

28 March 1992

Mrs. Beswick's Class
Challenger ED School
2475 52nd Street
Kentwood, Michigan

Dear Students,

I have read all of your letters, and I have found them interesting. I appreciate very much the kind, complimentary, nice things you said about me. I have not yet read the book about General Powell and me, and I hope to get a copy of it soon.

Here are the answers to most of your questions.

1. Agatha and I have been married for more than 55 years. How old do you think Agatha is?
2. O in my name stands for Oliver.
3. Unfortunately, Agatha and I have no children. We used to have a dog, but we don't have one now.
4. I haven't flown an airplane since I retired from the Air Force in 1970.
5. Yes, I still meet prejudiced people. I feel sorry for them. The military is a better place because it now respects all people. It is a happier place because now people are treated equally and all have the same opportunity.
6. General Colin Powell is a friend of mine, and I respect him highly. He is a great American.
7. Making segregation less (sic) was a great service to America.
8. I retired as a lieutenant general. [NOTE: Davis was advanced to the rank of U.S. Air Force General (ret.) 28 years after retirement on December 9, 1998.]
9. The plane I flew in combat was [a] single engine and single seat fighter.
10. If one is to fly safely, one must fly frequently and regularly.
11. When I meet prejudiced people, I try to show them they are wrong to be prejudiced.
12. Agatha is fine. She is still a beautiful lady.
13. I used my radio at night only. Sometimes I held it to my ear under the bed covers.
14. I attend conventions of The Tuskegee Airmen, where I see my old comrades.
15. I enjoy meeting people who have read my book.
16. The whites did not have anything to do with me so I kept to myself.
17. Agatha told me to tell all of you hi!
18. Segregation is, in some ways, still with us, but life for all Americans is much better today than it was in the 1920's and 1930's and later.
19. I live in a 12-story apartment building in Virginia.
20. Yes, Adolf Hitler died in the bunker in May, 1945.
21. I know lots of pilots.
22. Agatha and I spend our days reading, talking and writing.
23. Aerobatics are fun always. One day I hope to visit Grand Rapids and see Challenger students.
24. Airplanes are much improved today. They go higher and faster.
25. When a person is rude to me I try to explain to him or her that he or she should treat other people in the manner he or she would like to be treated.
26. Please understand that I am grateful to Mrs. Beswick for sending me your letters. I have enjoyed hearing from you and I know you are fortunate to have a wonderful teacher like Mrs. Beswick.

Sincerely,
Ben Davis