



Proclamation
In Recognition of
The Tuskegee Airmen

WHEREAS, February is African-American History Month in the State of Hawai'i and the Aloha State celebrates not only the rich history of African-American achievements, but is proud to recognize the contributions of the Tuskegee Airmen in the preservation of liberty; and

WHEREAS, despite having played significant roles in our nation's most important battles since its founding, African-Americans were denied military leadership positions and skilled training because many falsely believed they lacked the necessary qualifications and, prior to 1940, African-Americans were barred from flying for the United States military; and

WHEREAS, in 1941 the barriers preventing the nation from utilizing the tremendous skills and dedication of African-American military personnel neared an end when civil rights groups and the press exerted pressure for an African-American pursuit squadron to be formed in Tuskegee, Alabama; and

WHEREAS, the Tuskegee Airmen served our country with both courage and distinction in combat and support positions in World War II; flying over 1,578 missions, destroying 261 enemy aircraft, and earning numerous medals, including 744 Air Medals and Clusters, more than 100 Flying Crosses, 14 Bronze Stars, eight Purple Hearts, a Silver Star and a Legion of Merit; and

WHEREAS, on March 29, 2007 the Tuskegee Airmen were collectively awarded the Congressional Gold Medal by President George W. Bush and the United States Congress; and

WHEREAS, the Baham-Goldsborough Hawai'i Chapter of Tuskegee Airmen Inc. is named in honor of Tuskegee Airmen Romaine H. Goldsborough, who was laid to rest in Hawai'i on September 25, 2013, and Phillip Baham, who resides on the island of O'ahu;

THEREFORE I, DAVID Y. IGE, Governor, and I, SHAN S. TSUTSUI, Lieutenant Governor of the State of Hawai'i, do hereby proclaim April 1, 2015 as

"TUSKEGEE AIRMEN DAY"

in Hawai'i, and ask all citizens of the Aloha State to join us in expressing our deep and profound gratitude to the Tuskegee Airmen for their courage and commitment to the preservation of our freedom.

DONE at the State Capitol, in the Executive Chambers, Honolulu, State of Hawai'i, on this thirtieth day of March 2015.

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor, State of Hawai'i

SHAN S. TSUTSUI
Lt. Governor, State of Hawai'i