

Mr. Thomas Wood Newton

Tuskegee Airman



Distinguished Graduate

Tarboro Colored
High School
Class of 1945

Mr. 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. Mr. Newton is married to Mary Birth Newton and has three adult children. Thomas Newton graduated from the Tarboro Colored High School in 1945. After graduation, he joined the U.S. Army Air Corps on January 31, 1946. He was assigned to the 99th Fighter Squadron, 332nd Fighter Group – The Tuskegee Airmen. The 99th Fighter Squadron was the first black flying squadron during WWII and the first to deploy overseas, deploying to North Africa in April 1943.

While the fortunes of war are not attractive, there is a distinction between the war and the warrior. The warrior takes an oath of service and performs his or her duties in a manner acceptable to them and God. The name Tuskegee Airmen applied to all who comprised the unit as the effectiveness of the unit rested on not only the pilots but those individuals who were the navigators, bombardiers, mechanics, instructors, crew chiefs, nurses, cooks, and other support personnel. These individuals contributed greatly to the “spirit of the body.” The Tuskegee airmen group

was awarded three Distinguished Unit Citations, including The Presidential Unit Citation awarded to units of the uniformed services of the United States for extraordinary heroism in action against an armed enemy.

Since Mr. Newton’s release from the military and his return to civilian life, he has worked and lived productively as a citizen being employed by the US Postal Service for 31 years of dedicated service. After retiring, Mr. Newton and his wife Mary settled in Silver Springs, MD where he is active with the Tidewater Chapter of the Tuskegee Airmen, Inc. He is also a member of the Tidewaters Chapter Speakers Bureau.

Thomas Wood Newton, a Tuskegee Airman, is thus inducted into the Distinguished Graduate Chapter of the W. A. Pattillo High School National Alumni Association.