

HUBERT L "HOOKS" JONES CHAPTER



TUSKEGEE AIRMEN, INC.  
GIVING THE PAST A FUTURE

©

December 20, 2024

Volume 18

## Hubert L. "Hooks" Jones Chapter



# Major Omar D. Blair

"Kids are What it's All About!"

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### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- DOTA Tribute
- Squadron renamed  
RED TAILS
- Holiday Luncheon
- Volunteer of the Year

Tuskegee Airmen, Inc.®



## DOTA TRIBUTE



Blair-Caldwell African American Research Library



**Welcome** to the quarterly newsletter of the Hubert L. “Hooks” Jones Chapter. Each quarter, we pay tribute to one of our own Documented Original Tuskegee Airmen (DOTA). This quarter we are highlighting the life of Major Dr. Omar D. Blair. I am grateful to Omar’s daughter Debbie Blair-Minter and her family for helping me gather wonderful information about her father to share with all of you.

As we look back on the year, we would like to thank all of you who have helped and supported the mission of the Hubert L. “Hooks” Jones Chapter Tuskegee Airmen. We have, once again, experienced a successful year expanding the legacy of the Tuskegee Airmen.

Enjoy reading about the events of fall. Have a blessed Christmas and Holiday Season. We look forward to seeing everyone in 2025.

Blessings,  
Elizabeth Harper  
Communications Officer/Historian

# HLHJ BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Gabrielle Martin  
President



Mark Dickerson  
First Vice President



Candace Moon  
Secretary



Vorry Moon  
Parliamentarian



Col. James Harvey  
Documented Original

**The Board would like to thank all our individual and corporate donors. Without contributions from our faithful contributors, we would not be able to continue sharing the history of the Tuskegee Airmen, generate projects and scholarships, or teach future aviators through the Mile High Flight Program. Thank you for helping us share the Tuskegee Airmen legacy for future generations.**

## Corporate and Community Sponsors 2024

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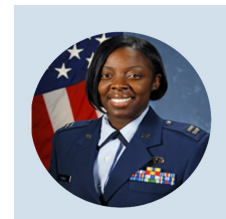
Stanley Scott

Golfers-Top Gun Annual Golf Tournament 2024

\* Thank you to the many individual donors throughout 2024



John Porche  
Immediate Past President/  
Board Chairman



Major Katrina D. Brown  
Second Vice President



Carol Hunter  
Treasurer



Elizabeth Harper  
Historian



William Eric Mosley  
Mile High Flight Project



# Major, Dr. Omar D. Blair

## Who was Omar D. Blair?

Major (Retired) USAF, Dr. Omar D. Blair, Husband, Father, Grandfather, Uncle, Friend and Community Leader

Omar was born in Houston, Texas to Omar O. Blair and Lillian Ballard Blair. Omar attended public schools in Denver, Colorado, Albuquerque, New Mexico and Phoenix, Arizona. He returned to Albuquerque for high school, graduating in 1936. He graduated with honors in spite of racially negative experiences. In 1979, Omar received the "Most Distinguished Graduate of Albuquerque High School, 1879 to 1979."

He was an Original Tuskegee Airmen, part of the 332nd Fighter Group and the 99th Pursuit Squadron. While he was never a pilot at 6'4' tall, Omar was in charge of logistics and procurement of supplies to support bomber missions.

The "Great Train Robbery" was the event Omar and his unit were best known for after WWII. This event enabled an important mission escorting bombers to Berlin. This mission was successful and became a pivotal event in the war.

Omar was a servant leader always ready to accept a call for public service. From 1968 to 1978, Omar was appointed to the Denver Urban Renewal Authority as a commissioner charged with improving downtown Denver, the 16th Street Mall and the business community.

A strong advocate for quality education in the Denver Public Schools, Omar was one of three members elected to the Board of Education in 1973. He served the community for twelve years from 1973 to 1985. During his tenure, Omar was elected Vice President from 1975 to 1977 and became the first African American President of the Board from 1977 to 1985. During his tenure the district opened the Career Education Center, built the original Montbello High School, opened or renovated a dozen schools around the district, and increased technology for students throughout the district.



## The recognition of a life well-lived was honored with three unique facilities

- 1997 Dedication of the Omar D. Blair Fellowship Hall by the congregation of Shorter Community AME Church
- 2003 Dedication of the Blair-Caldwell African American Research Library of the Denver Public Library
- 2004 Dedication of the Omar D. Blair K-8 School by the Denver Public Schools located in Green Valley Ranch

## Omar received numerous awards including the following

- 1975 **National Organization for Women** - "Presented a certificate of merit to Omar Blair because he wished to recognize "her" achievements in advancing the equality of women."
- 1979 **The Most Distinguished Graduate Albuquerque High School, 1879 to 1979**
- 1984 **Metropolitan State College bestowed Degree of Doctor of Public Service, Honoris Causa**
- 2001 **Martin Luther King, Jr. Business Social Responsibility Award**

## OMAR BLAIR

Candidate for re-election to  
The Denver School Board.

