

NATIONAL

Tuskegee Airmen Chapter Named for Former Tinker, FAA Employee

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — A new chapter of the Tuskegee Airmen Inc. named itself after Maj. Charles B. Hall, a World War II fighter pilot who was the first black man awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross.

The new chapter of the organization dedicated to the motivation and inspiration of young people was inaugurated Friday bearing the name of Hall, who died in 1971.

His widow, Delois, was honored at the inaugural activities at Tinker Air Force Base. She called the organization an important part of black history.

"My husband always said you have to provide a frame of reference to achieve anything. There is

no better way to do that than for our young people to know their history," she said.

"... People need to know that we have earned the right to be citizens of this country. We worked, fought and died for this country."

Hall, a former employee at Tinker and the Federal Aviation Administration, was a member of the 99th Fighter Squadron, the first black fighter pilots.

The squadron trained at Tuskegee Army Airfield in Alabama during the war.

Hall, who moved to Oklahoma in 1949 and went to work at Tinker, was the first black man awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, and the first black man to

shoot down an enemy plane.

The training program at Tuskegee Airfield was often referred to as the "Tuskegee Experiment" or "Noble Experiment" and started as a civilian pilot training program for blacks in 1939.

Two years later, the Army Air Corps activated the 99th Fighter Squadron.

That same year, Hall left school at Eastern Illinois University in Charleston, Ill., and was accepted as an aviation cadet at Tuskegee.

He flew 108 combat missions before being sent back to the United States to sell war bonds. After the bond tour, Hall went back to Tuskegee to train fighter pilots.



Civil Rights activist Rosa Parks, left, is greeted by singer Odetta on Wednesday evening, Dec. 1, in New York. The reception, sponsored by the College of New Rochelle, honored Parks on her 80th birthday.

Housing Authority Supervisor Suspended for Noose Threat

MOBILE, Ala. (AP) — The Mobile County Personnel Board suspended a housing supervisor for tying a hangman's noose and threatening to use it on a black employee.

The board voted along racial lines 3-2 to suspend Steven Alexander for 30 days without pay and require him to apologize to

mechanic Robert Sanders. Sanders said Alexander tied a noose and told him to "put your head in it and I got the exact tree picked out to put you on. . . ."

Sanders said he was not satisfied with the suspension.

"It's nothing but a slap on the wrist. If a black employee had made

that statement, I guarantee you he would be out the door," Sanders said after Thursday's vote.

Alexander said in a statement his actions were not intended to be racist and were done in a joking manner. Pressed about an apology, Alexander said, "Until such time that I can talk to my attorney, I'm

not going to say anything."

Two black members of the personnel board wanted Alexander fired, but the three white members said suspension was adequate.

"The vote this board took clearly shows the insensitivity regarding such matters," said board member Willie Nobles, who is

black. Board member Eddie Rehm, who is white, shouted back, "We've got to get off this black-white thing and get back to right and wrong."

Rehm said Alexander's behavior was unacceptable. Suspension was recommended by Personnel Board Executive Director Shannon Weekly, who investigated a Nov. 3

complaint by Sanders.

"The fact that no malice or vengeance was intended, I felt a suspension was adequate. Mr. Alexander made the comments jokingly," she told the board.

Alexander is a son of former Mobile Housing Board Executive Director James Alexander.

Edelman Pleads For Black Role Models



Marian Wright Edelman

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP) — Violence, drugs, poverty and abandonment by their families have combined to create "the worst crisis since slavery" for young blacks in America, civil rights activist Marian Wright Edelman told a gathering of black leaders.

Edelman spoke Friday at the start of a three-day meeting on the plight of black youth in New York, sponsored by black members of the state Legislature. Conference-goers presented a list of proposals on issues such as violence, homelessness, education and employment to New York Gov. Mario Cuomo on Monday.

Edelman, president of the Washington-based Children's Defense Fund, said black youths are despairing in the face of problems such as drugs, crime, poverty and broken families.

"I have never in my lifetime seen the hopelessness that I have seen in our young people," she said. "The role model our children need is not Michael Jordan, it's the person who lives two blocks away and can give them a chance."

Adults must get involved in their own families and community organizations, either by volunteering or contributing financially, she said. "If you're not helping, you're part of the problem," she said.

Edelman also encouraged people to hold lawmakers accountable for their track record on aid to children and families. "It's not what they say but what's in the budget that matters," she said.

Organizers said about 1,000 people attended the meeting. The Rev. Benjamin Chavis, executive director of the NAACP, spoke Sunday.

Salem
FRESHSIDE SALUTE
A FRESH LOOK A FRESH APPROACH

Wilbert Lee
Oakland, CA

"Home ownership builds stability in the family, the neighborhood and the community."

When it comes to buying a house, everyone has reservations about the financial responsibilities. But Wilbert Lee, executive director of Oakland Neighborhood Housing Services, is changing all that. By building and refurbishing homes, the ONHS has placed 59 families in homes they never dreamed they could afford. Eighteen houses are currently under construction. Half of the ONHS homes are bought by single parents who are generally the most hesitant about home ownership. Not only does the ONHS build housing, but they hold home buyer workshops to educate those who have their doubts. Wilbert's goal is to empower people and not let them fall victim to circumstance. For most people, buying a home is fulfilling the American Dream.

Thank you Wilbert Lee for your dedicated efforts toward providing quality housing to the Oakland community. A donation of \$5,000 has been awarded to ONHS in recognition of your efforts.

ESCAPE TO THE FRESHSIDE

17 mg. "tar," 1.2 mg. nicotine av. per cigarette by FTC method.

SURGEON GENERAL'S WARNING: Quitting Smoking Now Greatly Reduces Serious Risks to Your Health.