

HUBERT L "HOOKS" JONES CHAPTER



TUSKEGEE AIRMEN, INC.  
GIVING THE PAST A FUTURE

©

June 15, 2021

Volume 4

## Hubert L. "Hooks" Jones Chapter



**Major Warren D. Alexander**

First President and Co-Founder

Hubert L. "Hooks" Jones Chapter

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### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- DOTA Tribute
- Tuskegee Statue Rededication
- In Remembrance

Tuskegee Airmen, Inc.®



*Giving History A Future!*

# *DOTA TRIBUTE*

## *Warren D. Alexander*

### **Major Warren D. Alexander**

May 27, 1921—June 4, 1994

### **Heritage Award**

August 6, 2003

The Heritage Award was presented posthumously to the Alexander family by the

Hubert L. “Hooks” Jones Chapter on August 6, 2003

The award honors the dedication and legacy left by Documented Original Tuskegee Airman

Major Warren D. Alexander



**Welcome** to the quarterly newsletter of the Hubert L. “Hooks” Jones Chapter. Each quarter, we pay tribute to one of our own Documented Original Tuskegee Airmen (DOTA). This quarter we are honoring Major Warren D. Alexander as co-founder and first President of the Hubert L. “Hooks” Jones Chapter Tuskegee Airmen, Inc.

After retiring from the military, Warren served the community of Denver with honor and purpose. He became a Methodist Minister and founded the Metro Denver Fair Housing Center and served as Board of Directors Chairman. Please read more about Alexander’s remarkable contributions on page four.

As many of you know, we have stayed very busy in the midst of a crazy year. Numerous accomplishments and celebrations. One highlight was the rededication of the Tuskegee Statue created by Clarence Shivers. The ceremony was held at the United States Air Force Academy on May 7, 2021. Thank you to Second Vice President Oscar Mayhew for making the celebration happen.

We also experienced great loss. In March, we said goodbye to three of our long-time members, Alan Omar, Jeweldine Blair, and Lowell Bell. As a small token of our gratitude for their contributions to the Hubert L. “Hooks” Jones Chapter we are sharing thoughts and words from their families. These memories can be found starting on page 5.

I would like to thank each family member who helped make this newsletter happen. I would not have been able to capture it in words without the thoughts and stories from the Alexander family, the Omar family, the Blair family, and the Bell family.

Thank you for sharing your treasured loved ones with the Hubert L. “Hooks” Jones Chapter. We will cherish the memories.

Blessings,

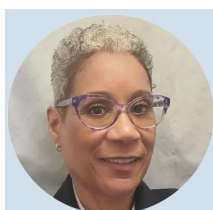
Elizabeth Harper  
Communications Officer/Historian

# NEW

## HLHJ BOARD OF DIRECTORS



John Porche  
President



Gabrielle Martin  
First Vice President



Candace Moon  
Secretary



Vorry Moon  
Parliamentarian



Lt. Col. James Harvey  
Documented Original

The Hubert L. “Hooks” Jones  
Chapter would like to  
introduce our new  
Board.

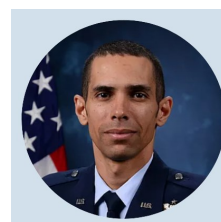
Please go to  
[colorado-redtails.org](http://colorado-redtails.org)  
to read complete biographies.  
Thank you to the past Board  
for your service.

We are grateful for those who  
have continued to serve and  
for those who have accepted  
these positions.

Welcome to the new Board.



Mark Dickerson  
Immediate Past President/  
Board Chairman



Oscar Mayhew  
Second Vice President



John Thomas  
Treasurer



Elizabeth Harper  
Historian



William Eric Mosley  
Mile High Flight Project



# Major Warren D. Alexander

Major Warren D. Alexander was born on May 27, 1921 in San Antonio, Texas. He joined the Tuskegee Airmen 477<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Group, B-25 Bombardment Unit serving under Col. Benjamin O. Davis, Jr.

In 1958-1959 Warren served at the American Embassy in Beirut, Lebanon. This assignment allowed him to explore other Middle Eastern countries and learn about their cultures.

Warren retired from the military on November 1, 1964. Warren studied at Iliff School of Theology in Denver and became an ordained Methodist minister. He served at Scott Methodist Church and Park Hill United Methodist Church.

Warren was appointed first Deputy Director of the Colorado Civil Rights Commission. He taught Black History courses at the high school and college levels throughout the state of Colorado.

