



Home | News | Local News :

Video

Photo



Tuskegee Airman talks about new movie Original airmen to attend opening night in Hampton

Updated: Wednesday, 18 Jan 2012, 6:34 PM EST
Published : Wednesday, 18 Jan 2012, 6:20 PM EST

PORTSMOUTH, Va (WAVY) - Anticipation is building for "Red Tails", the new George Lucas movie about the Tuskegee Airmen.

The black pilots were pioneers in the segregated military in World War II. Getting their story to the big screen was another fight all together.

10 On Your Side spoke with one of the original Tuskegee Airmen about why it took so long for the film to be made.

Looking at a picture of himself from 1944, Wilbert Gore said it's hard to remember that young Army recruit.

"I had a choice when I got drafted. You either go in [the] Army or go in jail, that's the choice you had," Gore said.

He didn't chose to make history either, it just happened.

"I'm no hero. Just doing a job, that was all I was doing," Gore told WAVY.com.

The movie chronicles their fight against discrimination 70 years ago.

Film maker George Lucas told 'The Daily Show with John Stewart' he fought 23 years to get the story of the Tuskegee Airmen told.

"I financed it myself and I figured I could get the prints and ads paid for by the studios and they would release it. I showed it to all of them and they said, 'No'," Lucas said.

But why would studios turn away from a movie with Lucas at the helm and a star like Cuba Gooding, Jr.?

"I don't know. I can't answer that. I might have an opinion on it, but I better keep it to myself," Gore said.

Lucas claimed the studios didn't know how to sell a cast of all-black heroes.

Gore is just glad someone finally figured it out.

"Because, it's good any time they make it," Gore added.

There are four original Tuskegee Airmen in Hampton Roads.

They are scheduled to meet the public and sign autographs at the film's official opening at Cine Bistro at the Peninsula Towne Center in Hampton on Jan. 20.