

He is best remembered as the chief flight instructor and mentor of the famed "Tuskegee Airmen" of World War II. His 40-minute flight with First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt during her Tuskegee visit in 1941, was the catalyst that led to the training of the first African-American military pilots, the "Tuskegee Experiment."

He also flew Vice President Henry Wallace from Tuskegee to Atlanta during that period.

As a boy of 6, "Chief" was fascinated with the idea of airplanes and knew he had to fly. At 8, he ran away from home looking for airplanes rumored to be barnstorming in the area, he had to have a ride. As a teen-ager, no one would give him a ride because of racism.

At 22, he borrowed \$2,500 from friends and relatives, bought a used airplane and taught himself to fly. By 1920, he had learned so well he received a private license and in 1932, an Airline Transport Rating (#7638), the equivalent of the Ph.D. in the act of science of flying an airplane.

In 1932, he would wed his childhood sweetheart, Gertrude Elizabeth Nelson, who died in 1995.

That same year, with a friend and flying partner, Dr. Albert Forsythe, an Atlantic City, NJ surgeon, he became known for long distance flying. East coast-West coast and back to the East coast. They also flew the first overseas flight by Negroes to Montreal, Canada, where Forsythe had studied medicine.

In preparation for a Pan American Goodwill Tour in 1934, they brought a Lambert Moncoupe airplane in St. Louis, Mo., where they met Charles Lindbergh. Lindbergh also bought an aircraft. Separated by one serial number, it hangs in the Lambert St. Louis airport today. Linbergh discouraged their plan to fly.

"Chief" and Forsythe continued to Tuskegee, where the aircraft was christened the "Spirit of Booker T. Washington." He and Forsythe made the first land plane flight from Miami to Nassau in 1934.

They island hopped throughout the Caribbean, to the Northeastern tip of South America. They overflew the Venezuelan straits and landed in Trinidad as national heroes. "Chief," at the age of 86, recreated the trip 59 years later, as his birthday present to himself. He was accompanied in his aircraft by Roscoe Draper, lifelong friend and Tuskegee Airmen instructor, and Dr. and Mrs. Lawrence Koons.

With his credentials as a Certified Flight Instructor and Airline Transport rated pilot, "Chief" touched thousands of the nation's military and civilian pilots, such as Gen. B.O. Davis Jr.; Gen. Daniel "Chappie" James; Col. Herbert Carter, and other Tuskegee Airmen during the Tuskegee Experiment.

"Chief" gave countless free airplane rides to the youth of the world, and was a founding member of the NAI, Black Wings in Aviation; the Tuskegee Chapter bears his name. For 22 years, youth from 16-19 have received intensive ground and flight training during the last two weeks in July at the NAI Summer Flight Academy, in order to prepare them for pilot ratings.

Many of his students, such as Capt. Raymond Dothard, U.S. Air, and president Mandella's U.S. pilot; Southeast Asian standouts such as Lt. Col. Robert V. Western, (Bob Mig Sweep); Judge John D. Allen, F-4 Flight Commander, Columbus, Ga; Col. James Otis Johnson, USAF, and many others, have continued in the footsteps of "Chief."

He also soloed the late Capt. "Pete" Peterson of the USAF Thunderbirds Flight Demonstration Team.

At 84, Chief turned over the reins of his beloved Moton Field training site airport to Col. Roosevelt J. Lewis Jr., USAF, another aviation protege, who flew his aircraft to Trinidad with "Chief" in 1993. They proceeded to facilitate 18 young people into military training needs since 1991.

Two of his last students, Capt. Kevin T. Smith and Lt. Greg West, were the first two blacks in the history of the Alabama Air National Guard. With 385 hours in the F-16, Capt. Smith scored "Top Gun" honors for the USAF in March 1996 Red Flag competition. "Chief" was thrilled.

He is survived by sons, Alfred and Charles; Charles' wife, Peggy; his grandchildren, Vincent, Christina and Marina; his great-granddaughter Krystal; his nieces and nephews, in-laws, and his dog, "Stinky."

