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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 722 Session of  
2015

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INTRODUCED BY KINSEY, WHEATLEY, THOMAS, TOEPEL, HENNESSEY,  
BARRAR, KIRKLAND, MILLARD, WHEELAND, SAINATO, DRISCOLL,  
VEREB, BAKER, MACKENZIE, SIMS, READSHAW, CALTAGIRONE,  
PICKETT, COHEN, WATSON, CRUZ, JAMES, ROTHMAN, BOBACK,  
GOODMAN, YOUNGBLOOD, MURT, O'BRIEN, WARD, LEWIS, HARHART,  
BURNS, BENNINGHOFF, COX, GODSHALL, D. COSTA, SCHREIBER, MOUL,  
GIBBONS, V. BROWN, MAJOR, NEILSON, BARBIN, O'NEILL,  
LONGIETTI, DUSH, SONNEY, PAYNE, PASHINSKI, PHILLIPS-HILL,  
D. MILLER, GAINEY, MARSICO, MARSHALL AND MILNE,  
MARCH 10, 2016

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INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,  
MARCH 10, 2016

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A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring the 75th anniversary of the Tuskegee Airmen, a group of  
2 African-American military pilots who served honorably during  
3 World War II.

4 WHEREAS, During World War I, African Americans had been  
5 prohibited from serving as military pilots in the United States  
6 Armed Forces due to their race; and

7 WHEREAS, On April 3, 1939, in response to advocacy by civil  
8 rights leaders and the National Association for the Advancement  
9 of Colored People, the Congress of the United States approved  
10 funding designated for the training of African-American military  
11 pilots; and

12 WHEREAS, On March 22, 1941, the United States Army Air Corps  
13 99th Pursuit Squadron was activated to become the first African-  
14 American fighter squadron; and

1       WHEREAS, The members of the 99th Pursuit Squadron were the  
2 first to be known as Tuskegee Airmen since they had received  
3 their initial flight training at Moton Field, a segregated air  
4 base in Tuskegee, Alabama; and

5       WHEREAS, All African-American military pilots to be trained  
6 at Moton Field in Tuskegee, Alabama, were known as Tuskegee  
7 Airmen, and would later form the famous 332nd Fighter Group, who  
8 were also known as the "Red Tails" due to the distinctive red  
9 markings on the tails of their aircraft; and

10       WHEREAS, Between 1941 and 1946, approximately 1,000 African-  
11 American military pilots were trained in Tuskegee, Alabama; and

12       WHEREAS, During World War II, the Tuskegee Airmen flew more  
13 than 15,000 sorties and lost 66 men in the line of duty, one of  
14 the lowest loss records of any escort fighter group; and

15       WHEREAS, Today, the courage, dedication and service of the  
16 Tuskegee Airmen continues to inspire both military personnel and  
17 civilians of all backgrounds throughout this country; and

18       WHEREAS, March 22, 2016, marks the 75th anniversary of the  
19 activation of the 99th Pursuit Squadron, the first of the  
20 Tuskegee Airmen; therefore be it

21       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives honor the 75th  
22 anniversary of the Tuskegee Airmen.