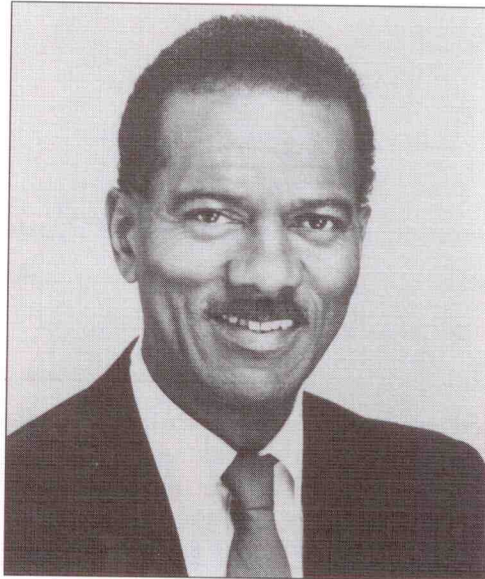


James “Jim” Tilmon



Jim Tilmon knows what it's like to grab an updraft and climb into the skies, claiming the ozone as his own. Whether in a U.S. Army helicopter or an American Airlines jet, he also knows there's only one way to dart through the clouds or soar above the storms: You've got to know they're coming. This pilot was also a weatherman—one of Chicago's best.

Tilmon dreamed his childhood dreams of flight in Oklahoma, and brought them with him to college at Missouri's Lincoln University. After 8 years in the military—where he got his first broadcasting experience as a Battalion Public Information Officer—he moved to Chicago to work for American Airlines as a pilot. In 1968, Tilmon went on the air with WTTW, hosting *"Our People"*—the first program in the country broadcast for and by African Americans. Tilmon joined WMAQ-TV in 1972—first hosting *"Tilmon Tempo"*, a magazine program, then as on-air weather forecaster and science and aviation reporter.

He earned a Chicago Emmy, a National Emmy nomination, and the Illinois Associated Press and Illinois United Press International awards of excellence in reporting.

Although we all knew Tilmon was a pilot, many may not know about his love for music. His college degree was in music, and during his time in Chicago, Tilmon spent 10 years playing first clarinet with the Lake Forest Symphony, then three years with the Evanston Symphony.

After nearly 23 years with WMAQ, Tilmon retired in 1994. He and his wife now live in Arizona, and their work has expanded from local businesses to interests in South Africa. Although he has retired from flying commercial aircraft, Tilmon still does occasional aviation reporting for WFLD-TV in Chicago. He also has reported on aviation issues for NBC Nightly News and the Fox affiliate in Phoenix, KSAZ-TV.

Jim and his wife, Joan, own and operate Carpe Diem! Productions, Inc., a full service audio and video production company in Scottsdale, which produces commercials, Web sites, interactive CD-ROMs, and corporate training videos. His work with the Scottsdale Police Department led to his being named 1997 Citizen of the Year.