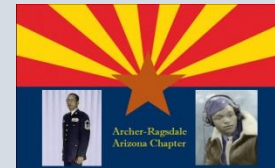
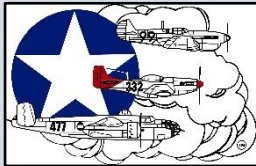


ARCHER – RAGSDALE ARIZONA CHAPTER TUSKEGEE AIRMEN, INC. NEWSLETTER



Reaching Our Youth – Ensuring the Future!

**December 2023
Volume 1, Number 5**

ARAC LAUNCHES ITS ADVANCED AVIATION SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM



Chief Master Sergeant Alfredo Tulle

Based upon the recommendation of the Youth Director, Larry Jackson and the concurrence of the Tulle family, the ARAC Board of Directors approved launching the Aerospace Career Education (ACE) Advanced Aviation Scholarship Program (ACE 2). The program is named in honor of the founding member, the late Chief Master Sergeant Alfredo Tulle. Chief Tulle was a staunch supporter of ARAC's youth program and gave generously his funds and his time to provide numerous opportunities for youth throughout Arizona. He was especially instrumental in building a strong Youth Day at Luke AFB for the annual OBAP/ARAC ACE Academy.

The initial ACE 2 class consisted of five outstanding, highly ranked graduates from the basic OBAP/ARAC 2023 ACE Academy. The selectees are Zach Betczynski (2019); Tanijah Williams (2023); Tommie Tuggle (2023); Mason Gibbs (2023); and Makaylah Jenkins (2023). Each student will be awarded \$2,000 for school and ten hours of flight time at \$200 per hour. Cont'd on page 3.

FROM THE PRESIDENT:



Joseph A. Olano

First, I want to acknowledge and express appreciation for Lt. Col. Stanley Brown, Jr. for his dedication and leadership as president of ARAC from January 2022 until December 2023. We congratulate him for his successful tour as commander of the 607th Air Control Squadron and his selection for and advancing assignment at the Air Force Central Command in Florida.

Next, I want to wish everyone a warm 2024 New Year to Archer-Ragsdale Arizona Chapter (ARAC) members, families, friends, and supporters.

It is my great honor to serve as the new president of ARAC and Chair of the ARAC Board of Directors. Prior to assuming position as ARAC President and Chair of the Board of Directors, it was my privilege to serve as the Chair of the Public Relations Committee, ARAC Media Relations Team, and ARAC Project Coordinator. My career background is in the Department of Defense where I served thirty years assigned to the American Forces Network Broadcast Center and in the Desert Storm Army Signal Corps.

As you are aware, since 2006, ARAC has grown in its community outreach through school

visitations, presentations, and the award of scholarships to high school graduates planning to attend college. Our youth aviation program and mentoring youths continue to be a major centerpiece of the chapter's activities. ARAC can be proud of spreading the great legacy of the Tuskegee Airmen throughout Arizona, the nation, and worldwide.

As Chair of the ARAC BOD, I am pleased to dedicate this issue of the ARAC newsletter to Chief Master Sergeant Alfredo Tulle, USAF, Retired. The youths featured in this issue reflect his generous contributions and commitment to Arizona youths. The creation of the Chief Alfredo Tulle Scholarship Program, Aerospace Career Education (ACE II) Academy is an appropriate honor for his great service to our communities and nation.

While ARAC supports Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM), the chapter is also an advocate for technical vocations such as media production, photography, graphic design, culinary arts, journalism, and writing.

I trust that you will enjoy reading about the activities and events that ARAC has coordinated and participated in during 2023. You can look forward to more of the same in 2024. So, enjoy the newsletter; we look forward to seeing you in your community.

ARAC welcomes new members who wish to join our exciting team of volunteers. We are committed to perpetuating the great legacy of the Tuskegee Airmen while focusing on the youth in Arizona. If you are interested in joining ARAC, please contact Ron Hilliard, (720) 987-9149; Email: Rhilliard.tai@gmail.com.
Enthusiastically Yours,

Joseph A. Olano
ARAC President

LUKE DAYS 2024, MARCH 23-24, 2024. STAY TUNED FOR FURTHER INFORMATION!

