

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA**  
**SESSION 2007**

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**2**

**HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 2063**  
**Committee Substitute Favorable 7/19/07**

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Sponsors:

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Referred to:

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July 10, 2007

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 66<sup>th</sup> 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 332<sup>nd</sup> 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

29       Whereas, the success of the Tuskegee Airmen helped end segregation in the  
30 military; and

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

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

6           Whereas, in 1945, the 332<sup>nd</sup> Fighter Squadron received a Distinguished Unit  
7 Citation for "outstanding performance and extraordinary heroism"; and

8           Whereas, the Tuskegee Airmen received the Congressional Gold Medal  
9 during a ceremony with President George W. Bush on March 29, 2007; and

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

13           Harvey R. Alexander, Guilford County

14           Fred L. Brewer, Jr., Mecklenburg County

15           Cecil L. Browder, New Hanover County

16           Willie L. Byrd, Jr., Cumberland County

17           Marshall S. Caldness, Gaston County

18           James Y. Carter, Forsyth County

19           John H. Chavis, Wake County

20           Walter Chavis, Wake County

21           Conrad H. Cheek, Halifax County

22           Quinten V. Cheek, Halifax County

23           Lewis W. Craig, Buncombe County

24           John H. Driver, Wake County

25           Wilson V. Eagleson, Wayne County

26           Spurgeon N. Ellington, Forsyth County

27           Charles H. Flowers, Anson County

28           Stewart Fulbright, Durham County

29           Willie H. Fuller, Edgecombe County

30           Vernon V. Haywood, Wake County

31           George W. Helm, Rockingham County

32           Aaron Herrington, Wake County

33           Leonard Hunter, Wake County

34           Andrew Johnson, Jr., Guilford County

35           Andrew D. Marshall, Anson County

36           Harvey L. McClelland, Buncombe County

37           William McDonald, Durham County

38           Clinton B. Mills, Durham County

39           David J. Murphy, Jr., Columbus County

40           Hernando Palmer, Johnston County

41           Francis B. Peoples, Vance County

42           Clarence E. Reynolds, Jr., Hertford County

43           Robert C. Robinson, Jr., Buncombe County

44           Graham Smith, Hertford County

1 Reginald V. Smith, Hertford County

2 Dr. Chuck Stone, Orange County

3 Dr. John Turner, Orange County

4 Morris Washington, Lenoir County

5 Harold Webb, Wake County

6 Arthur Wilburn, Buncombe County; Now, therefore,

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

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

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

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