

1 HJR181
2 138598-4
3 By Representative Holmes
4 RFD: Rules
5 First Read: 23-FEB-12

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ENROLLED, House Joint Resolution,
COMMENDING THE TUSKEGEE AIRMEN AND INVITING THEM TO
ADDRESS A JOINT SESSION OF THE ALABAMA LEGISLATURE.

WHEREAS, at a time when most white Americans did not think blacks could be taught to fix a plane, much less fly one, almost 1,000 black aviators, whose responsibility would be to escort America's bombers over enemy territory, studied at the Tuskegee Institute and trained at an isolated complex near Tuskegee, Alabama; and

WHEREAS, these aviators, who became known as the Tuskegee Airmen, distinguished themselves in combat over the skies of North Africa and Europe during World War II; and

WHEREAS, the Tuskegee Airmen flew more than 15,000 sorties and destroyed more than 450 enemy planes with 66 pilots killed and 35 shot down and captured; and

WHEREAS, the Tuskegee Airmen did not lose a single bomber they escorted, and some white pilots asked for members of the Tuskegee Airmen as escorts because of their dedication; and

WHEREAS, through their actions, the Tuskegee Airmen proved that individuals will rise above what is expected; now therefore,

1 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
2 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That we hereby most heartily invite
3 the Tuskegee Airmen to address, at a time chosen by the
4 Lieutenant Governor and the Speaker of the House of
5 Representative after consultation with the sponsor of this
6 resolution a joint session of the Alabama Legislature and do
7 further direct that a copy of this resolution be provided to
8 the Tuskegee Airmen.

