

**ACTS AND RESOLUTIONS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA 2014**

Act 486

House Resolution 1544, Part III

Effective April 15, 2014

**TUSKEGEE AIRMEN MAJOR HERNDON CUMMINGS,  
COLONEL JOHN WHITEHEAD,  
AND COLONEL MARION RODGERS INTERSECTION — DESIGNATED.**

**A RESOLUTION**

Dedicating certain portions of the state highway system; and for other purposes.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AND ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA, that the intersection of US-80 and the US-441 Bypass in Laurens County, is dedicated as the Tuskegee Airmen Major Herndon Cummings, Colonel John Whitehead, and Colonel Marion Rodgers Intersection.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Department of Transportation is authorized and directed to erect and maintain appropriate signs dedicating the road facilities named in this Resolution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized and directed to make appropriate copies of this Resolution available for distribution to the Department of Transportation and the families of Tuskegee Airmen Major Herndon Cummings, Colonel John Whitehead, and Colonel Marion Rodgers.