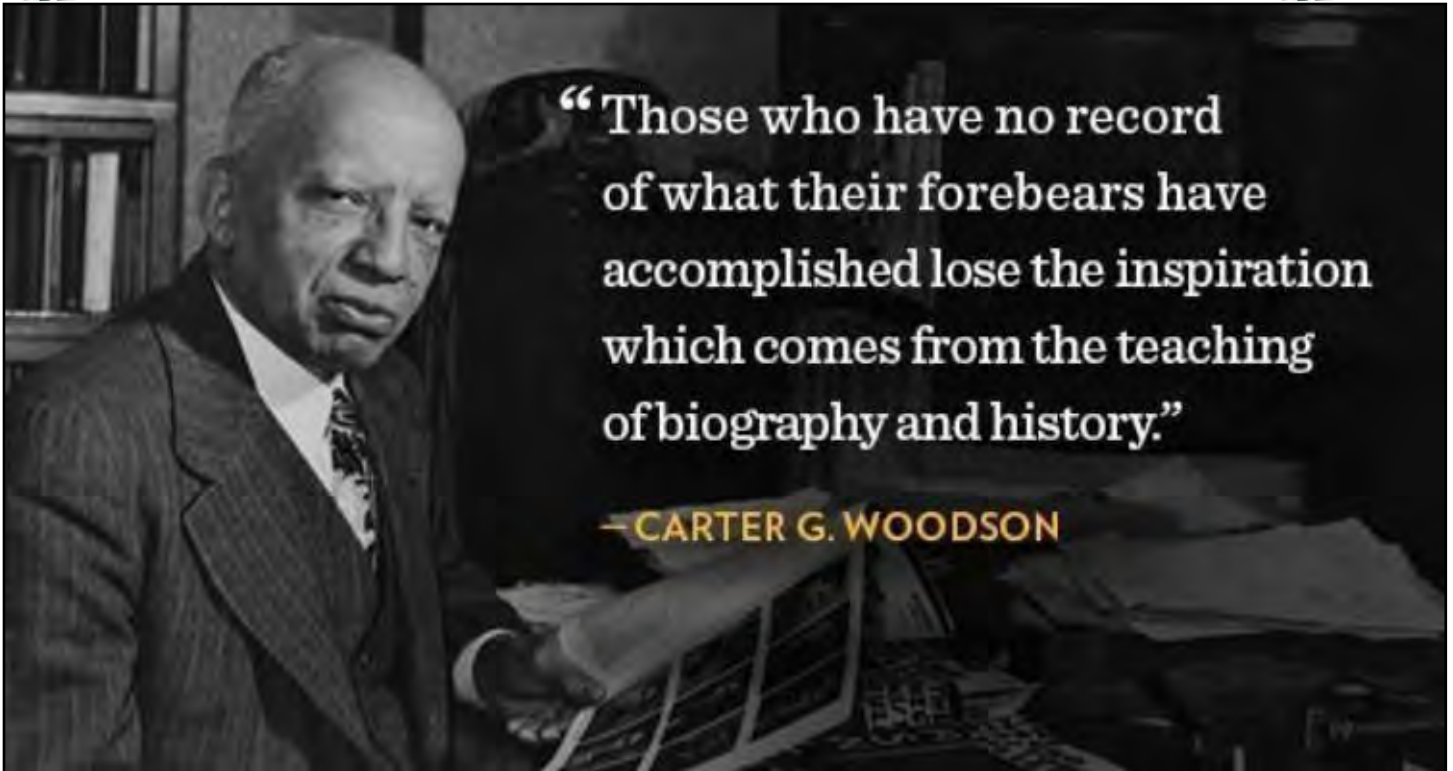


(President Gerald Ford)



(Frederick Douglass)





“Those who have no record of what their forebears have accomplished lose the inspiration which comes from the teaching of biography and history.”

—CARTER G. WOODSON

▲ Known as the "Father of," **Carter G. Woodson** was a scholar whose dedication to celebrating the historic contributions of black Americans led to the establishment of Black History Month, marked every February since 1976.

Gen Benjamin Oliver Davis Jr.

Born Dec. 18, 1912, Gen. was an American United States Air Force general and commander of the World War II Tuskegee Airmen. ▲

He was the first African-American general officer in the United States Air Force. On December 9, 1998, he was advanced to four-star general by President Bill Clinton. During World War II, Davis was commander of the 99th and the 332nd Fighter Group, which escorted bombers on air combat missions over Europe. Davis himself flew sixty missions in P-39, Curtiss P-40, P-47 and P-51 Mustang fighters. Davis followed in his father's footsteps in breaking racial barriers, as Benjamin O. Davis, Sr. was the first African-American general in the United States Army. He passed away July 4, 2002.





Chair: MSgt Kelly Goonan



Co-Chair: TSgt Avery Usita



MSgt Kelly Goonan



TSgt Avery Usita

Diversity & Inclusion Vision & Mission

Build upon an environment where all Red Tails can thrive, develop, and rise to their maximum potential.

Develop and take care of Warfighters by embracing equality through removing barriers and developing pathways that allow Red Tails to rise to their maximum potential.

Resources

Right click the links below to copy online link location for more



[CSAF on Diversity & Inclusion](#)
[Gen. Charles Q. Brown, Jr.](#)



[MLK Commentary: American hero, champion for Diversity and Inclusion](#)



[Tuskegee Airmen: Sacrifice and Triumph](#)



[AF Instruction, Policy Directives: Diversity & Inclusion: AFI 36-7001](#)
[Diversity & Inclusion: APD 36-70](#)

Perspective

Gen. Charles Q. Brown, Jr., Chief of Staff of the Air Force

“I want the wisdom and knowledge to lead, participate in, and listen to necessary conversations on racism, diversity and inclusion. I want the wisdom and knowledge to lead those willing to take committed and sustained action to make our Air Force better.”

”

JoAnne S. Bass, Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force

“Our Air Force is on the right side of history. We are creating not only historic moments ... we are focused on setting a foundation for all Americans to see themselves in this great institution.”