



### **Clarence Shivers, local Tuskegee Airman, artist, and philanthropist dies**

(Colorado Springs, Colo.) - Clarence Shivers, celebrated artist and library benefactor, died Saturday after an extended illness. Clarence Laudric Shivers was born Oct. 14, 1923 in St. Louis. He died February 17 in Colorado Springs.

Shivers' parents died young, leaving him orphaned at the age of 16. Upon their death, Clarence successfully carried on his father's business for a period of time, then sold it and entered military service. The high score he received on the entrance examination qualified him for acceptance to the Tuskegee Program, where the country's first black military pilots were being trained. Shivers loved flying and always said he felt "at home" the first time he sat in a cockpit.

Shivers was released from the military at the end of World War II. He graduated from Summer High School in St. Louis, then entered college and graduated with honors from Bradley University in Peoria, Ill. with a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree. His senior project, a large mural at the Carver Community Center in Peoria, is still in existence today.

After graduation, Shivers was hired to teach art at Jackson State College in Jackson, Miss. Just as he was settling into life and work in his new position, he was called to military duty in the Korean War. He remained in the military until 1969, when he retired at the rank of lieutenant colonel.

Though a career military man, Shivers always maintained an active art studio. His sister Alice, who was seven years his senior, introduced him to the world of fine art when he was a toddler, long before he entered grade school. He exhibited a special talent and interest even at the early age.

In 1985 Shivers was commissioned by the Hooks Jones Chapter of the Tuskegee Airmen Association to sculpt a life-size statue as a memorial to Tuskegee Airmen. The statue was unveiled in May 1988 and stands today in the sculpture garden of the United States Air Force Academy.

In 1993, Clarence and his wife established the Shivers Fund and African-American Historical and Cultural Collection at Pikes Peak Library District. Through the Fund the Shivers have brought visual and performing arts from around the country to the Pikes Peak region and have encouraged the appreciation and talents of many young people in the arts.

Clarence was the youngest of three siblings born to Clarence and Flossie Shivers, and was preceded in death by two older sisters, Alice and Claryce. He is survived by his wife, Peggy; two daughters, Sandra Jenkins (St. Louis) and Karen Shivers Williams (Seattle); and two sons, Carver Shivers (Houston) and Hugh Flake (Ft. Worth, Texas); two nephews, six grandchildren, two great grand children, and two great-great grand children as well as a host of cousins and dear friends.

A memorial celebration of his life will be held at 11 a.m. Sat., March 3 at Sunrise United Methodist Church. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the Shivers Fund at Pikes Peak Library District, Peoples United Methodist Church or Pikes Peak Hospice.