

By Senator Montford

3-05881-13

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Senate Resolution

A resolution recognizing Tuskegee Airman Cornelius Davis, an American hero and a great Floridian.

WHEREAS, Cornelius Davis, the youngest child of James and Annie Davis, was born March 12, 1921, in Blountstown, and

WHEREAS, Cornelius attended grade school and middle school in Blountstown and graduated from Booker T. Washington High School in Pensacola, and

WHEREAS, in 1941, Cornelius moved to Detroit, Michigan, and shortly thereafter began working for Ford Motor Company, joining United Auto Workers Local 600, and

WHEREAS, Cornelius received military leave from Ford Motor Company to join the Army Air Corps and, in October 1942, began basic training, first in Fort Custer, Michigan and, then, in Tuskegee, Alabama, followed by training as an airman at Buckley Field, Colorado, and

WHEREAS, Cornelius earned his place as a proud member of the Tuskegee Airmen, the first African-American military aviators in the United States Armed Forces, and

WHEREAS, before the Tuskegee Airmen, no African American had become a United States military pilot, and

WHEREAS, the Tuskegee Airmen were subject to racial discrimination, both within and outside the army, and

WHEREAS, despite the discrimination and adversity they experienced, the Tuskegee Airmen trained and flew with great distinction on behalf of the United States, flying more than 15,000 combat sorties, destroying 261 enemy aircraft, and receiving more than 900 medals, and

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30 WHEREAS, Cornelius was stationed with the 301st Fighter
31 squadron in the 332nd Expedition Operations group in Michigan,
32 the 553rd fighter squadron in South Carolina, and the 99th
33 Flying Training squadron in the 477th Fighter group, and

34 WHEREAS, while on his way to participate in the invasion of
35 Japan, Cornelius learned that World War II was finally over, and

36 WHEREAS, Cornelius left the service from Madison Field,
37 Ohio, and went on to live a full and honorable life, and

38 WHEREAS, Cornelius Davis has earned his place as a part of
39 Florida's and America's history, NOW, THEREFORE,

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41 Be It Resolved by the Senate of the State of Florida:

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43 That we recognize one of Florida's great treasures,
44 Cornelius Davis, and honor him for his service to our nation.