

Janice K. Brewer  
Governor

# Office of the Governor

## \* TUSKEGEE AIRMEN COMMEMORATION DAY \*

**WHEREAS**, prior to World War II, African Americans had very limited roles in the defense of our nation with none in military aviation; and

**WHEREAS**, the United States War Department used a grossly inaccurate and disparaging "Official Report" published in 1925, with the intent of relegating African Americans to menial duty positions; and

**WHEREAS**, more African Americans were receiving higher education by the time the United States was drawn into World War II, thus aspiring more meaningful jobs in the military to include flying airplanes; and

**WHEREAS**, the rapid expansion of aircraft production to meet the demands of air power during World War II created a greater need for military pilots; and

**WHEREAS**, the public outcry from the Black population, Black media and fair-minded Whites exhorted the War Department to extend the opportunity to fly airplanes to all military members; and

**WHEREAS**, the United States War Department's Civil Pilot Training (CPT) Program authorized colleges and universities to train civilian students to increase the number of civilian pilots, thus having a clear impact on military preparedness; and

**WHEREAS**, Tuskegee Institute in Alabama was one of six Black schools chosen to participate in the CPT Program and helped open the doors for the first African-American military pilots; and

**WHEREAS**, the outstanding performance record of the Tuskegee Airmen was unprecedented in military aviation history, thus disproving every adverse prejudiced contention prior to World War II; and

**WHEREAS**, the month of March is a special month for the Tuskegee Airmen - the month the *first cadets* received their silver wings, the first maintenance crew began training at Chanute Field, IL, the first Pursuit Squadron (The 99<sup>th</sup>) was activated; and the date, March 27, 2007, when President George W. Bush presented the *Tuskegee Airmen* the Congressional Gold Medal; and

**WHEREAS**, fourteen Tuskegee Airmen have direct connections in the State of Arizona.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, Janice K. Brewer, Governor of the State of Arizona, do hereby proclaim March 27, 2014 as**

## \* TUSKEGEE AIRMEN COMMEMORATION DAY \*

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Arizona



*Janice K. Brewer*  
GOVERNOR

DONE at the Capitol in Phoenix on this third day of September in the year Two Thousand and Thirteen, and of the Independence of the United States of America the Two Hundred and Thirty-eighth.

ATTEST:

*Ken Blumett*  
Secretary of State