
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 50 Session of
2017

INTRODUCED BY VULAKOVICH, ARGALL, BROWNE, DINNIMAN,
EICHELBERGER, FONTANA, GREENLEAF, MARTIN, RAFFERTY,
RESCHENTHALER, SCHWANK AND YUDICHAK, MARCH 21, 2017

INTRODUCED AND ADOPTED, MARCH 21, 2017

A RESOLUTION

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

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

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

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

14 WHEREAS, The members of the 99th Pursuit Squadron were the
15 first to be known as Tuskegee Airmen because they had received
16 their initial flight training at Moton Field, a segregated air
17 base in Tuskegee, Alabama; and

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

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

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

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

14 WHEREAS, March 22, 2017, marks the 76th anniversary of the
15 activation of the 99th Pursuit Squadron, the first of the
16 Tuskegee Airmen; therefore be it

17 RESOLVED, That the Senate honor the Tuskegee Airmen for their
18 courage, dedication and service to this country.