



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
MASSACHUSETTS SENATE

SENATOR CINDY F. FRIEDMAN
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Chair
JOINT COMMITTEE ON HEALTH CARE FINANCING

Chair
SENATE COMMITTEE ON STEERING AND POLICY

May 12, 2025

Chair Nick Collins
Joint Committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight
24 Beacon St. Room 511-A
Boston, MA 02133

Chair Antonio F.D. Cabral
Joint Committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight
24 Beacon St. Room 466
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Chair Collins and Chair Cabral,

I write in support of a bill I filed that is before your committee, S.2153, *An Act establishing the fourth Thursday in March as Tuskegee Airmen Commemoration Day*.

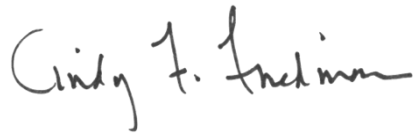
As this bill's title makes clear, this legislation would establish the fourth Thursday in March as Tuskegee Airmen Commemoration Day. The Tuskegee Airmen was a group of largely Black servicemembers who fought as part of the United States Air Force in World War II. Their story starts with World War I, when Black servicemembers sought the opportunity to serve their country by joining the Air Force but were denied, solely because of their race. Despite this denial, they fought for and secured the opportunity to serve in the Air Force during World War II.

These servicemembers came to be known as the Tuskegee Airmen. They include Black pilots, bombardiers, navigators, flight surgeons, nurses, mechanics, instructors, crewmembers and countless support personnel who worked together to serve their country during the war. The Airmen played an active role in the war. They saw extensive combat – some sources say even more combat than their white counterparts, due once again to racism – and are universally understood to have performed exceptionally well.

For their service and sacrifice, and for changing the course of our nation's history, the Tuskegee Airmen deserve to be honored and commemorated, and that's exactly what this legislation would do.

Therefore, I respectfully request the committee to report the bill favorably. Thank you in advance for your consideration, and please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cindy F. Friedman". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "C" and a long, sweeping underline.

Cindy F. Friedman