



State of North Carolina

ROY COOPER
GOVERNOR

TUSKEGEE AIRMAN COMMEMORATION DAY PROCLAMATION

2022

BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

WHEREAS, in September of 1940, President Franklin Roosevelt announced that the U.S. Army Air Corps (AAC), a precursor of the U.S. Air Force, would begin training African American pilots; the Tuskegee Army Airfield in Tuskegee, Alabama, was chosen as the training site for the 99th Pursuit Squadron, later known as the Tuskegee Airmen; and

WHEREAS, the program's trainees, nearly all of whom were college graduates or undergraduates, came from all corners of the United States including North Carolina; in addition to some 1,000 pilots, the Tuskegee program trained nearly 14,000 navigators, bombardiers, instructors, aircraft and engine mechanics, control tower operators, and other maintenance and support staff; and

WHEREAS, in April of 1942, the Tuskegee-trained 99th Pursuit Squadron deployed to North Africa where they flew missions in second-hand P-40 planes, which were slower and more difficult to maneuver than that of their German adversaries; in February of 1944, the 100th, 301st and 302nd fighter squadrons arrived in Italy and joined the 99th Pursuit Squadron to form the new 332nd Fighter Group; and

WHEREAS, by the time the 332nd flew its last combat mission on April 26, 1945, the Tuskegee Airmen had flown more than 15,000 individual sorties over two years in combat; throughout the war, the airmen destroyed or damaged 36 German planes in the air, 237 on the ground, nearly 1,000 rail cars, transport vehicles, as well as a German destroyer; and

WHEREAS, the Tuskegee airmen played a significant role in the desegregation of the U.S. Armed Forces by proving African Americans had equal skill, courage, and patriotism;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ROY COOPER, Governor of the State of North Carolina, do hereby proclaim March 24, 2022, as "TUSKEGEE AIRMAN COMMEMORATION DAY" in North Carolina. I call upon all North Carolinians to observe this day with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities that commemorate these brave men.





Roy Cooper
Governor

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Great Seal of the State of North Carolina at the Capitol in Raleigh this twenty-third day of March in the year of our Lord two thousand and twenty-two and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-sixth.