**As President of the Denver Board of Education, OMAR BLAIR has assumed a Position of Leadership and has dealt impressively with the issues!**

Here are just some of the issues and goals Omar sees for the future:

**Fiscal Responsibility**

- Will continue a sound policy of managing school finances
- Will continue an exemplary record
- Will support a balanced budget

**Discipline**

- Will support firm and consistently administered discipline without a double standard
- Will ensure that Board policies and practices equally consider the rights of teachers, administrators, and students
- Wants the total community to share the responsibility - at home, the schools, and the community

**School Cleanings and Utilization**

- Will continue to consider input on neighborhood and fiscal responsibility in determining use of facilities and will work diligently to find appropriate solutions with the schools no longer required for Community School Centers
- Leaving to city, state, or private agencies or institutions
- Will call for greater community involvement in future use of all schools

**Personal Goals**

- Stress excellence in education for all students
- Stress a firm foundation in basic skills
- Build confidence in the schools
- Continue support for public education
- Encourage the use of facilities in Denver
- Reduce dropout rate
- Create a strong professional and personally responsible climate

**Increased participation by the business community in educational programs, such as Adult A-School**

**Construction of:**

- Career Education Center
- Montbello Career Center High School
- The first state-funded school in Denver - McKinley-Teacher Elementary

The lowest pupil/teacher ratio and teacher turnover in the Metropolitan Area.

**Keep BLAIR There!**

**Vote MAY 15th**

**To continue his good work, OMAR BLAIR needs your support. Show YOU care. -- VOTE FOR BLAIR!**

# Family Legacy

Omar was a hero to many, a great friend to some, a wonderful companion, father and grandfather and would have loved his great-grandchildren. He had nicknames for family and friends including his beloved wife, Jeweldine also known as "Child Bride." He nicknamed his daughters: Deborah C. "Muffet," and Patricia "Tweety Bird" or "Little Bear" and son, Omar D. III "Drew-eee". The grandchildren received favored names too. Lisa "Little Troop" and "Dr. Lisa," Christopher "Spike," Daniel "Danielson," Erik "Viking", Valerie "Val-O-Rie."

We know he would have special names for each of the great-grands: Addison and Isla; Duke, Lucy, Deacon and Mia.

As a grandfather, Omar loved his grandchildren unconditionally. He encouraged them to dream big, set high goals and expectations. He would be very proud of the accomplishments of Lisa, Daniel, Erik and Valerie. The great-grandchildren would have a multitude of nicknames and would enjoy his special brand of spoiling.

## Favorite Quotes



"Kids are What it's All About!"

"Let the Church say Amen"

"You are doing a fine job!"

"Corporate Image is Everything"

"You have to be part of the establishment to make change!"

"A little warm milk!"

"Don't forget to put the Scotch in the box!!"

"I wonder what the poor folks are doing tonight"

"Throw the Rascals Out"

"Keep Blair There"

## Omar's Favorites and other fun facts

Omar was a founding member of the Greater Park Hill Sertoma Club in 1985.

Omar was a lifetime member of the Owl Club of Denver since 1956.

One of his favorite songs at church was,  
**"Oh Happy Day."**

Favorite artists:

Frank Sinatra, Nat King Cole, Count Basie,  
Duke Ellington, Nancy Wilson and Ella Fitzgerald

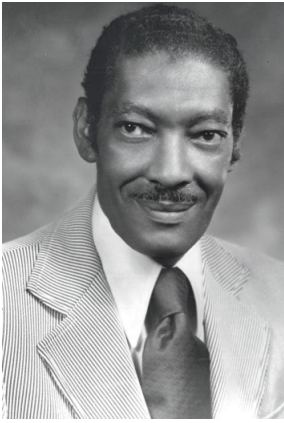
### He loved to dance with our mom

He loved all sports especially the Brooklyn Dodgers  
AKA Los Angeles Dodgers, Boston Celtics and Los  
Angeles Lakers.

He attended two Super Bowls courtesy of  
school board conferences in San Francisco and  
Tampa Bay. No one was prouder when John Elway  
and the Denver Broncos won Super Bowls XXXII  
and XXXIII.







