

COLONEL RICHARD “DICK” TOLIVER, USAF, RET.

Tuskegee Airmen Protégé
Air Force Veteran in Blue - Pioneering Combat Pilot
Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame
Tuskegee University AFROTC Hall of Fame
Booker T. Washington High School Hall of Fame
Email: rtoli@cox.net



Col. Toliver graduated from Tuskegee Institute (University) in February 1963 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering. He is a protégé of the famed Tuskegee Airmen and was mentored, trained, and commissioned under their tutelage. Later, he graduated from the USAF Fighter Weapons School (“Top Gun”) at Nellis AFB, NV and completed two tours in Southeast Asia with 446 combat missions and 863 combat hours. He also held key roles in advanced research, development, and testing of tactical fighter aircraft. In addition, he directed the testing and evaluation of other weapon systems for the Department of Defense and allied military programs. One of Col. Toliver’s most fulfilling experiences involved training the first top five Israeli pilots in the F-15 Air Superiority jet fighter. The Colonel held several key staff and command positions in multiple major commands of the Air Force. His duty assignments included bases throughout the United States, Southeast Asia, Europe, North Africa, and the Persian Gulf. He is a Command Pilot with 4,000 flying hours in the F-4, F-15, F-16, OT-37, O-2, T-33, and several civilian aircraft. His military decorations include the Legion of Merit, Distinguished Flying Cross, Meritorious Service Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters, and the Air Medal with 27 Oak Leaf Clusters. Col. Toliver retired from the United States Air Force March 1, 1989, after 26 years of distinguished service.

Since retiring from the Air Force, Colonel Toliver pursued several business, economic development, and political ventures in New Mexico, Alabama, Georgia, and Texas. He was recruited by Ross Perot's United We Stand America and became a national advocate for education, economic, and government reform. He served as the State’s Executive Director of New Mexico and the Southwest Regional Director of twelve states for three years. Later, he served as the National Spokesperson and Coordinator for Minority Community Outreach for the Reform Party during 1996. His public service includes several years in New Mexico on the Public Safety Advisory Commission; Board of Regents, University of New Mexico; and Board of Directors of the Kirtland Partnership Committee.

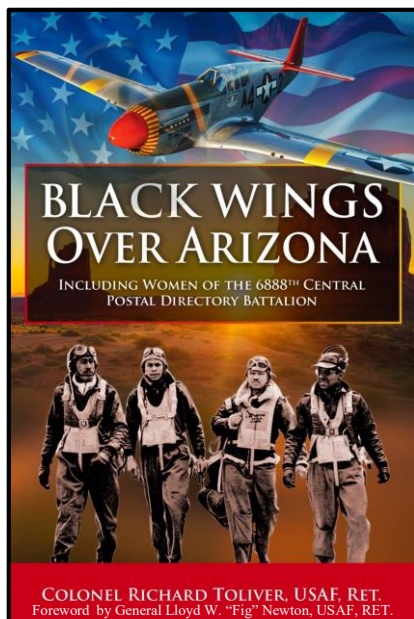
In 2002, Colonel Toliver held a key role in the coordination and completion of a required Report to U. S. Congress for the Development of the Tuskegee Airmen National Center. The Center is a crucial part of the \$29.1 million Tuskegee Airmen National Historic Site approved by Congress for Moton Field, Tuskegee, AL. Since moving to Arizona in 2003, he was the founding president of the Archer-Ragsdale Arizona Chapter of the Tuskegee Airmen and held a key role in securing the Congressional Gold Medal for them in 2007. He also resumed his commitment to community affairs and served on the Board of Director’s for the West Valley Hospital in Goodyear.

Colonel Toliver continues to be in demand as a motivational speaker nationwide and overseas, including visits to Canada, Germany, Iraq, Kuwait, Spain, Hawaii, and Japan. He has extensive experience with local, state, and national television, radio, news media, and speaking engagements. His published books include *"An Uncaged Eagle,"* a book of his memoirs (2009); *"WOMAN—A Godly Creation,"* a book that celebrates and honors the historical and continuing accomplishments of women worldwide (2014); and *"Black Wings Over Arizona"* (2024). BWOA is the collective history of nineteen original Tuskegee Airmen who had ties to Arizona from 1945 to 2024. It also documents the heroism of 855 African American women sent to Europe during WWII to clear a two to three-years backlog of mail for the American troops. His recent awards and honors include the following:

- **October 2014**, inducted into the *Booker T. Washington High School Hall of Fame* in Shreveport, LA. Keynote speaker for event that featured all sixty-four classes that graduated since the school's opening in 1950.
- **September 2015**, co-featured on the poster for the 68th Birthday of the United States Air Force.
- **February 2016**, included in Air Force's *Veterans in Blue - a Pioneering Combat Pilot*.
- **October 2016**, inducted into the *Tuskegee University Reserve Officers' Training Corps Hall of Fame*.
- **October 2016**, inducted into the *Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame*, October 28, 2016.

