

Memorial Day

U.S. AIR FORCE'S FIRST BLACK HELICOPTER PILOT

Lt. Col. William Hugo Holloman III, a decorated U.S. Air Force pilot during three wars and one of the first African-Americans to experience integration in the U.S. military, will speak at the Oregon Vietnam Veterans "Living" Memorial in Portland during a Memorial Day ceremony on Monday, May 31. Activities at the Memorial will begin at noon with the reading of names of Oregonians killed and missing in action in Vietnam. A ceremony and Lt. Col. Holloman's speech will follow at approximately 1:15 PM.

Holloman, 74, successfully completed Aviation Cadet examinations in 1942 and graduated in class 44-H from Tuskegee Army Air field in 1944. As a member of the famed Tuskegee Airmen (an all-Black unit of pilots), he flew P-51s with the 99th Fighter Squadron, 332nd Fighter Group, known as "The Red Tails," over Italy during World War II.

After the war, he became one of the first participants in the integration of the U.S. Air Force when he was assigned to the Airborne Electronics School at Keesler AFB, Miss.

In 1948.

During the Korean conflict, Holloman served as a MATS pilot, transporting passengers and supplies to the Far East and Korea and returning wounded troops to the U.S. It was during this tour of duty that he became the first Black helicopter pilot in the history of the U.S. Air Force.

Following the Korean conflict and a nine-year civilian career as a commercial aviator, Holloman returned to active duty in 1966 as director for Safety and Standards

in Vietnam and later in Europe. While in Vietnam, he logged 500 hours in the air, piloting Sky Cranes, Huey helicopters, U-21s and U-8s, often under combat conditions.

After logging a total of 17,000 flying hours and becoming a Master Aviator, Holloman retired from the military in 1972 and completed degrees in business administration from the University of Maryland and history from the University of

Washington. The father of six children, he now lives in Seattle and conducts research on Blacks in the military, gives lectures about the Tuskegee Airmen, and encourages youth to consider Air Force and aerospace careers.

The Oregon Vietnam Veterans "Living" Memorial is located in Portland's Washington Park near the Oregon Zoo and the World Forestry Center.



Decorated Tuskegee Airman Lt. Col. William Holloman III served in WWII, Korea and Vietnam. He will be speaking at Portland's Vietnam Memorial on May 31.

KENNEDY SCHOOL McMenamins EVENTS

Mary Kaderly

Thursday, May 6 at 7:00pm in the Gymnasium

The Jim Mesi Band

Thursday, May 13 at 7:00pm in the Gymnasium

The Steve Bradley

Thursday, May 20 at 7:00pm in the Gymnasium

Craig Carothers

Songwriters in the Round

Sunday, May 30 at 7:30pm in the Gymnasium

\$7 Cover



McMenamins Kennedy School

5736 NE 53rd · Portland, Oregon · (503) 249-3983

All ages welcome · No cover charge unless noted

