



# Proclamation

## By the Governor of Alabama

*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; and

*WHEREAS*, 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 which were college graduates or undergraduates, came from all corners of the United States; and

*WHEREAS*, 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 99<sup>th</sup> 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 their German counterparts; and

*WHEREAS*, 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; and

*WHEREAS*, throughout this time, they had destroyed or damaged 36 German planes in the air and 237 on the ground, as well as nearly 1,000 rail cars and transport vehicles and a German destroyer; and

*WHEREAS*, the Tuskegee Airmen played a substantial role in the desegregation of the U.S. Armed Forces by proving African American's had no shortage of intelligence, skill, courage or patriotism for such an endeavor;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Kay Ivey, Governor of Alabama, do hereby proclaim March 7, 2020, as

# Tuskegee Airmen Day

in the state of Alabama.



Given Under My Hand and the Great Seal of the Office of the Governor at the State Capitol in the City of Montgomery on the 5<sup>th</sup> day of March 2020.

*Kay Ivey*  
Kay Ivey, Governor