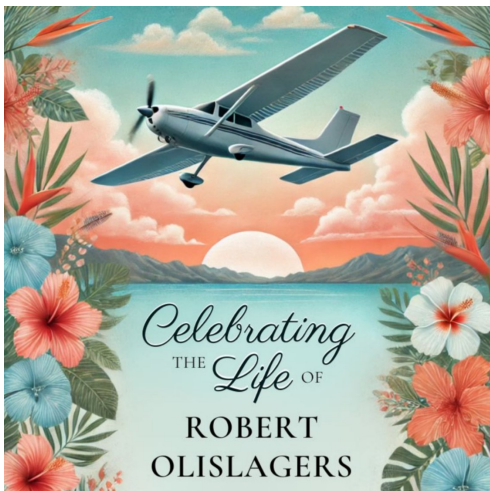
The Blair-Caldwell African American Research Library is located in the **Five Points** neighborhood of **Denver**. Named for **Omar Blair** and **Elvin Caldwell**, two prominent local civil rights leaders, it is the largest of **Denver Public Library's** neighborhood branches and one of only five Black research libraries in American public library systems. It includes a circulating collection, a unique assortment of artifacts and documents chronicling the contribution of Black people to the city of Denver and the American West, and a museum and exhibit space.

<https://archives.denverlibrary.org/repositories/2/resources/1>

<https://history.denverlibrary.org/colorado-biographies/omar-blair-1918-2004>

<https://archives.denverlibrary.org/repositories/2/resources/179>

# Robert Olislagers



Hubert L. “Hooks” Jones Chapter members paid tribute to a champion of aviation and friend, Robert Olislagers. Robert was a beloved leader in the aviation community, acting as the longest-serving Director of Centennial Airport for over 20 years before retiring in 2021. He supported HLHJ Chapter throughout the years. His contributions to our efforts continue in the accomplishments of our Mile High Flight program and other HLHJ Chapter projects. Robert passed away after his battle with pancreatic cancer. He will be deeply missed. We honor him for his unwavering support of HLHJ Chapter and the Tuskegee Airmen.



# Congratulations



We don't often get to celebrate births, but we didn't want you to miss this one. Major Katrina D. Brown our 2nd Vice President and her husband welcomed their son Zion Elijah September 28, 2024

We also want to give a sincere thank you to Major Brown. Throughout the year, she has worked tirelessly for our Chapter and organized a number of events at the United States Air Force Academy. Thank you, Katrina!

# Volunteer of the Year

This year's recipient of the Volunteer of the Year Award goes to long time member Dr. Ernest Greene.

Over the year's Dr. Greene has been a pioneer in education. With his passion and know how, Dr. Greene helped the Chapter immensely in 2024 with new fundraising, scholarship, and other educational efforts.

On behalf of the  
Hubert L. "Hooks"  
Chapter  
Tuskegee Airmen of Colorado  
we  
honor and congratulate  
Dr. Ernest Greene  
2024 Volunteer of the Year





# HOLIDAY LUNCHEON



The Holiday Luncheon 2024 was a hit. Thank you to the efforts of Katrina, Phyllis, Shirley, Exie, Ernie, Elke, and Liz.

We hosted four cadets from the USAFA who received gifts of appreciation. All enjoyed a white elephant gift exchange. Gifts of appreciation were given to DOTA spouses Minnie Ray Hunter, Shirley Edwards, and Peggy Shivers. Mark Dickerson presented Dr. Ernest Greene with his Volunteer of the Year Award. It was a blessed time of food, fellowship, and a recap of 2024.



# Mile High Flight

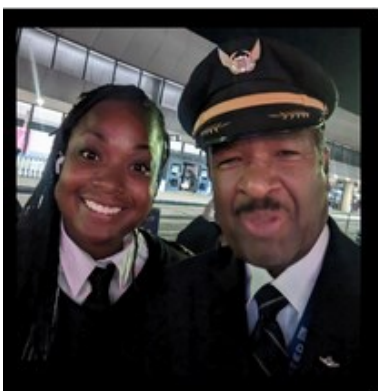
Mile High Flight continues to be a great success. This year proved exceptional. The information below was taken from the Mile High Flight updates. In case you do not receive them, or you missed the update, they are worth the read.



Under the leadership of **Captain John Frazier**, we selected four outstanding students to receive Phase 2 solo flight training. We are excited to announce that **Jacob Kalema, Anna James, and Kelsy Palacio** successfully completed their solo flights in this year's summer program!

Mile High Flight also kicked off this year's 2024-2025 program on Sunday, October 20th at Wings Over The Rockies Air and Space Museum. They look forward to another successful year inspiring and training young aviators.

