February 10, 2016

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION No. 27

DIGEST OF RESOLUTION

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION urging the Indiana Department of Transportation to name the section of Interstate 70 from Brazil to Indianapolis and the section of Interstate 65 from Seymour to Indianapolis as "The Tuskegee Airmen Highway".

Porter, Brown T, Bartlett, Brown C, Harris D, Pryor, Shackleford, Smith V, Summers, Pelath, Baird, Lehman

February 9, 2016, read first time and referred to Committee on Roads and Transportation.

February 10, 2016

Second Regular Session of the 119th General Assembly (2016)

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION No. 27

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION urging the Indiana Department of Transportation to name the section of Interstate 70 from Brazil to Indianapolis and the section of Interstate 65 from Seymour to Indianapolis as "The Tuskegee Airmen Highway".

Whereas, The Tuskegee Airmen were a group of dedicated, determined young men who volunteered to become America's first African-American military airmen;

Whereas, Tuskegee University was awarded the United States Army Air Corps contract to help train these brave young men because it had an airfield and a proven civilian pilot training program, and because its graduates performed highest on flight aptitude exams;

Whereas, Approximately 1,000 African-American pilots were trained at Tuskegee University between 1941 and 1946;

Whereas, The all African-American 332nd Fighter Group originally consisted of four fighter squadrons — the 99th, the 100th, the 301st, and the 302nd;

Whereas, The 332nd Fighter Group's success in escorting bombers during World War II is a record unmatched by any other fighter group, having one of the lowest loss records of all the escort fighter groups;

Whereas, The Airmen flew more than 700 bomber escort missions and ended the war as the only fighter group to never lose an escorted bomber to enemy fighters;

Whereas, The Fighter Group received numerous awards and citations for their bravery and tenacious fighting ability, including several Presidential Unit Citations;

Whereas, Indiana has a significant connection to the Tuskegee Airmen legacy;

Whereas, Indianapolis native Charles DeBow was a member of the first class of five graduates of the Tuskegee Advanced Flying School; Brazil native Charles Hall was the first African-American military aviator to shoot down an enemy plane in air-to-air combat; and Freeman Field in Seymour was the location of the Freeman Field Mutiny, where more than 100 Tuskegee airmen were arrested for refusing to sign an illegal order of segregation of the officers' club; and

Whereas, Accomplishments such as these deserve special recognition so that all Americans can remember the bravery and courage of the Tuskegee Airmen in the face of great personal danger: Therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives
of the General Assembly of the State of Indiana,
the Senate concurring:

SECTION 1. That the Indiana General Assembly recognizes the many contributions made by the Tuskegee Airmen during World War II, and in order to perpetuate the history of African-Americans who participated in air crew, ground crew, and operations support training in the Army Air Corps, urges the naming of the section of Interstate 70 from Brazil to Indianapolis and the section of Interstate 65 from Seymour to Indianapolis as "The Tuskegee Airmen Highway".

SECTION 2. That the Principal Clerk of the House of Representatives transmit a copy of this resolution to Reginald A. DuValle, president of the Indianapolis Chapter of Tuskegee Airmen, Inc., and to the commissioner of the Indiana Department of Transportation.