Colonel Toliver has been married for over sixty-three years to the former Margaret A. Hairston of Baltimore, Maryland. They have eight adult children, five of which are adopted or part of the family through acceptance, commitment, and love. The Tolivers recently resettled in Litchfield Park, AZ . More about Colonel Toliver and autographed copies of his books can be obtained on his website, www.anuncagedeagle.com, and www.aractai.org.

Black Wings Over Arizona

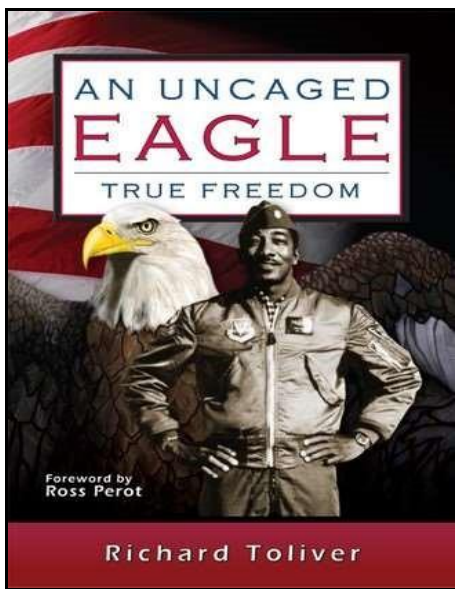


Dick Toliver and the ARAC book team worked over three years to document the exciting history of nineteen original Tuskegee Airmen who had ties to Arizona. Thus, *Black Wings Over Arizona* (BWOA)

came to fruition. Following the end of WWII, the first eleven arrived at Luke AFB came, AZ in 1945, and the last one died in April 2024. For over seventy-nine years, these great patriots and their families were committed and dedicated to making Arizona a better place in which to live. They achieved successes in business, education, government, church ministry, and other fields. They often joined in and led the civil rights fight to overcome the racial barriers that persisted after WWII.

BWOA also includes a brief history of the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion. These 855 heroic African American women were sent to Europe during WWII to clear a two to three-year backlog of mail for the American troops. They can be credited with having a crucial part in winning the war by restoring morale among millions of men and women throughout Europe.

Black Wings Over Arizona was completed December 1, 2024. Copies are available at www.aractai.org. for \$30.00



An Uncaged Eagle is an historical and inspirational memoir that focuses on victory over adversity – the path to *True Freedom*. The book presents a powerful message of hope for anyone who has encountered great difficulties, and it helps the reader deal with unresolved issues in his or her life. It is especially inspiring to those who have encountered crippling emotional, mental, or physical traumas at an early age. True-life stories can serve as an encouragement to anyone regardless of race, creed, gender, or national origin. The book can serve as a model of determination and perseverance regardless of the difficulties faced in one's life. Ultimately, *An Uncaged Eagle* provides a roadmap for achieving forgiveness and restoration in the most difficult broken relationships. The book chronicles Colonel Toliver's life from the dirt streets of Shreveport, LA to interacting with the King of Saudi Arabia, Ross Perot, and Coretta Scott King. It highlights a 26-year Air Force career punctuated by two tours in Southeast Asia, 446 combat missions, and a life-changing experience at 20,000 feet.

