

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Colonel Richard “Dick” Toliver, USAF, Retired
Protégé of the Tuskegee Airmen

Colonel Richard Toliver, trained and mentored by original Tuskegee Airmen, is a 26-year veteran of the United States Air Force. He is a “Top Gun” fighter pilot who flew 446 combat missions in Southeast Asia. Later he directed the testing and evaluation of several major weapon systems for the Department of Defense and allied military programs. He also held key roles in advanced research, development, and testing of tactical fighter aircraft. His military education includes Squadron Officer School, Air Command and Staff College, National Security Management School, and the Tactical Air Command Fighter Weapons Instructor School. His military decorations include the Legion of Merit, Distinguished Flying Cross, Meritorious Service Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters, and Air Medal with 27 Oak Leaf Clusters

Since retiring from the Air Force, Colonel Toliver pursued several business, economic development, and political ventures in New Mexico, Alabama, Georgia, and Texas. His public service includes several years in New Mexico on the Public Safety Advisory Commission; Board of Regents, University of New Mexico; and Board of Directors of the Kirtland Partnership Committee. Since moving to Arizona in 2003, he has served on the Board of Director’s for the West Valley Hospital in Goodyear and held a key role in securing the Congressional Gold Medal for the Tuskegee Airmen. His extensive professional writing experience in the military and private sector has resulted in many articles for newspapers, magazines, and periodicals. Colonel Toliver continues to be in demand as a motivational speaker nationwide and overseas, including recent trips to Germany, Iraq, Kuwait, Spain, Hawaii, and Japan.