



**Red Tail Project – Commemorative Air Force**  
"America's Flying Tribute to the Tuskegee Airmen"  
182 West Division Street  
River Falls, WI 54022  
[www.redtail.org](http://www.redtail.org)

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact Person: Dani Langer  
Company Name: Red Tail Project  
Telephone Number: 877.928.0188  
Fax Number: 715.426.9719  
Email Address: [info@redtail.org](mailto:info@redtail.org)  
Web Site Address: [www.redtail.org](http://www.redtail.org)

### **Tuskegee Airman Vernon Hopson Services Scheduled**

Tuskegee Airman Vernon Hopson died in Minneapolis on August 28, 2009 at the age of 84. Hopson grew up 60 miles southeast of Austin, TX. He entered military service in July 1943 and applied for Aviation Cadet Flight Training in Biloxi, MS. He was assigned to Tuskegee, Alabama and by November 1944, he was rated in the Curtiss P-40 at Tuskegee and assigned to the Operational Training Unit in North Carolina, He was soon assigned as a fighter pilot with the 477th Composite Group, flying P-47s to escort B-25 bombers for deployment to the Pacific.

His Air Force assignment was cut short due to the end of WWII, but Hopson made it a career. He became a USAF Air Traffic Controller and served in Japan, Guam, Korea, Greenland and Italy. He retired from the military in 1963. Hopson continued to use his expertise in his civilian life, working for the FAA in Air Traffic Control in Chicago, Minneapolis, and St. Paul until his retirement in 1982.

He was active in his support of the Red Tail Project, which focuses on educating the public about the courage and accomplishments of the Tuskegee Airmen. His most recent appearance with the Red Tail Project was on August 5 at a homecoming ceremony for the Project's red tail Mustang at Fleming Field in South St. Paul following a 5-year, \$1 million restoration of the airplane.

He will be dearly missed by his wife, Norma, brother, Jesse and many other family members and friends.

Visitation will be from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. TONIGHT (Thursday) at the Thomson-Dougherty Funeral Home, 2535 Park Avenue South, Minneapolis, 55404. The funeral will be held at 11 a.m. on Friday, September 4 at Macedonia Baptist Church, 3801 1st Avenue South, Minneapolis, 55409. Interment will follow at 1 p.m. at Fort Snelling during which the Red Tail Project's red tail Mustang will take part in a military flyover to honor Hopson's life and service to his country.

For more information about the Red Tail Project, visit [www.redtail.org](http://www.redtail.org) or call 1.877.522.2988.

#####