



## TIDEWATER CHAPTER ~ TUSKEGEE ARMEN

# GRANT S. WILLIAMS, CMSgt, USAF (RETIRED) DOCUMENTED ORIGINAL TUSKEGEE ARMEN (DOTA)

Grant S. Williams, Sr. was born 26 May 1920 in Clover, VA and graduated from Halifax County Training School, Halifax, VA in May 1938. He was inducted in the US Army at Ft Dix, NJ 26 Feb 1942 and sent to Tuskegee Army Air Field (TAAF) for basic training. He was then assigned to the Headquarters 96th Maintenance Group where he performed clerical duties. He was later detailed to the 318th Air Base Group Headquarters until the Maintenance Group was re-designated the 96th Air Service Group and began operating as such. He then served in the 96th Group Headquarters as Morning Report Clerk and later as Assistant Sergeant Major. In April 1943, the 96th ASG and the 332nd Fighter Group were transferred to Oscoda, MI for further training. SSgt Williams, then serving as Hq Squadron Section First Sergeant, was promoted to the rank of First Sergeant, 1 June 1943.

The 96th ASG and the 332nd FG were ordered overseas and departed from Newport News, VA 4 Jan 1944 for Italy. During the voyage First Sergeant Williams was reassigned to Group Headquarters as Group Sgt Major and was promoted to MSgt on 1 April 1944. Soon thereafter the 96th ASG was split into two Air Service Groups, the 523rd and 524th. MSgt Williams was assigned to the 524th and served as Group Sgt Major until his return to the United States in October 1945. During that period, he was awarded the Bronze Star Medal for meritorious service in connection with military operations in Italy from 23 August 1944 to 12 May 1945. He was honorably discharged from the Army Air Corps 1 November 1945 and enlisted in the Reserve Forces the same day.



MSgt Williams was recalled to active duty 4 August 1950 and for the next 24 years he served in administrative positions at various stateside bases and overseas assignments in Japan, Turkey, and Vietnam. During this period, he completed numerous correspondence courses and did further study at Shaw University, Raleigh, NC and Washington University, St Louis, MO. For his Vietnam duty, CMSgt Williams was awarded the Bronze Star Medal (FIRST OAK LEAF CLUSTER) for meritorious service while serving with friendly forces engaged in an armed conflict against an opposing armed force during the period 8 March 1971 to 22 February 1972. As a Documented Original Tuskegee Airmen (DOTA), CMSgt Williams and other DOTAs were cited for the Congressional Gold Medal at the US Capitol on 29 March 2007 when President Bush conferred this distinct honor on all of the individuals who participated in the Tuskegee Airmen Program. In September 2010, CMSgt Williams became the first and only Tuskegee Airmen to ever be inducted into a U.S. Air Force "CHIEFS" Room. The event occurred at Joint Base Langley-Eustis, Langley AFB, VA.

His last assignment was at Hq Tactical Air Command, DCS Logistics, LAFB, VA from March 1972 to June 1975. He was first married to Cecelia A Lyons, (deceased), the mother of his three children, and his second wife, Mary M. Satterfield (deceased). He now resides in Hampton, VA.