



James Collins Warren

Class of 1942

Lt. Col. James Collins Warren grew up in the northern suburbs of Chicago and graduated from New Trier High School in 1942. He enlisted in the Army Air Forces in November 1942 and entered active duty in March 1943. He participated in aviation cadet training at Tuskegee Army Air Field and served as a member of the 477th Bombardment Group.

From 1947 to 1950, he attended the University of Illinois and majored in Architecture. He was employed with the firm of Holsman, Holsman, Klekamp and Taylor.

During the Korean War, Warren was recalled to active duty and flew 50 combat missions. Over his flying career of more than 12,000 hours, he flew several missions of note: The Bob Hope Christmas Show from Vietnam to Los Angeles in 1964, the Apollo Moon Crew from splashdown in the Pacific near American Samoa to Houston, Texas, and as Navigator on the “Homecoming One” mission to return the first group of American ex-POWs to freedom from Vietnam.

In 1978, Warren retired from the Air Force after over 35 years of service. During his career he earned numerous decorations and awards, including three Distinguished Flying Crosses, 11 Air Medals, and three Meritorious Service Medals. He is the author of *The Tuskegee Airmen Mutiny at Freeman Field*.

During his time at New Trier, Warren was amazed at the number of extracurricular activities available but found his time limited because he worked after school. He played baseball and lettered every year and also participated in football despite never having seen a football before arriving at New Trier.

Warren is married to the former Xanthia Francis Cooper. He has three sons, Captain James Warren II (ret), Captain Stewart T. Warren, USNR, and former Lt. Commander Dwayne Warren.