Cont'd from page 1.

Upon successful completion of ACE 2, students will be expected to have soloed and earned his or her basic flight certificate. Successful completion of ACE 2 will make each graduate eligible to continue to advance training to reach their goal of becoming a commercial airline pilot.

Chief Tulle was born in Ancon Canal Zone, Panama and entered the Air Force in June 1966. After Basic Military Training at Lackland Air Force Base, TX, he held a variety of key positions during his Air Force career. These included a skilled aircraft maintainer, boom operator on an aerial tanker, flight engineer on the UH-1 helicopter, master training instructor, combat special operations, and a Chief Master Sergeant in the 56th Fighter Wing Maintenance Group. Chief Tulle retired from Luke AFB after a stellar 24-year career. After retirement from active duty, Chief Tulle worked as the Quality Assurance Supervisor, for over seven years for the famed Navy Fighter Weapons School (Top Gun) at Miramar, CA Later he served as an Avionic Technical Representative for Lockheed Martin with the Egyptian Air Force.

Chief Tulle passed away April 21, 2023, after a brief illness. He is survived by his wife of fifty-four years, Brenda; twins Tisha and Alfred C.; brother Ted; grandson Tyler; and a host of other relatives. Chief Tulle is inurned at the National Memorial Cemetery of Arizona, Cave Creek.

2024 AIR FORCE AIM HIGH FLIGHT ACADEMY SELECTIONS

The Air Force Recruiting Service has selected Olivia Owens for the 2024 Aim High Flight Academy Introductory Flight Training Scholarship (AFHA)! Olivia was the top graduate in the 2023 OBAP/ARAC ACE Academy and was first among thirty (30) ACE students, of which twelve (12) were girls. She is also a standout high school basketball player. ARAC members Paul Smiley and Bill Norwood were on hand to present Olivia her graduation certificate this past summer. AFHA also selected another OBAP/ARAC ACE Academy graduate Nathaddeus Dockery as an alternate for any opening that occurs if a primary student is unable to attend.

The AHFA is an aviation scholarship for a three-week introductory flight program at various universities across the world. The AHFA mission is to inform, influence, and inspire the next generation of aviators and leaders. Upon completion of the AHFA, students will be able to understand the pathways to become an Air Force officer, aviator, and earn up to 15 flight hours. AHFA pairs high school students, USAFA, and AFROTC cadets with current Air Force members who provide mentorship about the various aviation professions and career fields.

The AFHA Flight Academy will take place during the summer of 2024 (May-Aug) for two-three weeks at various universities across the country. The program will enable Olivia to earn up to twelve to fifteen FAA Logged Powered Flight Training Hours. An ACE Academy director must recommend the applicants. Eighty students out of 2500 were selected for 2024. The USAF and the USN will be the lead sponsors for the 2024 ACE Academy.



Aerospace Career Education (ACE) Academy, June 3-8, 2024

The 2024 Aerospace Career Education (ACE) Academy sponsored by the Organization of Black Aerospace Professionals and supported by the Archer-Ragsdale Arizona Chapter, Tuskegee Airmen, Inc. will begin on Monday, June 3, 2024, at 7:00 am, MST. The location is Papago National Guard Training Site, 5636 East McDowell Rd, Phoenix, AZ 85008. Access the base through the main gate, show your driver's license, and ask for directions to the Regional Training Institute (RTI) building.

The ACE Academy program is designed to introduce youth to aviation, STEM, and civilian and military career opportunities, as well as Tuskegee Airmen history. We especially want our participants to enjoy this unique learning experience while meeting some remarkably interesting people. The staff consists of current and retired airline/military pilots as well as former ACE Academy Graduates. These include United Airlines Captain Aaron Grissum, former Navy E-5 Cameron Smith, Air Force Major Cody Gutierrez (F-35 Instructor pilot), and SSgt Anastacia Rodriguez.

