



Proclamation

By the Mayor of Prattville, Alabama

WHEREAS, Colonel Craigwell volunteered for the Army Air Corps in November, 1944, at the age of 18, and began cadet training at Tuskegee in June, 1945. After being eliminated, he became an aircraft mechanic but was again accepted for cadet training in 1948 at Randolph Air Force Base, Texas, in a racially integrated class. He graduated in February 1949; and

WHEREAS, from March to July, 1949, he flew a P-47 Fighter aircraft at an all-black base, Lockbourne Air Force Base, Ohio. For 19 years, Mr. Craigwell flew Fighter aircraft in several fighter squadrons and he flew numerous training aircrafts; and

WHEREAS, during the Korean War, he flew 200 combat missions. He completed 200 additional combat missions during the Vietnam War on two tours. With more than 400 combat missions in a fighter aircraft, Mr. Craigwell received 26 medals for valor in combat on four combat tours. His final tour was as a Squadron Commander in an F-4. He was promoted to the rank of Colonel in 1969. He retired in 1973 with 29 years of service; and

WHEREAS, in 2007, Mr. Craigwell attended a formal ceremony at the White House where he, as well as all the Tuskegee Airmen, accepted the Congressional Gold Medal from President George W. Bush.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jim Byard, Jr., Mayor of the City of Prattville, do hereby proclaim February 19, 2010, as

ERNEST CRAIGWELL, JR. DAY

in Prattville, Alabama, in recognition of his honorable service to our country as a Tuskegee Airman.



*Given Under My Hand and the
Seal of the City of Prattville on
the 19th day of February, 2010.*

Jim Byard Jr.
Mayor Jim Byard, Jr.