



BIOGRAPHY

A DOCUMENTED ORIGINAL TUSKEGEE AIRMAN

TUSKEGEE AIRMEN INC. PUBLIC RELATIONS, P.O. Box 830060

TUSKEGEE, AL 36083

JAMES E. RANDALL 1926 - 2019



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U.S. Air Force photo of Capt. James Edward Preston Randall, Spangdahlem Air Base, Germany.

Colonel James E. Randall U.S.A. F. (Ret) was born on November 30, 1926, in Roanoke, Virginia to the union of Samuel Edward and Ora Flood Randall. He graduated from Lucy Addison High School and entered the Army Air Corp in 1945. He was accepted to the Flight Training Program at Tuskegee, Alabama. When World War II ended in 1945, he left active duty and joined the Reserves to continue his education by enrolling in Hampton Institute in Virginia, majoring in Industrial Education.



He was recalled to active duty in 1948 as an Aviation Cadet and entered Pilot Training in 1949 at Randolph Air Force Base. In 1963, Colonel Randall was stationed at Shaw Air Force Base in Sumter, South Carolina. Upon arrival, he soon was informed that black military students were not allowed to attend the school designed for military students. Only white students were able to attend.

Due to the unsatisfactory conditions of Sumter's public education system, Col. Randall served as lead plaintiff in the case *Randall v Sumter School District* and he and thirteen other African American Shaw Airmen armed with their team of 4-Attorneys sought to discontinue segregation in Sumter school's district in 1963. The Judge ruled in Col. Randall's favor and on August 27, 1964, African American students entered the doors of the integrated school. Those men, known as the "Shaw Fourteen," were celebrated during a special ceremony at Shaw AFB, February 13, 2019, for which a marker (pictured at right) stands near Memorial Lake. Col. Randall's many military awards and decorations include the Congressional Gold Medal, Legion of Merit, Purple Heart, Distinguish Flying Cross, Bronze Star Medal, and Meritorious Service Medal.



Col. Randall was an active member of Payne Chapel AME Church for many years. He was also a member of the Tuskegee Airmen, Inc., Order of the Daedalians (a fraternal and professional order of American Military Aviators honoring the history and tradition of military aviation), the Military Officers Association of America, and the Disabled Veterans. Jim (as his friends called him) enjoyed golfing and bowling. His family called him "Edward."



Colonel James Randall raised four children with his first wife, MaryAnn. Roberta Rollins, Louise Lawler, William Randall, and Patricia Rotenberg. Colonel Randall has three grandchildren – Jordan Lawler, Taylor Miller, and Hayden Miller. He also has four great grandchildren – Brandon Lawler, Ryan Lawler, Alistar Miller, Roman Gonzales.

Colonel Randall retired in Colorado Springs, Colorado with his wife Essie A. Randall. On December 9, 2019, he stepped into the presence of the Lord from Aurora, Colorado.