Parents/chaperones are expected to drop off and pick up students each day. Dress code: dress for indoor and outdoor activities. Shorts and jeans are fine. Closed toe shoes only. Tour transportation will be provided from Papago. Depending on seats available, parents may accompany their student on each tour. Graduation will be Friday, June 7 at 1:30 PM. Lunch will be provided each day. For additional information, please contact Larry Jackson, Youth Director; Mobile: (602) 321-4174; email: jet1jac@aol.com.

ARAC 2023 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

ARAC is proud to announce the awarding of six academic scholarships for Arizona high school graduates in May 2023, totaling \$9,000. Two students each were selected for Ashby-Herring Memorial Scholarship, the Col. William A. Campbell Memorial Scholarship, and the Diana Gregory's Outreach Services Foundation. Each award was for \$1,500 and was based on the student's academic performance, community service, and financial need.



Neve Andrew



Sincere Nash



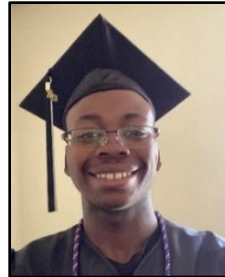
Viviana York



Eric Walker



Jordan Grant



Zion Hubbard

Cont'd from page four.

ACF RECIPIENTS:

Neve Andrew, from Phoenix, AZ, Horizon Honors Secondary School, enrolled in Northern Arizona University, majoring in Business Management.

Sincere Nash, from Phoenix, AZ, Maricopa Institute of Technology, enrolled in Grand Canyon University, majoring in molecular and cellular biology.

CAMPBELL MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Viviana York, from Laveen, AZ, Phoenix Coding Academy, enrolled in Tuskegee University, Tuskegee AL, majoring in computer science.

Eric Walker, from Gilbert, AZ, Williams Field High School, enrolled in Cornell College, Mount Vernon, Iowa and is majoring in biology and molecular science.

DIANA GREGORY'S FOUNDATION

Zion Hubbard, from Tucson, AZ, University High School, enrolled at Arizona State University, Tempe Campus, majoring in biological science with an emphasis in biomedical, premedical track.

Jordan Grant, from Goodyear, AZ, Trivium Preparatory Academy, enrolled in the University of Arizona, majoring in Aerospace Engineering.

10TH ANNUAL TUSKEGEE AIRMEN COMMEMORATION DAY (TACD) CELEBRATION, 2023: *A Tribute to the Past, Current, and Future Youth of Arizona*

The 10th Annual TACD celebration was held at Luke AFB, April 1, 2023, with Lt. Col. (Ret) Paul Smiley, Founder/CEO Sonoran Technology, Goodyear, AZ as guest speaker. Lt. Col. Smiley, a longtime major sponsor of the the ARAC Youth Program, spoke poignantly to both the students and the crowd of military and civilians gathered for the event in a huge hangar at Luke AFB. The program was led by ARAC President Lt. Col. Stanley Brown, Jr. and hosted by the 944th Fighter Commander, Col. Mark D. Van Brunt.



Lt. Col. Paul Smiley

Lt. Col. Smiley is the Founder and President of Sonoran Technology, a Service-Disabled Veteran Owned Small Business in Goodyear, AZ. He

served in the USAF and retired after 25 years of dedicated service to our nation. He is an active member of the Archer-Ragsdale Tuskegee Airmen Arizona Chapter and works closely with the Youth Committee supporting the ACE Academy Program. Paul established a scholarship in honor of two original Tuskegee Airmen, Robert Ashby and Asa Herring for college-bound Arizona high school seniors.

This year's program featured four former stellar ACE Academy graduates who shared how the ARAC/OBAP experience has positively impacted their lives and laid the foundation for future and ongoing pursuits.



Kelsey McGee

Kelsey is a 2006 outstanding ACE Academy graduate sponsored by the Tuskegee Airmen, Inc and Organization of Black Airline Pilots (TAI/OBAP). She was also a participant of the 2006 convention and soloed during flight training. Kelsey graduated from the University of Arizona with a double major in Psychology and Africana Studies. She has a passion for preserving the legacy of her late grandfather, original Tuskegee Airman Brigadier General Charles E. McGee, USAF, RET.



