

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

December 17, 2022

**WHAT:** [Tuskegee Airman Herbert Thorpe's](#) 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration  
**WHEN:** Saturday, January 14, 2023 from 1 to 5 p.m.  
**WHERE:** First Presbyterian Church, 108 West Court Street, Rome, NY 13440  
**CONTACT:** Maisha Sebastiany [maishaazadi@gmail.com](mailto:maishaazadi@gmail.com)

**Tuskegee Airman, Rome Community Champion  
Herb Thorpe to Celebrate His Centennial Birthday**

(Rome, NY) Longtime Rome, NY community champion and former [Tuskegee Airman Herbert C. Thorpe](#) will mark his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday on January 9, 2023.

Community friends and "family" are invited to join him in celebration at an *Old-Fashioned Ice Cream Social* on Saturday, January 14, 2023, from 1 to 5 p.m. in the dining hall of the [First Presbyterian Church](#), 108 West Court Street, Rome, NY 13440.

Mr. Thorpe has been an active member of Rome's First Presbyterian Church since 1959, when he and his wife Jessie --who passed away on May 25, 2020 after 69 years of marriage -- moved to the city from Brooklyn, New York.

Individually and together, the two were instrumental in founding the Rome Branch NAACP and its Afro-American Heritage Association, and were leaders of many other cultural and civic organizations. They were well-known regional cultural, civil and human rights advocates for more than 50 years.

As a Tuskegee Airman, Mr. Thorpe ranked as 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant Navigator Bombardier. After honorable discharge, he was employed as civilian radar engineer at Brooklyn Navy Yard and then Griffiss Air Force Base until his retirement in 1983. After retirement, he worked for nearly 10 years as a career counselor at a local college.

Mr. Thorpe is the recipient of numerous honors, awards and recognitions for service to his country and community, including the first New York State Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Humanitarian Award in 2012 and [Rome Historical Society](#) 1777 Medal of Honor Award in 2013. He is an active member of the [Claude B. Govan Chapter](#) of Tuskegee Airmen, Inc.

For more information Mr. Thorpe's extraordinary life and experience, [click here](#).

For additional information about the *Old-Fashioned Ice Cream Social* on Saturday, January 14, 2023 from 1 to 5 p.m. in the dining hall of the First Presbyterian Church, 108 West Court Street in Rome, NY, email [maishaazadi@gmail.com](mailto:maishaazadi@gmail.com)