



Welcome to AeroStar News!

Flying Through Turbulent Times



Dear AeroStar Family and Friends,

At AeroStar, we are building an ambitious pipeline, connecting underrepresented communities directly to the aviation workspace. Discussing issues like racism, sexism, and social justice may seem like a detour from our mission, but actually, because of the communities we serve, we find ourselves contending with these issues every day in our engagement with young people. Thus, I would be remiss if I did not take a moment to address the turbulence in our society that is impacting, not only our journey as adults, but also theirs.

No other event so glaringly gives evidence to the tumult and instability in America than the attack ignited by insurrectionists right here on the grounds of the US Capitol building on Wednesday, January 6, 2021. As lamented through the words of President Franklin D. Roosevelt after the Pearl Harbor bombing raid, this was a day that will live in infamy.

Let's call it what it was, a coordinated attempt to overthrow the voice of the American people, especially Black voters, and take control of the United States government. This was 911 2.0. But instead of being attacked by terrorists from far off lands, 1-6-2021 was sponsored by homegrown terrorists, radicalized by our own Commander in Chief. This movement has grown immensely and gained strength under a sympathetic Administration. Some domestic terrorist groups, like the KKK and Nazis sympathizers, are well known to our community. Others, like the Proud Boys and Boogaloo Boys, are newcomers in the swamp of anti-democratic white supremacy.

Thanks to round-the-clock media coverage of the failed coup d'etat, we saw what looked like a rag-tag group of downtrodden MAGAs. But make no mistake. This attack was well-orchestrated, funded, and supported by sympathizers of white supremacist ideology steeped in "otherism," greed, and power. Like many of you, I watched in rage and horror as foot soldiers heeded the call of the sitting President of the United States of America.

Navigating Turbulence

Over the past four years, I have repeatedly heard the term "new normal." Negative social conditions become normal only if we go on autopilot, if we fall asleep at the yoke. At this critical stage of flight, we cannot afford to become complacent with the downdrafts of racism, discrimination, sexism, or even sedition against our own government. Our children and young people are watching and depending on us to help them navigate in unstable winds.

While the entire society must course correct to prevent a hostile minority from taking over our government, traditions, and institutions, those of us doing community-based work must teach our children how to soar above, through, and sometimes beneath turbulence. We must teach them how to course

correct. How? Students must...

- Pick a Destination: They must understand that their origin does not have to determine their destination. They may lack economic resources, but they can still achieve their dreams.
- Maintain Straight and Level Flight: Learn from the best. Pilots are trained to fly through turbulence. Sometimes they ascend above the storm, and sometimes they soar through it. They know how to manage their stress to hold the plane steady. Turbulent times will come and go, but it's how you manage your words and actions that determine whether you'll reach your destination.
- Fly First Class: Decide where in the plane they want to sit. There are plenty of cheap seats where you can just get by, but first class students will have perfect class attendance, discipline, and high emotional intelligence.
- Know That Thrust Overcomes Drag: They must never give up on pursuing their dreams. Imagine if a pilot gave up after takeoff! The plane would crash. Once you've achieved lift off with AeroStar, there's no turning back!

We cannot control the atmosphere, but we can control how we navigate through it. Here at AeroStar, we teach the nuts and bolts of AeroSTEM subjects, but students become successful in our programs, and in life, when they learn to fly through turbulent times. And we (adults) should be their wingmen every step of the way!

Giving Wings to Dreams!

Tammera L. Holmes

President & CEO, AeroStar Consulting Corporation

Founder & CEO, AeroStar Avion Institute NFP

#wingstodreams

Congratulations, Student of the Month!



Congratulations to AeroStar student of the month, Amber, 6 years old! Amber, who is in 1st grade, achieved perfect attendance while taking the K-4 Airport Basics class on the AeroVerse E-Learning Platform!

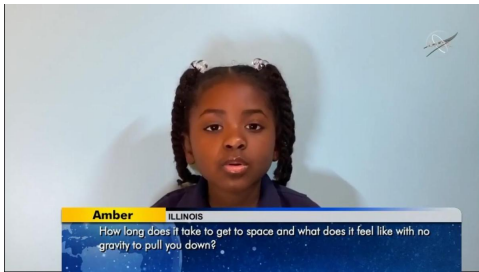
AeroStar students are exposed to the exciting worlds of aviation and aerospace in a variety of age-appropriate ways. In addition to their classes, they go on airport tours, take airplane rides, and talk to experts, including astronauts!