A veteran of the United States Air Force, Warren retired with the grade of Major in November of 1964 after twenty-two years of service to his nation, much of which involved his role as a commanding officer devoted to the supervision of USAF Personnel and Administrative Regulations. He served at various military and diplomatic installations in the U.S. and around the world, including U.S. Embassy in Beirut, Lebanon where he represented his country as both a military officer and diplomat.

As a retired Air Force veteran, Warren served with great pride as President and co-founder of the Denver Chapter of the Hubert L. "Hooks" Jones Chapter of the Tuskegee Airmen, Inc.

Following his retirement from the military, Warren embarked on a long and distinguished career of community service. Warren served as the first Board Chairman and founder of the Metro Denver Fair Housing Center, President of the North East Park Hill Civic Association, first Board Chairman of the Denver Head Start. Warren was active in Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity.

Under the appointment of former Colorado Governor Richard D. Lamm and affirmed by former President Jimmy Carter, he served as State Director for the US National Selective Service System.

Warren received numerous State and National awards and recognition while living in Denver. A highlight was the Heritage Award given posthumously to the Alexander Family by the Hubert L. "Hooks" Jones Chapter on August 6, 2003.

Warren and his wife Mary were members of Park Hill United Methodist Church, Denver, CO.



## FAMILY

Larry, Warren's son wrote in his biography:

hobbies /activities—FAMILY

Of the many accomplishments, it is apparent Warren's family and the Alexander Family name is his greatest legacy.

Warren is survived by his beautiful wife

**Mary C. Alexander**

Their three children

**Lawrence R. Alexander**

**Lynette D. Booker**

**Sharon Alexander-Holt**

Three grandchildren

**Tyree Booker, James Booker, Sheena Holt**

Seven great grandchildren

# *In Remembrance...*

*To those we lost who touched the skies in life  
and to those who loved them*

## *High Flight*

**Oh! I have slipped the surly bonds of Earth  
And danced the skies on laughter-silvered wings;  
Sunward I've climbed, and joined the tumbling mirth  
of sun-split clouds,-and done a hundred things  
You have not dreamed of-wheeled and soared and swung  
High in the sunlit silence. Hov'ring there,  
I've chased the shouting wind along, and flung  
My eager craft through footless halls of air....  
Up, up the long, delirious, burning blue  
I've topped the wind-swept heights with easy grace  
Where never lark nor ever eagle flew-  
And, while with silent lifting mind I've trod  
The high untrespassed sanctity of space,  
Put out my hand, and touched the face of God**

By John Gillespie Magee



Alan Michael Osur

March 7, 2021



Jeweldine Blair

March 22, 2021

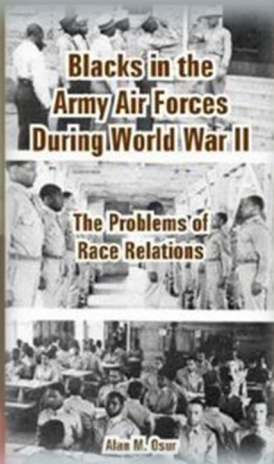


Lowell Bell

March 31, 2021



# Alan Michael Osur



Alan began studying history as a child, avidly reading the encyclopedia whenever he had free time. When he was lucky enough to be able to go to graduate school, he became very interested in race relations. He received his PhD in History from the University of Denver in 1971. The focus of his dissertation turned into the book Blacks in the Army/Air Forces During World War II. While researching his topic, he interviewed the following Tuskegee Airmen (either in person, or by correspondence) Col William Campbell (ret), Lt. Col. Samuel Curtis (ret), Lt. Gen. Daniel James, Jr (ret), Col. C.D. Lester, Jr (ret), Lt. Col Robert Ashby (ret), Sgt. William Jackson (ret), Brig. Gen Lucius Theus (ret), and Lt. Col Spann Watson (ret) , among others. He also worked with the Defense Race Relations Institute for several years. He was very proud to be an honorary Tuskegee Airman.

What follows is the obituary that his daughter, Kirsten Osur Enrich, wrote in March.

Alan Michael Osur passed away on March 7, 2021 at 80. He was pre-deceased by his first wife, Madelyn, who died in 2005. He is survived by, among others, his wife Lisa Benhammou-Osur, five children and stepchildren, his sister and two brothers, and nine grandchildren.

