HJR89

EXQNC2C-1

By Representative Warren

RFD: RULES

First Read: 05-Mar-24

HJR___ CELEBRATING TUSKEGEE AIRMEN DAY ON MARCH 7, 2024.

WHEREAS, we take great pride and pleasure in recognizing and declaring March 7 of every year as Tuskegee Airmen Day in the State of Alabama; the Tuskegee Airmen were the first Black military fighter pilots in the United States Army Air Corps; the men flew more than 15,000 sorties throughout Europe and parts of Africa during World War II; and

WHEREAS, this year, on March 7, 2024, the Tuskegee Airmen Family and Friends (TAFF) are coming home to the hollowed grounds of Tuskegee, Alabama, where their loved ones trained to become the nation's first Black fighter pilots known as the famous Tuskegee Airmen; TAFF joins Tuskegee University and Friends of Tuskegee Airmen National Historic Site to officially donate treasured and rarely seen memorabilia to the Tuskegee University Archives for lifelong preservation; and

WHEREAS, there will be a ribbon cutting ceremony at the Kenney Hall Bioethics Center on the campus of Tuskegee University at 1:00 P.M.; the keynote speaker will be Documented Original Tuskegee Airman (DOTA) and WWII combat pilot, Lieutenant Colonel George E. Hardy; and

WHEREAS, the national treasures to be donated by TAFF include artifacts such as clothing, photos, and medals that

are not just part of Black history, but of American history and legacy with significant historical importance; and

WHEREAS, some of the national treasures to be donated include a photo album by DOTA Robert Olivia of never before published images of various Tuskegee Airmen at Ramitelli Air Field where the Airmen were stationed to provide fighter escort for heavy bomber missions in Europe; at Ramitelli, the 332nd received and flew their famous P-51 Mustangs that they painted the tails red to distinguish their aircraft from those of other squadrons; thereafter, they famously became known as the "Red Tails"; and

WHEREAS, the list of donated artifacts also includes a handwritten autobiography by DOTA Robert Olivia; DOTA Myron Wilson's Class Book and Pilot's Log Book; DOTA Wilson's Wings; DOTA Wilson's Airman's Certificate from the United States Department of Commerce; DOTA Wilson's Airman's Rating Record; WWII German and American artillery shells from DOTA Dabney Montgomery; a two-foot tall Bronze Maquette Statue of DOTA Howard Baugh; WWII flight scarf of DOTA Spanky Roberts; and letters written by DOTA Spanky Roberts to his wife and parents while he was stationed at the Tuskegee Army Air Field and in Ramitelli, Italy; and

WHEREAS, the Tuskegee Airmen played a vital role in desegregating the U.S. Armed Forces; they proved that African Americans were equally qualified and had the intellectual capacity to become successful military pilots; there were more than 16,000 men and women who participated in the "Tuskegee Experience" training at Tuskegee Army Air

Field in the 1940s and all are considered Tuskegee Airmen; and

WHEREAS, it is manifestly fitting and appropriate to recognize the selfless service of these outstanding Tuskegee Airmen, whose service to the citizens of the United States distinguishes them as true American heroes; now therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That we take great pleasure in recognizing March 7, annually, as Tuskegee Airmen Day in the State of Alabama, and we remember the great sacrifice to secure our lives and our freedoms made by the Tuskegee Airmen; by copy of this resolution we pay highest tribute to these American heroes whose dedication and service to the United States has promoted and protected the freedoms of our country.