

Resolution

ENROLLED SENATE
RESOLUTION NO. 52

By: Pittman, Matthews, Fry,
Smalley, Boggs, Allen,
Anderson, Barrington, Bass,
Bice, Bingman, Brecheen,
Brooks, Brown, Crain, Dahm,
David, Dossett, Fields,
Floyd, Ford, Garrison,
Griffin, Halligan, Holt,
Jech, Jolley, Justice,
Loveless, Marlatt, Mazzei,
Newberry, Paddack, Quinn,
Schulz, Sharp, Shaw,
Shortey, Silk, Simpson,
Sparks, Standridge,
Stanislawski, Sykes,
Thompson, Treat, Wyrick and
Yen

A Resolution commemorating the 75th Anniversary of the founding of the Tuskegee Airmen; recognizing Faythe A. McGinnis, Charles B. Hall and Robert C. Smith as Congressional Gold Medal recipients as acknowledged by the Charles B. Hall chapter of the Tuskegee Airmen; and directing distribution.

WHEREAS, 75 years ago on March 22, 1941, the Tuskegee Airmen, the first African-American military aviators in the United States Armed Forces, began training at Tuskegee University; and

WHEREAS, during a highly publicized visit to the Tuskegee Army airfield later that year, First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt asked Chief Civilian Flight Instructor Charles Alfred Anderson to fly her over the skies of Alabama, thus inspiring her husband, President Franklin

D. Roosevelt, to publicly raise awareness and acknowledge the skill set of African American airmen.

WHEREAS, the Tuskegee Airmen fought for the freedom of their nation during a time in history when they also faced segregation and other oppressive laws. These airmen fought with a vision of independence and opportunity for their future children and grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, the Congressional Gold Medal award was authorized by the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, on behalf of the U.S. Congress, and was presented as a single gold medal in 2007 to honor the Tuskegee Airmen, collectively, in recognition of their unique military record, which inspired revolutionary reform in the Armed Services; and

WHEREAS, today we remember Faythe A. McGinnis of class 42F of Muskogee, Oklahoma, as the first Tuskegee Airmen to be killed in a training accident; Charles B. Hall of class 42F of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, as the first African American Tuskegee Airmen to shoot down an enemy aircraft; and Robert C. Smith, of class 45D of Muskogee, Oklahoma, as a prominent and well-respected community leader in his hometown. These three airmen represent the rich legacy of the Tuskegee Airmen, who as Oklahomans, served their country and were instrumental in the integration of our armed forces; and

WHEREAS, in celebration of the 75th Anniversary, the Charles B. Hall Chapter of Tuskegee Airmen and Chapter President, Mahlon Smith, join the State Senate in presenting the replica Congressional Gold Medal to the families of the three original Oklahoma Tuskegee Airmen.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE 2ND SESSION OF THE 55TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE:

THAT upon the occasion of the 75th Anniversary of the founding of the Tuskegee Airmen, the Oklahoma State Senate joins the Charles B. Hall Chapter of Tuskegee Airmen in recognizing Faythe A. McGinnis, Charles B. Hall and Robert C. Smith and their families for their dedication and sacrifice.

THAT the Oklahoma State Senate recognizes the distribution of the Congressional Gold Medal to the family members of these three original Oklahoma Tuskegee Airmen.

THAT a copy of this resolution be distributed to the families of Faythe A. McGinnis, Charles B. Hall and Robert C. Smith, as well as the Charles B. Hall Chapter of the Tuskegee Airmen, Inc.

Adopted by the Senate the 30th day of March, 2016.



Presiding Officer of the Senate

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Received by the Office of the Secretary of State this 31st
day of March, 20 16, at 10:18 o'clock A. M.
By: Chris Benze