



U.S. Army Black Aviation Association,

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PREFACE

In 1982, CW3 George T. Johnson had a dream that significant historical deeds done by Black Army Aviators were falling through the cracks. Mr. Johnson believed these deeds could be reclaimed and tracked for prosperity. He shared his vision with a few of his long time military friends both active and retired Army Aviators. Receiving positive feedback all around, he decided to try and make his dream a reality.

During this timeframe (1982), Beech Aircraft Corporation (now The Raytheon Aircraft Corporation) employed Mr. Johnson as an Executive Assistant. The Beech Aircraft Corporation fully supported Johnson's efforts by financially sponsoring several visits to Washington, D. C., Fort Eustis, Virginia, and several other locations to coordinate the first gathering of these warriors. Initially, only Army aviators were considered for membership in the Black Pilot reunion. However, at a later meeting this was changed to allow all U.S. Army aviation personnel and associates to join as full members. In addition, the name of the organization was changed from the Black Pilot Reunion to U.S. Army Black Aviation Association (USABAA), Inc. to reflect the decision.

USABAA is certified by the Internal Revenue Services (IRS) as a 501(c) (3) tax exempt entity. As such, it is our fondest hope that the aviation community will recognize the need for the goals and objectives we have set and assist in sponsoring our cause. All donations are tax exempted. We believe such sponsorships would be beneficial to both USABAA and the aviation industry. Sponsorships from the aviation industry will assist us funneling our youth into aviation training and thereby into productive aviation careers. Any persons and/or organization recognizing the benefit of such an arrangement and would like to contribute to the sponsorship of such a program, please contact USABAA's Treasurer, CW4 (Ret.) Carl Burhanan at 2747 E. Ocean Blvd., Long Beach California, 90803. His e-mail address is: cbur@jps.net.

The First U.S. Army Aviation Association (USABAA), Inc. held its first reunion in Wichita, KS, June 22 - 26, 1983. Subsequent reunions have been held in Washington, D. C.; Wichita, KS; St. Louis, MO; Ft. Rucker, AL; Atlanta, GA; Las Vegas, NV; Hampton, VA; New Orleans, LA; San Antonio, TX, Memphis, TN; and Fayetteville, NC;



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MISSION

The U.S. Army Black Aviation Association (USABAA), Inc. is dedicated to making sure that the latest aviation information is made available to the membership and interested young people. USABAA encourages good communication between Aviators and other aviation specialties of the Active Army, Army Reserves, Army National Guards and Retired Communities. In addition, USABAA encourages and solicits two-way communications and support with other aviation organizations throughout the country.

MEMBERSHIP

This organization, (USABAA) will not discriminate in membership eligibility on the basis of race, color, religion, sex or national origin. USABAA will not accept invitations from, nor participate in any activity or organization that does not adhere to or conform to the above policy.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

USABAA, Inc. is organized exclusively for charitable, educational, and scientific purposes, including the making of distribution to organizations that qualify as tax exempt organizations under Section 501c)(19) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue law).

The organization was conceived to:

- (a). Promote, support and encourage minorities to pursue educational and professional goals in the field of aviation.
- (b). Develop scholarships and student aid programs that are sufficiently varied to provide youths the opportunity to become aviators, engineers, navigators, technicians or other aviation specialties.
- (c). Enroll as many members as possible to increase the support base of the organization and provide funds for the achievement of the organization's goals.



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(d). Additionally, USABAA's officers and selected members continue a concerted effort to:

- Identify the contributions black Americans have made to military and civilian aviation in this country.
- Encourage young people to enter the military and commercial fields of aviation and to pursue and complete educational objectives in related fields.
- Stimulate and encourage broad employment opportunities for Blacks and other minorities in all aviation fields.

Introduction

The U.S. Army Black Aviation Association, Inc. is the results of a dream of CW3 (Ret.) George T. Johnson, a retired Army Aviator, that became a reality. During a one-year period beginning in June of 1982, Mr. Johnson discussed his idea with many friends, both current and retired Army Aviators. He realized that significant historical deeds done by Black Army Aviators were falling through the cracks. Mr. Johnson's dream was such that he believed these deeds could be reclaimed and tracked for prosperity. As a result, Mr. Johnson set out on a mission to do just that.

