

2017 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 19

BY REPRESENTATIVE MAGEE

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To commend Augustus Brown Sr., posthumously for his extraordinary life and numerous accomplishments.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that Augustus G. Brown Sr., be commended and honored for his extraordinary life and significant contributions as a Tuskegee airman and World War II veteran; and

WHEREAS, the Tuskegee Airmen were the first African American servicemen to serve as military aviators in the United States armed forces, flying with distinction during World War II; and

WHEREAS, breaking racial barriers, the Tuskegee Airmen overcame segregation and prejudice to become one of the most highly respected fighter groups of World War II for protecting bombers on missions over Nazi Germany; and

WHEREAS, the revolutionary successes of the Tuskegee Airmen helped pave the way for the eventual integration of the United States armed forces; and

WHEREAS, Terrebonne Parish native, Augustus G. Brown Sr., partook in the legendary accomplishments of the Tuskegee Airmen during World War II; and

WHEREAS, during his senior year at Leland College, Mr. Brown bravely enlisted in the military in the midst of World War II; and

WHEREAS, after completing basic training and officer-training school, Mr. Brown was selected to join the elite all-black fighter squadron, having originally been assigned to the 101<sup>st</sup> Squadron, which later became a part of the 332<sup>nd</sup> Fighter Group; and

WHEREAS, he later joined the 99<sup>th</sup> Fighter Squadron, which was popularly known as "Redtails" because of the crimson paint on the tails of their P-51 Mustangs; and

WHEREAS, after serving his country, Mr. Brown returned to college, earning his bachelor's degree in science in 1947 from Leland College; he subsequently earned his master's degree in administration from Southern University and A&M College; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Brown became the only African American member of the Terrebonne Flying Posse and the Experimental Aircraft Association; later in life, he also became a member of the Houma Airport Commission; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his remarkable military career, Mr. Brown had a distinguished career in education, having taught at the Houma Colored School, C.M. Washington High School, and South Terrebonne High School; he also served as vice principal of South Terrebonne High School and principal of the Schriever Colored School and Ellender Junior High School; and

WHEREAS, in 1978, Mr. Brown was promoted to the position of child-welfare and attendance supervisor, where he served until his retirement in 1983; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Brown passed away in 1999 at the age of seventy-eight; and

WHEREAS, Augustus G. Brown Sr., dedicated his life to the service of his family, community, and nation as a husband, father, soldier, and a beloved and respected individual who is so richly deserving of this long-overdue recognition.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend posthumously Augustus G. Brown Sr.; does hereby recognize and record for posterity the tremendous valor and fortitude he displayed as a Tuskegee airman; and does hereby express the enduring appreciation of his fellow citizens for the great sacrifices he made in the name of freedom.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the family of Augustus G. Brown Sr.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE