

1 A RESOLUTION recognizing March 29th as Tuskegee Airmen Day in the  
2 Commonwealth of Kentucky.

3 WHEREAS, the Tuskegee Airmen were dedicated, determined young men who  
4 enlisted in the United States Army Air Corps to become America's first black military  
5 airmen, considered to be an experiment; and

6 WHEREAS, approximately 1,000 cadets graduated from Tuskegee Army Airfield  
7 and received their commissions and pilot wings, and more than 17,000 were trained as  
8 ground support personnel; and

9 WHEREAS, the Tuskegee Airmen accepted the challenge during the era of Jim  
10 Crow to serve as pilots, aircrews, and ground support personnel in the military at a time  
11 when many people thought African Americans lacked the intelligence, skills, courage,  
12 and patriotism to accomplish the necessary duties of a military pilot; and

13 WHEREAS, the Tuskegee Airmen flew more than 1,200 missions for the 99th,  
14 100th, 301st, and 302nd Fighter Squadrons under the 12th and 15th Air Forces. In total,  
15 the 99th Fighter Squadron and the 332nd Fighter Group had over 112 aerial victories  
16 during World War II; and

17 WHEREAS, through their successful bomber escort missions, many bomber crews  
18 felt safe under their protection; and

19 WHEREAS, upon orders from the Commander of the 15th Air Force, the airmen  
20 painted the tails of their planes red; thus the nickname "Red Tails" was coined. Bomber  
21 crews applied a more effusive label: the "Red-Tail Angels"; and

22 WHEREAS, the airmen returned to the United States facing continued racism and  
23 bigotry despite their outstanding war record, but still fought for freedom and justice for  
24 all; and

25 WHEREAS, the term "Documented Original Tuskegee Airmen," or "DOTA," was  
26 adopted to include vetted personnel who trained or were stationed at the Tuskegee Army  
27 Airfield and other designated units or locations between the period of 1941 and 1949; and

1           WHEREAS, on March 29, 2007, the Tuskegee Airmen were recognized by  
2 President George W. Bush and the United States Congress for their outstanding service to  
3 helping defeat the Axis power and for overcoming racism, for which the Tuskegee  
4 Airmen as an organization was awarded the Congressional Gold Medal; and

5           WHEREAS, there were 12 Tuskegee Airmen who hailed from Kentucky and  
6 completed all phases of basic and advanced pilot training. All of the 12 went on to serve  
7 honorably in World War II; and

8           WHEREAS, these brave men were Brigadier General Noel Parrish, from Versailles;  
9 Lieutenant Colonel Washington Ross, from Ashland; Major Julius Calloway, from  
10 Louisville; Captain Morris Washington, from Louisville; First Lieutenant Eugene  
11 Runyon, from Richmond; First Lieutenant Frank Walker, from Richmond; Second  
12 Lieutenant Milton Hall, from Owensboro; Second Lieutenant Jose Elfalan, from Prospect;  
13 Second Lieutenant Dudley Watson, from Frankfort; Second Lieutenant James McCullen,  
14 from Frankfort; Second Lieutenant Roy Chappell, from Williamsburg; and Second  
15 Lieutenant John Harris, from Richmond;

16           NOW, THEREFORE,

17 ***Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the General Assembly of the***  
18 ***Commonwealth of Kentucky:***

19           ➔Section 1. The House of Representatives hereby recognizes March 29th as  
20 Tuskegee Airmen Day in the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

21           ➔Section 2. When the House of Representatives adjourns this day, it does so in  
22 honor of the Tuskegee Airmen.

23           ➔Section 3. The Clerk of the House of Representatives is directed to transmit a  
24 copy of this Resolution to Representative George Brown Jr. for delivery.