Jovon McQuiller

Jovan is a 2016 outstanding ACE Academy graduate and attended Oshkosh Air Venture while enrolled at the East Valley Institute of Technology. She earned an associate degree in aviation science from Mt. San Antonio College in Pomona, CA. Jovon graduated Cum Laude in Aviation Management at Southern Illinois University and recently passed AT-SA exam to become an Air Traffic Controller.



Jordan Grant

Jordan attendance at the ARAC/OBAP ACE Academy in 2018 helped him to identify his college and career goals in aerospace engineering. Jordan attends the University of Arizona College of Engineering and is an academic and athletic award-winning scholar. He is the recipient of the Tuskegee Airman Col. William A. Campbell Award, the 2021 Iron Knight Award for Excellence in Academics and Athletics, the Delta Sigma Theta West Valley Chapter Scholarship, the Grigsby Sphinx Educational Fund Scholarship, and 2022 Division Four State Championship in the 4 by 400-meter relay and Silver Medalist.



Iain Lanphier

At the age of 13 in 2019, Iain attended the ARAC/OBAP ACE Academy and earned the Outstanding Graduate Award as the Top Academic and Flyer Award performer. He is a Junior at Brophy College Preparatory and plans to attend either the United States Air Force or Naval Academy and is inspired to major in aeronautical engineering. He plans to follow in the footsteps of his late great-grandfather Tuskegee Airman Brig. General Charles E. McGee, USAF, RET. and grandfather, former Air Force fighter pilot, Ronald McGee.

ARAC'S COL. WANDA WRIGHT INDUCTED INTO THE 2023 ARIZONA VETERANS' HALL OF FAME



Col. Wanda Wright.



(L-R) Joseph Olano, Dave Toliver, Peggy Toliver, Ron Hilliard, Wanda, Dick Toliver, and Patricia Arreola.

ARAC very proudly congratulates our founding Vice President, Colonel Wanda Wright for her induction into AZVHOF on October 13, 2023. Col. Wright had an incredibly successful career over past thirty-eight years and shows no signs of slowing down! She graduated from the Air Force Academy as a 2nd Lt in 1985, spent five years in the Tactical Air Command as Deputy Budget Officer in South Carolina, then transitioned to the Arizona National Guard. For the next twenty-one years she held jobs with increasing responsibility and retired as Director of Staff in 2011.

Governor Doug Ducey appointed Col. Wright to lead the Arizona Department of Veterans Services from 2015 to 2023. Highlights of her top performance include a Veterans Home in Flagstaff and Yuma, constructing a veteran's cemetery at Camp Navajo and Marana, and expanding another one in Sierra Vista. While completing these remarkable projects, Col. Wright still managed to initiate innovative programs to reduce veterans' suicide, enhance the welfare of women veterans, and provide veteran toolkits to assist jobseekers.

Col. Wright has recently been appointed as the Director of Arizona State University Office for Veteran and Military Academic Engagement (OVMAE), a teaching professor in the College of Integrative Sciences and Arts, and most recently, named by the Veterans Administration (VA) secretary to be the new chair for the VA Advisory Committee on Women. Scores of others will continue to be blessed by Col. Wright's God-given abundance of unique skills readily applied in helping others.

ARAC WINS \$10,000 GRANT

The Albertson/Safeway Foundation awarded ARAC a \$10,000 grant to continue our outreach in communities throughout Arizona. As a national organization, Albertsons/Safeway actively seeks other organizations that strive for the betterment of the communities that they serve. The grant was announced by Ms. Nancy Keane, Public Relations Director, Albertsons/Safeway Foundations, at the grand opening of a new Safeway store in Surprise, AZ on November 8, 2023.



(L-R) Nate Carr, Nancy Keane, Moses Finley, Carol Weaver, Joseph Olano, and Dick Toliver

ARAC was applauded for perpetuating the 82-year great legacy of the Tuskegee Airmen and for its remarkable youth outreach to all ethnic and socio-economic groups in Arizona. ARAC was also cited for its outstanding community involvement over the past eighteen years.

