

HR 8019

2020

## 1 House Resolution

2 A resolution recognizing the service and sacrifice of  
3 the Tuskegee Airmen and designating March 26, 2020, as  
4 "Tuskegee Airmen Commemoration Day" in Florida.  
5

6 WHEREAS, prior to World War II, African Americans had very  
7 limited roles in the defense of our nation and none in military  
8 aviation, and

9 WHEREAS, when the United States was drawn into World War  
10 II, African Americans were aspiring to more meaningful jobs in  
11 the military, including flying and maintaining aircraft, and

12 WHEREAS, the rapid expansion of aircraft production during  
13 the war created a greater need for military pilots, and

14 WHEREAS, the public outcry from civil rights groups and  
15 black professional organizations exhorted the United States War  
16 Department to extend the opportunity to fly airplanes to all  
17 military members, and

18 WHEREAS, the United States War Department's Civilian Pilot  
19 Training Program (CPTP) authorized colleges and universities to  
20 train students in order to increase the number of civilian  
21 pilots and thereby increase the nation's military preparedness,  
22 and

23 WHEREAS, Tuskegee Institute in Alabama was one of six black  
24 colleges and universities chosen to participate in the CPTP,

HR 8019

2020

25 | then was selected to offer advanced CPTP training, and finally  
 26 | was the sole site for segregated military flying training, and

27 |         WHEREAS, the 99th Fighter Pursuit Squadron, the first black  
 28 | flying squadron, trained at Dale Mabry Field near Tallahassee to  
 29 | prepare for combat overseas, and

30 |         WHEREAS, the Eglin Field ranges in Okaloosa County were  
 31 | used by the first class of advanced training cadets, as well as  
 32 | pilots in the advanced training stage, for gunnery and combat  
 33 | tactics, and

34 |         WHEREAS, the outstanding performance of the Tuskegee Airmen  
 35 | was unprecedented in military aviation history, and

36 |         WHEREAS, the month of March is a significant month for the  
 37 | Tuskegee Airmen, as it is the month the first cadets received  
 38 | their wings; the first maintenance crew began training at  
 39 | Chanute Field, Illinois; the first Pursuit Squadron, the 99th,  
 40 | was activated; and the month in which President George W. Bush  
 41 | presented the Tuskegee Airmen with the Congressional Gold Medal,  
 42 | and

43 |         WHEREAS, many Tuskegee Airmen have direct connections to  
 44 | the State of Florida, NOW, THEREFORE,

45 |

46 | Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of  
 47 | Florida:

48 |

HR 8019

2020

49           That the State of Florida recognizes the service and  
50 sacrifice of the Tuskegee Airmen and designates March 26, 2020,  
51 as "Tuskegee Airmen Commemoration Day" in Florida.