

# **Virginia Annual Tuskegee Airmen Day**

**March 25, 2021**

**3:00pm – 5:00pm**

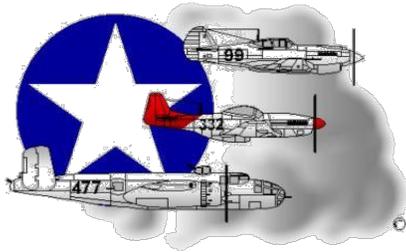
**Virginia Air and Space Center, Hampton, Virginia**

**Sponsored by**

**Tidewater Chapter-Tuskegee Airmen International**

**The Virginia Air and Space Center**

**Join Documented Original Tuskegee Airmen Celebrating a  
Legacy of Excellence**

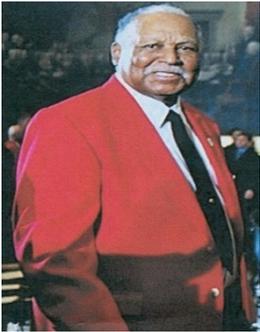


# BIOGRAPHY

## A DOCUMENTED ORIGINAL TUSKEGEE AIRMAN

TUSKEGEE AIRMEN INC. PUBLIC RELATIONS, P.O. Box 830060  
TUSKEGEE, AL 36083

### **SERGEANT/DR. HARRY QUINTON**



Harry Quinton was born in Salisbury, MD on December 14, 1925. Upon completion of High School, he attended the Atlantic Aviation Institute in Trenton, NJ and Casey Jones School of Aeronautics in Newark, NJ. After completing his training and examinations, he received an Airplane Engine Mechanics License from the U.S. Civil Aeronautics Board.

Shortly thereafter in 1943, Mr. Quinton enlisted in the Army Enlisted Reserve and was assigned to the Army Air Corps. He completed Basic Training at Keesler Field, MS and received an assignment to the 477<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Group, 602<sup>nd</sup> Air Engineering Squadron at Godman Field, KY, where he served as an Airplane Mechanic. While assigned to the all-White commanded 477<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Group, Private First Class (PFC) Quinton observed the racial tension, disharmony and distrust that plagued the Group. As a direct result of growing tension, which lasted from January 1944 to June 1945, the 477<sup>th</sup> never became combat ready before the end of the war. And although PFC Quinton was at Godman Field, KY and did not participate in the “Battle at Freeman Field” (where between April 15-20, 1945, a battle of sort ensued over the inability of permanently assigned Black Officers to use the White only Officers Club at Freeman Field, Seymour, IN), he recognized that he did benefit from it directly. As a direct result of the “101 stubborn Black Officers” taking a stand at Freeman Field and refusing to sign a “Jim Crow” based regulation (voluntarily or under direct orders) that was punishable by death (64<sup>th</sup> Article of War), their collective actions were found to be justified and prompted a change in the command of the 477<sup>th</sup> from a White Officer to one commanded by a Black Officer named Colonel Benjamin O. Davis, Jr. When WW II ended, and after having attained the rank of Sergeant, Sergeant Quinton was Honorably Discharged.

SGT Quinton’s military education included completion of the B-25 Bomber School at the North American Aircraft Plant in Pasadena, CA and ground school at Godman Field, KY. His military awards included the Good Conduct Medal, American Theater Ribbon, World War II Victory Ribbon, and the Army Air Force Technical Badge with the Mechanic Bar. As a Documented Original Tuskegee Airman (DOTA), SGT Quinton and other DOTAs were cited for the Congressional Gold Medal at the US Capitol on 29 March 2007 when President Bush conferred this distinct honor on all of the individuals who participated in the Tuskegee Airmen Program. In May 2012, SGT Quinton, and five other Tidewater Chapter-based DOTAs received Honorary Doctorate Degrees of Humane Letters from Old Dominion University, Norfolk, Virginia. Following his honorable discharge, SGT/Dr. Quinton attended Plattsburg College and Long Island University and earned an Associate Degree in Business and a Bachelor of Science Degree in Accounting. He also completed some graduate studies at Hofstra University. He retired from the United States Treasury Department after having worked as an Agent for a number of years. He now resides in Williamsburg, VA. His wife (Vera) is deceased.

To learn more about SGT/Dr. Quinton and/or the Tidewater Chapter’s Speakers Bureau and other activities that he participates in, please visit the Tidewater Chapter’s Website at the following location: [www.TAI-TidewaterChapter.Com](http://www.TAI-TidewaterChapter.Com).

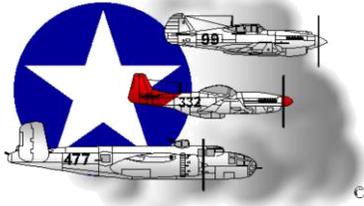


# BIOGRAPHY

---

## A DOCUMENTED ORIGINAL TUSKEGEE AIRMAN

TUSKEGEE AIRMEN INC. PUBLIC RELATIONS, P.O. BOX 830060  
TUSKEGEE, AL 36083



Ezra



M. Hill, Sr.

Ezra M. Hill was born in Newport News, VA in 1930. He moved to Washington, DC as a child and lived there until the age of seventeen. He enlisted in the Army Air Corps, Ft Meade, MD in July 1947. He completed basic training at Lackland AFB, TX and in October 1947 was assigned to Lockbourne AFB, Columbus OH. His primary duty was in Crash and Rescue; however, because of other talents which were discovered early on, he spent most of his time in “Special Services Activities.”