Million Girls Moonshot

Amber had a burning question about flying above earth's orbit. Thanks to a collaboration between NASA and Afterschool Alliance, Amber's question was answered by NASA Flight Engineers Kate Rubins and Shannon Walker as they floated in microgravity aboard the Space Station!

The call took place on January 7, 2021, and was an initiative of the Million Girls Moonshot (STEM Next Opportunity Fund). The program seeks to "...inspire and prepare the next generation of innovators by engaging one million more girls in STEM learning opportunities through afterschool and summer programs over the next 5 years." [Source](#)

All questions were pre-recorded.



Amber, 7, asking her out-of-this world question!



Aboard the International Space Station, Expedition 64, with NASA Flight Engineers Shannon Walker (l) and Kate Rubins (r).

Amber's question:

"How long does it take to get to space, and what does it feel like with no gravity to pull you down?"

Kate Rubins' answer:

"Hey, that is a great question! So how long does it get to space? Shannon told you about the fact that we're about 300 miles from the planet, more or less, 250 some days, so that's not that long in terms of miles given how fast we launch. By the time we're at our top orbital speed, that's 17,500 miles per hour, it only takes eight or nine minutes to get from planet earth to our first orbit. But once we're in orbit, we're not necessarily in the same orbit as the Space Station. So it does take a little longer. We do a series of burns and every time you do burns, you actually have to do two. You can go talk about this to your math teacher why you have to do two. But we always need to do two burns, and we slowly adjust our orbit until we can finally rendezvous and dock with the Space Station. That's dependent on each different type of space craft. So for me, it was a super quick trip. We got to orbit very, very quickly. The first time I was up here, it took us two and a half days to get to the Space Station. Then the normal became about six hours, and then this was a very quick two-orbit rendezvous. So we launched and the next thing I knew, I was in space dock to the Space Station!"



If you missed the Space Station call, click the photo to enjoy the entire session with Shannon, Kate, and girls from around the country. Amber's question begins at 17:50!

AeroStar Training: Your Ticket to Fly! Registration for Spring 2021 Programs Now Open!

SPRING K-12 PROGRAMS START 2/13!

K-4 Students: AeroSparks

Node 1: Introduction to Aviation

This course meets live every other Saturday, 2/13–4/17. Students will receive a certificate at the end of the course.

5th-8th Grade | Middle School Students

Node 1: Introduction to Aviation

The first of two in our Spring 5th-8th Grade Program, this five-week course, 2/13–3/13, meets live online for two hours each Saturday. This

Register Now




Programs

AeroSparks Online: K - 4th Grade
 Online Aviation Program: 5th - 8th Grade
 Online Aviation Program: 9th - 12th Grade

We Offer:

- Virtual Field Trips
- Guest Speakers
- Interactive Activities
- Live Instruction
- Industry Experts
- Mentorship
- & More!

ENROLL TODAY!

Classes Begin February 13th!

For more info
www.aaiaverse.com

*****FREE!*****

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER TODAY!](#)



**Launch Your Aviation Career at
 the AeroVerse E-Learning Academy!**
 (click [here](#) for details)

Book Teaches Kids to Fly Through Fear

What if you were afraid to fly? Authors Kenyatta Scott and Tamera L. Holmes join forces to show girls and boys how to face their fears!

course is for 5th-8th grade students who are new to AeroStar programs.

Node 2: Intermediate Aviation Exploration

Node 2 is the final of two courses in our Spring 5th-8th Grade Program. This five-week course, 3/20-4/24, meets live online for two hours each Saturday. 5th-8th grade students who have previously taken AeroStar programs may start with this course.

9th-12th Grade | High School Students

Node 1: Introduction to Aviation

Node 1 is the first of three in our Spring 9th-12th Grade Program. This five-week course, 2/13-3/13, meets live online on Saturdays from 1:30pm-2:30pm. This course is for 9th-12th grade students who are new to AeroStar programs.

