GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA SESSION 2007

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

Sponsors:
Referred to:
July 10, 2007
A JOINT RESOLUTION HONORING THE TUSKEGEE AIRMEN AND EXPRESSING APPRECIATION FOR THEIR SERVICE DURING WORLD WAS II.
Whereas, during World War II, the armed forces in the United States were
still segregated by race; and
Whereas, in 1941 the federal government established the 66 th Air Force Flying School at Tuskegee Institute to train African-American pilots for the war; and Whereas, from 1941 through 1946, almost 1,000 African-Americans trained at the Tuskegee Army Air Field in Tuskegee, Alabama; and Whereas, 450 of the men who completed training at the Tuskegee Army Air Field were sent overseas for combat duty; and
Whereas, pilots trained at Tuskegee Institute were known as "Tuskegee Airmen," although this phrase also later included navigators, bombardiers, instructors
Whereas, the 99th Fighter Squadron, the first class trained at Tuskeges Institute, was sent to North Africa in the Spring of 1943 for combat duty and in 1944 they were joined by other African-American squadrons to form the 332 nd Fighter Squadron, which flew missions over Sicily, the Mediterranean, and North Africa; and Whereas, the Tuskegee Airmen compiled an outstanding record, which included completing more than 1,500 missions, destroying 260 enemy aircraft, sinking an enemy destroyer, and demolishing other enemy installation areas; and Whereas, the Tuskegee Airmen achieved an exceptional record for escorting bomber crews and earned the respect of their fellow bomber crews and their military leaders; and
Whereas, the Tuskegee Airmen were nicknamed "Red-Tail Angels" after the red tail markings on their aircraft; and

 were held as prisoners of war; and

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

Whereas, during the war, 66 Tuskegee Airmen were killed in action and 32

desegregated the military; and Whereas, the Tuskegee Airmen were awarded numerous honors, including the Distinguished Flying Cross (150), Legion of Merit (1), Silver Star (1), Purple Heart (8), Soldier Medal (2), Air Medal and Clusters (744), and the Bronze Star (14); and Whereas, in 1945, the 332 nd Fighter Squadron received a Distinguished Unit Citation for "outstanding performance and extraordinary heroism"; and Whereas, the Tuskegee Airmen received the Congressional Gold Medal during a ceremony with President George W. Bush on March 29, 2007; and Whereas, Tuskegee Airmen came from all over the United States, including the following members who were either born in North Carolina or are currently residing in the State: Harvey R. Alexander, Guilford County Fred L. Brewer, Jr., Mecklenburg County Cecil L. Browder, New Hanover County Willie L. Byrd, Jr., Cumberland County Marshall S. Caldness, Gaston County James Y. Carter, Forsyth County Walter Chavis, Wake County Comad H. Cheek, Halifax County Comad H. Cheek, Halifax County Lewis W. Craig, Buncombe County Wilson V. Eagleson, Wayne County Wilson V. Eagleson, Wayne County Spurgeon N. Ellington, Forsyth County Charles H. Flowers, Anson County Willie H. Fuller, Edgecombe County Willie H. Fuller, Rockingham County Aaron Herrington, Wake County George W. Helm, Rockingham County Andrew Johnson, Jr., Guilford County Harvey L. McClelland, Buncombe County William McDonald, Durham County William McDonald, Durham County William McDonald, Durham County Clinton B. Mills, Durham County Francis B. Peoples, Vance County Clarence E. Reynolds, Jr., Hertford County	1	Whereas, in 1948, by Executive Order, President Harry S. Truman
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43 Robert C. Robinson, Jr., Buncombe County	43	
44 Graham Smith, Hertford 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.