

## House Resolution 1023

By: Representatives Holmes of the 61<sup>st</sup>, Thomas of the 55<sup>th</sup>, Sinkfield of the 60<sup>th</sup>, Bruce of the 64<sup>th</sup>, Beasley-Teague of the 65<sup>th</sup>, and others

## A RESOLUTION

- 1 Dedicating the Tuskegee Airmen Parkway; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, at the direction of President Franklin D. Roosevelt, the United States Army Air  
3 Corps formed the 99th Fighter Squadron at Tuskegee Institute to train black fighter pilots  
4 who, until that time, had not been accepted into pilot training programs in the military; and
- 5 WHEREAS, after receiving their training, the Tuskegee Airmen were sent to the European  
6 Theatre of Operations in 1943 and served in combat in North Africa, Sicily, and Europe; and
- 7 WHEREAS, the Tuskegee Airmen became the first squadron to sink a naval destroyer with  
8 only machine guns and the first to shoot down a German jet fighter during World War II; and
- 9 WHEREAS, by the end of World War II, the Tuskegee Airmen had been credited with 261  
10 enemy aircraft destroyed; 148 enemy aircraft damaged; 940 units of enemy ground  
11 transportation destroyed or damaged; 15,553 combat sorties in 1,578 missions over North  
12 Africa, Sicily, and Europe; and more than 200 bomber escort missions without losing a  
13 bomber to enemy fighters; and
- 14 WHEREAS, the unit and its officers and enlisted personnel received three Presidential Unit  
15 Citations, 150 Distinguished Flying Crosses and Legions of Merit, the Red Star of  
16 Yugoslavia, nine Purple Hearts, 14 Bronze Stars, and more than 700 Air Medals and clusters;  
17 and
- 18 WHEREAS, sixty-six of the Tuskegee Airmen were killed in combat, and another 33 were  
19 shot down and held as prisoners of war; and
- 20 WHEREAS, the unqualified success of the Tuskegee Airmen led to the eventual integration  
21 of the United States armed forces; and

1 WHEREAS, the superior record of the Tuskegee Airmen in World War II was accomplished  
2 by individuals who bravely accepted the challenge and proudly displayed their skill and  
3 determination in the face of racism and bigotry at home and who continued to contribute to  
4 this country after their military service in World War II; and

5 WHEREAS, the Tuskegee Airmen, Inc., is an education and community service organization  
6 dedicated to maintaining the traditions of the Tuskegee Airmen and preserving the legacy of  
7 the first generation of African American military aviators of the Second World War with 42  
8 chapters throughout the United States, and it has consistently provided inspiration,  
9 motivation, mentoring, and role models for elementary, middle, and high school students in  
10 this country; and

11 WHEREAS, it is only fitting and proper that Camp Creek Parkway in Fulton County from  
12 its intersection with Fulton Industrial Boulevard to its intersection with Interstate  
13 Highway 85 should be dedicated in honor of these brave individuals as the Tuskegee Airmen  
14 Parkway.

15 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF  
16 GEORGIA that the members of this body recognize and honor the Tuskegee Airmen for their  
17 dedicated service to this state and nation.

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Camp Creek Parkway in Fulton County from its  
19 intersection with Fulton Industrial Boulevard to its intersection with Interstate Highway 85  
20 is dedicated as the Tuskegee Airmen Parkway.

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Transportation is authorized and  
22 directed to erect and maintain appropriate signs dedicating the Tuskegee Airmen Parkway.

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
24 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the Atlanta Chapter of the  
25 Tuskegee Airmen, Inc., and to the Department of Transportation.