

HOUSE BILL 586

P1
HB 716/20 – HGO

11r0580
CF SB 303

By: **Delegate R. Watson**

Introduced and read first time: January 20, 2021

Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **General Provisions – Commemorative Days – Tuskegee Airmen Commemoration**
3 **Day**

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

9 BY renumbering

10 Article – General Provisions
11 Section 7–402 through 7–417, respectively
12 to be Section 7–403 through 7–418, respectively
13 Annotated Code of Maryland
14 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2020 Supplement)

15 BY adding to

16 Article – General Provisions
17 Section 7–402
18 Annotated Code of Maryland
19 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2020 Supplement)

20 Preamble

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

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

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



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

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

6 WHEREAS, The East Coast Chapter Tuskegee Airmen, Incorporated, provides
7 \$15,000 annually to graduating high school seniors and college students in need of tuition
8 assistance as well as over \$20,000 of scholarship awards towards aviation classes; and

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

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

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

20 **Article - General Provisions**

21 **7-402.**

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

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

27 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
28 October 1, 2021.