

By: West

S.R. No. 189

SENATE RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, The Senate of the State of Texas is pleased to join the National Aviation Education Center and the Commemorative Air Force in recognizing 125 years of Black aviation history; and

WHEREAS, Black innovators and aviators overcame seemingly insurmountable barriers during the Jim Crow era to help lay the foundation for modern advanced aviation, yet their contributions to the field have been largely overlooked and underappreciated; and

WHEREAS, This storied history can be traced back to 1899, when John Frederick Pickering of Haiti applied for an aviation patent for his flight machine, and he was awarded United States Patent Number 643,975 on February 20, 1900; Charles Frederick Page, a former slave of Pineville, Louisiana, also applied for an aviation patent for his invention in 1903, and he was awarded United States Patent Number 817,442 on April 10, 1906; both of these men's original innovations were designed and tested before the Wright brothers made their famous first flight; and

WHEREAS, Black pilots continued breaking barriers in the early 1900s, and during World War II, the Tuskegee Airmen garnered public attention as the nation's first Black military pilot group; these extraordinary servicemen persevered amid discriminatory policies and prejudice to protect the nation with

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exceptional skill and bravery in aerial combat, and their achievements established the groundwork for racial integration of the United States Armed Forces and the civil rights movement; and

WHEREAS, On February 21 and 22, 2025, guests gathered at the Henry B. Tippie National Aviation Education Center to honor the positive impact and enduring legacy of Black trailblazers in the field of aviation as part of the center's Black History Month celebration; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 89th Legislature, hereby pay tribute to the pioneering Black men who helped to shape modern aeronautics and join all in celebrating 125 years of Black aviation history; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared in honor of this special occasion.