



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Shaena Engle  
Manager, Public Relations  
[engles@lacitycollege.edu](mailto:engles@lacitycollege.edu)  
213.200.4728

## LACC ALUMNUS AND TUSKEGEE AIRMEN MEMBER THEODORE LUMPKIN JR. DIES AT 100

(January 8, 2021) – Los Angeles City College (LACC) alumnus Theodore Lumpkin Jr. , a Tuskegee Airman, social worker and realtor died on December 26, 2020. Lumpkin was 100 and passed from COVID-19 complications.

Born and raised in Los Angeles, Theodore Lumpkin Jr. attended LACC from 1938 – 1940 and received an AA Degree.

Lumpkin was a 21-year-old junior majoring in mathematics at UCLA when he was drafted into the military.

In the US Army Air Corps, he was assigned to the 100<sup>th</sup> Fighter Squadron in Tuskegee, Alabama. The Tuskegee Airmen became some of the most recognized and decorated pilots serving in World War II.

In January 1946, Lumpkin received an honorable separation from active duty service and used education funds from the GI Bill to earn his undergraduate degree in sociology at USC. He was hired at the County of Los Angeles as a social worker and furthered his education by earning a master's degree in social work from USC in 1953. He worked in the county's Bureau of Adoptions and urban affairs, community development and model cities departments. Lumpkin continued his military service with the inactive Air Force Reserves. He retired from social work in 1979 and launched a second career in real estate.

In March 2007, Lumpkin was part of the recognition of the Tuskegee Airmen with the Congressional Gold Medal, the highest honor Congress can bestow on a civilian.

Lumpkin was proud to have been among the Tuskegee Airmen invited to attend Barack Obama's inaugural ceremony in 2009. A 2007 statement by President Obama (at the time he was a U.S. Senator) underscored the impact of the airmen, "My career in public service was made possible by the path heroes like the Tuskegee Airmen trailblazed."

"The LACC community is saddened by the loss of Theodore Lumpkin Jr.," said Dr. Mary Gallagher, President, Los Angeles City College. "He served our nation with distinction and we are grateful for all of his contributions."

"The LACC Foundation is very sorry to hear about the passing of Ted Lumpkin, but we are so honored to have met and spent time with Ted during his visits to the campus. Ted Lumpkin represents the best of our distinguished alumni in his service to our country as a member of the groundbreaking Tuskegee Airmen and his other accomplishments during a long and highly productive life; he will be missed by all of us," said Robert Schwartz, Executive Director, Los Angeles City College Foundation.

An active and proud alumni of LACC, as a nonagenarian, Lumpkin often visited the campus and supported our many activities. Theodore Lumpkin Jr. passed away a few days before his 101th birthday. His 99-year old wife survives him.

### **About Los Angeles City College**

Established in 1929, Los Angeles City College is one of the oldest of the California Community Colleges. Located in the heart of Hollywood, LACC provides a dynamic innovative learning environment offering more than 100 vocational and professional programs including degrees, transfer programs and certificates to more than 18,000 students. In the past decade, a total of 6,651 students have transferred to four-year colleges and universities, including 4,040 students attending Cal State universities and 1,086 students transferring to UC campuses. Los Angeles City College is home to one of the most vibrant and diverse campuses in the country. The campus provides a wide range of professional and vocational programs at a fraction of the cost of state and private colleges. LACC provides students and adult learners vital pathways to more advanced education and enhanced employment.