SENATE BILL 5

By: **Senators Patterson, Ellis, ~~and Carozza~~ <u>Carozza</u>, Pinsky, Kagan, Jackson, Lam, Hester, Gallion, Washington, Reilly, ~~and Simonaire~~ <u>Simonaire</u>, Watson, Lee, <u>Sydnor, and Hettleman</u>**

CHAPTER _____

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 educational and
6   cultural 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 2021 Supplement)

15 BY adding to
16   Article – General Provisions
17   Section 7–402
18   Annotated Code of Maryland
19   (2019 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

EXPLANATION: **CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.**
    [Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.
    <u>Underlining</u> indicates amendments to bill.
    ~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by
    amendment.

1   Preamble

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

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

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

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

11   WHEREAS, The East Coast Chapter Tuskegee Airmen, Incorporated, provides
12     $15,000 annually to graduating high school seniors and college students in need of tuition
13   assistance as well as over $20,000 of scholarship awards towards aviation classes; and

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

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

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

25   **Article – General Provisions**

26   **7–402.**

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

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

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

Approved:

_____

Governor.

_____

President of the Senate.

_____

Speaker of the House of Delegates.