

By: Representatives Mayo, Burnett, Coleman  
(29th), Espy, Huddleston, Peranich

To: Rules

## HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 21

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE SERVICE, SACRIFICE AND BRAVERY OF  
2 TUSKEGEE AIRMAN, RETIRED LIEUTENANT COLONEL WASHINGTON DUBOIS  
3 ROSS, TO THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI AND THE UNITED STATES.

4 WHEREAS, born March 4, 1919, in Mound Bayou, Mississippi, as  
5 the fourth of six children, to Robert Warren Ross, Sr., and Teresa  
6 Elizabeth Calloway Ross, Lieutenant Colonel Washington DuBois Ross  
7 served his country in many capacities as a groundbreaking Tuskegee  
8 Airman, a decorated fighter pilot and a highly respected officer;  
9 and

10 WHEREAS, having received his bachelor of science degree in  
11 education from Hampton Institute (now Hampton University) in  
12 Hampton, Virginia, Lieutenant Colonel Ross also received his  
13 private pilot's license through participation in the Civilian  
14 Pilot Training Program (CPT); and

15 WHEREAS, Lieutenant Colonel Ross furthered his educational  
16 pursuits at Wayne State University and at the University of  
17 Detroit, from which he earned a master's degree in mathematics,  
18 additionally obtaining a bachelor of business administration and a  
19 master of business administration from D'etre University in  
20 Detroit, Michigan; and

21 WHEREAS, one of the famed Tuskegee Airmen, Ross arrived at  
22 Tuskegee as part of the Class 43-I, graduating in 1943 as a  
23 fighter pilot with the rank of Second Lieutenant before being sent  
24 to Selfridge Field, Michigan, in October of 1943 for overseas  
25 training, and later joining the 332nd Fighter Group for a tour of  
26 duty in the European Theater; and

27           WHEREAS, after spending some time in North Africa for  
28 additional training, Lieutenant Colonel Ross and his comrades were  
29 flown to Naples, Italy, to join other members of the 332nd, where  
30 he flew patrol in P-39s, before being transferred to the 15th Air  
31 Force to fly P-47s, and he finally flew P-51s on long escort  
32 missions protecting bombers; and

33           WHEREAS, having flown a combination of sorties and missions,  
34 for a total of 63 missions, Lieutenant Colonel Ross and fellow  
35 members of the 332nd Fighter Group shared the distinction of not  
36 losing a single bomber to enemy fighters; and

37           WHEREAS, the timeline of Lieutenant Colonel Ross' military  
38 career is complemented by an impressive record of service as he  
39 progressed through the ranks, first as cadet and later as a  
40 twin-engine instructor for the B-25 at Tuskegee Army Air Base in  
41 Alabama and Lockbourne Air Force Base in Ohio; and

42           WHEREAS, after four years of active military service, Ross  
43 joined the United States Air Force Reserves where he served for 20  
44 years in a number of assignments, before retiring in 1981 with the  
45 rank of Lieutenant Colonel; and

46           WHEREAS, while Lieutenant Colonel Ross carried great  
47 responsibility in the Air Force, he also remained active in  
48 community groups and social organizations, including Tuskegee  
49 Airmen, Inc.; life member of the Reserve Officers Association; the  
50 Berea Lutheran Church in Detroit; Berea Day School Board of  
51 Education; and the Detroit Chapter of the National Hampton Alumni  
52 Association, Inc.; and

53           WHEREAS, hailed as a legend of his time, Lieutenant Colonel  
54 Ross has been supported and encouraged in every endeavor he has  
55 undertaken by his loving family, including his late wife of 60  
56 years, Willie Pearl White Ross; children, Paula Ross, Rodney  
57 Enix-Ross, Mark Ross and Robert Ross; and three grandchildren,  
58 Langston Ross, Parker Enix-Ross and Miya Ross; and

59           WHEREAS, it is the policy of the House of Representatives to  
60 commend the lives and service of such notable and humble native  
61 Mississippians as Lieutenant Colonel Ross, whose life will be  
62 etched in the rich history of this state and nation and who has  
63 inspired countless numbers to strive diligently to achieve their  
64 dreams:

65           NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
66 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby  
67 commend the service and sacrifice of the legendary Tuskegee  
68 Airman, astute soldier and devout Mississippian, Lieutenant  
69 Colonel Washington DuBois Ross, and extend our warmest wishes for  
70 his continued health, peace and success in all of his future  
71 endeavors.

72           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be  
73 furnished to Lieutenant Colonel Ross and to the members of the  
74 Capitol Press Corps.