

By Senator Broxson

1-02495A-20

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Senate Resolution

A resolution remembering the outstanding service of the late General Daniel "Chappie" James, Jr., as a member of the Tuskegee Airmen and throughout all of his distinguished military career, on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of his birth.

WHEREAS, Daniel "Chappie" James, Jr., was born on February 11, 1920, in Pensacola, not far from the current site of Naval Air Station Pensacola, and

WHEREAS, Daniel "Chappie" James, Jr., grew up under the watchful eyes of his father, Daniel James, Sr., an employee of the Pensacola city gas company, and his mother, Lillie Anna James, a high school teacher who established a private school for her own and other African-American children in Pensacola, and

WHEREAS, in 1937, Daniel "Chappie" James, Jr., enrolled at the Tuskegee Institute in Alabama and quickly made a name for himself as an athlete and as a campus leader, and

WHEREAS, with the beginning of World War II, Daniel "Chappie" James, Jr., seized the opportunity afforded by Tuskegee University to pursue his dream of flying as a member of the Tuskegee Airmen, and

WHEREAS, Daniel "Chappie" James, Jr., graduated from Tuskegee University in 1942 with a Bachelor of Science degree in physical education and, in July 1943, earned his commission as a second lieutenant, becoming one of the first African-American pilots in the United States Army Air Corps, and

WHEREAS, in 1949, Daniel "Chappie" James, Jr., received the

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30 Distinguished Flying Cross for valor, and he went on to fly 101
31 combat missions over Korea, and

32 WHEREAS, Daniel "Chappie" James, Jr., flew 78 combat
33 missions into North Vietnam and later, after he assumed the
34 command at Wheelus Air Base in Libya, his handling of an
35 incident involving Muammar Gaddafi led then-President Richard
36 Nixon to nominate him in 1970 for brigadier general, and

37 WHEREAS, Daniel "Chappie" James, Jr., was the first African
38 American to hold the rank of four-star general, and

39 WHEREAS, throughout his later life General Daniel "Chappie"
40 James, Jr., kept alive the memory of the dignity and self-
41 sacrifice with which the Tuskegee Airmen served their country,
42 and

43 WHEREAS, General Daniel "Chappie" James, Jr., died of a
44 heart attack on February 25, 1978, but he will forever be
45 remembered as a fighter pilot with a magnificent record and as
46 an American patriot, NOW, THEREFORE,

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

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50 That the Florida Senate remembers the outstanding service
51 of the late General Daniel "Chappie" James, Jr., as a member of
52 the Tuskegee Airmen and throughout all of his distinguished
53 military career, on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of his
54 birth.