[From the Tuskegee News, Apr. 1996]

PIONEER AVIATOR "CHIEF" ANDERSON DIES AT AGE 89

C. Alfred "Chief" Anderson, one of America's last aviation pioneers, died Saturday morning, April 13, 1996, at his Tuskegee home after a lengthy bout with cancer. He was 89.

Born to Janie and Iverson Anderson of Bryn Mawr PA, and a 56-year resident of Tuskegee, "Chief" Anderson was an inductee of the Alabama Aviation Hall of Fame (1991), the International Order of the Gathering of Eagles (1990), and winner of the famous Brewer Trophy (1985).

He held many other aviation awards. An Honorary Doctorate of Science was conferred by Tuskegee University in 1988. His first love always was teaching students to fly. He amassed over 52,000 flying hours.

Universally known as "Chief," he is best remembered as the Chief Flight Instructor and mentor of the famed "Tuskegee Airmen" of WWII.

His 40-minute flight with First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt during her Tuskegee visit in 1941 was the catalyst that led to the training of the first African American military pilots, known as the "Tuskegee Experiment."

He also flew Vice President Henry Wallace from Tuskegee to Atlanta during that period. Chief Anderson's life has been a shining example of integrity, self reliance, adventure and contributions to others.

As a young boy of six, Chief Anderson was fascinated with the idea of airplanes and knew that he had to fly. At eight he ran away from home looking for airplanes rumored to be barnstorming in the areas he had to have a ride.

As a teenager, no one would give him a ride because of racism. At the age of 22, he borrowed \$2,500 from friends and relatives, bought a used airplane and taught himself to fly. By 1929, he had learned so well until he received a private license and in 1932 an Airline Transport Rating, an equivalent of the Ph.D. in the art and science of flying an airplane.

More importantly that year (1932), he married his childhood sweetheart, Gertrude Elizabeth Nelson, who preceded him in death in 1995.

Later in 1932, with a friend and flying partner, Dr. Albert Forsythe, an Atlantic City, N.J. surgeon, he became known for long distance flying; East coast-West coast and back to the East coast.

They also flew the first overseas flight by Negroes to Montreal, Canada, where Dr. Forsythe had studied medicine. In preparation for a Pan American Goodwill tour in 1934 they bought a Lambert Moncoupe airplane in St. Louis, Mo., where they met Charles Lindbergh.

HONORING THE VICTIMS AND SURVIVORS OF THE OKLAHOMA CITY BOMBING

HON. PAT ROBERTS

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 18, 1996

Mr. ROBERTS. Mr. Speaker, 1 year ago today, the Nation was gripped by the bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City, OK. We looked on in shock and horror as rescue workers and members of the community tried valiantly to reach the victims still trapped in the rubble—victims who were young and old, victims who were somebody's child or parent, husband or wife, brother or sister, friend or colleague. The magnitude of the tragedy was incomprehensible, the sense of loss overwhelming. We were left, in the words of the Roman philosopher Virgil, with "a grief too much to be told."

As the hours and days passed, our grief continued to mount. Mixed with the grief was a sense of empathy and compassion so strong that it gave birth to courage and hope and a resolute spirit. We watched the faces of thousands of heroes as they reached out with gestures large and small. We knew as a community and as a nation that we would endure.

Some 168 lives were lost that day, including the lives of 7 employees from the Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service [APHIS]. A little over a month after the bombing, we paid tribute to the seven APHIS employees on the floor of this Chamber. Last year in this Chamber I paid tribute to Olen Bloomer, Jim Boles, Peggy Clark, Dick Cummins, Adele Higginbottom, Carole Khalil, and Rheta Long. I spoke of the lives they had led—good, productive, loving lives—and remembered their dedication to their work and their families. Today, we honor their memory and we remember as well the other victims, the survivors, and all the people whose lives were so sadly transformed by the events in Oklahoma.

SALUTE TO THE SIKH NATION

HON. PETER T. KING

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 18, 1996

Mr. KING. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Sikh Nation on Vaisakhi Day, the anniversary of the founding of the Sikh Nation. The 297th birthday of the Sikh Nation occurred this past Saturday, April 13. I salute the Sikh Nation on this occasion.

