



THE AMERICAN LEGION
DEPARTMENT OF MARYLAND, INC.



Room E
101 N. Gay Street
Baltimore, MD 21202

March 10, 2022

STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 5
General Provisions - Commemorative Days - Tuskegee Airmen Commemoration Day

Chairman Pinsky and members of the Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee,

During World War II at least 20 young African-American men left their homes in Maryland and became members of what is now known as the Tuskegee Airmen.

They distinguished themselves in every way possible while fighting for America, for themselves, their children, their culture, as well as every American citizen, in hope that their country would accept Americans of all colors as first class citizens.

Upon returning from the war, many more made their homes in the State of Maryland.

We have now lost two of Maryland's most notable Tuskegee Airmen. Brigadier General Charles McGee, USAF-Ret., one of the last living members of this unit, was a highly decorated combat veteran of three wars. Dr. Charles Herbert Flowers became the first African American with military training to become a primary flight instructor of the Tuskegee Airmen during WWII.

Their passings bring to mind the extraordinary service and sacrifice of these American heroes and Sons of Maryland from World War II's 'Greatest Generation'.

Our American Legion Department of Maryland Family spans more than 100,000 households, who live, pay taxes and vote in the State of Maryland. They reside in all of the 23 counties and Baltimore City.

The American Legion Department of Maryland and its membership respectfully and strongly requests a favorable report on SB 5.

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph D. Pruden, Jr.
Legislative Commission
Department of Maryland
The American Legion

Residence:
5705 Carlyle Street
Cheverly, Maryland 20785
Phone: 301-8602-2117
Email: JDPrudenJr@gmail.com