He was born in Paterson, N.J., and earned degrees from Rutgers, University of Connecticut, Denver University, and Regis. The Air Force and his love of travel took him all over the world. He saw life as a series of adventures and challenges: serving in Vietnam, taking his family to Germany for four years, becoming an expert on race relations in the military, volunteering on an archeological dig in Israel during a war, or climbing a Fourteener or two, solo, in a single day.

He had careers as an officer in the Air Force and software engineering and enjoyed both, but his dream jobs were the years he spent as a history professor and rugby coach at the Air Force Academy.

He loved rugby. His journey with the sport began while he was stationed in England in the mid-1960s. He played his first game for Shelford, and he kept playing well into his 60s. He established the Air Force Academy's rugby programs for men and women, influencing the lives of countless young cadets. As coach, he led the women's team to two national championships. His contributions to rugby -- as a player, coach, referee, and administrator -- extended far beyond the Air Force Academy, helping shape the modern sport in America.

He was a member of Temple Shalom in Colorado Springs, local historical societies, and an honorary member of the Tuskegee Airmen. He was an avid tennis player, a prolific reader, writer and traveler, an amateur archeologist, and a collector of Civil War bullets.

Husband, father, grandfather, brother, professor, historian. coach, teammate, mentor, father of Air Force Rugby, he will be missed and remembered.

# Jeweldine Edwards Blair

June 4, 1925 ~ March 22, 2021



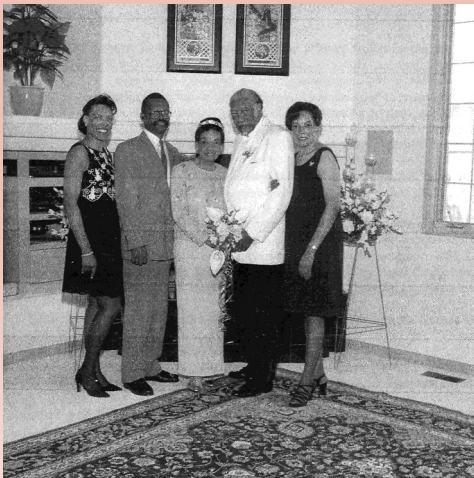
Jeweldine Blair, wife of Tuskegee Airman Omar Blair, was born in a home her father built on June 4, 1925 in Beloit, Wisconsin. She was the second of eight children, all girls. Jewel grew up singing, dancing, reading, and ice skating on the Rock River during the cold Wisconsin winters. In high school she played basketball, soccer, softball, and volleyball, and played saxophone in the concert and marching bands. After graduation she moved to Ohio and worked in a factory 6 days a week rebuilding fuel pumps for the Army Air Corps. Even as a teenager she exemplified what any parent hopes their daughter will be: strong, courageous, honest, and compassionate.

Jeweldine found her soulmate in a tall, handsome man named Omar Blair who had been an Army Air Corps Captain in WWII, a member of the "Original Tuskegee Airmen". As Jewel worked for the City and County of Denver, Omar worked at the Rocky Mountain Arsenal and painted houses on the side. They raised 3 children. In the 1970s Omar was elected to the Denver Urban Renewal Board, and later served on the School Board for the Denver Public Schools for twelve years – the first African-American to serve as its president.

Jewel and Omar were active members of Shorter AME church, and Jewel served on many boards. She was a member of Shorter church for 70 years. Jewel was privileged to attend the graduations for high school, college, and medical school of her four grandchildren. She celebrated the weddings of two grandchildren and was blessed with five great-grandchildren.

Jeweldine was overjoyed to vote for our first Black President, Barack Obama. She was later pleased to see the election of our first woman and person of color in the role of Vice President, Kamala Harris. In her final year of life, she thankfully avoided the COVID virus and proudly received both vaccinations.

Omar was a big man with a big presence. Jewel had her own presence too, although it was softer and often outshined by Omar's. When Omar passed away in 2004, Jewel's children were delighted to hear their mother's voice blossom in his absence. Now that Jewel is gone, both voices have gone quiet. But those who knew her can still feel her presence and hear her own soft voice in their memories.





# LOWELL BELL

## ON PARENTING:

Like many military fathers Lowell (my dad) was a disciplinarian. And as was the prevailing parenting style of the time I got the occasional spanking (don't worry; I am in no way scarred). On one particular occasion, when I was about seven, my mom issued those fateful words, "Wait until your father gets home." When he came in I decided to protect my self by putting a book in the seat of my pants. He spanked me open handed, I cried-we both played our roles. He didn't remember the incident, but I've often wondered what he was thinking at the time. I now think it shows a sense of humor and a tenderness that his gruff parental bearing disguised.