The Sikh religion is a revealed, monotheistic religion which believes in the equality of all people, including gender equality. Its principles are found in the Guru Granth Sahib, the writings of the 10 Gurus, founders of the Sikh religion. Vaisakhi Day marks the anniversary of the consecration of the Sikh Nation by the tenth and final Guru, Guru Gobind Singh. The Sikh Nation has always tried to live in peace with its neighbors. The Sikhs suffered disproportionate casualties in India's struggle for independence, and Punjab, the Sikh homeland, was the last part of the subcontinent to be subdued by the British.

Sikhs ruled Punjab from 1710 to 1716 and again from 1765 to 1849. When India achieved its independence, the Sikh Nation was one of the three nations that were to receive sovereign power. However, the Sikh leaders of the time chose to take their share with India on the promise of autonomy and respect for Sikh rights—an arrangement similar to America's own association with the people of Puerto Rico. Many of us have spoken about Indian violations of the fundamental human rights of the Sikhs and others. The abduction and "disappearance" of human rights activist Jaswant Singh Khalsa is one prominent example. Despite the solemn promises of Gandhi and Nehru, these violations have been going on since the Union Jack was taken down for the last time in 1947. As a result, no Sikh to this day has ever signed the Indian constitution. If the people of New York, California, or Illinois had not agreed to the U.S. Constitution, would we consider them part of this country?

When India attacked the Golden Temple, the Vatican or Mecca of the Sikh Nation, in 1984, more than 20,000 people were killed. Another 20,000 were killed in simultaneous attacks on 38 other Sikh temples, or Gurdwaras, throughout Punjab, Khalistan.

The Indian regime also has imposed "Presidential rule"—that is, direct rule from the central government which supersedes the elected state government—on Punjab nine times. It is likely that if Punjab, Khalistan makes any move toward freedom after the elections, Presidential rule will be imposed for a tenth time. This is one more way to deny the Sikh Nation the freedom that is its birthright.

On October 7, 1987, the Sikh Nation declared its independence and the sovereign country of Khalistan was born. The Sikh Nation is set unalterably on a course to freedom, although this movement is nonviolent and democratic. Khalistan will secure its freedom the same way that India secured its independence. India cannot keep together an empire which has 18 official languages. Many experts predict that India will unravel within ten years, if not sooner. It is falling apart in front of our eyes, and too many of my colleagues do not even recognize it. The collapse of the Soviet empire shows that you cannot keep an empire of many nations by force permanently.

America is a country founded on the idea of freedom. Let us remember America's mission: in the words of John F. Kennedy, "to secure the survival and success of liberty." We must support freedom around the world because we are the land of the free. The American idea requires us to support freedom for the Sikhs, the Muslims of Kashmir, the Christians of Nagaland, the peoples of Assam and Manipur, and all the oppressed peoples of the Indian subcontinent. Two bills are pending which address this issue. The first, H.R. 1425, would cut off United States development aid to India until basic human rights are respected. The second, House Concurrent Resolution 32, calls for self-determination in Indian-occupied Khalistan. I call upon my colleagues to support these bills. They will help to end India's brutal occupation of Khalistan and insure that when we congratulate the Sikh Nation on its 300th anniversary three years from now, we can offer those congratulations to the leaders of a free and sovereign Khalistan.

TRIBUTE TO LYNDEN B. MILLER

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 18, 1996

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I am especially pleased today to bring to the attention of my colleagues Mrs. Lynden B. Miller, my close personal friend, whose years of behind-the-scenes service to the public is deserving of a very special tribute. We owe a debt of gratitude to Lynden who, as a designer of public gardens, has made an immeasurable contribution of beauty and grace to the great parks and public spaces of New York City.

Lynden Miller's most recent and notable contribution is on view in Bryant Park, on 6 acres located behind the New York Public Library. The city of New York closed Bryant Park in the late 1980's because it had become a haven for crime. In 1992, after 5 years of renovation, and with gardens newly designed by Lynden, Bryant Park was triumphantly reopened. Since its opening, 10,000 visitors walk through the garden each day, rejuvenated by Lynden's pallet of spiraeas, hydrangeas, foxgloves, sedums, phlox, hollyhocks and Japanese anemones set in borders 300 feet long by 12 feet deep. Today, due largely to Lynden's vision of the possibilities for public space, Bryant Park has been transformed into an oasis of peace and elegance in the midst of busy midtown Manhattan.

