

Dear ,

Lt. Col. Harry Stewart is one of only a few living WWII Tuskegee pilots and has launched the story of how he and his fellow airmen risked their lives to shoot down Nazis all over Europe while fighting racial prejudice both at home and in the air in *Soaring to Glory: A Tuskegee Airman's Firsthand Account of World War II*—OUT NOW!

Soaring to Glory:

A Tuskegee Airman's Firsthand Account of World War II

by **Philip Handleman** in collaboration with **Lt. Col. Harry Stewart Jr.** (Regnery History; June 4, 2019; \$29.99).

**Please email me ASAP to secure a phone interview for your podcast with
Col. Stewart himself!**

“Colored people aren’t accepted as airline pilots.”

The “negro type has not the proper reflexes to make a first-class fighter pilot.”

These were the degrading sentiments that faced eighteen-year-old Lt. Col. Harry Stewart Jr. as he journeyed in a segregated rail car to Army basic training in Mississippi in 1943. But two years later, the twenty-year-old African American from New York was at the controls of a P-51, prowling for Luftwaffe aircraft at five thousand feet over the Austrian countryside. By the end of World War II, he had done something that nobody could take away from him:

He had become an American hero.

Soaring to Glory: A Tuskegee Airman's Firsthand Account of WWII (Regnery History; June 4, 2019; \$29.99) is the remarkable true story of **Lt. Col. Harry Stewart Jr.**, one of the last surviving Tuskegee Airmen of World War II. In the style of Laura Hillenbrand’s *Unbroken*, award-winning aviation writer **Philip Handleman** recreates the harrowing action and heart-pounding drama of Stewart’s combat missions, including the legendary mission in which Stewart downed three enemy fighters.

In addition to thrilling dogfights and never-before-told personal stories from Stewart, ***Soaring to Glory*** reveals the cruel injustices he and his fellow Tuskegee Airmen faced during their wartime service and upon their return home.

- Despite being told as a child that he as a “colored” person could not become a pilot, Stewart joined the famed 332nd Fighter Group (the Red Tails), flew 43 combat missions in Italy, took down three Nazis planes over Austria, and was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross
- Unlike white pilots, Stewart and other Tuskegee flyers faced the extra danger that if they were shot down over enemy territory they could not hide in plain sight with the population or expect to live. Tragically, one of Stewart’s friends was shot down, captured, and lynched by a racist mob
- Stewart and his fighter group defied racially-prejudice expectations and won the first postwar Air Force-wide gunnery competition for propeller-driven fighters
- Stewart obtained honorary captain status from American and Delta Airlines after being denied piloting jobs with those airlines’ legacy carriers (TWA and Pan Am) 50 years ago because of his ethnicity
- Stewart’s heroism was not celebrated as it should have been in postwar America—but now, his boundless courage and determination will never be forgotten.

Best,
Mari Nicole

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