



## ***Robert L. Martin***

**B.S., Electrical Engineering, 1942**

Robert L. Martin was an ISU student when he joined the Army Air Corps, enrolling in the military's Black Pilot Program. He served in World War II with the Tuskegee Airmen, the first African Americans to fly for the U.S. Armed Forces, whose efforts saw black pilots integrated into the Air Force. Martin received the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Purple Heart, the Air Medal with 6 Oak Leaf Clusters, and the Congressional Gold Medal. After honorable military discharge in 1945, he rose to the rank of Captain in the reserves. Though many companies were not hiring black engineers, he became a draftsman with the Chicago Park District and went on to a 37-year career with the City of Chicago as a street lighting engineer, rising to Electrical Design Engineer. He encouraged others to pursue aviation and engineering.

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