



Legislation Details (With Text)

File #: 0039X-2007 **Version:** 1
Type: Resolution **Status:** Passed
File created: 3/28/2007 **In control:** Tavares
On agenda: 4/2/2007 **Final action:** 4/5/2007
Title: To honor and pay tribute to the Tuskegee Airmen, 99th Pursuit Squadron.
Sponsors: Charleta B. Tavares
Indexes:
Code sections:
Attachments:

Date	Ver.	Action By	Action	Result
4/5/2007	1	CITY CLERK	Attest	
4/3/2007	1	MAYOR	Signed	
4/2/2007	1	Columbus City Council	Adopted	Pass
4/2/2007	1	COUNCIL PRESIDENT	Signed	
3/28/2007	1	Council Drafter	Sent to Clerk's Office for Council	

To honor and pay tribute to the Tuskegee Airmen, 99th Pursuit Squadron.

WHEREAS, in 1941, President Franklin D. Roosevelt overruled his top generals and ordered the creation of an all Black flight training program. President Roosevelt took this action one day after the NAACP filed suit on behalf of Howard University student Yancy Williams and others in Federal court to force the Department of War to accept Black pilot trainees; and

WHEREAS, Due to the rigid system of racial segregation that prevailed in the United States during World War II, Black military pilots were trained at a separate airfield built near Tuskegee, Alabama. They became known as the "Tuskegee Airmen"; and

WHEREAS, the Tuskegee Squadron was considered an "experiment", but proved to be a squadron of men above and beyond in terms of bravery, courage and competence. They destroyed over 260 enemy aircraft, sank one enemy destroyer and demolished numerous enemy installations, and completed what was perhaps their most heroic mission: opening the door to an integrated armed forces; and

WHEREAS, German pilots, who both feared and respected the Tuskegee Airmen, called them the "Schwartzte Vogelmenschen"(or "Black Birdmen"). White American bomber crews reverently referred to them as the "Black Redtail Angels", because of the bright red painted on the tail assemblies of their fighter aircraft and because of their reputation for not losing a single bomber to enemy fighters as they provided close escort for bombing missions over strategic targets in Europe; and

WHEREAS, the Tuskegee Airmen have established an exemplary combat record achieving 150 Distinguished Flying Crosses, 1 Legion of Merit & Red Star of Yugoslavia, 9 Purple Hearts; 1 Silver Star, 14 Bronze Stars; 3 Distinguished Unit Citations and an impressive 744 Air Medals and clusters amongst them; and

WHEREAS, Tuskegee Airmen are forever a part of our history as we salute these brave men and honor them for their dedication in

defense of the principles and rights that our nation was founded upon; now, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLUMBUS:

That we do hereby pay tribute the Tuskegee Airmen, 99th Pursuit Squadron and we want to express our sincere appreciation for your heroism, fearlessness and tenacity on this 29th day of March 2007.