



Date: April 10, 2006

Contact: Larry Holland, 954-625-2845, [lholland@browardlibrary.org](mailto:lholland@browardlibrary.org)

Broward County Commission Libraries Division Announces  
**Tuskegee Airmen To Be Honored at the African-American Research Library on  
May 3**

**BROWARD COUNTY, FL** – In honor of America’s first Black fighter pilots, The Tuskegee Airmen will be honored at the Media and Community Recognition Day on May 3 from 9:30 am to 2 pm at the African-American Research Library and Cultural Center located at 2650 Sistrunk Boulevard in Fort Lauderdale.

The Tuskegee Airmen flew more than 15,000 individual missions during World War II and never lost a bomber to enemy fighters. There were 450 African-American pilots who served in combat. Sixty-six were killed in action, while 32 were taken prisoner. Military officials estimate approximately 200 Tuskegee Airmen are alive today.

During the press conference, 12 Airmen will be presented with a proclamation from City of Fort Lauderdale officials and additional acknowledgments from other local, state and national leaders. World-renowned sculptor George Gadson will unveil his latest piece depicting the Tuskegee Airmen which will be donated to the library and displayed in its Special Collections Department. Original Tuskegee Airmen flight artifacts and photos are currently on display through May 3.

Recently, Congress unanimously passed a bill to recognize the Tuskegee Airmen with the Congressional Gold Medal, the highest award presented by the House of Representatives. In 2005, both chambers passed a resolution honoring the pilots for their service in the military.

Admission will be free, and complimentary breakfast will be served to the public. The event is sponsored by Success South Florida Magazine, a bi-monthly news publication serving the greater South Florida Black professional community; and the Red Tail Project, an organization dedicated to preserving the history of the Tuskegee Airmen. For more information, please call 954-625-2810 or 954-792-3111.

Founded in 1974, the award-winning Broward County Libraries Division provides essential quality of life community service as well as outstanding customer service throughout Broward County. The library consists of a Main Library in Downtown Fort Lauderdale and 37 branches with more than three million items for public use. Broward County Library is the ninth-largest library system in the United States serving ten million customers annually.

# # #