During a one-year period, Mr. Johnson coordinated his efforts and shared his vision with long time friends; LTC (Ret.) Waddell Avery, CW4 (Ret.) Carl Burhanan, CW3 (Ret.) Joseph P. Holland, LTC (Ret.) Benjamin C. Johnson, CW4 (Ret.) Clarence T. Jones, Col. (Ret.) Albert B. Luster, LTC Jerry Hawkins and CW4 (Ret.) Ulyses Lamkin. Receiving positive feedback all around, he was well on his way toward making his vision a reality.

During this timeframe, Beech Aircraft Corporation employed Mr. Johnson as an Executive Assistant. The Beech Aircraft Corporation fully supported Johnson's efforts by sponsoring, financially, several visits to Washington, D.C., Fort Eustis, Virginia, and several other locations to coordinate the first reunion. Beech Aircraft Corporation, along with other Wichita Aircraft Manufacturers, also supported the first reunion financially. Col. R. Butler of the Department of Defense (DOD), an Army Aviator and old friend of Mr. Johnson assisted in obtaining a roster with addresses of both active and retired Black Army Aviator. Col. Albert B. Luster, Assistant Commandant of the Transportation School at Fort Eustis, also an old



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friend, was instrumental in obtaining the full support of the U.S. Army Transportation Center.

The First U.S. Army Black Pilot Reunion

The First U.S. Army Black Pilot Reunion that later became the U.S. Army Black Aviation Association (USABAA), Inc. was held in Wichita, Kansas, June 22 – 26, 1983. Then Brig. General Colin Powell, of Fort Leavenworth, Kansas was scheduled to speak at the first reunion, but was promoted and transferred to DOD prior to the reunion.

Maj. General Crosby Saint replaced General Powell as the luncheon speaker. Maj. General Ellis D. Parker, commanding General, Fort Rucker, Alabama personally assigned Captain Olin E. Sanders to assist in the success of the first reunion. Brig. General Charles E. Teeter brought six Black Army Aviators from Fort Rucker for a one-day visit at the reunion. Maj. General Jerry R. Curry, the Army highest-ranking Black Aviator on active duty at the time was the Saturday night banquet's speaker.

The following active and retired aviation personnel attended the first reunion in Wichita, Kansas.

1983 ATTENDEES

*CW4 (Ret.) Robert B. Akers	LTC. (Ret.) William H. Holloman
*CW2 Prince Alexander	*LTC. (Ret.) Benjamin C. Johnson
*LTC (Ret.) Waddell Avery	CW3 (Ret.) George T. Johnson
CW4 (Ret.) Carl Burhanan	CIV Robert Maurice Johnson
Maj. Gen. Jerry R. Curry	*CW4 (Ret.) Clarence T. Jones
CW3 (Ret.) Cornelius Daniel	Col. Albert B. Luster
CW4 (Ret.) Fred Farmer	CW3 (Ret.) George W. Murray, Jr.
CIV William H. Gillespie	CPT. Olin B. Sanders
LTC (Ret.) J.B. (Jerry) Hawkins	CW3 (Ret.) Marion W. Sligh
CW3 (Ret.) Joseph P. Holland	LTC (Ret.) Raymond L. Smith
CW4 (Ret.) Ulyses Lamkin	COL. (Ret.) Harry W. Townsend
	Col. (Ret.) Howard Williams

*Deceased



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MEMBERS – NONATTENDEES

CW2 Charles Achane
CW4 (Ret.) Frank P. Joseph

CPT. Michel E. Mack
LTC (Ret.) Oscar C. Mack

During the meeting provisional officers were elected for a one-year term. Committees were appointed to write the constitution and by-laws and recommend a new name for the organization to the membership that will be inclusive of all Army aviation personnel. The membership voted to have the second reunion in the Washington, D. C. area.

Additionally, the membership voted that USABAA's purposes would be as follow.

- To establish communications between current and former Army Aviators.
- To identify with Black Americans the contributions that Black Army Aviators have made to this country, both within the military and civilian communities.
- To encourage young Blacks to consider the field of Army Aviation.

Several wives attended the first reunion. They included Bertha Jones, Hattie Lamkin, Barbara Sligh, Phyllis Johnson, Pamela Johnson, Marian Williams and Laura Gillespie. Although some activities were organized for the wives, USABAA's ladies auxiliary was not officially organized until 1984.

