

House Resolution 1069

By: Representatives Bruce of the 45th, Moraitakis of the 42nd, Post 4, Holmes of the 48th, Post 1, Fludd of the 48th, Post 4, Heard of the 75th, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring Lieutenant Colonel Charles W. Dryden of the Tuskegee Airmen and inviting him
2 to appear before the House of Representatives; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Lieutenant Colonel Charles W. Dryden was born on September 16, 1920, in
4 New York City to Jamaican-born parents, Charles Levi Tucker Dryden and Violet Buckley
5 Dryden; and

6 WHEREAS, Colonel Dryden earned his bachelor's degree in political science from Hofstra
7 University and his master's degree in public law and government from renowned Columbia
8 University; and

9 WHEREAS, in August of 1941 he was selected for Aviation Cadet training at the Tuskegee
10 Army Flying School and was commissioned on April 29, 1942, as a second lieutenant in a
11 class of only three graduates, only the second class of black pilots to graduate in the history
12 of the U.S. Army Air Corps; and

13 WHEREAS, he was a member of the famed 99th Pursuit Squadron, later the 332 Fighter
14 Group, which served in North Africa, Sicily, and Italy during World War II; and

15 WHEREAS, on June 9, 1943, he was piloting his P-40 fighter, nicknamed "The A-Train,"
16 when, for the first time in aviation history, black American pilots of the U.S. Army Air Corps
17 engaged aircraft in combat; and

18 WHEREAS, Colonel Dryden's 21 year military career also included combat missions in
19 Korea, and he also served as a professor of air science at Howard University before he retired
20 in 1962 with 4,000 hours flying time; and

21 WHEREAS, he is a member of the Atlanta Metro Lions Club, Quality Living Services, and
22 the Atlanta Chapter-Tuskegee Airmen, Inc., which he helped found in 1978; and

1 WHEREAS, in 1998, Colonel Dryden was inducted into the Georgia Aviation Hall of Fame,
2 and his autobiography, *A-Train: Memoirs of a Tuskegee Airman*, was published by the
3 University of Alabama Press in 1997.

4 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
5 this body honors Lieutenant Colonel Charles W. Dryden of the Tuskegee Airmen and
6 wholeheartedly thanks him for his great service to this country and invites him to appear
7 before the House of Representatives at a date and time to be designated by the Speaker.

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
9 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Lieutenant Colonel Charles
10 W. Dryden.