

Lt. Col. James C. Warren, USAF (Ret.)



The Travis Heritage Center's Tuskegee Airmen exhibit was created by Lt. Col. James C. "Jim" Warren, USAF (Ret.) who began his military career as one of the original Tuskegee Airman. He enlisted in an aviation cadet program on 19 November 1942 and entered in the Army Air Force in March 1943. After arriving at Tuskegee Air Base, Jim entered pre-flight training 19 June 1943. He graduated from Hondo Army Air Forces Navigation School 24 August 1944 and served in World War II with the 477th Bombardment Group (M). He was one of the 104 officers at Freeman Field, Seymour, Indiana who were arrested for protesting segregation and discrimination on that field. Jim was released from active duty in March of 1953.

During the Korean and Vietnam wars, Jim flew over 173 combat missions. He was awarded numerous medals for his service including the Distinguished Flying Cross with two Oak Leaf Clusters, Air Medal with eleven Oak Leaf Clusters, Three Meritorious Service Medals, the Air Force Commendation Medal and several other citations and awards. His flying career of over 12,000 hours was highlighted by being selected as the navigator of "Homecoming One"—the first C-141 to fly into Gia Lam A R, North Vietnam to return the first group of American POWS to Clark Air Force Base in the Philippines, the "Apollo 14" recovery team, flying the Apollo crew from splashdown near Pago Pago, American Samoa to the Manned Space Center at Houston, Texas and the Bob Hope Christmas Show on parts of the southeast Asia Tour in December 1964.

Jim graduated from the University of Nebraska. In addition to being a member of the Jimmy Doolittle Air and Space Museum Foundation, he is a life member of the Knappa Alpha Psi Fraternity and Tuskegee Airman Incorporated. He resides with his wife Xanthia, in Vacaville, California.