

Proclamation

Office of the Mayor | City of Farmers Branch

WHEREAS the Fifteenth Air Force was formed in Bari, Italy in November of 1943 and was comprised of five bombardment wings as well as support organizations; and

WHEREAS in a little over one year of operations, from November of 1943 to April of 1945, the Fifteenth disabled German oil, air forces, communications and ground forces in Germany and other countries in occupied Europe; and

WHEREAS it dropped 309,126 tons of bombs on enemy targets in twelve countries of Europe including major military installations in eight capital cities; and

WHEREAS the Fifteenth lost 3,364 aircraft and 21,671 personnel killed, wounded, missing and taken prisoner -- 20,430 bomber crewmen and 1,187 fighter pilots; and

WHEREAS the Fifteenth is also known for integration, having as one of its fighter groups in Italy the Red Tails, the famed Tuskegee Airmen of the 332nd Fighter Group, setting the stage for a more socially progressive military in the years to come; and

WHEREAS it took initially 50 combat missions in Europe to complete one tour, the surviving members of the Fifteenth Air Force believe their reunion is a fitting time to remember what took place some seventy-five years ago.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Robert C. Dye, Mayor of the City of Farmers Branch, by the authority vested in me and on behalf of our City Council do hereby offer the warmest welcome and deepest thanks to the **Fifteenth Air Force upon the occasion of their reunion being held in Farmers Branch.**



Robert C. Dye, Mayor