



HONOREES – MEMBERS OF THE HISTORIC 99TH FIGHTER SQUADRON

George R. Bolling, Major, U.S. Air Force (Ret.)



As a member of the 99th Fighter Squadron, Tuskegee Airman George R. Bolling flew 66 combat missions during his tour of duty in Sicily, Italy, North Africa and Europe, a baker's dozen more than the number of missions white fighter pilots were required to fly.

Bolling entered the service in October 1941, after graduation from Hampton Institute, a historically black college in Virginia. He was one of the pioneering participants in the "Tuskegee Experiment," which involved the training of African Americans as fighter pilots at Tuskegee Army Airfield in Alabama.

In April 1943, Bolling was transferred overseas for combat duty with the Fighting 99th, a unit that earned its metal as part of the 332nd Fighter Group, led by Col. Benjamin O. Davis, Jr.

At war's end, Bolling remained in the Army Air Corps, serving as an Electronics Communications Officer until his retirement, with the rank of major, from the modern U.S. Air Force, on December 31, 1961.

After retirement, Bolling was employed by the U.S. Postal Service as an electronics technician. He retired from the Postal Service in May 1987, and has since been spending his time enjoying his family and life in general.

Bolling was born on August 14, 1920, in Hampton, Virginia.

Bolling and his wife, Dolores, live in San Jose, California. They have three adult sons, George, John and Frank.

William A. Campbell, Colonel, U.S. Air Force (Ret.)

William A. Campbell was born and grew up very near the Tuskegee Institute in Alabama. After graduating from high school at Tuskegee, he enrolled at the Tuskegee Institute and got his Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration. After the outbreak of World War II, Campbell enlisted in the Army as an Aviation Cadet and was awarded his wings in July 1942.

After about nine months of stateside training, Lt. Campbell was sent overseas with the 99th Fighter Squadron in April 1943.

On the morning of June 2, 1943, Lt. Campbell, along with Lt. Charles B. Hall, flew the first combat mission of the 99th Fighter Squadron, which was attached to the 33rd Fighter Group flying out of Fardjouna (Cap Bon, Tunisia). Campbell and Hall flew as wingmen on this first mission to Pantelleria.

Campbell completed his first combat tour in December 1943 and was rotated back to the United States; however, he soon volunteered for another combat tour and was sent back to the 99th Fighter Squadron. Because of his skill, bravery and aggressiveness as a flight leader, Campbell was soon promoted to Major and assumed command of the 99th. Major Campbell completed his second tour with a total of 106 combat missions. He was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross with one Oak Leaf cluster and the Air Medal with nine Oak Leaf clusters for his WWII service, which included an Me-109 victory on March 31, 1945.

After 28 years in the service he worked as a controller in the Pentagon. He received a master's degree in Business Administration from the University of Pittsburgh and worked at the Post Naval Graduate School as a professor.

A resident of Seaside, California he and his wife Wilma have three sons.

