

## SENATE RESOLUTION NO.122

Senator Hollier offered the following resolution:

1       A resolution to recognize March 29, 2022, as Tuskegee Airmen  
2 Day.

3       Whereas, In 1925, The United States Army War College issued a  
4 grossly inaccurate and disparaging official report intending to  
5 relegate African Americans to menial duty positions in the  
6 military; and

7       Whereas, By the time the United States was drawn into World  
8 War II (WWII), more African Americans were receiving higher  
9 education and aspiring for more meaningful jobs in the military,  
10 including airplane pilots; and

11       Whereas, The rapid expansion of aircraft production to meet  
12 the demand for air power during WWII created a need for military

1 pilots; and

2       Whereas, The public outcry from the African American  
3 population, media, and fair-minded people of all races resulted in  
4 the United States Department of War extending the opportunity to  
5 fly airplanes to all military members, regardless of race; and

6       Whereas, The War Department's Civilian Pilot Training (CPT)  
7 Program authorized colleges and universities to train civilian  
8 students to increase the number of civilian pilots, thereby  
9 contributing to military preparedness; and

10       Whereas, The Tuskegee Institute in Alabama was one of six  
11 African American colleges and universities chosen to participate in  
12 the CPT Program, and helped open the door for the first African  
13 American military pilots; and

14       Whereas, During WWII, from January 1941-July 1949, both men  
15 and women participated in the Tuskegee Experience in Tuskegee,  
16 Alabama; and

17       Whereas, The Tuskegee Airmen flew more than 15,000 sorties,  
18 destroyed over 1,000 German aircraft, received hundreds of Air  
19 Medals, more than 150 Distinguished Flying Crosses, and lost very  
20 few bomber aircraft to enemy air action during escort missions; and

21       Whereas, The Tuskegee Airmen's outstanding performance record  
22 was unprecedented in military aviation history and disproves every  
23 adverse and prejudiced contention barring African Americans from  
24 becoming pilots; and

25       Whereas, The Tuskegee Airmen overcame segregation and  
26 prejudice to become one of the most prestigious, decorated, and  
27 respected fighting groups of WWII; and

28       Whereas, The Tuskegee Airmen of the 332nd Fighter Group were  
29 based at Selfridge Field in Mt. Clemens and Oscoda Army Air Field.

1 Fifteen Tuskegee Airmen pilots lost their lives on training  
2 exercises in Michigan; and

3       Whereas, More than 52 service members from Michigan served as  
4 Tuskegee Airmen during WWII; and

5       Whereas, From August 11-13, 1972, the Tuskegee Airmen  
6 Organization was formed in the basement of original Tuskegee  
7 Airmen, Lieutenant Colonel Alexander Jefferson in Detroit; and

8       Whereas, In the United States, there are 62 Tuskegee Airmen  
9 chapters. On March 6, 1973, the Detroit chapter became the founding  
10 incorporated chapter. In 2012, an additional chapter of the  
11 Tuskegee Airmen was formed in West Bloomfield, Michigan to reach  
12 youth in Detroit; and

13       Whereas, In Michigan, on August 6, 1986, the Tuskegee Airmen  
14 National Historical Museum was incorporated; and

15       Whereas, March was the month the first cadets received their  
16 silver wings, the first maintenance crew began training at Chanute  
17 Field, Illinois, and the 99th Pursuit Squadron was activated. On  
18 March 29, 2007, President George W. Bush also presented the  
19 Tuskegee Airmen the Congressional Gold Medal; now, therefore, be it

20       Resolved by the Senate, That the members of this legislative  
21 body recognize March 29, 2022, as Tuskegee Airmen Day. We encourage  
22 citizens to commemorate the heroic men and women who served as  
23 Tuskegee Airmen; and be it further

24       Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the  
25 members of the Capitol Press Corps.