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Contact: Erin DiNicola
Public Information Director
Erin.DiNicola@patriotspoint.org

Historical Icon, Tuskegee Airman, To Visit Patriots Point

Lt. Eugene J. Richardson, Jr Helped Break Racial Barriers in the United States Military

MOUNT PLEASANT, S.C. – Lt. Eugene J. Richardson, Jr, a member of the famed Tuskegee Airmen, the nation’s first African-American fighter pilots to see combat during World War II, will visit the USS Yorktown on October 15 for a Meet and Greet with the public.

The achievements of the Tuskegee Airmen, an elite group of African-American fighter pilots, and support personnel, not only exemplified excellence in aviation, but also symbolized a pivotal movement in the struggle for civil rights.

Lt. Richardson, a charter member of the Greater Philadelphia Chapter of Tuskegee Airmen, served in the Army Air Corps during World War II. In recognition of the exemplary service of the Tuskegee Airmen, President Harry S. Truman signed a 1948 Executive Order ending segregation in the military.

"We are honored to provide this unique opportunity for the community to connect with a member of the Tuskegee Airmen," said Allison Hunt, Executive Director, Patriots Point Development Authority. "This event not only celebrates the heroic achievements of these remarkable individuals, but it also offers a chance to learn about their enduring legacy."

Lt. Richardson will share personal experiences and insights about his time in the service, including the challenges and triumphs that define the Tuskegee Airmen’s legacy. Attendees will have the opportunity to speak with Lt. Richardson and to watch a documentary about the Tuskegee Airmen, *In Their Own Words: The Tuskegee Airmen*, in the Smokey Stover Theater.

Meet and Greet Details:

Date: Sunday, October 15

Time: 12-2pm

Location: Hangar Bay, USS Yorktown at Patriots Point

Admission: Included in price of ticket.

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About Patriots Point Naval & Maritime Museum

Patriots Point Naval & Maritime Museum, on the Charleston Harbor, is the #1 attraction in Mount Pleasant, S.C., and is home to a fleet of National Historic Landmark ships, and the only Vietnam Support Base Camp in the U.S. Patriots Point is also headquarters to the Congressional Medal of Honor Society and the agency's official Medal of Honor Museum. Visit www.patriotspoint.org for more details, or find us at @patriots_point on Twitter and Instagram, and Facebook at www.facebook.com/PatriotsPoint.org.

About the USS Yorktown Foundation

The USS Yorktown Foundation is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization dedicated to raising funds to provide scholarships for educational programs at Patriots Point Naval & Maritime Museum, as well as supporting new exhibits, symposiums and special programs. The Foundation's mission is "to cultivate a unique learning environment that connects generations by celebrating America's history and its heroes, inspiring freedom, patriotism, leadership and service." For more information, please visit www.USSYorktownFoundation.org or call 843.881.5925.