## ON ARTISANSHIP:

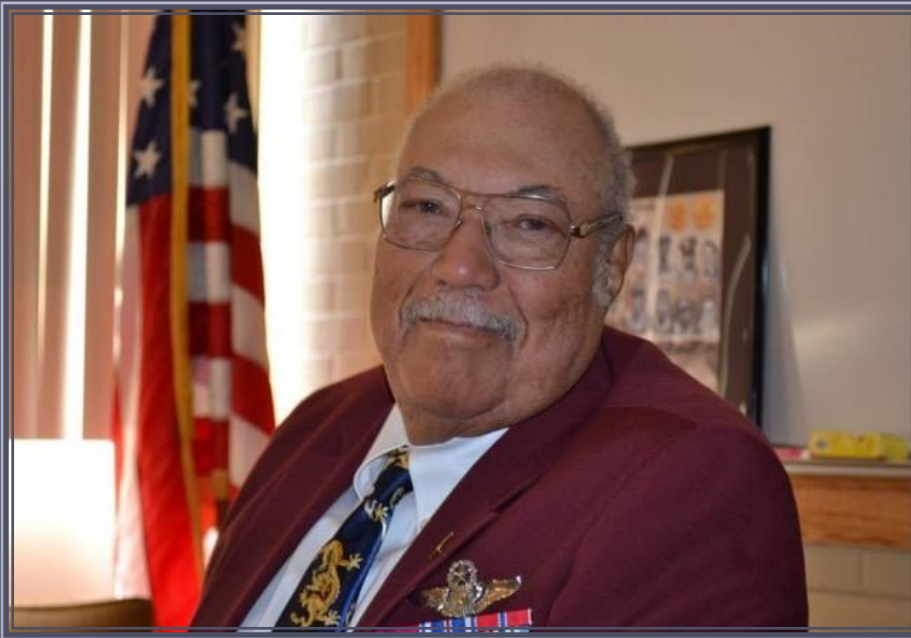
Lowell Bell was a consummate craftsman. His talents were recognized early. Throughout his life he designed and built furniture for his home. He was partial to ornate styles; Elizabethan, Chippendale, the Ball & Claw motif. Each room and corridor in his house holds several pieces by his hand, each a testament to his art.

During his retirement years he took to rebuilding Model-As. The first ( a 1930 Tudor) was a point of pride that he drove in countless parades, with a grandchild or two in the rumble seat whenever possible. The second combined his two passions of wood work and restoration. He started with little more than a chassis and ended with a Woody Coupe that is unique in the Model-A world. I don't have the words to describe the beauty in the details of that car.

## LEGACY:

Much may be said about Lowell's humble beginnings and his military, civic, familial, and artistic accomplishments but the crucial aspect of his legacy was his approach to life. He believed there was right way to do everything and he always strove toward that ineffable goal. It may have made him insufferable from time to time because he set a standard of excellence for himself and he expected it of others. Set the bar high and when you reach it, move it higher. If we all took that approach, the world would be a much better place.

—DUTCH



Hubert L. "Hooks" Jones, Past President





# Mile High Flight

## SOARS

Exciting news from Eric Mosley and the Mile High Flight team.

Comments taken from the May Mile High Flight Update

The Mile High Flight program was excited for the opportunity to apply for assistance from the BRIC (Black Resilience in Colorado) organization and thrilled when we received word that MHF was selected to receive a \$20,000 grant! As stated on their website, "BRIC supports nonprofit organizations that are led by and serve Black communities." We're grateful to BRIC for their support of our mission, as we continue to provide once-in-a-life-time opportunities to diverse communities throughout the Denver Metro region.

Please visit

<https://www.milehighflight.org/>

## A Grandpa's Legacy

Eli Bell is the grandson of Lowell Bell and former student of the Mile High Flight Program.

Eli has written a wonderful letter of gratitude to Eric and the Mile High Flight team. Below is a quote. The entire letter can be found in May's Mile High Flight update.

