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RIVETS AND MERCHANDISE

You can acquire your rivets and Red Tail merchandise online at www.redtail.org.

Rivet Sponsorship is a modern version of the war bond drives that supported the war effort in WWII. Your \$30 donation per rivet provides you a rivet sponsorship on the Mustang.

You will receive a commemorative certificate, signed by an original Tuskegee Airmen. Your name or the name of any person you choose to recognize or memorialize will reflect your contribution to this historic project.



100% of merchandise proceeds benefit the Red Tail Project goals. View all merchandise available online at www.redtail.org

MERCHANDISE/DONATION REPORT

January 2004 through December 2006

MERCHANDISE

Merchandise – Internet sales	5,584.85
Merchandise – Retail	29,678.43
Total Merch	35,878.28

DONATIONS

Donations – Internet	4,313.50
Donations - Retail	132,156.21
Total Donations	136,469.71

TOTAL: \$172,347.99

COMMEMORATIVE AIR FORCE MINNESOTA WING

Red Tail Reborn Documentary to Air February 11th on Cleveland Public Television



Adam White and his crew interviewing for Red Tail Reborn at Wahpeton, North Dakota where the P-51C Mustang is being restored. (Photo by Max Haynes)

Cleveland filmmaker, Adam White, won a regional Emmy in 2005 for his one-hour documentary, "The Restorers." Now, paired with Cleveland's PBS station, he has completed his second film, "Red Tail Reborn," which will have its television premiere on February 11, 2007 during African American history month. Narrated by television star, Michael Dorn, the movie details both the heroic tale of the Tuskegee Airmen, and of a dedicated man who died trying to tell their story.

The Tuskegee Airmen were the first and only African American pilots of their time. The documentary chronicles the history of the group as they are segregated from white squadrons, and originally told that "black men are cowards," and "not only lacked the mental capacity to command, but courage, as well."

Despite America's racism of the era, these men then went on to fight in WWII, garnering one of the most impressive combat records in American history.

Unfortunately, very few people know about the Airmen's story, and so the film goes on to investigate the Red Tail Project, a group of people determined to educate America about a forgotten part of its history.

While touring the country with a restored P-51C Mustang fighter plane painted in homage to the Tuskegee Airmen, the airplane malfunctioned during an air show demonstration and ends in tragedy, killing the pilot and destroying the aircraft.

The film has been supported by the Tuskegee community, and boasts a number of rare interviews by the legendary Airmen themselves.

Produced by Hemlock Films, a Cleveland-based production company, the documentary's crew is comprised completely of freelancers who make a living working in the Ohio film community.

View the movie trailer at: <http://www.redtail.org/video/rttrailer.html>
DVD's will be available for purchase after the premiere date at www.redtail.org!

www.redtail.org



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"Our objective is to carry the lessons and legacy of the Tuskegee Airmen into every classroom in America!"

Don Hinz



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Minnesota Wing

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Dale Klapmeier
Cirrus Design

Dale Klapmeier, who with his brother, Alan, co-founded Cirrus Design, has been fascinated by airplanes since childhood. Like many who have an affinity for the classic warbirds, the P-51 Mustang has always been a favorite so when Cirrus Design was approached to support the Red Tail Project, the thought of supporting the airplane was foremost to him – at first.

It wasn't long after Cirrus Design officially became a partner of the Red Tail Project that Klapmeier began to learn more details about the Tuskegee Airmen's experiences in WWII and what they faced when they returned home. The more he learned, the more impressed he was with this group of African-American fighter pilots who had to overcome so much in order to serve their country.

Klapmeier has given countless interviews about Cirrus Design. And often, he and his brother are compared to people like the Wright Brothers and other noteworthy Americans because of the perseverance they showed in getting their dream of a new and better airplane off the ground. When asked about the perseverance of the Tuskegee Airmen compared to the perseverance it took to make Cirrus Design a success, he was quick to reply. He said, "What we did has no comparison to what they did. Yes, we had dreams like they did but no one was shooting at us when our dreams did come true!"

He went on, "They had to prove themselves not only in society as black men in a segregated nation but as the best of the best against an Axis power. 'No mistakes' was a mantra with these guys and then when it was all done, they came home to a country that said it didn't matter and basically swept their accomplishments under the rug.

HELP NEEDED TO REBUILD RED TAIL PROJECT MUSTANG WINGS

As the Red Tail Project continues to make significant progress in the restoration of its flagship P-51C, the urgency for increased funding and sponsorship dollars is becoming increasingly vital.

Rebuilding the aircraft's wing sections is the project's most acute need and is quickly becoming the critical path.

Because of the estimated 8 month production time for a set of wings and an increasing backlog for the wing jig, each day that passes without funding exponentially moves out the date we can have the Mustang airborne as time slots for the jig fill in ahead of us.

"The Tuskegee Airmen redefined what courage was. They changed society by pushing back, proving they could not only fly but contribute in other ways when they came home."

The educational aspect of the Red Tail Project is important to Klapmeier. "The Red Tail Project is more than just a cool airplane flying around. The whole story is in that red tail and what it represents." It's important to him that people, especially school-age children, be exposed to the story of who the Tuskegee Airmen are and what they did to prove themselves in the war and afterwards.

