

Colonel Walter L. Watson, Jr.

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alter L. Watson, Jr., Colonel, USAF (Retired), was born in Columbia, South Carolina. He is the oldest of four children of the late Walter L. Watson, Sr. and Mildred Platt Watson. He attended public schools in Richland School District One and graduated from C. A. Johnson High School and Howard University in Washington, DC. At Howard, he earned a Mechanical Engineering degree and commission as an Air Force Officer via the ROTC program. Colonel Watson is the Senior Aerospace Science Instructor (SASI) of the C. A. Johnson Preparatory Academy's Air Force Junior ROTC unit (SC-065).

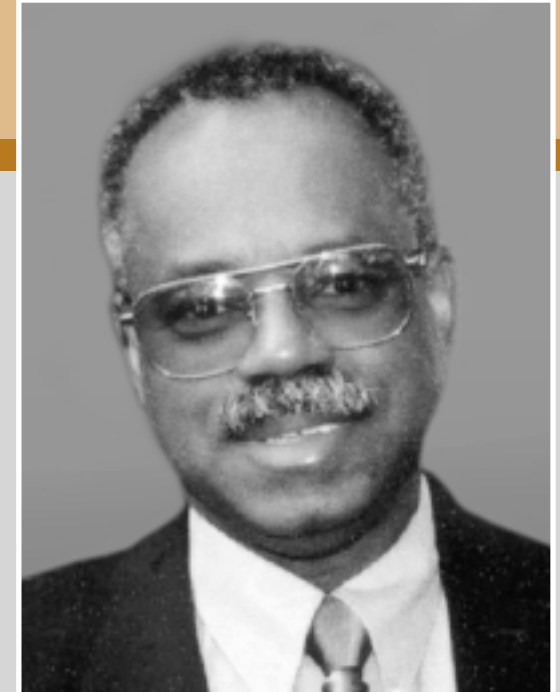
He entered the Air Force as an avionics maintenance officer. However, in 1973, he was selected for aviation training. This began a journey on a very diverse and distinguished flying career in the Air Force. He became a flight instructor, flight examiner, and flight commander in tactical fighter and strategic reconnaissance squadrons that flew F-4C/D/E, F-111D, and SR-71 aircraft. Colonel Watson's distinctive and unique aviation accomplishment is that he was the first and only African American to qualify as a crewmember in the SR-71, a super secret aircraft that set altitude and speed records that still stand today. The SR-71 routinely cruised at altitudes in excess of 80,000 feet at speeds over Mach 3 (2,100 mpg).

After his flying career, he continued to impact the Air Force in officer production and training. As Commander and Professor of Aerospace Studies at North Carolina A&T State University, his leadership helped his unit to achieve the following production milestones: 1) 20% of all African American Second Lieutenant pilots, 2) 50% of all African American Second Lieutenant navigators, and 3) 25% of African American female commissionees in 1993. These accomplishments led to assignments to a number of leadership positions at HQ Air Force Reserve Officers Training Corps (AFROTC at Maxwell AFB, AL). As the Chief of the AFROTC Scholarship branch, he supervised all scholarships for over 5,000 students across the nation with a budget exceeding \$22 million annually.

While at Maxwell AFB, Colonel Watson was a key decision-maker for Air Force relations with the Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU). He created scholarships aimed specially for HBCUs Science Instructor (SASI). In 1999 Colonel Watson developed a student award program for the Tuskegee Airmen Inc. The Tuskegee Airmen Inc award recognizes superior student performance for AFJROTC cadets and impacts 744 AFJROTC units and 104,000 students around the globe. In 1998 Colonel Watson was selected Teacher of the Year for C. A. Johnson Preparatory Academy. Additionally he was twice designated by Headquarters Air Force JROTC as an Outstanding Instructor (1998-1999 and 2001-2002). The Columbia Housing Authority selected him for the Wall of Fame induction in April of 2003 because of his distinguished military service and sustained contributions to his community. In August 2003, the Tuskegee Airmen, Inc. awarded him their highest award, the Noel F. Parrish Award. This award recognizes outstanding endeavors to enhance access to knowledge, skills, and opportunities.

In addition to his Howard University engineering degree, Colonel Watson holds a Masters degree from Chapman College of Orange, CA, in Organizational Behavior and Human Resource Management. He is married to Joice P. Middleton Watson. They have a daughter, Major (Select) Alexandria R. Watson, son, Walter III, and a grandson, Isaiah S. Watson.

