

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2007

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION DRHJR50730-LG-588A (4/27)

Sponsors: Representative Mobley.

Referred to:

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION HONORING THE TUSKEGEE AIRMEN AND
2 EXPRESSING APPRECIATION FOR THEIR SERVICE DURING WORLD WAR
3 II.

4 Whereas, during World War II, the armed forces in the United States were
5 still segregated by race; and

6 Whereas, in 1941 the federal government established the 66th Air Force
7 Flying School at Tuskegee Institute to train African-American pilots for the war; and

8 Whereas, from 1941 through 1946, almost 1,000 African-Americans trained
9 at the Tuskegee Army Air Field in Tuskegee, Alabama; and

10 Whereas, 450 of the men who completed training at the Tuskegee Army Air
11 Field were sent overseas for combat duty; and

12 Whereas, pilots trained at Tuskegee Institute were known as "Tuskegee
13 Airmen", although this phrase also later included navigators, bombardiers, instructors,
14 and maintenance and support staff; and

15 Whereas, the 99th Fighter Squadron, the first class trained at Tuskegee
16 Institute, was sent to North Africa in the Spring of 1943 for combat duty and in 1944,
17 they were joined by other African-American squadrons to form the 332nd Fighter
18 Squadron, which flew missions over Sicily, the Mediterranean, and North Africa; and

19 Whereas, the Tuskegee Airmen compiled an outstanding record, which
20 included completing more than 1,500 missions, destroying 260 enemy aircraft, sinking
21 an enemy destroyer, and demolishing other enemy installation areas; and

22 Whereas, the Tuskegee Airmen achieved an exceptional record for escorting
23 bomber crews and earned the respect of their fellow bomber crews and their military
24 leaders; and

25 Whereas, the Tuskegee Airmen were nicknamed "Red-Tail Angels" after the
26 red tail markings on their aircraft; and

27 Whereas, during the war, 66 Tuskegee Airmen were killed in action and 32
28 were held as prisoners of war; and

1 Whereas, the success of the Tuskegee Airmen helped end segregation in the
2 military; and

3 Whereas, in 1948, by Executive Order, President Harry S. Truman
4 desegregated the military; and

5 Whereas, the Tuskegee Airmen were awarded numerous honors, including
6 the Distinguished Flying Cross (150), Legion of Merit (1), Silver Star (1), Purple Heart
7 (8), Soldier Medal (2), Air Medal and Clusters (744), and the Bronze Star (14); and

8 Whereas, in 1945, the 332nd Fighter Squadron received a Distinguished Unit
9 Citation for "outstanding performance and extraordinary heroism"; and

10 Whereas, the Tuskegee Airmen received the Congressional Medal of Honor
11 during a ceremony with President George W. Bush on March 29, 2007; and

12 Whereas, Tuskegee Airmen came from all over the United States, including
13 the following members who were either born in North Carolina or are currently residing
14 in the State:

15 Harvey R. Alexander, Guilford County

16 Fred L. Brewer, Jr., Mecklenburg County

17 Cecil L. Browder, New Hanover County

18 Willie L. Byrd, Jr., Cumberland County

19 Marshall S. Caldness, Gaston County

20 James Y. Carter, Forsyth County

21 John H. Chavis, Wake County

22 Walter Chavis, Wake County

23 Conrad H. Cheek, Halifax County

24 Quinten V. Cheek, Halifax County

25 Lewis W. Craig, Buncombe County

26 John H. Driver, Wake County

27 Wilson V. Eagleson, Wayne County

28 Spurgeon N. Ellington, Forsyth County

29 Charles H. Flowers, Anson County

30 Stewart Fulbright, Durham County

31 Willie H. Fuller, Edgecombe County

32 Vernon V. Haywood, Wake County

33 George W. Helm, Rockingham County

34 Aaron Herrington, Wake County

35 Leonard Hunter, Wake County

36 Andrew Johnson, Jr., Guilford County

37 Andrew D. Marshall, Anson County

38 Harvey L. McClelland, Buncombe County

39 William McDonald, Durham County

40 Clinton B. Mills, Durham County

41 David J. Murphy, Jr., Columbus County

42 Hernando Palmer, Johnston County

43 Francis B. Peoples, Vance County

44 Clarence E. Reynolds, Jr., Hertford County

1 Robert C. Robinson, Jr., Buncombe County
2 Graham Smith, Hertford County
3 Reginald V. Smith, Hertford County
4 Dr. Chuck Stone, Orange County
5 Dr. John Turner, Orange County
6 Morris Washington, Lenoir County
7 Harold Webb, Wake County
8 Arthur Wilburn, Buncombe County; Now, therefore,

9 Be it resolved by the House of Representatives, the Senate concurring:

10 **SECTION 1.** The General Assembly wishes to honor the memory of the
11 Tuskegee Airmen who gave their lives while rendering service to our country during
12 World War II and pays tribute to Tuskegee Airmen veterans for their bravery and
13 sacrifice.

14 **SECTION 2.** The Secretary of State shall transmit a certified copy of this
15 resolution to the President of both the Wilson V. Eagleson and Heart of Carolina
16 Chapters of Tuskegee Airmen, Inc.

17 **SECTION 3.** This resolution is effective upon ratification.