



## Text File

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Committee: City Council

Status: Adopted

**WHEREAS**, the **Tuskegee Airmen** were African Americans enlisted into the Army Air Corp during World War II, many of whom came from Western Pennsylvania; and

**WHEREAS**, an experiment of the United States government, brought on by the lack of fighter pilots, the **Tuskegee Experiment** took five enlistees and sent them through fighter pilot training; and

**WHEREAS**, 3,450 African-American men and women were taught “separately but equally” to Caucasian members of the Army Air Corp creating the 332<sup>nd</sup> Fighter Group, a successful company of fighter pilots, airplane mechanics, meteorologists, navigators, control tower riggers, bombardiers, and all ranges of flightline support personnel; and

**WHEREAS**, 82 of these airmen came from Western Pennsylvania, the largest contingency of enlistees and more than from any other state, with the majority of that number coming from Pittsburgh, with five coming from Beltzhoover, 12 from Homewood, 14 from the Hill District, and four from the Northside; and

**WHEREAS**, the president of the **Greater Pittsburgh Chapter, Tuskegee Airmen, Inc.**, is **Dr. Edmund Effort**, US Air Force Retired, the husband of **Elaine**, who is the vice president and daughter of late **Master Sergeant Vurnol Leaphart**, the Crew Chief of all fighter aircraft flown by **Colonel Benjamin O. Davis, Jr.**, Commanding Officer of the 332<sup>nd</sup> fighter group which flew over 15,000 sorties and 1,500 combat and bomber escort missions in North Africa, Italy, Germany, and France; and

**WHEREAS**, **Regis Bobonis, Sr.**, Senior Project Manager, heads fundraising for a local memorial to be placed in an area provided by the Board of Managers of Sewickley Cemetery at the projected cost of about \$75,000 (donations being received by **Tuskegee Airmen Memorial**, P.O. Box 183, Sewickley, Pa. 15143); and

**WHEREAS**, on Sunday June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2011 the Pittsburgh Pirates celebrated the **Tuskegee Airmen** with a series of events;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Council of the City of Pittsburgh recognizes the **Greater Pittsburgh Chapter of Tuskegee Airmen, Inc.** and the work they do keeping alive the memory of those brave Tuskegee Airmen who proved we are all equal in mind, body and spirit.