Despite the recent negative impacts of COVID-19, ARAC averaged over forty public appearances and visits to schools and colleges throughout the Phoenix area. Thousands of additional students have been reached through speaking engagements at K-12 schools, the three state universities, Embry Riddle Aeronautical University, libraries, special events, and churches. In addition, during the past five years, ARAC awarded twelve \$1,500 scholarships to high school graduates in Arizona and is currently planning to launch an increased scholarship program by mid-2024. The centerpiece of ARAC’S youth program is its annual joint OBAP/ARAC Aviation Career Education (ACE) Academy where over 350 students attended, and more than 500 students received orientation flights.

ARAC TEAM – COMMUNITY OUTREACH EVENTS

ARAC responded to an invitation from the city of Surprise to participate in the 2023 Veterans Day Parade held on November 11, 2023. This year’s participation followed the November 8th grant presentation at the grand opening of the new Safeway store, also in Surprise. Over the years, ARAC has established a solid relationship with the city, churches and schools in Surprise. As always, our chapter was well-represented and shared in the social activities with the city and community leaders.



**Representing TAI/ARAC at th 2023 Veterans Day, Surprise, AZ
 (L-R) Joseph Olano, Ron Hilliard, Dave Toliver, Benita Beckles, April Hall-Fabbri, Carol Weaver, Moses Findley, Dick Toliver, and Don Mellon West Valley community leader.**

2023 Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day

ARAC continued its participation in the annual Arizona Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day celebration on December 9, 2023. This year, ARAC was represented by new members, Lt. Shannon Alsobrook, Moses Findley, Cort Ashbury, and ARAC President Joseph A. Olano.



**Phoenix, AZ December 9, 2023
 (L-R) Lt. Shannon Alsobrooks, USAF Medical Student; Rev. Moses Findley ARAC Chaplin; and Cort Asbury, Phoenix Fire Dept, Veteran.
 (L-R) Joseph A. Olano, ARAC President, Ed Miklavcic (WWII Pearl Harbor Survivor), Lt. Alsobrook, and Cort Asbury.**

Wreaths Across America Day, Chandler, AZ
Saturday, December 16th at Valley of the Sun Cemetery

ARAC's Col. (Ret) Dick Toliver was the key-note speaker as wreaths were placed on 3,000 graves of the fallen by volunteers-men, women, children, families, and groups.



IN MEMORIAM
Fannie Colley Williams



Fannie Colley Williams passed away in Flagstaff at age eighty-nine on May 26, 2023. She was born on May 5, 1934, to James Council Colley and Fannie Stallworth Colley in Birmingham, AL.


During her life in Flagstaff, she volunteered for a variety of community organizations, taught Sunday school, and was a public speaker at a variety of events through the years. She earned a master's degree at Northern Arizona University and taught a literature course there. In addition, she was a proud member of Kappa Delta Pi, International Honor Society in Education. Above all, she was a devout Christian. Over the years, while a Flagstaff resident, she attended East Flagstaff Church of Christ, Flagstaff Church of Christ, and Greenlaw Baptist Church.

Fannie is survived by her devoted husband of almost sixty-six years, Howard, daughter Elaine Williams, son Bruce Williams (Stacee), grandsons Donovan, Alex, Myles, and Mason Williams as well as sister-in-law Margaret Colley, and a host of other relatives.

**ARAC Supports Diana Gregory's Veggies for Veterans - Christmas 2023
Phoenix VA Medical Center, December 12, 2023**



Veggies for Veterans



9:00-10:30 a.m. Distribution to begin at 9:00 a.m. for 600 bags
Tuesday, December 12, 2023 | Carl T. Hayden Medical Center
ACC Hallway and Drive Thru

Gregory's Fresh Market | SUNDT | Harrah's | Peddler's Son



(L-R) Moses Findley, Diana, Josep Olano, Lt. Col. Dana Allmond, AZ Director, Veterans Affairs; Bill Norwood, Dick Toliver, Benita Beckles, Nat Carr, and Carol Weaver

ARAC'S 2023 CHRISTMAS PARTY

The annual Christmas party was held December 10, 2023, at the Southern Rail restaurant in Phoenix. Major Fran McClendon, one of five surviving women of the 688th Postal Battalion was present. Tyler Webber, grandson of the late Chief Master Sergeant Alfredo Tulle, and his band serenaded the chapter throughout the gathering.