Klapmeier shared another observation. "Just the other day, I was watching the military channel on TV and they did a piece on a fighter ace. They were talking about a particular battle with ME 109's [Messerschmidts] and showed two of them in dogfight with an American fighter. There wasn't a bomber in sight – the American fighter had pulled away from the group to fight. We celebrate aces for their victories but most of these guys chased the enemy – they wanted to add another swastika painted on their airplane to mark a "kill".

We don't celebrate the Tuskegee Airmen like these aces because they did not leave their bombers. They held the course; there was no glamour in what they did. They fought the Germans just as hard, and many died, but the key is that they took on the enemy as it came to them and did not leave their charges – the heavy bombers – exposed. That's why they never lost a bomber they were protecting, a phenomenal record.

"And that's a great lesson for all of us. Look at today's sports heroes, the ones the kids look up to. They are individual stars; it's not about the team. One of the great lessons of the Tuskegee Airmen is that it was about the team. They got more done, made more of an impact, because they worked together."

Klapmeier had one final observation about how silly it would be to compare the struggles to start a company against the struggles the Tuskegee Airmen faced. "We were told "no" again and again. We kept at it but if in the end we hadn't succeeded, we'd just be flying around in an old Cessna or something. If these guys hadn't succeeded, where would we be? Our nation is still reaping the benefits of their fight against Nazism and segregation; their perseverance has had a very different consequence."

Your financial support of the Red Tail Project will make a difference in when this airplane is able to take to the sky and carry its message across the nation again.

No contribution should be considered too small to make a real difference! Please consider partnering with the Red Tail Project today by making a tax deductible donation. 100% of the funds raised go directly to the rebuilding this significant piece of our history.

Donate online at www.redtail.org



DON HINZ CHILDREN'S BOOK HELPS RAISE MONEY FOR RED TAIL PROJECT

This book, geared to school children grades 3-5 details the compelling story and passionate drive that led Don Hinz to develop and ultimately give his life to the Red Tail Project. "America's Flying Tribute to the Tuskegee Airmen."

Don's mission was to present the living legacy of the Tuskegee Airmen to the world. His vision was to have their story in every classroom in America, The Red Tail Project is a result of Don's vision to restore an inspirational symbol representing the contributions of African Americans during World War, and preserve this history through an aviation based program. Because of Don's and many volunteers' dedication to the Red Tail Project, the P-51C Mustang "Tuskegee Airmen" will be rebuilt to fly again and a traveling educational program will be implemented.

A \$5.00 donation is requested to cover the cost of shipping the book. Additional donations will go towards the restoration of the 'Tuskegee Airmen' P-51C aircraft and the Red Tail Project educational program"

To order a copy, go to the Red Tail Project e-store at: www.redtail.org



Check out our new Tuskegee Gear!
www.redtail.org



REBUILDING A LEGEND RIVET BY RIVET - By Robyn Feld

In the tiny town of Wahpeton, North Dakota, the rebuild of a very special WWII-era P-51C Mustang fighter is proceeding slowly but steadily. Teams of volunteers from the upper Midwest make regular trips to work on her and report their progress on the Red Tail Project's website: www.redtail.org.

When a plane is as badly broken as "The Tuskegee Airmen" was in the 2004 crash that claimed the life of her pilot, Don Hinz, it's understood that the work to put her together again will be painstaking. Pieces need to be sorted through and new pieces fabricated to replace original components that were too imperfect to be reused.

The work is hard but the focus is always on the end result: an airplane that is the focal point for telling the history of the Tuskegee Airmen - African American men who fought racial discrimination to be allowed to fight the Axis powers in the second World War.

The Tuskegee Airmen flew many types of aircraft but were well-known for flying Mustangs with distinctive red tails. They flew hundreds of missions and never lost a bomber under their protection – an amazing record. They accomplished this by working together and focusing on the matter at hand. No one pilot ever left the group to engage in an individual dogfight with the enemy. They stayed true to their purpose and saved countless American lives through their dedication.

When the airplane is airworthy again, she will appear at air shows and other venues, a piece of living history. The Red Tail Project also plans to have a traveling museum accompany the plane so that people can get a complete picture of what the Tuskegee Airmen faced and overcame.



QUESTIONS ABOUT TUSKEGEE AIRMEN'S COMBAT RECORD WON'T TARNISH GROUP'S LEGACY

If you follow news about the Tuskegee Airmen you are certainly aware that a pair of researchers have questioned the group's record of never having lost a bomber under their escort to enemy fighters.

The pair, Daniel Haulman of the Air Force Historical Research Agency at Maxwell-Gunter Air Force Base in Montgomery, Ala., and William Holton of Tuskegee Airmen Inc., contend their research shows at least a few bombers were lost to fighters while being escorted by the Tuskegee Airmen.

While more research is needed to prove or disprove their claim, the lasting legacy of the Tuskegee Airmen is not their combat record, but their example of courage, perseverance and discipline that brought about lasting change, both to the American military but also to American society.

The most important victory for the Tuskegee Airmen was overcoming racism and segregation to earn the right to fight and die for their country and in so doing inspired generations of people by their example.

It is that legacy that the Red Tail Project seeks to preserve and to use as a means to inspire people today to reach for their dreams.

