

By: Veasey

H.R. No. 723

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The citizens of Fort Worth are fortunate indeed to
2 welcome members of the Tuskegee Airmen to their city in March and
3 April of this year, and the event provides an opportunity to reflect
4 on this elite military brotherhood's singular stature in American
5 history; and

6 WHEREAS, Formed in 1941, the Tuskegee Airmen were the first
7 African Americans to be trained as U.S. military pilots, and almost
8 a thousand young men graduated from the program by the end of World
9 War II; and

10 WHEREAS, In dedicating themselves to the service of a country
11 in which they still routinely suffered the injuries of personal and
12 institutional bigotry, the Tuskegee Airmen not only embodied
13 courage and daring but also represented an important first step in
14 our nation's struggle toward the ideals of equality and racial
15 justice; and

16 WHEREAS, Among the members of this remarkable group are Lee
17 Archer, Roscoe Brown, Bob Ashby, Claude E. Platte, Lloyd McKeethen,
18 Bill Wheeler, Victor Terrelonge, Bill Hollomen, Bill Ellis, Leo
19 Gray, Alex Jefferson, Dick Macon, John Learh, James Sheppard, and
20 Howard Baugh, as well as Tess Spooner, the first vice president of
21 Tuskegee Airmen, Inc., and bomber pilot Herb Heilbrum; and

22 WHEREAS, Throughout history, the actions of a select few have
23 resonated far beyond their immediate circumstances to empower and
24 inspire the generations that follow in their wake, and the members

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1 of the Tuskegee Airmen are indisputably among these few; now,
2 therefore, be it

3 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 79th Texas
4 Legislature hereby welcome members of the Tuskegee Airmen to Texas
5 and extend to them sincere best wishes for an enjoyable stay in the
6 Lone Star State.