2023 ARAC BOARD OF DIRECTORS, OFFICERS, AND CHAIRPERSONS

President	Joseph A. Olano.	josephaolano@gmail.com
Vice President	Vacant	
Immediate Past President	Richard Toliver	rtoli@cox.net
Treasurer	Nathaniel Carr	ncarr55@hotmail.com
Secretary	Ronald Hilliard	rhilliard.tai@gmail.com
Director, Youth Programs	Vacant	
Director, Public Affairs	Vacant	
Director, Heritage Committee	Carol Weaver	cewjhw@aol.com
Coordinator of ACF Scholarships	Diana Gregory	diana@dianagregory.org
Ways and Means Committee	Moses Findley	deaconsjourney6262@aol.com
Webmaster	Ronald Hilliard	rhilliard.tai@gmail.com

**PLEASE JOIN ARAC IN MAKING ARIZONA A GREATER PLACE TO EDUCATE, INSPIRE,
AND MOTIVATE THE YOUTH ACROSS ARIZONA!**

DONATE!

To Donate Online:

Please specify the desire for your contribution in the dropdown menu on the PayPal page.

- General Operating Fund**
- Ashby-Herring Scholarship Fund**
- Col. William A. Campbell Scholarship Fund**



For All Other Donations:

Please complete the [ARAC Donation Form](#)

Please make checks or money orders payable to ARAC/TAI and mail with form to:

**ARAC Treasurer
c/o Dr. Nathaniel Carr
3520 Feather Avenue
Gilbert, AZ 85234**

ARAC CURRENT SPONSORS
Coportions, Foundations, and Individuals



INDIVIDUAL SPONSORS

Judith P. Sims • Steve Campbell • Diana Gegory
Larry Jackson • Bruce Fister • Richard Toliver

LATE BREAKING NEWS: DATELINE, JAN 13, 2024!



150+
SCHOLARSHIPS
AVAILABLE

**\$5.2 million in scholarships
awarded last year.**

ACF's one application allows you to be matched with more than 150 scholarships.

High school seniors, current college students, and adult re-entry students attending any type of accredited postsecondary school may apply.

The application opens in January, and most deadlines are in March and May.



ARIZONA
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION

There's something for you at
azfoundation.org/scholarships

For more information, email
scholarship@azfoundation.org

ARCHER-RAGSDALE

ARIZONA CHAPTER TUSKEGEE AIRMEN INC. SCHOLARSHIP

“Tuskegee Airmen” refers to a distinguished group of men and women who trained and served in the Army Air Corps in WWII. The Archer Ragsdale Arizona Chapter, TAI awards two scholarships to deserving graduating high school students who are college bound. Preferential consideration is given to those students who have attended the chapter’s Aerospace Career Education (ACE) Academy. Two Ashby-Herring scholarships will be awarded and are named in honor of the late founding ARAC members who were original Tuskegee Airmen. Application Deadline is May 1st 2024 for this scholarship.

Eligibility

- Graduating high school senior from Arizona
- 3.0 GPA or higher
- Attending a 2 year or 4 year college/university
- African-American
- Financial need

JOIN US FOR A VIRTUAL WORKSHOP

Work on your application with support from ACF's scholarship team.

February 15, 2024
5:00 to 6:00 p.m.

March 20, 2024
5:00 to 6:00 p.m.

April 22, 2024
5:00 to 6:00 p.m.

Workshops are hosted
through Zoom!

Register for the dates
that you'd like to attend
at [acf.cventevents.com/
scholarship2024](https://acf.cventevents.com/scholarship2024)