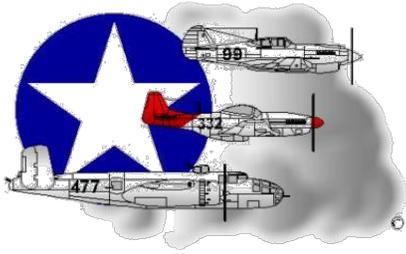
Sergeant Hill was reassigned to Andrews AFB, MD in late 1949 where he played “base-level” basketball, (the first black and first enlisted man to play at this level). He was selected to play on the Air Force Basketball Team, which played in world-wide competition. He was also an entertainer and was selected to perform with “Operation Happiness” (fore-runners of today’s “Tops in Blue Band”). He was reassigned to Tokyo International Airport, Japan, for the next 3-years for duty in Crash and Rescue, but still devoting most of his time to “Special Services Activities”.

In 1956, TSgt Hill was relocated to McGuire AFB, NJ and retrained into the electronics field as a Weapons Systems technician. He spent the greater portion of 1958 and 1959 in Technical Schools at Lowry AFB, CO and Hughes Aircraft Plants and took advanced courses on Weapons Systems. He was subsequently assigned to Langley AFB, VA where he worked as a Weapons Systems technician in the 48<sup>th</sup> Fighter Interceptor Squadron from 1960 to 1965. He went from there to McGuire, AFB, NJ and worked as an Electronics Operational Readiness Inspector until his retirement as a MSgt in 1967.

After retirement, MSgt Hill taught in the Newport News School System for approximately one year and worked with the Navy at its Naval Air Station operation, Norfolk, VA for 18 years, as a Computer Technician Supervisor, before retiring for the second time. His educational achievements included many military courses, a certificate in Computer Science from Trenton Junior College, Trenton, NJ and a BS Degree in Industrial Engineering from Ohio Saint Matthew University in Columbus, OH. In March 2007, former President George W. Bush conferred a Congressional Gold Medal (replica pictured above) on all those individuals participating in the Tuskegee Airmen Program. In May 2012, MSgt Hill, and five other Tidewater Chapter-based DOTAs received honorary Doctorate Degrees in Humane Letters from Old Dominion University, Norfolk, Virginia.

Since 1953, MSgt/Dr. Hill has been married to the former Mable Haltiwanger. From their union, they have 3-children, 9-grand-children and 2-great grandchildren. For more information about MSgt/Dr. Hill, please visit the following website: [www.TAI-TidewaterChapter.Com](http://www.TAI-TidewaterChapter.Com).





# BIOGRAPHY

**A DOCUMENTED ORIGINAL TUSKEGEE AIRMAN**

**TUSKEGEE AIRMEN INC. PUBLIC RELATIONS, P.O. Box 830060  
TUSKEGEE, AL 36083**

## Thomas W. Newton



Thomas Wood Newton was born January 3, 1928, in Tarboro, North Carolina to William Newton and Maggie W. Wood. He is the third of four children and survives his Sister, Helen N. Knight and Brothers William M. and James V. Newton. Mr. Newton is married to Mary Birth Newton and has three adult children. His two Sons are Stevie Carmack (eldest) and Tarvick Linder and his Daughter is Tara Battle.

After graduating from High School, Mr. Newton joined the U.S. Army Air Corps on January 31, 1946. Upon completing Basic Training and Clerk Typist School, he was assigned to the 99<sup>th</sup> Fighter Squadron, 332<sup>nd</sup> Fighter Group and stationed at Lockbourne Army Air Base, Columbus, Ohio. As a Squadron Supply Clerk, Mr. Newton rose to the rank of Sergeant and was awarded the Good Conduct Medal and the World War II Victory Medal. He was honorably discharged on January 31, 1949.

After serving his country, SGT Newton returned home in New York City and briefly attended Fordham University, Bronx, New York, to study Accounting. From 1954 to 1985, he was employed by the New York City Postal Service working his way up to a Supervisory position which he held for 17-years. He was promoted to Station Manager during the last 5-years of his career where he supervised 63-station personnel. SGT Newton retired from the Postal Service in 1985 after 31-years of dedicated service. From New York City, he moved to Silver Spring, Maryland and now resides in Chesapeake, Virginia with his wife Mary. In October 2019, Mr. Newton joined the Tidewater Chapter Tuskegee Airmen Inc. organization.

To learn more about SGT Thomas Newton and/or the Tidewater Chapter's Speakers Bureau and other activities that he participates in, please visit the Tidewater Chapter's Website at the following location: [www.TAI-TidewaterChapter.Com](http://www.TAI-TidewaterChapter.Com).

