

Regular Session, 2012

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 76

BY SENATOR MURRAY

COMMENDATIONS. Commends Airman Calvin Moret as the last surviving pilot of the Tuskegee Airman from New Orleans.

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To commend airman Calvin Moret, the last surviving New Orleans member of the  
3 Tuskegee Airmen.

4 WHEREAS, the Tuskegee Airmen is the popular name of a group of African  
5 American pilots who fought in World War II, formally they were the 332<sup>nd</sup> Fighter Group  
6 of the United States Army Air Corps; and

7 WHEREAS, still subject to Jim Crow laws, the American military was racially  
8 segregated and the Tuskegee Airmen were subject to racial discrimination, both in and  
9 outside the Army, but despite great adversities, the airmen trained and flew with distinction;  
10 and

11 WHEREAS, as a teenager, Calvin Moret had a choice to either wait to be drafted and  
12 sent overseas or, having studied aviation since he was a child, he could sign up to train at the  
13 Tuskegee Institute; and

14 WHEREAS, he trained at the Tuskegee Institute in 1943 to 1944 and was  
15 commissioned as a flight officer in 1944; and

16 WHEREAS, Mr. Moret understood the historical importance of the group of men he  
17 was a part of, a group that had been considered a military experiment; and

18 WHEREAS, as keynote speaker of the forty-first annual diversity dinner at

1 Minnesota State University, Mr. Moret explained why the group of airmen were considered  
2 less than capable, as it was believed that a black man's brain was not large enough to make  
3 combat computations or quick decisions; and

4 WHEREAS, to demonstrate the ignorance of that idea, he asked the attendees in the  
5 student union ballroom to look into the eyes of one of their neighbors and determine what  
6 they could tell about the person, listing age, skin color, and height being obvious but nothing  
7 from a glance could one determine a person's character; and

8 WHEREAS, Mr. Moret, the last surviving Airman from New Orleans, has received  
9 increased attention with the release of the feature film Red Tails, which is an account of the  
10 Tuskegee Airmen; and

11 WHEREAS, the Tuskegee Airmen, at the forefront of the Civil Rights Movement,  
12 were credited with over fifteen thousand combat sorties, a record of protecting United States  
13 bombers along with being decorated with three Distinguished Unit Citations, one Silver Star,  
14 an estimated one hundred and fifty Distinguished Flying Crosses, fourteen Bronze stars,  
15 more than seven hundred Air Medals and eight Purple Hearts; and

16 WHEREAS, Mr. Moret also served in the Army Air Corps 99<sup>th</sup> Fighter Squadron and  
17 was trained to fly P-40s and later P47s, but never flew overseas; and

18 WHEREAS, in 2007, he, along with the other surviving members of the Tuskegee  
19 Airmen, was awarded the Congressional Gold Medal; and

20 WHEREAS, recently given the keys to the city of New Orleans, he was honored by  
21 New Orleans Mayor Mitch Landrieu, who said Mr. Moret blessed this country with his  
22 courage and tenacity; and

23 WHEREAS, Mr. Moret continues to take his role seriously, making speaking  
24 appearances across the country, telling stories that would otherwise go untold; and

25 WHEREAS, Mr. Moret has received honorary doctorate degrees and is also a World  
26 War II Museum honoree.

27 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana  
28 does hereby commend Calvin Moret, the last surviving New Orleans member of the  
29 Tuskegee Airmen.

30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Mr.

1 Calvin Moret.

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The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Michelle Broussard-Johnson.

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DIGEST

Murray

SR No. 76

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