

IMMEDIATE PRESS RELEASE

THE TUSKEGEE AIRMEN AND THE WOMEN OF THE 688<sup>TH</sup> CENTRAL POSTAL DIRECTORY BATTALION

November 26, 2024

The Arizona State University's Office of Veteran and Military Academic Engagement (OVMAE) and the Archer-Ragsdale Arizona Chapter, Tuskegee Airmen Inc. (ARAC) plan to co-host a special screening of the film **6888 Central Postal Directory Battalion**. The new movie is based on the heroic efforts of 855 African American women sent to Europe during WWII to clear a two to three-year backlog of mail for the American troops. The renown actor and filmmaker, Tyler Perry, wrote, directed, and produced the movie during the summer of 2024. **The centerpiece of this screening will be one of two surviving members of the 6888th, 104-year-old Major Frances Griffin McClendon, USAF, Retired, and an active member of ARAC.**

The dual event also features the new book, *Black Wings Over Arizona (BWOA)*, written by ARAC's notable author Colonel (Ret) Richard Toliver. BWOA is the collective history of nineteen original Tuskegee Airmen who had ties to Arizona from 1945 to 2024. Their stories chronicle the outstanding commitment, dedication, performance, and contributions made during and after WWII; thus, making the world, our nation, and Arizona a better place in which to live. See cover below.

**Schedule: Please note that entrance to this event is only by invitation due to the limited space of the theater.**

**Date: December 14, 2024**

**Time: 1:00 pm – 5:00 pm, MST**

**Location: Harkins Theater, Arizona Mills, 5000 S. Arizona Mills Circle, Tempe, AZ 85282.**

Please contact Ms. Debbie Brown, ARAC Public Affairs Officer, (412) 378-2134, or [Lynnbrown2010@gmail.com](mailto:Lynnbrown2010@gmail.com).

