



Herbert E. Carter, Lt. Col., U.S. Air Force (Ret.)

A member of Class 42-F, the fourth group of black aviators to earn silver wings at Tuskegee Army Air Field, Herbert E. Carter served an 18-month tour of duty overseas as Aircraft Maintenance Officer for the 99th Fighter Squadron. He also flew 77 missions as a combat pilot in North Africa, Sicily, Italy and Southern Europe against the Italian and German air forces.

Carter and his squadron broke the bonds of discrimination over the beaches of Anzio, Italy, in January 1944, by destroying 17 German fighters, while protecting the Allied invasion fleet.

Carter's military decorations include the Air Medal with four Oak Leaf Clusters, the Air Force Commendation Medal, and the Distinguished Unit Citation, European Theater Medal with five Bronze Stars, National Defense Medal and the Air Force Longevity Medal.

He earned bachelor of science (1955) and master's (1969) degrees, both from Tuskegee Institute. And, after retiring from the Air Force, served at Tuskegee as Associate Dean of Student Services and as Associate Dean of Admissions and Recruiting.

Carter, born on September 27, 1919, in Amory, Mississippi, lectures nationally and internationally on the achievements of the Tuskegee Airmen.

Charles W. Dryden, Lt. Col., U.S. Air Force (Ret.)

A 21-year veteran of the U.S. Air Force, Charles W. Dryden earned his wings on April 29, 1942, as one of three graduates in the second class of black aviators to become Tuskegee Airmen.

In the summer of 1943, Dryden, flying a P-40, nicknamed "A-Train," led a flight of six fighters in aerial combat over Pantelleria, Sicily, becoming the first black U.S. Army Air Corps pilot to engage enemy aircraft.

Dryden's long military career included combat missions in Korea and duty assignments in Japan, Germany and 10 bases in the United States. He served as a Professor of Air Science at Howard University, and retired from the Air Force in 1962 as a command pilot.

He was a founding member of the Atlanta Chapter-Tuskegee Airmen, Inc., in 1978, and has served as president and vice president. In 1998, he was inducted into the Georgia Aviation Hall of Fame. He earned a bachelor's degree from Hofstra University and a master's degree in Public Law and Government from Columbia University.

Dryden was born on September 16, 1920, in New York. His autobiography, "A-Train: Memoirs of a Tuskegee Airmen," was published in 1997 by the University of Alabama Press.

Dryden and his wife, Marymal Morgan Dryden, make their home in Atlanta, Georgia.

