

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 2nd Session of the 55th Legislature (2016)

3 SENATE
4 RESOLUTION 52

By: Pittman, Matthews, Fry,
Smalley and Boggs

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7 AS INTRODUCED

8 A Resolution commemorating the 75th Anniversary of
9 the founding of the Tuskegee Airmen; recognizing
10 Faythe A. McGinnis, Charles B. Hall and Robert C.
11 Smith as Congressional Gold Medal recipients as
12 acknowledged by the Charles B. Hall chapter of the
13 Tuskegee Airmen; and directing distribution.

14 WHEREAS, 75 years ago on March 22, 1941, the Tuskegee Airmen,
15 the first African-American military aviators in the United States
16 Armed Forces, began training at Tuskegee University; and

17 WHEREAS, during a highly publicized visit to the Tuskegee Army
18 airfield later that year, First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt asked Chief
19 Civilian Flight Instructor Charles Alfred Anderson to fly her over
20 the skies of Alabama, thus inspiring her husband, President Franklin
21 D. Roosevelt, to publicly raise awareness and acknowledge the skill
22 set of African American airmen.

23 WHEREAS, the Tuskegee Airmen fought for the freedom of their
24 nation during a time in history when they also faced segregation and
other oppressive laws. These airmen fought with a vision of

1 independence and opportunity for their future children and
2 grandchildren; and

3 WHEREAS, the Congressional Gold Medal award was authorized by
4 the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President Pro
5 Tempore of the Senate, on behalf of the U.S. Congress, and was
6 presented as a single gold medal in 2007 to honor the Tuskegee
7 Airmen, collectively, in recognition of their unique military
8 record, which inspired revolutionary reform in the Armed Services;
9 and

10 WHEREAS, today we remember Faythe A. McGinnis of class 42F of
11 Muskogee, Oklahoma, as the first Tuskegee Airmen to be killed in a
12 training accident; Charles B. Hall of class 42F of Oklahoma City,
13 Oklahoma, as the first African American Tuskegee Airmen to shoot
14 down an enemy aircraft; and Robert C. Smith, of class 45D of
15 Muskogee, Oklahoma, as a prominent and well-respected community
16 leader in his hometown. These three airmen represent the rich
17 legacy of the Tuskegee Airmen, who as Oklahomans, served their
18 country and were instrumental in the integration of our armed
19 forces; and

20 WHEREAS, in celebration of the 75th Anniversary, the Charles B.
21 Hall Chapter of Tuskegee Airmen and Chapter President, Mahlon Smith,
22 join the State Senate in presenting the replica Congressional Gold
23 Medal to the families of the three original Oklahoma Tuskegee
24 Airmen.

1 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE 2ND SESSION
2 OF THE 55TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE:

3 THAT upon the occasion of the 75th Anniversary of the founding of
4 the Tuskegee Airmen, the Oklahoma State Senate joins the Charles B.
5 Hall Chapter of Tuskegee Airmen in recognizing Faythe A. McGinnis,
6 Charles B. Hall and Robert C. Smith and their families for their
7 dedication and sacrifice.

8 THAT the Oklahoma State Senate recognizes the distribution of
9 the Congressional Gold Medal to the family members of these three
10 original Oklahoma Tuskegee Airmen.

11 THAT a copy of this resolution be distributed to the families of
12 Faythe A. McGinnis, Charles B. Hall and Robert C. Smith, as well as
13 the Charles B. Hall Chapter of the Tuskegee Airmen, Inc.

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