



YEAGER AIRPORT

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## COL. GEORGE SPENCER “SPANKY” ROBERTS INDUCTED INTO THE WEST VIRGINIA AVIATION HALL OF FAME

Colonel George Spencer “Spanky” Roberts was inducted posthumously into the West Virginia Aviation Hall of Fame August 7, 2017, after being nominated by Nick Keller, Yeager Airport’s Assistant Airport Director.

Roberts was born in London, West Virginia and grew up in Fairmont, West Virginia. Roberts earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Mechanical Arts in 1938 from West Virginia State College, then enrolled in the Civilian Pilot Training Program offered at State in 1940. After completing that program, Roberts entered preflight training at the Tuskegee Institute in Alabama, and went on to become one of the first five African American men to graduate Army Air Corps pilot training, eventually leading the 99<sup>th</sup> Pursuit Squadron and 332<sup>nd</sup> Fighter Group at various times during World War II combat missions.

During his career, he was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross Air Medal, seven Commendation Medals, two Presidential unit citations, and was honored as a pioneer at the “Black Wings” exhibition at the National Air & Space Museum in 1982.

The West Virginia Aviation Hall of Fame honors pioneers and leaders in the aviation industry who have made significant contributions to the development, advancement or promotion of aviation

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and have close ties to the State of West Virginia, and is located in Clarksburg, West Virginia.

Col. Roberts' daughters, Lanelle Brent, Mikee Green and Leigh Roberts, along with grandson, Nathaniel Roberts– will meet with the curator of the National Museum of African American History and Culture in Washington, DC after attending the induction ceremony in West Virginia. Assistant Airport Director and Author of *Images of Aviation: Yeager Airport and Charleston Aviation*, Nick Keller, is available for comment.

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FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND TO SCHEDULE, PLEASE CONTACT:  
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