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CONTACT

Pamela Newton
Office of Representative Bruce Antone
Bruce.Antone@myfloridahouse.gov
850-717-5041

**Representative Bruce Antone's Tuskegee Airmen
Commemoration Day Bill Passes First Committee Stop
Unanimously**

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. –Yesterday, Sponsor **Representative Bruce Antone (D-Orlando)** and Prime Co-Sponsor **Representative Doug Bankson (R-Apopka)** passed, **HB 1227**, Tuskegee Airmen Commemoration Day, designating the fourth Thursday in March as a legal holiday. The bill passed the Constitutional Rights, Rule of Law & Government Operations Subcommittee unanimously.

The bill recognizes the Tuskegee Airmen, African American fighter pilots, who trained near Tuskegee Institute now known as Tuskegee University. The pilots formed part of the 332nd Fighter Group which was comprised of four squadrons of African American pilots in the 15th Air Force during World War II. The Airmen were also known as the “Red Tails”, a nicknamed acquired from the painted tails of 332nd fighter planes, which flew over 200 missions in the performance of defending heavy bombers from enemy interceptors.

“Yesterday the committee voted for the Tuskegee Airmen Commemoration Day Bill. This is the first step towards a day designated as the “Tuskegee Airmen Commemoration Day on the Fourth Thursday in March of each year,” said **Representative Antone**.

The next committee stop is State Affairs Committee before a Floor vote.

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