

STOCKTON COLLEGE

THE RICHARD STOCKTON COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY



Colonel Anthony M. La Sure of the 177th Fighter Wing of the New Jersey Air National Guard to Speak at Stockton's Commencement Ceremony

Event Will Also Feature Tuskegee Airmen

For Immediate Release

Tuesday, December 02, 2008

Contact: Tim Kelly
Jessica Hudson
Office of Public Relations
Galloway Township, NJ 08240
Tim.Kelly@stockton.edu
(609) 652-4950

Galloway Township, NJ- Colonel Anthony M. La Sure will speak at The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey's Annual Fall Commencement Ceremonies on Sunday, December 14, 2008 and will be awarded an honorary degree from the College. The Tuskegee Airmen will also be honored and are represented by Lt. Colonel Thomas Mayfield, Retired Tuskegee Airman.

Colonel Anthony M. La Sure: Colonel Anthony M. La Sure is the Maintenance Group Commander of the 177th Fighter Wing, New Jersey Air National Guard, having been so appointed in May of 2007. Col. La Sure, in response to the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001, served in Operation Noble Eagle, flying a fighter plane to patrol and protect the cities of New York, Philadelphia and Washington, DC, as well as Camp David, for nine months.

Commissioned as an officer in May of 1989, Col. La Sure was assigned to Vance Air Force Base (AFB), Oklahoma, for pilot training. Having received his wings in 1990, Col. La Sure was selected to remain at Vance AFB and serve as a T-38 instructor pilot. While at Vance AFB, he served in virtually every capacity: runway supervisor unit observer and controller, training officer, scheduler, check pilot, and flight instructor. He was assigned to the 41st Fighter Wing, Lackland AFB, Texas, for F-41B training. He was assigned to the 41st Fighter Wing, Lackland AFB, Texas, for F-41B training.

He was assigned to the 41st Fighter Wing, Lackland AFB, Texas, for F-41B training. He was assigned to the 41st Fighter Wing, Lackland AFB, Texas, for F-41B training.

Fall 2008 Commencement Speakers and Honorees / page 3

For his outstanding service to the US as one of the original Tuskegee Airmen, Lt. Col. Mayfield was awarded the Congressional Gold Medal, presented by President Bush. He also was inducted into the Hall of Fame of the West Virginia All-Black schools and the Kelly Miller High School Hall of Fame in Clarksburg. Lt. Col. Mayfield was awarded the West Virginia Harrison County Davis-Jackson Distinguished Alumnus award.

During his tour in Bermuda, he met and married his wife of 52 years, the former Barbara A. Vaucrosson. Together they have three children and, as he notes, three adorable grandchildren.

Lt. Col. Mayfield continues to be active in community and fraternal organizations, having served as past President, Hannibal Cox, Jr., Chapter, Tuskegee Airmen, McGuire Air Force Base; life member and prior Basileus Nu Nu Chapter, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Willingboro, New Jersey; member of Sickle Cell Anemia Resources; and Vice President of Del Val Golf Club.

Tuskegee Airmen: The Tuskegee Airmen were dedicated, determined men who became America's first black military airmen. They met or exceeded the standards for pilots and trained in operations, meteorology, intelligence, engineering, medicine or any of the other officer fields. They were trained to be aircraft and engine mechanics, armament specialists, radio repairmen, parachute riggers, control tower operators, policemen, administrative clerks and all of the other skills necessary to fully function as an Army Air Corps flying squadron or ground support unit.

From 1941 through 1946, 994 pilots graduated from Tuskegee Army Air Field. They fought two wars – one against military forces and the other against racism. For more information on the work of these notable individuals, please go to <http://www.tuskegeeairmen.org/>.

#