As the director of the Conservatory Garden in Central Park since 1982, Lynden has again defied expectations. This northeastern most area of Central Park was designed in the 1930's as an Italianate estate garden. Fifty years later, at the time Lynden was appointed to take on its renaissance, it has been abandoned. After 14 years of Lynden's direction of garden design, relentless fundraising and staff supervision, the Conservatory Garden of Central Park has become one of the great jewels in the greatest public park in the world. Under Lynden's guidance, the Conservatory Garden has also remained a community institution serving residents of both upper Fifth Avenue and some of the blighted neighborhoods of East Harlem.

Other public spaces which bear Lynden's signature include the garden at the Central Park Zoo, portions of the New York Botanical Gardens, Wagner Park at Battery Park City, spring and summer annuals at Grand Army Plaza in Brooklyn, gardens at the Cooper-Hewitt Museum, and Herald & Greeley Squares. She is on the Boards of Directors of the United States National Advisory Council for the National Arboretum in Washington, DC, and New York City's Central Park Conservancy and The Parks Council, among others. Lynden also lectures and participates in symposiums in the United States and abroad. She has written several articles and essays on garden design.

Lynden owes her sense of color to her training as an artist. She was a successful studio artist from 1967 until 1982 and has had several gallery shows in London and New York. She was educated at Smith College, the New York Botanical Gardens, Chelsea-Westminster College in London, and the University of Maryland.

I am very proud to pay tribute to Lynden Miller, who for fourteen years has been quietly

dedicated to the well-being and beauty of New York City's most frequented public spaces. I ask my colleagues to join with me today in celebration of Lynden for her many wondrous botanical gifts to the millions of residents and visitors of the city of New York.

HAVERHILL GIRLS BASKETBALL CHAMPS

HON. PETER G. TORKILDSEN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 18, 1996

Mr. TORKILDSEN. Mr. Speaker, this morning I spoke on the floor praising the UMASS Minutemen basketball team—the best college basketball team in the country. Now I rise to applaud and celebrate the best women's basketball team in Massachusetts—from Haverhill High School—on their championship win. These athletes have proven they possess the necessary edge to be champions and rightfully deserve heartfelt congratulations.

On Saturday, March 16, 1996, at the Worcester Centrum in Massachusetts, Haverhill won its third consecutive Division I girls crown with a 74–46 victory over Pittsfield High School. With nine seniors leading the team to victory, UMASS-bound Kelly Van Heisen netted 12 points in the championship game.

Other members of this championship team include Julie Szabo, Jaimie DeSimone, Samantha Good, Sara Jewett, Allison Godfrey, Julie Dirs, Tricia Guertin, Cheryl Leger, Nicole Lacroix, Kelly Van Keisen, Melissa Rowe, Melissa Cerasuolo, Meghan Buckley, Heather Langlois and Caitlin Masys.

Thirteen-year head coach Kevin Woelfel had led his teams to win six State titles in the last 10 years, finished second twice and has a stunning overall record of 275–37, for a winning percentage of 88 percent.

To be a champion athlete requires dedication, perseverance, skill and drive. The young women who make up this winning team possess all of these characteristics and combined them to produce a group of unbeatable champions.

I'm very proud to have such an outstanding team from my district. Success in any field demands a great deal of commitment and hard work, and it's obvious from these championship victories that these women have what it takes to win.

These incredibly talented young women have not only proven themselves to be the best this past season, but to possess a record of six championship wins in the past 10 years reflects the dedication of their coach, Mr. Kevin Woelfel. In the equation for success, effective leadership and guidance are as necessary as talent and commitment from the players.

Once again, congratulations to this winning team, and I wish you nothing but continued success as you continue on to college and throughout the rest of your lives. You are excellent role models for those who follow in your footsteps, and you are outstanding representatives of both your school and the State of Massachusetts.