

In a recent ceremony in Washington DC, the Congress and President Bush paid honor and tribute to a group of true patriots -- men who changed our nation profoundly -- the Tuskegee Airmen. During this ceremony members of the Tuskegee Airmen were awarded the Congressional Gold Medal, the highest civilian honor in the United States authorized by Congress. Our country's recognition of their sacrifices and service is long overdue.

The Tuskegee Airmen

During World War II, the United States government did not allow African Americans to train with members of the armed forces; blacks who wanted to fly for the U.S. military trained in isolation in Tuskegee, Alabama.

Known as the Red Tails, the accomplished and brave group of men flew cover missions for U.S. bombers providing protection against enemy planes. The enemy never shot down a U.S. bomber protected by the Red Tails. The Tuskegee Airmen sacrificed to help defeat Nazism and at the same time faced discrimination by their countrymen. History shows that the Tuskegee Airmen were a driving force that helped the United States end its segregation policies.

Four Tuskegee Airmen call Nebraska home: Lt. Col. Charles Lane, Corporal Roberts Holts, Lt. Col. Paul Adams, and Lt. Col. Harrison Tull. Recently passed are Ralph Orduna and Harry Pruitt. The Congressional Gold Medal is but a small gesture of gratitude and respect; the debt we owe to these and other Americans serving to protect our freedoms is immeasurable.

U.S. Energy Policy

Last week, my committee House Energy and Commerce debated energy legislation, and a summary of my amendments is available at http://www.leeterry.house.gov/Article_Details.aspx?NewsID=1536. You may also be interested in my

bill to spur the production and use of E-85, the mixture of 85 percent ethanol and 15 percent gasoline used in flex-fuel vehicles. E-85 is one more important energy source to diversify America's energy portfolio and reduce dependence on foreign oil.

