**Ambrose Nutt**

Ambrose Benjamin Nutt was born in 1920 in Wisconsin, the son of Ambrose Benjamin Nutt and Willette Owens Nutt and raised in Detroit.. At the age of 15, he was the first Black student admitted to the engineering program at the University of Michigan. A LaVerne Noyes Scholar at Michigan, he graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in aeronautical engineering. He also received a master’s of science degree in aeronautical engineering from Ohio State University. During World War II he was a member of the Air Force pilot training program at Tuskegee, and subsequently was a reserve research and development officer in the Air Force retiring with the rank of major.

His civilian engineering career spanned 40 years in aerospace research and development in the Air Force Research Laboratories at Wright Patterson Air Force Base, where he started as a junior engineer. Along the way, he became section chief and branch chief widening his areas of responsibilities. He actively participated with the minority development committee’s outreach program at the base. He retired in 1981 as director of the Vehicle Equipment Division of the Air Force Flight Dynamics Laboratory. He was a member of the technical team that pioneered the development of crew ejection seats for the Air Force. In addition, he worked with NASA in developing an escape capsule.

He wrote 15 technical reports and papers on crew, escape, and crash safety, 14 papers and articles on research and development management and two books on research and development management. His professional associations included the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics, where he was an associate fellow the National Society of Professional Engineers; Scientific Research Society of America; I.E.E.E. Professional Group on Engineering Management; and the National Association of Minority Engineering Program Administrators. He was a member and officer of many civic organizations in Yellow Springs where he lived for 40 years, including eight years of service on the school board.

He received the Literary Award in 1971 from the Armed Forces Management Association and was awarded the Air Force Awards for meritorious civilian service in 1977, and for exceptional civilian service in 1981. From 1981 to 1988 he was the director of the Dual Degree Engineering and Computer Science Program at Wilberforce University. He was a technical consultant to the Tractell Corporation in Dayton, assisting in the development of computerized methods of gathering data to back up programs of minority hiring. He worked with the Small Business Administration as well as the Air Force in developing these outreach methods.

He settled into full retirement after suffering a stroke in 1994. He and his wife, V. Elaine Nutt moved to California in 1998. He died on August 7, 2002, and was survived by his widow, and his two daughters, Sandra Maria Nutt and Jacqueline Alma Teepen, who grew up in Yellow Springs but were living in California, and a sister, who lived in Detroit.

Sources: Adapted from *Yellow Springs News,* obituary

Prabook, “Ambrose Benjamin Nutt” https://prabook.com/web/ambrose\_benjamin.nutt/230368