

Roy Martis Chappell



Picture courtesy of the Official Site of Chicago Tuskegee Airmen

Chappell was born in Williamsburg, Ky., in 1921. He attended Kentucky State University with a major in chemistry. In 1942, during his third year at Kentucky State, he was drafted.

Chappell was a Tuskegee Airman. He served as a B-25 navigator and bombardier.

He participated in the “Freemen Mutiny” in 1945. The mutiny consisted of 101 African American officers who fought for equality by entering a segregated officer’s club. This mutiny helped convince President Truman to end military segregation three years later. Chappell received a letter of reprimand for his part in the events. In 1995 President Clinton ordered his record expunged.

After the war, he received a Bachelors of Arts Degree in Psychology. He was a teacher in Chicago Public Schools for 30 years. He was awarded for his work with students. He also helped to coordinate the Experimental Aircraft Association Young Eagles program to introduce children to flight and careers in aviation.

He died September 22, 2002.