# American Heroes: The Tuskegee Airmen and Brigadier General Charles E. McGee



Learn More About the Tuskegee Airmen and Brigadier General Charles McGee!

#### Who were the Tuskegee Airmen?

The Tuskegee Airmen were the first African Americans to serve as pilots and aviation crew in the U.S. Army Air Forces. They formed the 332<sup>nd</sup> Fighter Group and the 477<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Group, and engaged in over 15,000 individual offensives in Europe and North Africa during WWII earning them over 150 Distinguished Flying Crosses and many other awards. They fought our country's enemies abroad, while also fighting racial prejudice at home. Many of these pilots, including Brigadier General Charles McGee, would go on to continue their careers in military service after WWII came to an end. Their bravery helped pave the way for the desegregation of the U.S. Armed Forces ordered by President Truman in 1948. In short, they are American heroes.

### Books about the Tuskegee Airmen

Tuskegee Airman: The Biography of Charles E. McGee by Charlene E. McGee Smith, Ph. D.

*Tuskegee Airmen: An Illustrated History: 1939-1949* by Joseph D. Caver, Jerome Ennels, and Daniel Haulman

The Tuskegee Airmen Story by Lynn Homan and Thomas Reilly (K-3rd grade)

Who Were the Tuskegee Airmen by Sherri L. Smith (3rd-7th grade)

#### History about the Tuskegee Airmen

Learn more about Brigadier General Charles McGee <u>here</u> and <u>here</u>.

Learn more about the Tuskegee Airmen <u>here</u> and <u>here</u>.

### Movies based on the Tuskegee Airmen

In Their Own Words: The Tuskegee Airmen (2012) Red Tails (2012) The Tuskegee Airmen (1995)



# 75th Commemoration of the End of WWII in Europe

May 8, 2020, marks the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of World War II in Europe, otherwise known as V-E Day. Today, and every day, we want to salute the service of the men and women who bravely fought for the United States and her Allies. We honor their hope in bringing about peace that would last not just in their time, but for all time. We remember the contributions and sacrifices made by people around the world and the lives that were lost by civilians, those serving in the Armed Forces, and those lost in the Holocaust. We have the privilege and duty to continue to share their stories and educate the public on World War II, specifically the events at Pearl Harbor, and to help their memory live on to ensure their sacrifice was not in vain. May we always remember the actions of this generation and be inspired to follow in their footsteps. We thank all WWII veterans for your courage and sacrifice!

## Resources for Teachers and Further Study

