



Portland resident Don Bachman (back row, second from left) was saved from certain death during a World War II battle with German fighter planes, because of the intervention of the historical 332nd Fighter Group, the all-black Air Force unit known as the Tuskegee Airmen.

White Fighter Pilots Saved by Black Squadron

Courageous African Americans

BY RON WEBER

became prisoners of war.

Our nation's first African American pilots fought hard for a country that had rejected them on many different fronts. They were often de-

nied access in stores, hotels, and restaurants. They were "redlined" in regards to housing, barred from

continued ▼ on page 8

Thanks for bringing Uncle Don Home

During World War II many military commanders believed that African Americans were not capable of learning how to fly airplanes. It was a silly notion, but nevertheless it was there. Obviously the doubters were wrong.

At the Tuskegee Alabama Army Airfield in the early 1940s a group of young black men would come to not only meet the arduous task of becoming Air Force fighter pilots, they would make an incredible mark in history for their pilot prowess and become a shining example in the fight against racism.

From the first graduating class on March 6, 1942, through the last class on June 29, 1946, a total of 926 black pilots earned their wings. Of these graduates, approximately 450 went overseas to fly in combat. They flew more than 15,000 sorties and almost 600 missions. Sixty-six black pilots were killed and another 32

**You're invited to Balm in Gilead
HIV/AIDS Prayer & Healing Breakfast!**

**Brunch: Saturday, March 8
10:00 am-12 noon**

**Legacy Emanuel Atrium
501 N. Graham St., Portland**

Key Note Speaker: Zuline Gray Wilkinson
Bethesda Christian Center, Philadelphia, PA



**RSVP by calling 503-988-3030
ext. 25691 before Thursday, March 6 at 5 pm**

**Worship Service: Sunday, March 9
3:30-5:00 p.m.**

**Grace Covenant Fellowship Church
5450 NE Flanders St., Portland**

**Free breakfast,
Music,
& Local resources...**

Sponsored by the Albina Ministerial Alliance