Buford A. Johnson papers

Finding aid prepared by Jamie Madrigal and Reajinae Jenkins, Student Processing Assistants.
Special Collections & University Archives
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Descriptive Summary

Title: Buford A. Johnson papers

Date (inclusive): 1945-2012, undated

Date (bulk): 1951-1959

Collection Number: MS 372

Creator: Johnson, Buford A.

Extent: 2.56 linear feet (3 boxes)

Repository: Rivera Library. Special Collections Department.

Riverside, CA 92517-5900

Abstract: This collection contains military documents, correspondence, and other material pertaining to the Tuskegee Airmen and Buford A. Johnson, a Master Sergeant in the United States Army Air Force and chief mechanic who serviced jet aircraft in the 99th squadron of the 477th composite group in World War II. Highlights include newspaper clippings, programs, photographs, posters, and awards pertaining to the personal and professional accomplishments of Buford A. Johnson during and after his World War II service.

Languages: The collection is in English.

Access

This collection is open for research.

Publication Rights

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Preferred Citation

[identification of item], [date if possible]. Buford A. Johnson papers (MS 372). Special Collections & University Archives, University of California, Riverside.

Acquisition Information


Processing History

Processed by Reajinae Jenkins and Jamie Madrigal, Student Processing Assistants, 2015.

Processing of the Buford A. Johnson papers was completed by undergraduate students from the University of California, Riverside as part of the Special Collections & University Archives Backlog Processing Project started in 2015. This project was funded by the UCR Library and administered by Bergis Jules, University and Political Papers Archivist, and Eric Milenkiewicz, Manuscripts Curator.

Biographical Note

Buford A. Johnson was a Master Sergeant in the United States Army Air Force and chief mechanic who serviced fighter planes in the 99th squadron of the 477th composite group also known as the Tuskegee Airmen in World War II. Born August 1927 in Longview, Texas, Buford went on to become the first African-American jet mechanic in the United States Air Force, the first African American Crew Chief to work on jet aircraft, and the first African American Crew Chief to work on jet aircraft in a combat zone.

Collection Scope and Contents

This collection contains military documents, correspondence, and other material pertaining to Buford A. Johnson, the Tuskegee Airmen, and events during World War II. Highlights include newspaper clippings, programs, photographs, posters, and awards pertaining to the personal and professional accomplishments of Buford A. Johnson during and after his World War II service.

Collection Arrangement

This collection is arranged into four series as follows:

Series 1. Post-military service documents, 1977-2012
Series 3. Awards, 1999-2011

Indexing Terms
The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library's online public access catalog.

Subjects
Johnson, Buford A.
United States. Army Air Forces. Fighter Group, 332nd
United States. Army Air Forces. Fighter Squadron, 99th
African American fighter pilots
World War, 1939-1945

Genres and Forms of Materials
Correspondence
Documents

Series 1. Post-military service documents 1977-2012, undated
Series Scope and Contents
This series includes newspaper clippings, photographs, programs, and other material documenting Buford A. Johnson's post-military service.

Series Arrangement
This series is arranged sequentially by box and folder number.

Box 1, Folder 1  
Newspaper clippings pertaining to Buford A. Johnson, World War II jet aircraft mechanics, and the Tuskegee Airmen 1977-2007

Box 1, Folder 2  
Photographs pertaining to the Tuskegee Airmen, Buford A. Johnson's travels, and the West Covina Rose Float Foundation undated

Box 1, Folder 3  
Fliers and programs pertaining to events attended by Buford A. Johnson 2006-2012

Series Scope and Contents
This series includes memorandums, checklists, correspondence, and other material pertaining to Buford A. Johnson's military service during and after World War II.

Series Arrangement
This series is arranged sequentially by box and folder number.

Box 1, Folder 4  
Memorandums, checklists, and other material pertaining to Buford A. Johnson's post-World War II military service 1952-1962

Box 1, Folder 5  
Correspondence between the United States Air Force and Buford A. Johnson 1952-1956

Box 3  
Scrapbook of newspaper clippings pertaining to the Tuskegee Airmen 1945-1947

Box 3  
Certificate of retirement from the United States Air Force 1966

Series 3. Awards 1999-2011
Series Scope and Contents
This series includes certificates and awards that Buford A. Johnson received in honor of his military achievements.

Series Arrangement
This series is arranged sequentially by box and folder number.

Box 1, Folder 6  
Certificate of recognition from the California State Senate 2011

Box 2  
Heritage award presented to Buford A. Johnson from Tuskegee Airmen, Inc. 1999

Box 2  
Guest lecturer award presented to Buford A. Johnson from the National Museum of the United States Air Force 2006

Box 3  
Distinguished achievement award presented to Buford A. Johnson from the National Museum of the Tuskegee Airmen 2004

Series Scope and Contents
This series includes publications regarding Buford A. Johnson and the Tuskegee Airmen.

Series Arrangement
This series is arranged sequentially by box and folder number.

Box 1, Folder 7
"70 Years of Aviation Excellence, 1941-2011" by Tuskegee Airmen, Inc. 2011

Box 3
"Tuskegee Air-Mechanics: Duty, Honor, Dedication" reproduction cover from Aviation Maintenance 2001