

HUBERT Ledyard "HOOKS" JONES

COLONEL, USAF Retired Denver, Colorado

September 18, 1915–August 24, 1975

Hooks attended Whittier Elementary, Cole Junior High and Manual High Schools in Denver. He was well known and well liked because of his friendly nature and stately presence. He was 6 feet 3 inches tall and walked even taller. During his college years, he broke his nose several times—thus his nickname "Hooks," which remained with him for the rest of his life. Hooks earned a Master's Degree in education from the University of Denver.

World War II was looming, and men had to decide whether to be drafted or to enlist. Hooks volunteered for the Air Force.

1943

- Assigned to Tuskegee Army Air Field August 30. Shortly after volunteering for the Army Air Corps at Tuskegee Institute, Alabama, he completed flight training and commissioned as Lieutenant.
- When the Korean conflict required the aid of the United States, Hooks was sent to Chosen Soren, Korea as a pilot. He flew missions in Korea and earned his majority in the Air Force.

1943–1966

- Served in United States Air Force
- During distinguished career presented the following awards:
 - Bronze Star
 - United Nations Service Medal
 - WWII Victory Medal
 - American Campaign Medal
 - Korean Service Medal
 - Air Force Commendation Medal

1966

- Retired from military service December
- Following military retirement Hooks worked with the Urban League of Denver as the director of the Leveraging Educational Assistance Partnership Program (L.E.A.P.)

1973

- One of the founding fathers of Tuskegee Airmen, Inc.—Denver/Colorado Springs Chapter, named in his honor.



Colonel Robert R. Selway reviewing the 618th Bomber Squadron at the Atterbury Army Air Field on June 24, 1944. The Tuskegee Airman that Col. Selway is facing is Hubert L. Jones, Class P43H.

It has been said: Hooks Jones was Denver's Jackie Robinson. Each time he flew an airplane, he took Denver's African American community with him. Denver was his co-pilot, and he was Denver's Flying Gladiator.