Node 2: Intermediate Aviation Exploration

Node 2 is the second of three in our Spring 9th-12th Grade Program. This five-week course, 3/13-4/24, meets live online Saturdays from 1:30pm-2:30pm. 9th-12th grade students who have previously taken AeroStar programs may start with this course.

Node 3: Advanced Aviation Concepts

Node 3 is the final of three in our Spring 9th-12th Grade Program. This two-day intensive, 5/1 and 5/8, meets live online on Saturdays, 1:30pm-2:30pm. 9th-12th grade students may register now but must complete Node 2 before starting the course.

Tamera Holmes Teaches Violet How to Fly Through Fear!

Follow along as ***Violet Takes Flight*** for the first time! Daddy teaches her and her brother Derek the



true meaning of "doing it afraid." Follow along as Pilot Holmes makes her literary debut as Violet's flight teacher!

30% of all book sales support AeroStar Avion Institute, NFP, a female, minority owned NFP that teaches underrepresented youth in underserved neighborhoods about aviation STEM careers.

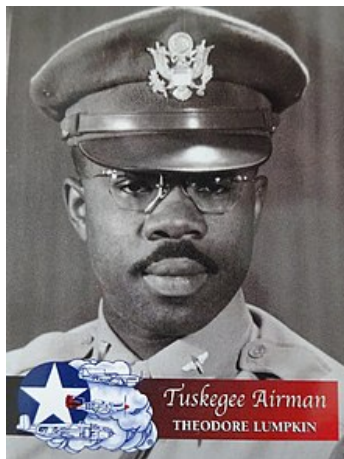
Buy your copy of **Violet Takes Flight** [HERE](#) today!

#thevioletbookseries
#wingstodreams

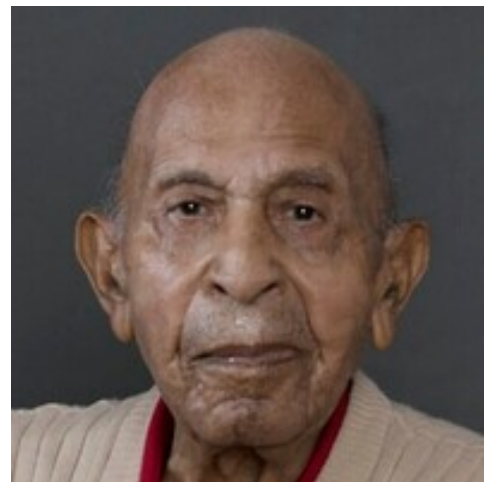
ON THE RADAR In Memoriam *Honoring Tuskegee Airmen*

The Tuskegee Airmen were among the first African Americans to desegregate the military during World War II. Renown for their fearless fighter pilots, the group also included navigators, bombardiers, mechanics, instructors, crew chiefs, nurses, cooks, and other support personnel. At the time, all black military pilots, 992 in all, were educated at Tuskegee Institute and received their flight training at Griel Field, Kennedy Field, Moton Field, Shorter Field, and the Tuskegee Army Air Fields.

We honor their service and sacrifice to keep our country safe. [Source](#)



2nd Lieutenant Theodore Lumpkin Jr. passed away on December 26, 2020, at age 100 due to Covid-19 complications. Drafted in 1942, Lumpkin was assigned to the 100th Fighter Squadron in Tuskegee, Alabama. He did not fly but provided intelligence to pilots. He went on to receive a master's degree in social work from the University of Southern California. [Photo Credit](#)



Alfred Thomas Farrar Sr. passed away on December 17, 2020, at age 99. Farrar learned to fly while serving in the U.S. Army Air Corps. After his discharge in 1943, he studied aerospace engineering and worked as an FAA engineer for four decades. [Photo Credit](#)

One of the original Tuskegee Airmen, **Walter K. Robinson Sr.** passed away on November 23, 2020, his 100th birthday. Volunteering to serve in the Army Air Corps, he began classes in Pre-Flight, Primary, Basic, and Advanced Flight, but was injured during training. Robinson went on to work at the U.S. Postal Service for 35 years. [Source](#)



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