



SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 03-033

BY SENATOR(S) Jones,;

also REPRESENTATIVE(S) Sinclair, Berry, Borodkin, Boyd, Briggs, Brophy, Butcher, Cadman, Carroll, Cerbo, Clapp, Cloer, Coleman, Crane, Decker, Fairbank, Frangas, Fritz, Garcia, Hall, Harvey, Hefley, Hodge, Hoppe, Jahn, Johnson R., Judd, King, Larson, Lee, Lundberg, Madden, Marshall, May M., McCluskey, McFadyen, Merrifield, Miller, Mitchell, Paccione, Plant, Pommer, Ragsdale, Rhodes, Rippy, Romanoff, Rose, Salazar, Schultheis, Smith, Spence, Spradley, Stafford, Stengel, Tochtrop, Veiga, Vigil, Weddig, Weissmann, White, Wiens, Williams S., Williams T., Witwer, and Young.

CONCERNING HONORING THE TUSKEGEE AIRMEN.

WHEREAS, The Tuskegee Airmen were dedicated, determined young men who volunteered to become America's first black military airmen; and

WHEREAS, The Tuskegee Airmen, each one of whom possessed a strong personal desire to serve the United States of America proudly and to the best of his ability as an airman, even while facing daily experiences of racism and bigotry, came from every section of America; and

WHEREAS, Those who were accepted for aviation cadet training were trained initially to be pilots, and later to be pilots, navigators, or bombardiers. Other airmen trained as operations officers, meteorologists, intelligence officers, engineering officers, and flight surgeons. Still others were trained to be aircraft and engine mechanics, armament specialists, radio repairmen, parachute riggers, control tower operators, and administrators. Airmen were trained in every type of skill necessary for functioning as an air force squadron or ground support unit; and

WHEREAS, The black airmen who became single- or multi-engine pilots were trained at Tuskegee Army Air Field in Tuskegee, Alabama; and

WHEREAS, From 1942 until 1946, nine hundred ninety-two black

Americans graduated in aviation cadet classes at Tuskegee Army Air Field, and also received commissions and pilot's wings; and

WHEREAS, Four hundred fifty of the pilots trained at Tuskegee Army Air Field served overseas in either the 99th Pursuit Squadron or the 332nd Fighter Group during World War II, training for and engaging in combat in North Africa, Sicily, Italy, and Germany; and

WHEREAS, The 332nd Fighter Group, a long-range heavy bomber escort unit, established the incredible and unprecedented record of flying all of its bomber escort missions, two hundred over most of central and southern Europe, without the loss of a single bomber to enemy aircraft; and

WHEREAS, The 99th Squadron distinguished itself by being awarded two Presidential Unit Citations for outstanding tactical air support and aerial combat in the 12th Air Force in Italy before joining the 332nd Fighter Group; and

WHEREAS, The outstanding record of black American airmen in World War II was accomplished by men who accepted the challenge and proudly displayed their skill and determination in the face of racism and bigotry at home and overseas felt in spite of their distinguished war records; and

WHEREAS, The superior experience and record of black American airmen in World War II were important factors in the initiation of historic social change to achieve racial equality in America; and

WHEREAS, In August, 1972, the Tuskegee Airmen gathered in Detroit, Michigan, and voted to establish a nation-wide charitable and educational organization with membership open to all supporters; and

WHEREAS, The mission of Tuskegee Airmen, Inc., is to inspire young people to outstanding achievement and leadership in our democratic society through social and educational activities by motivating young people to study, sacrifice, and attain self-sustaining status with marketable skills in the fields of aviation and aerospace; and

WHEREAS, Currently, the National Scholarship Fund, funded by Tuskegee Airmen, Inc., has assets in excess of \$1.7 million and awards over \$600,000 each year to deserving high school graduates; now, therefore,

Be It Resolved by the Senate of the Sixty-fourth General Assembly of the State of Colorado, the House of Representatives concurring herein:

(1) That we, the members of the Sixty-fourth General Assembly, recognize the outstanding achievements of the Tuskegee Airmen in their service of our country, both during World War II and today; and

(2) That we welcome the Tuskegee Airmen to Denver on the occasion of their 32nd National Convention in Denver, August 5 through 10, 2003.

Be It Further Resolved, That a copy of this Joint Resolution be sent to Governor Bill Owens and Tuskegee Airmen, Inc.

John Andrews
PRESIDENT OF
THE SENATE

Lola Spradley
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE
OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mona Heustis
SECRETARY OF
THE SENATE

Judith Rodrigue
CHIEF CLERK OF THE HOUSE
OF REPRESENTATIVES

APPROVED _____

Bill Owens
GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF COLORADO