



---

Main Library  
Rustburg

Patrick Henry Memorial Library  
Brookneal

Timbrook Library  
Lynchburg

Staunton River Memorial Library  
Altavista

---

*Press Release from:* Nan Carmack, Director, CCPLS

*Publish by:* Exhibit opens Monday, Feb 20 and runs until April 30.

*Date:* Feb. 9, 2010

**The Test: A Photographic History of the Tuskegee Airmen  
at the Campbell County Public Library**

The Campbell County Public Library is pleased to honor Black History Month with the opening of an African-American military exhibit in the library's new gallery space. Only two other libraries in the nation have held this exhibit, the Dallas Public Library and the Kansas City Public Library, so CCPLS is particularly excited to offer "The Test, the 332<sup>nd</sup> FG (Tuskegee Project) in Combat" by photographer Jerry Taliaferro.

"THE TEST" depicts the first African-American aviators in the U.S. Military in combat in World War Two. The aviators were part of an effort by the War Department to determine if African-Americans had the capabilities to be effective combat aviators. This became known as the "Tuskegee Experiment". Native Lynchburger, Chauncey Spencer, was among these airmen. Son of Harlem Renaissance poet, Anne Spencer, Chauncey Spencer has long been a respected figure in Central Virginia. In early 1943, the first squadron of black aviators deployed to North Africa for combat and to begin critical the test phrase of the "Tuskegee Experiment". The outcome of this test would impact the future opportunities of African-Americans in and outside of the military. "THE TEST" tells an incredible story of men in war struggling to be the best Americans they can be as they strive against the prejudices of their countrymen; this exhibit conveys the experiences in a visual and easily understood format, appropriate for all ages.

The exhibition sets the stage for telling of the story by providing information on racial relations in America before World War Two and African-American involvement in early aviation. Photographs, a carefully researched depiction of events, models, maps and graphics, are used to inform visitors about the men, the aircraft they flew and flew against, and the operations in which they participated. A section of the exhibition is dedicated to recognizing members of the hosting community who served with the 99TH FS and the 332ND FG or who were involved with the "Tuskegee Project".

The exhibit will be available for viewing, along with an introductory DVD, at the library during normal operating hours: Mon., Wed, Thurs, and Fri, 9 am to 5:30 pm; Tuesdays, 9 am to 8 pm; and Saturdays, 9am to 1 pm. For additional information, or to view the introductory video and sample images, visit the CCPLS website at [www.campbellcountylibraries.org](http://www.campbellcountylibraries.org).

##