

Proclamation

BE IT PROCLAIMED:

- WHEREAS,** Charles Feaster was born in Louisville, Kentucky, and in 1940 while attending Tuskegee Institute (now Tuskegee University), he had an opportunity to join the 99th Pursuit Squadron, later called the 99th Fighter Squadron, which was the first Army Air Force unit to consist of African Americans to engage in air combat; and
- WHEREAS,** Mr. Feaster served in the Army from 1940 to 1946 as a Technician/Flight Engineer in the 99th Fighter Squadron, which distinguished itself during missions flown in P40, P47, and P51 aircraft in North Africa, Italy, Northern and Southern France, the Rhineland, and the Balkans during World War II; and
- WHEREAS,** upon completion of his military tenure, Mr. Feaster attended Wilberforce and Central State Universities and graduated from Central State with a Bachelor of Science in Industrial Arts; and
- WHEREAS,** in 1951, he began his employment at WPAFB where he served as a Management Analyst, Procurement Analyst, and Program Analyst and was awarded several sustained Superior and Quality Performance Awards during his 38-year tenure, and upon his retirement in 1987, he received the Air Force Award for Distinguished Federal Civilian Service; and
- WHEREAS,** Mr. Feaster is revered as a Tuskegee Airman who fought for his right to fight for America and whose participation in the "Tuskegee Experiment" led to the desegregation of U.S. Armed Forces by President Harry S. Truman in 1948, and on March 27, 2007, President George W. Bush awarded Mr. Feaster with a Congressional Gold Medal, which is the highest civilian award in the United States; and
- WHEREAS,** Mr. Feaster is a member of the EverReady Club, Sr. Usher Board, the Budget Committee, Education Committee and Chairman of the Trustee Board at Zion Baptist Church; he served on the City's Civil Service Commission from 12/09/04 to 12/31/13; he recently retired as the Secretary of the Wilberforce-Xenia Optimist Club after a tenure of almost 30 years; and he is one of the founding members of the Pals (Promoters of the Arts, Literature and Sciences) Club; and
- WHEREAS,** Mr. Feaster resides in Xenia with his wife, Mae, to whom he has been married for sixty-four years.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Marsha J. Bayless, Mayor of the City of Xenia, Ohio, do hereby proclaim, October 19, 2014, as

"Charles Feaster Day"

in appreciation of Mr. Feaster's service as a Tuskegee Airman as well as his service to his community.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Xenia, Ohio, to be affixed this 17th day of October in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand Fourteen.

Marsha J. Bayless
Marsha J. Bayless
Honorable Mayor of Xenia, Ohio

