
Introduced by Senator Anderson

May 14, 2012

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 90—Relative to the Tuskegee Airmen Highway.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 90, as introduced, Anderson. Tuskegee Airmen Highway.

This measure would designate a specified portion of State Highway Route 15 in the County of San Diego as the Tuskegee Airmen Highway. The measure would request that the Department of Transportation determine the cost of appropriate signs showing this special designation and, upon receiving donations from nonstate sources covering that cost, to erect those signs.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, The United States Army Air Corps formed the
- 2 332nd Fighter Group and the 477th Medium Bombardment Group
- 3 at Tuskegee Institute to train African American fighter pilots who,
- 4 until that time, had not been accepted into pilot training programs
- 5 in the military; and
- 6 WHEREAS, The Tuskegee Airmen were sent to the European
- 7 Theatre in 1943 and served in combat in North Africa, Sicily, and
- 8 Europe; and
- 9 WHEREAS, The Tuskegee Airmen became the first squadron
- 10 to sink a naval destroyer with only machine guns and the first to
- 11 shoot down a German jet fighter during World War II; and
- 12 WHEREAS, At the end of World War II, the Tuskegee Airmen
- 13 were credited with destroying 261 enemy aircraft, damaging 148
- 14 enemy aircraft, destroying or damaging 940 units of enemy ground

1 transportation, flying 15,553 combat sorties in 1,578 missions over
2 North Africa, Sicily, and Europe, and conducting more than 200
3 bomber escort missions, without losing a single bomber to enemy
4 fighters; and

5 WHEREAS, The Tuskegee Airmen unit, including its officers
6 and enlisted personnel, received three Presidential Unit Citations,
7 150 Distinguished Flying Cross and Legion of Merit awards, the
8 Red Star of Yugoslavia, nine Purple Hearts, 14 Bronze Stars, and
9 more than 700 Air Medals and Oak Leaf Cluster awards; and

10 WHEREAS, Sixty-six of the Tuskegee Airmen were killed in
11 combat, and another 33 were shot down and held as prisoners of
12 war; and

13 WHEREAS, The unqualified success of the Tuskegee Airmen
14 helped lead to the eventual integration of the United States Armed
15 Forces; and

16 WHEREAS, The record of the Tuskegee Airmen in World War
17 II was accomplished by individuals who bravely accepted the
18 challenge and proudly displayed their skill and patriotism despite
19 great adversity at home and abroad; and

20 WHEREAS, The Tuskegee Airmen, Inc. is an education and
21 community service organization dedicated to maintaining the
22 traditions of the Tuskegee Airmen and preserving the legacy of
23 the first generation of African American military aviators of World
24 War II with 42 chapters throughout the United States, and has
25 consistently provided inspiration, motivation, mentoring, and role
26 models for elementary, middle, and high school students in this
27 country; now, therefore, be it

28 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*
29 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature hereby designates the
30 portion of State Highway Route 15 between Miramar Road
31 (milepost marker 14.285) and Mercy Road (milepost marker
32 17.311), in the County of San Diego, as the Tuskegee Airmen
33 Highway; and be it further

34 *Resolved*, That the Department of Transportation is requested
35 to determine the cost of appropriate signs consistent with the
36 signing requirements for the state highway system showing this
37 special designation and, upon receiving donations from nonstate
38 sources sufficient to cover the cost, to erect those signs; and be it
39 further

1 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
2 this resolution to the Department of Transportation and to the
3 author for appropriate distribution.

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