Colonel Watson has received numerous awards, including the Meritorious Service Medal with two oak leaf clusters, Air Force Commendation Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal with two oak leaf clusters, Humanitarian Service Medal with one oak leaf cluster, and the Legion of Merit Medal.



NOVEMBER



2004

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|--|---|---|---|---|--|---|
| | All Saints' Day <div style="font-size: 48px; text-align: center;">1</div> <p>First issue of "Ebony" published in 1945. First issue of "Crisis" published in 1910.</p> | <div style="font-size: 48px; text-align: center;">2</div> <p>President Ronald Reagan signed law designating the third Monday in January Martin Luther King, Jr., Day in 1983.</p> | <div style="font-size: 48px; text-align: center;">3</div> <p>South Carolina State College was established in 1896.</p> | <div style="font-size: 48px; text-align: center;">4</div> <p>T. Elkins patented the refrigerating apparatus in 1879.</p> | <div style="font-size: 48px; text-align: center;">5</div> <p>Waller E. Washington elected Mayor of Washington, D.C., in 1974.</p> | <div style="font-size: 48px; text-align: center;">6</div> <p>Absalom Jones, minister, born in 1746.</p> |
| <div style="font-size: 48px; text-align: center;">7</div> <p>David Dinkins elected first black Mayor of New York City in 1989.</p> | <div style="font-size: 48px; text-align: center;">8</div> <p>Edward W. Brooke was elected first Black U.S. senator (R-Mass) in eighty five years, in 1966.</p> | <div style="font-size: 48px; text-align: center;">9</div> <p>Benjamin Banneker, surveyor, born in 1731.</p> | <div style="font-size: 48px; text-align: center;">10</div> <p>Andrew Hatcher was named associate press secretary to President JFK, becoming the first Black press secretary, in 1960.</p> | Veterans Day <div style="font-size: 48px; text-align: center;">11</div> <p>Nat Turner, leader of a Virginia slave revolt, was hanged in 1831.</p> | <div style="font-size: 48px; text-align: center;">12</div> <p>In 1775 General Washington issued an order, later rescinded, which forbade recruiting officers to enlist Blacks.</p> | <div style="font-size: 48px; text-align: center;">13</div> <p>Dwight Gooden won the Cy Young Award in 1985.</p> |
| <div style="font-size: 48px; text-align: center;">14</div> <p>Booker T. Washington died in 1915.</p> | <div style="font-size: 48px; text-align: center;">15</div> <p>In 1979, the Nobel Prize in economics was awarded to Professor Arthur Lewis of Princeton.</p> | <div style="font-size: 48px; text-align: center;">16</div> <p>"Father of the Blues," W.C. Handy, was born in Florence, AL, in 1873.</p> | <div style="font-size: 48px; text-align: center;">17</div> <p>Omega Psi Phi, fraternity, was founded on the campus of Howard University, 1911.</p> | <div style="font-size: 48px; text-align: center;">18</div> <p>Abolitionist and orator, Sojourner Truth was born in 1787.</p> | <div style="font-size: 48px; text-align: center;">19</div> <p>Roy Campanella was named most valuable player of the National Baseball League for the second time, 1953.</p> | <div style="font-size: 48px; text-align: center;">20</div> <p>Garrett T Morgan patented the traffic signal in 1923.</p> |
| <div style="font-size: 48px; text-align: center;">21</div> <p>Shaw University was founded in 1865.</p> | <div style="font-size: 48px; text-align: center;">22</div> <p>Alruthus A. Taylor, teacher and historian, was born in 1893.</p> | <div style="font-size: 48px; text-align: center;">23</div> <p>J.L. Love put patents on the pencil sharpener in 1897.</p> | <div style="font-size: 48px; text-align: center;">24</div> <p>Scott Joplin, composer, born in 1868.</p> | Thanksgiving <div style="font-size: 48px; text-align: center;">25</div> <p>Luther "Bill" Robinson, dancer, died in 1949.</p> | <div style="font-size: 48px; text-align: center;">26</div> <p>Sojourner Truth, evangelist, died in 1883.</p> | <div style="font-size: 48px; text-align: center;">27</div> <p>Richard Wright, author, died in 1960.</p> |
| <div style="font-size: 48px; text-align: center;">28</div> <p>Ernie Davis became the first African-American to win the Heisman Trophy in 1961.</p> | <div style="font-size: 48px; text-align: center;">29</div> <p>Congressman, Adam Clayton Powell, Jr., was born in 1908.</p> | <div style="font-size: 48px; text-align: center;">30</div> <p>Congresswoman, Shirley Chisholm was born in 1924.</p> | | | | |