The first reunion attendees elected the organization's provisional officers for the 1983 – 1984 year as follow:

Provisional Officers 1983 – 1984

President – COL. (Ret.) Harry W. Townsend
Vice-President – LTC (Ret.) J.B. (Jerry) Hawkins
Secretary – *LTC (Ret.) Waddell Avery



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Treasurer – CW3 (Ret.) George T. Johnson

ADVISOR 1983 – 1984

*MG (Ret.) James F. Hamlet – Trenton, New Jersey

Activities for the five-day reunion included a luncheon/fashion show, press conferences, tour of Beech Aircraft, ladies makeup session, shopping tour and culminated with a banquet/dance. Most activities were held at the Wichita Royale Hotel. Mrs. Pam Johnson and Ms. Pam Knox were the hostesses for the first reunion in Wichita, Kansas.

The USABAA Reunion Coordinators for the 1983 – 1984 year were appointed as follow:

Program Coordinator 1984

*LTC (Ret.) Waddell Avery – Washington, D.C. Area

Regional Coordinators 1983-1984

Northeast	LTC (Ret.) J.B (Jerry) Hawkins – Maryland
Northern Virginia and D.C.	*LTC (Ret.) Waddell Avery – Alexandria & Washington, D.C.
Southern Virginia	CW3 (Ret.) Joseph P. Holland – Hampton, VA & Mid South
Southeast	*CW3 (Ret.) Dorsey Battle – Enterprise, AL
Southwest	CW4 (Ret.) Ulyses Lamkin – San Antonio, TX
Northwest	*CW4 (Ret.) Clarence T. Jones – Tacoma, WA
Northern California	*LTC (Ret.) Charles A. Drummond, Jr. – Carmel, CA
Southern California	CW4 (Ret.) Carl Burhanan, – Los Angeles, CA



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As a result of CW3 Johnson's efforts as the coordinator our first reunion, the first U. S. Black Pilot Reunion received outstanding support from the Department of the Army, the State of Kansas and the City of Wichita. Representatives from Fort Rucker, Alabama; Fort Leavenworth, Kansas; the Wichita Army Reserves and Recruiting Stations presented military seminars and displays. Fort Riley, Kansas had static displays of the latest rotary wing aircraft. State and local aircraft industry representatives were also on hand to make presentations and discuss their displays. The first reunion was a huge success. The attendees voted to make the reunion an annual affair. They also voted to have the second reunion in the Washington, D. C. area. *LTC (Ret.) Waddell Avery agreed to sponsor the reunion in the D. C. Area.

Second U.S. Army Black Aviation Association (USABAA) Reunions

The second U. S. Army Black Aviator Association (USABAA) Reunion (Formerly the U. S. Army Black Pilot Reunion) was held in Arlington, Virginia, June 27 – July 1, 1984. *LTC (Ret.) Waddell Avery did an excellent Job as host/chairman of the reunion. It was through *LTC Avery's tremendous efforts that made the reunion a success.

Two fruitful business meeting were held. Officers were elected to a two-year term. Standing committees were also appointed. The elected officers were as follow.

Officers

President:	LTC (Ret.) Charles H. Drummond
Vice-President:	CW4 (Ret.) Carl Burhanan
Secretary:	LTC (Ret.) Benjamin Johnson
Treasurer:	CW3 (Ret.) George T. Johnson
Parliamentarian:	Mr. William H. Gillispie

Executive Board

Chairman:	COL. Harry W. Townsend
Members:	CW3 (Ret.) Fred Farmer



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CW3 (Ret.) Joseph P. Holland
CW4 (Ret.) Thomas Holmes
CW4 J. L. (Jay) Nance

Advisor

*Major General (Ret.) James F. Hamlet

It was noted at this meeting that USABAA's number one priority was and still is to increase its membership. As Major General (Ret.) James F. Hamlett once said, "This Association should be supported by all current and former Army Aviators." It will take an all out effort from each of us to reach our objectives, and it is through this medium that we still make this appeal.

