A resolution

adopted by The City Council of the City of Chicago, Illinois

Aldermen: Edward M. Burke, Carrie M. Austin, Walter Burnett Jr., Leslie A. Hairston, Gregory I. Mitchell, Anthony A. Beale, Toni L. Foulkes, David Moore, Derrick G. Curtis, Emma Mitts, Michael Scott Jr., Michelle Harris, Jason C. Ervin, Pat Dowell, Roderick T. Sawyer, Willie Cochran, Howard Brookins Jr.

Presented by Mayor Rahm Emanuel *on* February 22, 2017

Whereas, On March 22, 1941 the 99th Pursuit Squadron of the U.S. Army Air Corps, the first Army combat aviation unit comprised of African-American pilots and support personnel, later known as the Tuskegee Airmen, was activated at Chanute Field in Rantoul, Illinois; and

WHEREAS, Many patriotic members of the Tuskegee Airmen were residents of Chicago before and after World War II; and

WHEREAS, The unit later moved to the Tuskegee Army Airfield in Alabama, which played a more significant role in nurturing additional units and was the place where they became known by their geographic nom de guerre; and

WHEREAS, Known as the "Red Tails" for the red markings on the tails of their fighter aircraft, the Tuskegee Airmen were famous for tenacity and skill in successfully protecting bombers over Europe and North Africa; and

WHEREAS, The Tuskegee Airmen's combat record was both legendary and extraordinary, as they fought racism and bigotry to earn their reputation as heroes in World War II; and

WHEREAS, The Tuskegee Airmen flew 1,578 missions, were responsible for 112 aerial kills and were awarded numerous medals, including 96 Distinguished Flying Crosses, one Congressional Gold Medal, three Presidential Unit Citations, eight Purple Hearts, 25 Bronze Stars, 1,031 Air Medals with a Cluster, one Silver Star, one Legion of Merit, four Soldier Medals and one Red Star of Yugoslavia; and

WHEREAS, The Chicago "DODO" Chapter of the Tuskegee Airmen is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to preserving the honor and legacy of the Tuskegee Airmen; and

WHEREAS, Black History Month is celebrated during February and it is fitting that during this time all Chicagoans reflect on the bravery and historical significance of the Tuskegee Airmen; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That we, the Mayor and the members of the Chicago City Council, assembled this twenty-second day of February, 2017, do hereby declare that March 22nd shall be officially recognized as *Tuskegee Airmen Day* in the City of Chicago; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a suitable parchment copy of this resolution be presented to the membership of the Chicago "DODO" Chapter of the Tuskegee Airmen as a sign of our honor and respect.

Rahm Emanuel

MAYOR

Andrea M. Valencia

CITY CLERK