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Original Tuskegee Airman Milton P. Crenchaw to be honored, celebrated Saturday

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By Rusty Mizell - bio | email



Photo Courtesy: The Butler Center

LITTLE ROCK—Aviation and aerospace professionals and supporters from across the nation will gather at the Mosaic Templars Cultural Center in Little Rock on Saturday, January, 11th to celebrate the 95th birthday of Arkansas native and original Tuskegee Airman, Milton P. Recon.

The event will not only celebrate Crenchaw's achievements, but will also call attention to the need for increased minority representation in the aviation and aerospace industry.

The event will also honor several fellow Tuskegee Airmen and includes a special new documentary presentation featuring Crenchaw.

The Encyclopedia of Arkansas History and Culture says:

After the bombing of Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, his (Crenchaw's) focus shifted from living the life of a normal college student to flying in the Civilian Pilot Training Program (CPTP), sponsored by the Army Air Corps, and becoming a flight instructor. This was possible due to the landmark government decision of December 1940 regarding the training and inclusion of black pilots in the army. This idea was first initiated by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt and then revisited by the Department of War in response to the shortage of personnel in the aviation, pilot, and engineering sectors of government