**Jesse D. Hayes, Jr., MD (1931-2000)**

Dr. Jesse D. Hayes, Jr., was a transformative leader who helped form Black Pilots of America and embodied its aims and purposes through his commitment to aviation. Inspired by Black aviation pioneers and the valor of the 332nd Fighter Group during WWII, Jesse served Black communities and elevated aviation as a viable hobby and career choice.

After serving as a flight surgeon in the United States Air Force Medical Corps, Hayes moved his family to Houston, TX, in 1962 to work as Texas’s first Black ophthalmologist. He operated a well-regarded and successful practice, yet his passion remained aviation. In the mid-60s, he earned his Private Pilot certification and developed a network of like-minded pilots. By 1968, he and four other pilots formed the Bronze Eagles Flying Club (BEFC) with a mission to increase Black involvement in aviation.

As President of BEFC, Hayes was a co-creator of Operation Skyhook and later served as Treasurer. While serving BEFC, Hayes became a highly accomplished pilot and aircraft owner with over 14,000 flight hours. His first and last airplanes were Mooney J-20s and, in between, he owned a Bonanza, two Barons and a Cherokee. In the pursuit of excellence and safety, he earned his Instrument rating, Commercial Pilot certification, and then Airline Transport Pilot certification.

Hayes was a life-long learner with an aptitude for engineering and a passion for new technologies. He also served his community by volunteering in the Settegast Clinic in Houston, TX every Wednesday for over 30 years. As such, Jesse D. Hayes, Jr. STEM Scholarship memorializes his legacy as a servant leader and lover of STEM.

**Applicant Information**

Full Name BPA Member#

Street Address Cell Phone#

State Zip Code Other Number#

Email Choose an option

**School/Program Information**

Short description of how scholarship funds will be used Click or tap here to enter text.

Name of Institution

Name of Department or Official receiving student payments

Mailing Address       Phone#

2nd Line of Address (if applicable)

State Zip Code Student / Account#

Website of institution

**Attach proof of school enrollment or program acceptance when applicable. If requesting reimbursement or student loan payment, provide proof of purchase and participation.**

**Request for Funds**

This is your opportunity to communicate to the Red-Tailed Hawks Flying Club, Black Pilots of America, Inc. why you are deserving of the Jesse D. Hayes Jr. STEM Scholarship. How do you exemplify the Red-Tailed Hawks mission and how will you honor Dr. Jesse Hayes’s legacy in the future? Make your strongest argument in 400 words or less. Feel free to attach proof of performance where applicable (e.g. copies of certificates, transcripts, logbook endorsements, portfolios, etc.). Fly Hawks!

**Student Essay**

Click or tap here to enter text.