

BRIEF BIOGRAPHY: Mr. FRANKLIN J. MACON  
Original Tuskegee Airman  
(March 2017)



Mr. Macon is a Colorado Springs Native. He was born in Kansas in 1924, but moved to the Springs as a child and has called it home ever since. He is an Original Tuskegee Airman who first learned to fly at Pine Valley Airport, just north of town. Pine Valley is now the U.S. Air Force Academy Airfield, and is still in operation today training future Air Force Officers. He enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Corps in 1943, and began his military flight training in 1944 as part of Tuskegee's class 45A, where he flew various aircraft, to include the bi-wing Stearman, the Piper Cub, and the PT-6 Texan.

World War II ended before Mr. Macon could complete his training, but he continued his military service for several years, both on active duty and in the reserves, rising to the rank of Lieutenant. He later became a civil servant, where he spent over 20 years servicing and repairing aircraft, supervising maintenance operations across several states, and designing and fabricating modifications and improvements for several types of aircraft. He even served as a mishap investigator, determining the cause of a Delta Airlines crash that killed all aboard. His work led to improvements to landing instruments that prevented future crashes.

Mr. Macon continues to design and build helpful inventions, fly gliders out at Meadow Lake Airport, and is in the process of co-authoring an autobiography aimed at young readers.