

Chapter 68

(House Bill 479)

AN ACT concerning

General Provisions – Commemorative Days – Tuskegee Airmen Commemoration Day

FOR the purpose of requiring the Governor annually to proclaim a certain day as Tuskegee Airmen Commemoration Day; requiring the proclamation to urge educational and cultural organizations to observe Tuskegee Airmen Commemoration Day through appropriate and informative programs and activities; and generally relating to Tuskegee Airmen Commemoration Day.

BY renumbering

Article – General Provisions
Section 7–402 through 7–417, respectively
to be Section 7–403 through 7–418, respectively
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2019 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

BY adding to

Article – General Provisions
Section 7–402
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2019 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

Preamble

WHEREAS, The Tuskegee Airmen were a group of African American military pilots who served the United States with distinction during World War II; and

WHEREAS, The Tuskegee Airmen overcame a history of harsh segregation and rigid social barriers to serve in meaningful roles in defense of our country; and

WHEREAS, Recognition of the Tuskegee Airmen’s valiant and amazing feats during and after World War II was slow in arriving; and

WHEREAS, Several Tuskegee Airmen have special ties to Maryland, some of whom currently reside in Maryland and others who resided in Maryland at other times, having contributed richly to the culture of our State; and

WHEREAS, The East Coast Chapter Tuskegee Airmen, Incorporated, provides \$15,000 annually to graduating high school seniors and college students in need of tuition assistance as well as over \$20,000 of scholarship awards towards aviation classes; and

WHEREAS, The month of March is special in the history of the Tuskegee Airmen because it is the month that the first aviation cadets completed pilot training and received their wings; the first aircraft maintenance crews began training at Chanute Field, Rantoul, Illinois; the first squadron was activated; and President George W. Bush presented the Tuskegee Airmen with the Congressional Gold Medal on March 27, 2007; now, therefore,

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That Section(s) 7-402 through 7-417, respectively, of Article – General Provisions of the Annotated Code of Maryland be renumbered to be Section(s) 7-403 through 7-418, respectively.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article – General Provisions

7-402.

(A) THE GOVERNOR ANNUALLY SHALL PROCLAIM THE FOURTH THURSDAY IN MARCH AS TUSKEGEE AIRMEN COMMEMORATION DAY.

(B) THE PROCLAMATION SHALL URGE EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATIONS TO OBSERVE TUSKEGEE AIRMEN COMMEMORATION DAY THROUGH APPROPRIATE AND INFORMATIVE PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES.

SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2022.

Approved by the Governor, April 12, 2022.