



The Senate

STATE CAPITOL
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

Media Advisory
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Hawaii State Senate to Honor World War II Veterans

Honolulu – Members of the Tuskegee Airmen will be honored by the Hawaii State Senate during its floor session on **Friday, March 1, 2013 at 11:30 a.m.**

The Tuskegee Airmen are members of the 332d Fighter Group and 477th Bombardment Group that flew missions from Sicily to Normandy during World War II. The Tuskegee Airmen are also the only African American pilots who served in combat.

Hawaii residents Romaine Goldsborough and Philip Baham, along with Alexander Jefferson of Michigan, will be presented a Certificate of Recognition from the Senate. Romaine Goldsborough will be represented by his wife at the presentation.

“Now in their twilight years, it is important that we show these American heroes how much we appreciate the sacrifices they made for our country and their contributions to our nation’s history,” said Senator Will Espero, chair of the Senate Committee Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs.

While facing much adversity and limited opportunities, African Americans were barred from flying for the U.S. military prior to 1940. These barriers neared an end when civil rights groups and the press exerted enough pressure for an all African American pursuit squadron formed in Tuskegee, Alabama in 1941.

The Tuskegee Airmen overcame segregation and racial prejudice and became one of the most highly respected fighter groups of World War II. Their awards and decorations include three Distinguished Unit Citations, 14 Bronze Stars, and eight Purple Hearts. These achievements and commendations paved the way for full integration of African Americans in the U.S. military.

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