Although our focus is directed toward getting more active and former U.S. Army blacks and other minority aviation personnel totally involved by becoming active members in USABAA, our membership is open to all active and former U.S. Army and "sister" services aviation personnel as well as other individuals that share our interest in aviation and education. Therefore, we welcome the total community's help in achieving these goal and objectives. In addition, we are strongly attempting to get our black and other minority youth to take a more active role in some of our activities. Hopefully, they will have the opportunity to meet and establish personal relationships with the reunion attendees. It is our strong desire that they will become more involved not only in our activities, but other aviation endeavors by seeking scholarships and mentoring through USABAA and other black aviation organizations.

During the year of 1984, USABAA was officially chartered in the State of Virginia. (See attachment for a list of the chartered members.) Also in 1984, the wives of USABAA's members formally organized the ladies' auxiliary of the U.S. Army Black Aviation Association, Inc. The following officers were elected.

Officers of the Ladies Auxiliary – 1984

President:	Pam Johnson
Vice – President	Hilda Avery



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Secretary: Gloria Akers
Treasurer: Phyllis Johnson

Subsequent reunions of the U.S. Army black Aviation Association, Inc.

During the period from 1985 to present, we have held subsequent reunions in Washington, D. C.; Atlanta, Georgia, Fort Rucker, Alabama; Las Vegas, Nevada, Hampton, Virginia, Saint Louis, Missouri, Wichita, Kansas, New Orleans, LA, Memphis, Tennessee, Fayetteville, North Carolina.

In August 1998, we held for the first time a joint reunion with The Black Pilots of America (BPA) in Wichita.

This gathering was so rewarding, we voted to continue this joint reunion with BPA in Washington, D. C. in August 1999.

During the interim, USABAA's President joined a council of leaders call the International Black Aerospace Council (IBAC). IBAC was founded in 1996. Other aviation organization's leaders under the umbrella of IBAC are the presidents of the Black Pilots of America (BPA), Negro Airmen International (NAI), National Black Coalition of Federal Aviation Employees (NBCFAE), Organization of Black Airline Pilots (OBAP) and Tuskegee Airmen, Inc. (TAI).

In the year 2000, we met with IBAC's member organization for a combined reunion in San Antonio, Texas. The meetings were very informative and rewarding. As a result, we voted to make our 2001 reunion a joint meeting with the members of IBAC in Memphis, Tennessee. Our 2002 reunion was in Atlanta, GA, again in conjunction with, but separate from IBAC.

In 2003, the reunion was sponsored by Fred and Hilda Farmer in Fayetteville, NC.

In September 2003 the only at-large chapter was installed at Fort Rucker, AL., under the leadership of Raymond "Ray" Watts.

This chapter was established as the George W. Baker Chapter as a tribute to a USABAA member that had for many years been instrumental in the successes of many of the Army Aviation students during their matriculation at the U.S. Army Aviation training installation.

In 2004 the reunion was held in Fort Rucker, AL which was the third such occurrence at Ft. Rucker, however, this was the first reunion sponsored by the newly established George W. Baker Chapter.

Presently, plans are underway for an August 10 through August 14, 2005 convention in the Fort Worth/Dallas, TX area.



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Attachment # 1

The following lists of names are chartered members of USABAA.

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Chartered Members

CW2 Charles Achane
*LTC (Ret.) Waddell Avery (93)
CW4 (Ret.) Carl Burhanan
MG Jerry R. Curry
CW3 (Ret.) Cornelius Daniel
LTC (Ret.) Charles H. Drummond
CW4 (Ret.) Fred Farmer
CIV William H. Gillespie
*MG (RET.) James F. Hamlet
LTC (Ret.) J. B. (Jerry) Hawkins
CW3 (Ret.) Joseph P. Holland
LTC (Ret.) William H. Holloman

*LTC. (ret.) Benjamin C. Johnson
CW3 (Ret.) George T. Johnson
CIV Robert Maurice Johnson
*CW4 (Ret.) Clarence T. Jones
CW4 (Ret.) Frank P. Joseph
CW4 (Ret.) Ulyses Lampkin
COL. Albert B. Luster
CPT. Michel E. Mack
LTC (Ret.) Oscar C. Mack.
CW3 (Ret.) George W. Murray, Jr.
CPT. Olin B. Sanders
COL. (Ret.) Harry W. Townsend
Col. (Ret.) Howard Williams

*Deceased