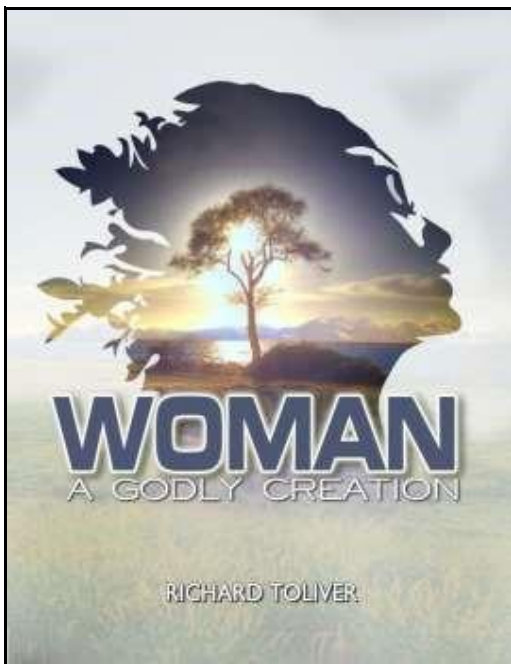
What Others Say:

*"Dick's autobiography, *An Uncaged Eagle* is an inspiring saga of victory over adversity. His personal struggle and eventual freedom serve as a roadmap for anyone who feels trapped by life's circumstances. The lessons Dick learned have relevance for every generation, regardless of ethnic origin, gender, or religion. The pervasive thread throughout Dick's life is his faith in God, love of family, and compassion for those less fortunate than himself. For nearly forty-seven years, Dick and his wife, Peggy, embraced such faith to raise a dozen children by birth, adoption, and foster care. Of his many successes in life, I know he considers this his greatest accomplishment. I have had the honor and pleasure of knowing Dick Toliver for over sixteen years. It is my privilege to present him to you as an outstanding husband, father, grandfather, great American patriot, and my friend."*

Ross Perot
Founder and CEO
The Perot Group

*"Dick Toliver has delivered once again and in a significant way. *An Uncaged Eagle* is an extraordinary document that not only portrays the story of Dick's life; but that of many African Americans who grew up in the South and traveled this road into the military. During his childhood and throughout his life, he always beat the odds and came out on top. This is just another example of his audacity, strength, and commitment to his purpose in life. Dick Toliver and his family are clear examples of how to turn adversity into success and make the American dream come true. His love of God, country, and family is not negotiable. I know of no one more committed to the freedoms we enjoy and our way of life than Dick Toliver. I would follow him anywhere, anytime. *An Uncaged Eagle* is a must read."*

Lloyd "Fig" Newton
General, USAF, Retired



WOMAN – A Godly Creation is an inspirational and motivational book written to encourage women of all ages to better appreciate their God-given creative greatness. The book provides historical evidence as the basis for women everywhere to believe firmly in their unique self-worth. Further, it offers girls and women of today practical and spiritual tools to navigate through the persistent challenges they face in a male dominated world. The pervasive message throughout this book should inspire women to shake off the shackles that may keep them a victim of past injustices. The global roles of women have changed dramatically during the past fifty years. Accordingly, their accomplishments, performance, and rise in prominence should be celebrated, honored, and revered throughout the world. This book highlights such women engaged in multiple disciplines such as aviation, education, medicine, the military, politics, and science. *WOMAN - A Godly Creation* is dedicated to women worldwide who faithfully and graciously stand firm in their greatness regardless of any adversity they may face.

What Others Say:

“This is an extraordinary, well-written, descriptive book. You will be greatly inspired by examples of heartbreaking adversity and

suffering, followed by amazing recoveries and successful personal and professional achievements. Dick Toliver lets you live vicariously through his eyes with a riveting mix of adventure and spiritual convictions.”

Major General (Ret) Irene Trowell-Harris Veteran of United States Air Force and Air National Guard

“As a man, husband, father, and grandfather, Colonel Richard Toliver really ‘gets’ women. His inspirational message can serve to empower young women to love themselves, set lofty goals, and believe that they should never allow themselves to be treated with less than the respect that they deserve. This book also serves as a valuable resource for parents, educators, and anyone who facilitates the growth of young women.”

Dr. Louise J. Privette, Ph.D. MC, NCSP
School Psychologist

“WOMAN – A Godly Creation is written with profound respect and honor for women of all ages and all nationalities. It is a wonderful guide for men who seek discipline in their lives with their relationships to God and their families. It also will help men understand more about the complexities of women, and the acclaim women have achieved through their work, compassion and devotion to humanity.”

Tony Rose, Publisher, Amber Books
2013 NAACP Image Award Winner for Outstanding Literature

Copies of *An Uncaged Eagle* and *WOMAN-A Godly Creation* are available at www.anuncagedeagle.com for \$24.00 and \$20.00, respectively.