

ENROLLED ORIGINAL

A CEREMONIAL RESOLUTION

24-24

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

April 6, 2021

To posthumously celebrate, recognize, and honor the life of Major Louis Anderson, II, a World War II Tuskegee Airman, and longtime Ward 7 resident, for his exemplary service and contributions to the United States.

WHEREAS, Major Louis Anderson, II was born in 1925 in Jacksonville, Florida as the fifth of seven children born to Rev. Major L. Anderson, Sr. and Minnie Louise Anthony Anderson;

WHEREAS, Major Louis Anderson, II was drafted in 1943 at the age of 18 and entered the Army Air Corps and received basic training at Keesler Army Airfield in Biloxi, Mississippi and trained as an aircraft sheet metal worker at the Air Force Technical School at Chanute Field, Illinois;

WHEREAS, before World War II, African Americans had very limited roles in the defense of our nation with none in military aviation and the Tuskegee Institute in Alabama became one of the first historically black colleges to offer advanced Civilian Pilot Training Program, and finally was the sole site for segregated military flying training;

WHEREAS, Major Louis Anderson, II was awarded the World War II Victory Medal in 1945;

WHEREAS, Major Louis Anderson, II broke barriers for African Americans when he served as a member of the 477th Bomber Group as a ground support serviceman during World War II;

WHEREAS, Major Louis Anderson, II was one of the more than 15,000 men and women Tuskegee Airmen during World War II who provided unprecedented and outstanding performance in military aviation and opened doors for future black aviators;

WHEREAS, Major Louis Anderson, II was honored with the Congressional Gold Medal in 2013 for his service as a member of the ground support service for the Tuskegee Airmen;

WHEREAS, Major Louis Anderson, II was an active member of the East Coast Chapter of the Tuskegee Airmen, Inc. (ECCTAI) since he joined in 2008;

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WHEREAS, in 2017, Major Louis Anderson, II's legacy was further cemented with the establishment of the Major Anderson Tuskegee Aviation Maintenance Academy in Glen Burnie, Maryland, which is a school dedicated to training future aviation mechanics by offering a two-year program to continue the tradition of the exceptional work done by mechanics of the Tuskegee Experience who kept pilots flying during World War II;

WHEREAS, Major Louis Anderson, II attended Howard University on the GI Bill studying Mechanical Engineering and earned his bachelor's degree in Business Administration from Federal City College, today known as the University of the District of Columbia, in 1973;

WHEREAS, Major Louis Anderson, II worked as a Postal Police Officer at the U.S. Postal Inspection Service from 1951 until his retirement in 1984, and then worked as a school bus driver for the Prince George's County Public Schools where he received, among other civilian awards, a Certificate of Recognition in 1990 from the Board of Education of Prince George's County for his work with young people;

WHEREAS, Major Louis Anderson, II had been a resident of Ward 7 since moving to Washington, D.C. after World War II;

WHEREAS, Major Louis Anderson, II spent much of his life as a District resident and lived 70 years in the River Terrace neighborhood in Ward 7 and served three years as a member of the Advisory Neighborhood Commission representing the River Terrace neighborhood; and

WHEREAS, Major Louis Anderson, II was married to the late Lurlene Anderson, née Booker, with whom he had two sons, Major L. Anderson, III and Keith Byron Anderson, and will be missed by his family, friends, and Ward 7 community.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the "Major Louis Anderson, II Recognition Resolution of 2021".

Sec. 2. The Council of the District of Columbia joins in posthumously celebrating the remarkable life of Major Louis Anderson, II, a World War II Tuskegee Airman, for his exemplary service and contributions to our nation, the District of Columbia, and its residents.

Sec. 3. This resolution shall take effect immediately.