

Marion Rodgers Draft Obituary

FROM EMAIL BY DENISE:

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On December 5, 2017, we lost a much loved and admired friend and comrade. Anyone would find it difficult to have led a more serving, adventuresome, and meaningful life than did Marion Raymond "Rodge" Rodgers, LtC Retired, US Air Force. From very humble beginnings, born September 21, 1921 in Detroit Michigan, and raised in Lauren's County, Dublin, Georgia by his mother, and in Roselle, NY, and Elizabeth, New Jersey, by his brother Herman, he quickly grew to love airplanes and flight, in their formative years.

During these years he ran track meets in Manhattan and was a light weight boxer at Madison Square Garden. His career led him from Tuskegee, commanding the 99th squadron, through WWII, the Korean Conflict, commanding the 6023rd Radar Evaluation Squadron in Japan and Okinawa, and into the North American Air Defense Command. His final career assignment was on the Apollo 13 mission with NASA.

Equally as complex were the rich community leadership roles he played, accompanied by his quite beautiful and complex bride of 65 years, Nora Suzanne Thomas. Together they changed futures in civil rights, community, and grass roots politics. As a volunteer, Rodge hosted a bi-weekly television presentation on KKTV, highlighting leaders and entertainers, "Involvement", from 1965 to 1985. He ran 25 Boulder Boulder 10k races, and 7 Pikes Peak Ascensions. His 25 by 45 foot HAM radio antennae crowned his house and connected him to the world long before the Internet.

Thomas Steven Rodgers, his only son, passed in 1996; Suzanne in Dec. 2013. Rodge is survived by his nieces Janet Rhoades of Boulder, Sonja and Douglas Rogers of Rhode Island, nephew Keith Rogers, CA, as well as Doris and Ray Bolden of New Jersey. Also by daughter, and long-

term caregiver(s) Denise Vosburgh, and only grandson, Ethan Nathaniel Vosburgh, of Newport, RI.

Some surviving family-of-choice members include the Dykes of Alabama, RN Paula Nietert, Norvel Simpson, the 1st Presbyterian Roths of Colorado Springs, and the entire Hooks-Jones Tuskegee chapter. Extended family on the Thomas side of family include Gayle and Phillip Clark, of Baltimore, and Cheryl Weber of Arizona, plus her multiple generations mentored by Rodgers for years.

More information about Rodgers can be found at https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marion_Rodgers and <http://colorado-redtails.com/> and <http://laurenscountyafrikanamericanhistory.blogspot.com/2013/04/a-flying-man-of-tuskegee-sometimes-it.html>