

## House Resolution 1331

By: Representatives Hatchett of the 150<sup>th</sup>, Epps of the 144<sup>th</sup>, and Pruett of the 149<sup>th</sup>

## A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring the life of Laurens County Tuskegee Airmen Major Herndon Cummings, Colonel  
2 John Whitehead, and Colonel Marion Rodgers and dedicating an intersection in their  
3 memory; and for other purposes.

4 WHEREAS, our nation's security continues to rely on patriotic men and women who put  
5 their personal lives on hold in order to place themselves in harm's way to protect the  
6 freedoms that all United States citizens cherish; and

7 WHEREAS, Major Herndon Cummings, Colonel John Whitehead, and Colonel Marion  
8 Rodgers were influential Tuskegee Airmen who valiantly and courageously served this  
9 nation during World War II and were born in or spent years during their childhood in  
10 Laurens County, Georgia; and

11 WHEREAS, a native of Laurens County, Major Herndon Cummings enlisted in the United  
12 States Air Corps on June 25, 1942, and was assigned to the 447th Bomber Group with whom  
13 he served for four years;

14 WHEREAS, upon completion of his service with the Air Corps, Major Cummings enlisted  
15 with the United States Air Force Reserve and dedicated 20 years of additional service to the  
16 nation; and

17 WHEREAS, Colonel Marion Rodgers was raised in Dublin, Georgia, and served with an  
18 anti-aircraft artillery unit and as a radio operator prior to attending flight school; and

19 WHEREAS, Colonel Rodgers was assigned to the 99th Fighter Squadron, the "Red Tails,"  
20 and dedicated 22 years to the Air Force before working in the civil service field for 17 years;  
21 and

22 WHEREAS, Colonel Rodgers spent a year working for N.A.S.A. as a program manager on  
23 the mission for Apollo 13 and was prominent in the development of electronics and  
24 communications procedures with N.O.R.A.D.; and

25 WHEREAS, Colonel John Whitehead spent several years during his youth in Laurens  
26 County and flew several missions over Europe during World War II; and

27 WHEREAS, known as "Mr. Death" by his fellow pilots, Colonel Whitehead was the first  
28 African American test pilot for the Air Force and during his 30 year career spent more than  
29 9,500 hours in the air; and

30 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that the extraordinary accomplishments of  
31 these distinguished Georgians be appropriately recognized with the naming of an intersection  
32 in their honor.

33 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AND ENACTED BY THE GENERAL  
34 ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA that the intersection of U.S. Route 80 at U.S. 441 Bypass in  
35 Laurens County is dedicated as the Tuskegee Airmen Major Herndon Cummings, Colonel  
36 John Whitehead, and Colonel Marion Rodgers Intersection.

37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Transportation is authorized and  
38 directed to erect and maintain appropriate signs dedicating the Tuskegee Airmen Major  
39 Herndon Cummings, Colonel John Whitehead, and Colonel Marion Rodgers Intersection.

40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
41 and directed to transmit appropriate copies of this resolution to the families of Tuskegee  
42 Airmen Major Herndon Cummings, Colonel John Whitehead, and Colonel Marion Rodgers  
43 and to the Department of Transportation.