**"I couldn't stop thinking about the impact MHFP has had on me. Although you probably already know, my grandfather**

**Lowell Bell was the one to introduce me to the Mile High Flight**

**Program, and this past week he passed away.**

**He was a role model in my life, as all Tuskegee Airmen are, and I looked up to what he was able to do - the paths he forged and people he helped."**

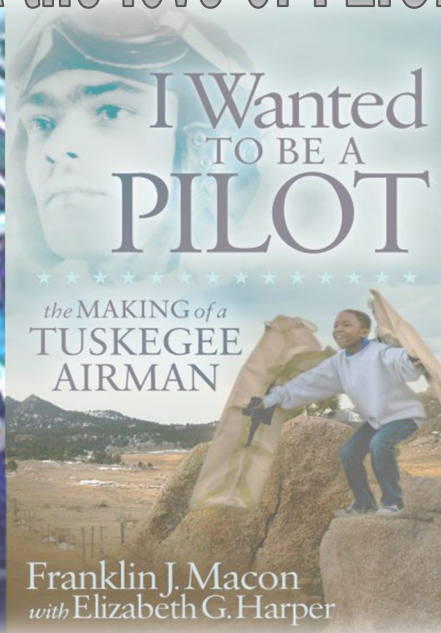
**—Eli Bell**

Check out Eli's award winning project.

Third place Naval Science Award from the U.S Navy and Marine Corps' Office of Naval Research.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UBVv6HgMivI>

# Spark the love of FLIGHT!



Fly through history with DOTA Frank Macon.

Order your book today for your kids and grandkids.

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or

Amazon Barnes and Noble  
Indie Bound  
Powell's Books  
BulkBooks Ingram Publishing

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Est. 2010

# Visit

## Denver Public Library's-Warren D. Alexander Community Room

<https://www.denverlibrary.org/reserve-room/warren-d-alexander-community-room?page=3>



## Colorado Springs Pioneers Museum

### COS@150 Exhibit

On exhibit, Franklin Macon's Tuskegee Jacket

<https://www.cspm.org/cos-150-story/franklin-macon/>



# CELEBRATE BESSIE: 100 YEARS OF FLIGHT



### Fly-by / Air Show

WHEN: June 19th 2021 : 9:00 AM

WHERE: Rocky Mountain Metro Airport  
11755 Airport Way,  
Broomfield, CO 80021

### FEATURING:

Fly-by: Dagmar Kress

Rocky Mountain Renegades Air Show Team

### TRIBUTE TO BESSIE (Light Refreshments)

WHEN: June 19th 2021 : 6:00 PM

WHERE: Exploration of Flight :  
Wings over the Rockies  
13005 Wings Way,  
Englewood, CO 80112

### FEATURING:

Tuskegee Airmen: LtCol James Harvey III

**RSVP: [info@colorado-redtails.org](mailto:info@colorado-redtails.org)**



Dagmar Kress





# UNITED STATES AIR FORCE ACADEMY

## TUSKEGEE AIRMEN STATUE REDEDICATION

MAY 7, 2021



## Gratitude

Lt. Gen. Richard Clark spoke at the 2021 Tuskegee Airmen Statue Rededication. He shared his gratitude for those who came before him. Gen. Clark is an example of how the Tuskegee Airmen and their contributions are seen today in leadership throughout the Armed Forces.

Thank you HLHJ Chapter 2nd Vice President Oscar Mayhew for organizing a wonderful ceremony and making it happen in the midst of a year of cancellations.





***Tuskegee Airmen of World War II***  
By  
Lt. Col. Clarence Shivers, DOTA  
USAFA

PLEASE  
PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE

# MISSION

Tuskegee Airmen, Inc., Hubert L. "Hooks" Jones Chapter is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to:

Honoring the accomplishments and perpetuating the history of African-Americans who participated in air crew, ground crew and operations support training in the Army Air Corps during WWII.

Introducing young people across the nation to the world of aviation, aerospace, mathematics and science through local programs such as the Mile High Flight Program.

Providing annual scholarships and awards to deserving individuals, groups and corporations whose deeds lend support to the goals of Tuskegee Airmen Inc.

## Calendar

July 10, 2021	Board Meeting 11:00 A.M.
July, 2021	No Chapter Meeting –Summer Break
August 7, 2021	Board Meeting 11:00 A.M.
August 21, 2021	No Chapter Meeting– Summer Break
September 4, 2021	Board Meeting 11:00 A.M.– Location TBD
September 18, 2021	Chapter Meeting 11:00 A.M.-Location TBD
National Convention September 16-18, 2021	Virtual

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