

HR 9063

2012

House Resolution

1
2 A resolution honoring the Tuskegee Airmen and Lt.
3 Charles P. Bailey, Sr., for their brave contributions
4 to the history of the State of Florida.
5

6 WHEREAS, in spite of adversity and limited opportunities,
7 African Americans have played a significant role in the history
8 of the United States Armed Forces over the past 300 years, and

9 WHEREAS, prior to 1940, African Americans were barred from
10 flying for the United States Armed Forces, many believing they
11 lacked qualifications for combat duty, and

12 WHEREAS, civil rights organizations and the black press
13 exerted pressure that resulted in the formation of an
14 exclusively African American pursuit squadron based in Tuskegee,
15 Alabama, in 1941, known as the Tuskegee Airmen, and

16 WHEREAS, "Tuskegee Airmen" refers to all who were involved
17 in the "Tuskegee Experiment," the Army Air Corps program to
18 train African Americans to fly and maintain combat aircraft, and

19 WHEREAS, the Tuskegee Airmen overcame segregation and
20 prejudice to become one of the most highly respected fighter
21 groups of World War II, proving that African Americans could fly
22 and maintain sophisticated combat aircraft and paving the way
23 for full integration of the United States Armed Forces in 1948
24 by President Harry S. Truman, and

25 WHEREAS, the first black aviator from Florida to become a
26 Tuskegee Airman was Lt. Charles P. Bailey, Sr., the last of
27 Punta Gorda's "Fighting Bailey Brothers," a family of seven sons
28 and two daughters who distinguished themselves in war and life

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29 | during World War II, the Korean War, and much of the 20th
30 | Century, and

31 | WHEREAS, Lt. Charles P. Bailey, Sr., flew 133 combat
32 | missions for the all-black 99th Fighter Squadron, earning
33 | himself an Air Medal with four oak leaf clusters, awarded for
34 | valor in aerial combat, and the Distinguished Flying Cross, and

35 | WHEREAS, the combat record of the Tuskegee Airmen speaks
36 | for itself with over 15,000 sorties, 111 German airplanes
37 | destroyed in the air and another 150 on the ground, 66 enemy
38 | pilots killed in action or accidents, 32 enemy pilots downed and
39 | captured as prisoners of war, and many notable awards earned,
40 | including 150 Distinguished Flying Crosses, 744 Air Medals, 8
41 | Purple Hearts, and 14 Bronze Stars, and

42 | WHEREAS, the Tuskegee Airmen, who have been an inspiration
43 | not only to African Americans but to all Americans alike, and
44 | Lt. Charles P. Bailey, Sr., who was a Volusia County resident
45 | and the first Floridian to join the Tuskegee Airmen,
46 | demonstrated incredible valor and skill and by their service
47 | honored the State of Florida, NOW, THEREFORE,

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49 | Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of
50 | Florida:

51 |
52 | That the Tuskegee Airmen and Lt. Charles P. Bailey, Sr.,
53 | are honored for their brave contributions to the history of the
54 | State of Florida.