

1 HJR181
2 136245-1
3 By Representative Holmes
4 RFD: Rules
5 First Read: 23-FEB-12

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8 COMMENDING THE TUSKEGEE AIRMEN AND INVITING THEM TO
9 ADDRESS A JOINT SESSION OF THE ALABAMA LEGISLATURE.

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11 WHEREAS, at a time when most white Americans did not
12 think blacks could be taught to fix a plane, much less fly
13 one, almost 1,000 black aviators, whose responsibility would
14 be to escort America's bombers over enemy territory, studied
15 at the Tuskegee Institute and trained at an isolated complex
16 near Tuskegee, Alabama; and

17 WHEREAS, these aviators, who became known as the
18 Tuskegee Airmen, distinguished themselves in combat over the
19 skies of North Africa and Europe during World War II; and

20 WHEREAS, the Tuskegee Airmen flew more than 15,000
21 sorties and destroyed more than 450 enemy planes with 66
22 pilots killed and 35 shot down and captured; and

23 WHEREAS, the Tuskegee Airmen did not lose a single
24 bomber they escorted, and some white pilots asked for members
25 of the Tuskegee Airmen as escorts because of their dedication;
26 and

1 WHEREAS, through their actions, the Tuskegee Airmen
2 proved that individuals will rise above what is expected; now
3 therefore,

4 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
5 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That we hereby most heartily invite
6 the Tuskegee Airmen to address, at a time chosen by the
7 Lieutenant Governor and the Speaker of the House of
8 Representative after consultation with the sponsor of this
9 resolution a joint session of the Alabama Legislature on May
10 21, 2012, and do further direct that a copy of this resolution
11 be presented to the Tuskegee Airmen.