



**RICHARD L. BIFFLE, JR.**

**Lt. Col. USAF Retired**

*Pueblo, Colorado*

October 11, 1920—March 25, 2000

**1941**

- Eve of World War II—Applied for pilot training with the US Army Air Corp—REJECTED
- Enrolled in Civilian Pilot Training—Pueblo Junior College, Colorado
- Released from program prior to completion—No placement for Negro aviators

**1942**

- Joined the Tuskegee Airman 99th Pursuit Squadron Primary Class 45A

**1949**

- Separated military service when the 332nd Fighter Wing was disbanded
- Recalled into United States Air Force at a later date
- Flew in excess of 80 combat missions over North Vietnam
- Retired at the rank of Lt. Colonel
- Completed more than 12,000 hours of air time in a variety of combat fighter and bomber aircraft

**1977**

- Featured in Ebony magazine article elaborating on his latest accomplishment as the first African-American pilot for Department of Treasury, Customs Department

Survived by wife Louise, two children and three grandchildren