



William Campfield, Jr.
Class of 1952

Although William Campfield, Jr. never played football, not even at the “ sandlot” level, he was always fascinated by the game and was determined to succeed in varsity collegiate football. To achieve this goal, he meticulously studied the rules, fundamentals and game plays during his freshman and sophomore years at Tuskegee Institute (University). At the beginning of his junior year Tuskegee changed from the T-formation to the single-wing formation. Coach Cleve Abbott acknowledged his strong desire to play football, his speed, stamina and his potential asset to the varsity team and encouraged Campfield to join the team. And join he did. Through tremendous hard work he lettered both his junior and senior years.

Campfield graduated from Tuskegee in 1952 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Physical Education, Commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the Air Force and was a distinguished ROTC graduate. Campfield began his military career immediately following his graduation in 1952. By December 1953 he had been awarded his pilot wings. After graduating from F-84 Fighter training in 1954 he began a series of assignments in tactical jet fighter aircrafts such as the F-86, F-105 and the F-111. His combat experiences consist of over 100 mission and 3,700 flying hours.

Throughout his military career, Campfield held positions as jet pilot instructor, flight commander, squadron operations officer; air division chief of safety; chief of wing operations and training; Deputy Chief, Airmen Management Division and Deputy Chief Officer Career Management Division at the USAF Military Personnel Center; Deputy Base Commander at Osan Air Base, South Korea; and Base Commander at Elemendorf AFB, Anchorage, Alaska and McClellan AFB, Sacramento, CA. He is the only Black officer to serve as base commander at the latter two aforementioned bases.