

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the Tuskegee Airmen, known as the “Red Tails,” were the first African American military aviators during World War II; and

WHEREAS, the Tuskegee Airmen served with distinction during World War II, primarily as fighter pilots and bomber escorts, earning a reputation for exceptional skill, courage, and bravery; and

WHEREAS the first African American military aviators in the U.S. Armed Forces were trained at the Tuskegee Institute in Alabama during World War II. Despite facing intense racial discrimination and segregation, they served with distinction, flying over 1,500 combat missions in Europe and North Africa, earning over 100 Distinguished Flying Crosses, and helping pave the way for military desegregation in 1948; and

WHEREAS, the Tuskegee Airmen achieved an outstanding combat record, particularly for their success in protecting American bomber aircraft from enemy fighter planes; and

WHEREAS, the Tuskegee Airmen earned numerous honors and awards, including eight Purple Hearts, fourteen Bronze Stars, three Distinguished Unit Citations, and ninety-six Distinguished Flying Crosses; and

WHEREAS, Lieutenant Colonel Leo Gray, an original Tuskegee Airman and P-51 fighter pilot, was a resident of Broward County; and

WHEREAS, Governor Ron DeSantis, on April 11, 2024, signed HB 1227 designating the fourth Thursday of March as Tuskegee Airmen Commemoration Day, a Legal and Public Holiday Day, in the State of Florida.

NOW, THEREFORE, the City Commission of the City of Oakland Park, Florida, by virtue of the authority vested in it by the City Charter, does hereby recognize

Tuskegee Airmen

in the City of Oakland Park, and calls upon all residents to honor the legacy, service, and sacrifices of these brave airmen as we recognize Memorial Day.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Oakland Park, Florida, to be affixed this 20th day of May 2026.

By: _____
STEVEN R. ARNST, MAYOR

ATTEST: _____
RENEE M. SHROUT, CMC, CITY CLERK