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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: March 21, 2023

**SARATOGA COUNTY HONOR DECEASED VETERANS CEREMONY RECOGNIZES TUSKEGEE AIRMAN CLARENCE
DART OF SARATOGA SPRINGS**

BALLSTON SPA, NY – The Saratoga County Board of Supervisors and the Saratoga County Veterans Service Agency held its monthly Honor Deceased Veterans Program on Tuesday, March 21, 2023, at the County Building in Ballston Spa with a ceremony honoring Tuskegee Airman Clarence Dart of Saratoga Springs.

Dart was drafted in 1942 and entered the US Army Air corps on August 27, 1942. He attended the Elmira Aviation Ground School. He served as a member of the 332nd Fighter Group and was assigned to the 99th Fighter Squadron in the 12th Air Force in North Africa.

As one of the now famous Tuskegee Airman flying P-40s with the 318th Army Air Force Unit Squadron F, he flew 95 missions and was shot down twice. He later flew P-51s escorting 15th Air Force bombers. Clarence was discharged from active duty at the rank of Captain on January 3, 1947. He went on to serve in the NY Air National Guard and retired at the rank of Lt. Colonel.

For his service Dart received two Purple Hearts for injuries sustained during air combat, the Air Medal, Distinguished Flying Cross with 4 Oak Leaf Clusters, the WWII Victory Medal, and the American Defense Medal, the NYS Conspicuous Service Cross, and the NYS Conspicuous Service Star.

Dart married his wife, Mildred, in June of 1950 and settled in Saratoga Springs, NY, where they raised their family of seven daughters and two sons.

Dart attended the Aero Industries Tech Institute in California, GE Flight Test School, and was affiliated with Knolls Atomic Power Lab from 1949-1987 where he was a Designing Draftsman. Mr. Dart's honors include the Elmira Free Academy Wall of Fame, and 2011 43rd Senate District's inductee into the New York State Senate Veterans Hall of Fame. In March of 2007, he and fellow Tuskegee Airmen were also recognized at the U.S. Capitol with the Congressional Gold Medal, the highest civilian honor that Congress may bestow. Clarence was a noted guest speaker on black history at various local schools, colleges and universities, and his community service included the Charlton School for Girls Trustee Board, the Salvation Army Board, Niagara Mohawk Power Corp. Community Relations Board, New York State Air Museum AIM High Program, and the finance committees of both the Troy Conference of the United Methodist Church and the Saratoga Springs United Methodist Church, of which he was a devoted member.

Clarence Dart was born on December 6, 1920, in Elmira, NY and passed away at age 91 on February 17, 2012.

Established in 1999 by the Saratoga County Board of Supervisors, the Honor Deceased Veterans Program provides a way for county leadership and residents to show gratitude for the service of veterans past and present. The program honors a range of veterans with tremendous stories of service, sacrifice, and historical significance. Honorees include those who gave the ultimate sacrifice in the name of defending our great country and veterans whose stories continued past their military service.

The ceremony is dedicated to a different Saratoga County veteran each month. Board members rotate throughout the year in selecting a veteran to memorialize, providing for veterans from all over the county to be honored. To date, more than 300 Saratoga County Veterans have been honored.

The public is encouraged to show their support of our veterans at the Honor Deceased Veterans Ceremony, held at 2PM on the third Tuesday of each month.

For more information about the Honor Deceased Veterans Ceremony, please contact Saratoga County Veterans Service Agency at (518) 884-4115.

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Photos and Captions:



Members of the Dart family with Saratoga County officials and representatives from state and federal elected officials' offices at the Saratoga County Honor Deceased Veterans Ceremony on March 21, 2023 memorializing Tuskegee Airman Clarence Dart of Saratoga Springs, NY.



Clarence Dart (L) pictured with fellow Tuskegee Airmen (L-R from Dart: Elwood Driver, Herbert Huston, Elva Temple) discussing how Elwood had just shot down an ME 109. May 1944



Clarence W. Dart in 2007