

1-1 By: Collier, et al. (Senate Sponsor - West) H.C.R. No. 92  
1-2 (In the Senate - Received from the House May 8, 2025;  
1-3 May 8, 2025, read first time and referred to Committee on  
1-4 Administration; May 12, 2025, reported favorably by the following  
1-5 vote: Yeas 7, Nays 0; May 12, 2025, sent to printer.)

1-6 COMMITTEE VOTE

	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-7				
1-8	X			
1-9	X			
1-10	X			
1-11	X			
1-12	X			
1-13	X			
1-14	X			

1-15 HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1-16 WHEREAS, One of the most celebrated military units in our  
1-17 nation's history, the Tuskegee Airmen played a crucial role in the  
1-18 Allied victory in World War II and in the advancement of civil  
1-19 rights in the United States; and

1-20 WHEREAS, Although Black pilots served with French forces  
1-21 during World War I, African Americans were excluded from the U.S.  
1-22 Army Air Corps, even as the nation began preparing for another  
1-23 global conflict in the late 1930s and early 1940s; the NAACP,  
1-24 churches, and newspapers urged an end to this discrimination, and  
1-25 President Franklin D. Roosevelt promised to meet their request  
1-26 during his 1940 campaign; following his victory, he overruled his  
1-27 top generals to order the creation of a separate flight training  
1-28 program for Black aviators in 1941; and

1-29 WHEREAS, The 99th Pursuit Squadron, later renamed the 99th  
1-30 Fighter Squadron, was activated as the first Black flying unit in  
1-31 March of that year; its base was established at Tuskegee Institute  
1-32 in Alabama, one of the nation's foremost African American colleges,  
1-33 which already housed a successful civilian pilot training program  
1-34 and owned a small private airfield; many military leaders of the  
1-35 time considered Black soldiers inferior and expected the initiative  
1-36 to fail, but the staff at Tuskegee Army Air Field immediately began  
1-37 their efforts to prepare accomplished aviators; Colonel Noel F.  
1-38 Parrish, the airfield's commander, mandated the same rigorous  
1-39 training that was provided at other bases, and the determined  
1-40 individuals who made up ranks of the Tuskegee Airmen eagerly took up  
1-41 the challenge of becoming military pilots; and

1-42 WHEREAS, Led by West Point alumnus and future four-star  
1-43 general Benjamin O. Davis Jr., a member of Tuskegee's first  
1-44 graduating class, the pilots of the 99th Fighter Squadron initially  
1-45 proved themselves in battles over North Africa and Italy; the unit  
1-46 later joined three other Black squadrons, the 100th, 301st, and  
1-47 302nd, to form the 332nd Fighter Group; from bases in Italy, they  
1-48 destroyed numerous enemy aircraft and targets on the ground and at  
1-49 sea; on escort missions for the 15th Air Force, which had been  
1-50 losing a dozen bombers a day, the Tuskegee Airmen achieved a  
1-51 dramatic turnaround, losing just five bombers on 205 missions;  
1-52 their success in protecting Allied aircraft earned them the  
1-53 nickname the Red-Tail Angels, in reference to the crimson color  
1-54 scheme of their planes; and

1-55 WHEREAS, Between 1942 and 1946, nearly 1,000 Army Air Corps  
1-56 pilots, 20 bomber pilots, and 16,000 ground personnel graduated  
1-57 from Tuskegee; the airmen flew over 15,000 missions and earned more  
1-58 than 150 Distinguished Flying Crosses, among myriad other  
1-59 decorations; their record of excellence contributed to President  
1-60 Harry Truman's decision to end segregation in the military with an  
1-61 executive order in 1948; moreover, many former Tuskegee Airmen

2-1 became leaders in the United States Air Force, their communities,  
2-2 and the Civil Rights Movement in the decades that followed; and

2-3 WHEREAS, A number of notable Texans served bravely as  
2-4 Tuskegee Airmen; Robert T. McDaniel graduated from I. M. Terrell  
2-5 High School in Fort Worth and became a flight officer with the 477th  
2-6 Bombardier Group; he went on to distinguish himself as a principal  
2-7 in the Fort Worth Independent School District, and he was named to  
2-8 its Wall of Fame; that same honor was bestowed upon fellow Terrell  
2-9 High graduate and Tuskegee Airman Captain Claude Robert Platte Jr.;  
2-10 a Denison native, Captain Platte was born in 1921 and served as a  
2-11 flight instructor, training more than 400 Black fighter pilots, and  
2-12 he ultimately pursued an 18-year career in the U.S. Air Force;  
2-13 Master Sergeant Joseph Benjamin Montgomery, born in Quitman in  
2-14 1926, also built on his experience as a Tuskegee Airman, enlisting  
2-15 in the U.S. Air Force in 1958 and serving for a quarter century  
2-16 until his retirement in 1980; and

2-17 WHEREAS, Through their courage, skill, and patriotic  
2-18 service, the Tuskegee Airmen valiantly answered their nation's call  
2-19 to duty in World War II, contributing immeasurably to the  
2-20 integration of the military and American society as a whole, and  
2-21 their achievements are indeed deserving of special recognition;  
2-22 now, therefore, be it

2-23 RESOLVED, That the 89th Legislature of the State of Texas  
2-24 hereby designate the fourth Thursday of March as Tuskegee Airmen  
2-25 Commemoration Day; and, be it further

2-26 RESOLVED, That, in accordance with the provisions of Section  
2-27 391.004(d), Government Code, this designation remain in effect  
2-28 until the 10th anniversary of the date this resolution is finally  
2-29 passed by the legislature.

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