



## *The N.C. Transportation Museum Hosts Tuskegee Airmen Historian Leonard Hunter*

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Black History Month and Aviation History Honored with a Program Focusing On the All-Black Fighter Pilot Squadron**

SPENCER – The N.C. Transportation Museum will honor Black History Month this Feb. 6 with a special program on the Tuskegee Airmen. Historian Leonard Hunter will speak about the Tuskegee Airmen, America’s first black military fighter pilots.

Hunter is a member of North Carolina’s Wilson V. Eagleson Chapter of the Tuskegee Airmen Inc. This chapter is part of the national Tuskegee Airmen, Inc., a group formed to honor the accomplishments and history of African Americans who participated in the Army Air Corps in WWII.

Hunter will tell the story of the nearly 1,000 pilots who graduated flight training at Tuskegee Army Air Field in Alabama between 1941 and 1946. The airmen were segregated on army bases and in the air, flying P-51’s with the tail painted vermilion. Their successes in the air, however, led other pilots to nickname the Tuskegee Airmen the “red tailed angels.”

Nearly half of those pilots saw action overseas, earning an outstanding record of service, while breaking down barriers of ignorance. It was said that the Tuskegee Airmen faced two battles, the war overseas and the battle against racism in Europe and at home.

Leonard Hunter’s program will take place in the Bob Julian Roundhouse Orientation Room at 1 p.m. The program is free, but space is limited, so please call 704-636-2889 ext. 232 for reservations.

The N.C. Transportation Museum, located in historic Spencer Shops, the former Southern Railway repair facility is located just five minutes off I-85 at Exit 79 in Spencer, N.C., and about an hour from Charlotte, Greensboro or Winston-Salem. The museum is part of the Division of Historic Sites and the N.C. Department of Cultural Resources, the state agency with the mission to enrich lives and communities and the

vision to harness the state's cultural resources to build North Carolina's social, cultural and economic future. Visit [www.nctrans.org](http://www.nctrans.org) for more information. For information on the Department of Cultural Resources, call (919) 807-7385 or visit [www.ncculture.com](http://www.ncculture.com).

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