

HJR89 INTRODUCED



1 HJR89
2 EXQNC2C-1
3 By Representative Warren
4 RFD: RULES
5 First Read: 05-Mar-24



1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28

HJR___ CELEBRATING TUSKEGEE AIRMEN DAY ON MARCH 7, 2024.

WHEREAS, we take great pride and pleasure in recognizing and declaring March 7 of every year as Tuskegee Airmen Day in the State of Alabama; the Tuskegee Airmen were the first Black military fighter pilots in the United States Army Air Corps; the men flew more than 15,000 sorties throughout Europe and parts of Africa during World War II; and

WHEREAS, this year, on March 7, 2024, the Tuskegee Airmen Family and Friends (TAFF) are coming home to the hallowed grounds of Tuskegee, Alabama, where their loved ones trained to become the nation's first Black fighter pilots known as the famous Tuskegee Airmen; TAFF joins Tuskegee University and Friends of Tuskegee Airmen National Historic Site to officially donate treasured and rarely seen memorabilia to the Tuskegee University Archives for lifelong preservation; and

WHEREAS, there will be a ribbon cutting ceremony at the Kenney Hall Bioethics Center on the campus of Tuskegee University at 1:00 P.M.; the keynote speaker will be Documented Original Tuskegee Airman (DOTA) and WWII combat pilot, Lieutenant Colonel George E. Hardy; and

WHEREAS, the national treasures to be donated by TAFF include artifacts such as clothing, photos, and medals that



HJR89 INTRODUCED

29 are not just part of Black history, but of American history
30 and legacy with significant historical importance; and

31 WHEREAS, some of the national treasures to be donated
32 include a photo album by DOTA Robert Olivia of never before
33 published images of various Tuskegee Airmen at Ramitelli Air
34 Field where the Airmen were stationed to provide fighter
35 escort for heavy bomber missions in Europe; at Ramitelli,
36 the 332nd received and flew their famous P-51 Mustangs that
37 they painted the tails red to distinguish their aircraft
38 from those of other squadrons; thereafter, they famously
39 became known as the "Red Tails"; and

40 WHEREAS, the list of donated artifacts also includes
41 a handwritten autobiography by DOTA Robert Olivia; DOTA
42 Myron Wilson's Class Book and Pilot's Log Book; DOTA
43 Wilson's Wings; DOTA Wilson's Airman's Certificate from the
44 United States Department of Commerce; DOTA Wilson's Airman's
45 Rating Record; WWII German and American artillery shells
46 from DOTA Dabney Montgomery; a two-foot tall Bronze Maquette
47 Statue of DOTA Howard Baugh; WWII flight scarf of DOTA
48 Spanky Roberts; and letters written by DOTA Spanky Roberts
49 to his wife and parents while he was stationed at the
50 Tuskegee Army Air Field and in Ramitelli, Italy; and

51 WHEREAS, the Tuskegee Airmen played a vital role in
52 desegregating the U.S. Armed Forces; they proved that
53 African Americans were equally qualified and had the
54 intellectual capacity to become successful military pilots;
55 there were more than 16,000 men and women who participated
56 in the "Tuskegee Experience" training at Tuskegee Army Air



HJR89 INTRODUCED

57 Field in the 1940s and all are considered Tuskegee Airmen;
58 and

59 WHEREAS, it is manifestly fitting and appropriate to
60 recognize the selfless service of these outstanding Tuskegee
61 Airmen, whose service to the citizens of the United States
62 distinguishes them as true American heroes; now therefore,

63 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
64 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That we take great pleasure in
65 recognizing March 7, annually, as Tuskegee Airmen Day in the
66 State of Alabama, and we remember the great sacrifice to
67 secure our lives and our freedoms made by the Tuskegee
68 Airmen; by copy of this resolution we pay highest tribute to
69 these American heroes whose dedication and service to the
70 United States has promoted and protected the freedoms of our
71 country.