## Congratulations to Eric Mosley on his retirement from United Airlines.



KAMIA BRADLEY

MHF grad Kamia Bradley continues to shine. Kamia received her wings from MHF in 2015 and hasn't stopped soaring since then. A distinguished graduate from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University she now flies jets for SkyWest Airlines. Kamia was recently recognized to receive the prestigious 2024 Amelia Earhart Pioneering Achievement Award.

# Events & Presentations Of the Quarter

**USAFA renames  
Squadron 20  
RED TAILS**

**DU Scholarship Luncheon**

**Mile High Flight Kick-Off**

**Colorado Aero Lab**

**Air Academy Civil Air Patrol**

**Holiday Luncheon**

**Numerous school and  
community event**

**Tuskegee Commemoration Day  
Essay Contest sent out**

**Save the Date  
Peterson BX Feb 8, 2025  
Scholarship applications  
Due  
February 28, 2025**



## Resources/Reminders

### OFFICER ELECTIONS

Officer elections are due in 2025. Under Article V of our By Laws, elected officers are President, First Vice President, Second Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary, Parliamentarian and Historian. The duties of the officers are enumerated in Article VI of our By-Laws. Think about running for office to keep our organization vibrant! If you will not run for office, we need a selection committee and an election committee. Let me know if you are interested. If you need a copy of the By-Laws, you can contact Membership Chair, John Porche at: john.porche@colorado-redtails.org

### Scholarships 2025

Remind any graduating high Senior that you know. Our academic scholarship application is available at our website

[www.colorado-redtails.org/tai-scholarships](http://www.colorado-redtails.org/tai-scholarships)

**Application deadline  
February 28, 2025**

Thank you to Mark Dickerson for sending out 2025 Tuskegee Airmen Commemoration Day Essay contest question to Colorado JROTC programs.



Thank you to Candace and Vorry Moon and Gabrielle Martin for attending the Denver University 2024



# USFA Squadron 20 renamed- Red Tails



Making history, again!

September 21, 2024.

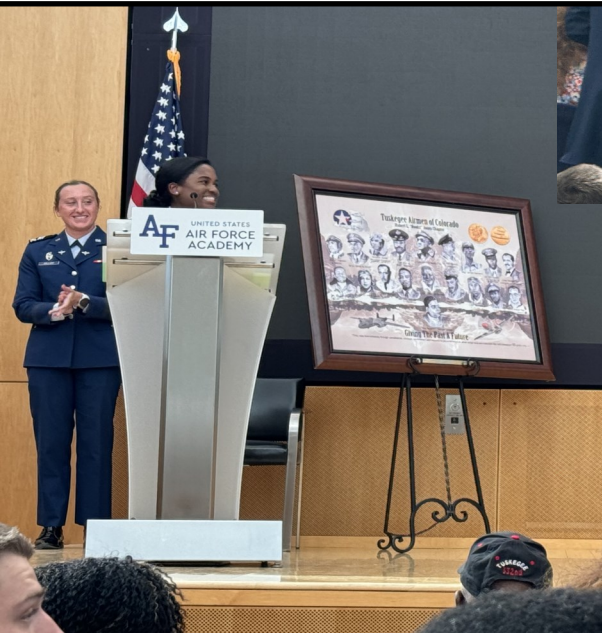
Squadron twenty was originally known as the Trolls. That name was given in 1962. Through the efforts of U.S. Air Force Academy Cadet 1st Class Julian Jackson and others, the squadron was renamed Red Tails in honor of the Tuskegee Airmen.

In a ceremony held in Polaris Hall, the squadron changed its name to Red Tails.

Their motto,  
"Rise Above."



Photo courtesy of the USAFA





# MISSION

Tuskegee Airmen, Inc., Hubert L. "Hooks" Jones Chapter is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to:

Honoring the accomplishments and perpetuating the history of African-Americans who participated in air crew, ground crew and operations support training in the Army Air Corps during WWII.

Introducing young people across the nation to the world of aviation, aerospace, mathematics and science through local programs such as the Mile High Flight Program.

Providing annual scholarships and awards to deserving individuals, groups and corporations whose deeds lend support to the goals of Tuskegee Airmen Inc.

## Calendar

Jan, 2025	Board Meeting	TBD
Jan 18, 2025	Chapter Meeting	Denver
Feb, 2025	Board Meeting	TBD
Feb 15, 2025	Chapter Meeting	Colorado Springs
March, 2025	Board Meeting	TBD
March 15, 2025	Chapter Meeting	Denver

Colorado Tuskegee Airmen Commemoration Day March 27,2025



**Tuskegee Airmen of World War II**  
By  
Lt. Col. Clarence Shivers, DOTA  
USAFA

PLEASE  
PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE

*Giving History a Future!*



Tuskegee Airmen, Inc.



Hubert L. "Hooks" Jones Chapter  
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Denver, CO