

## RESOLUTION

NO. \_\_\_\_\_

**WHEREAS**, Eugene Jacques Bullard was the first African American military combat pilot who flew in World War I;

**WHEREAS**, Bullard was born on October 9, 1894 in Columbus, Georgia. His father was a former slave and his mother was a Creek Indian;

**WHEREAS**, at approximately 8 years old, Bullard ran away from home when local citizens threatened to lynch his father after an altercation at work;

**WHEREAS**, Bullard stowed away on a freighter out of Charleston, South Carolina, bound for Scotland when he was 10 years old;

**WHEREAS**, after working odd jobs, Bullard took up boxing to make a living and was a prizefighter in England and France;

**WHEREAS**, when World War I began, Bullard joined the Foreign Legion and was eventually transferred to the 170<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment;

**WHEREAS**, multiple wounds fighting at Verdun forced Bullard to be hospitalized and the severity of his injuries resulted in the determination that he was unfit for further service in the infantry.

**WHEREAS**, Bullard enlisted in the French Air Service flying reconnaissance and combat missions;

**WHEREAS**, when the United States entered the war and the U.S. forces arrived in France, Bullard was unable to join the U.S. Air Service;

**WHEREAS**, the U.S. Air Force rectified that injustice by granting him a posthumous commission as a Second Lieutenant in 1994; and Bullard's story is now told in the National Air and Space Museum in Washington, D.C.;

**WHEREAS**, after the war ended, Bullard remained in France and became a nightclub owner. His contacts allowed him to help French counterintelligence operations as World War II neared. When Germany invaded France, Bullard again fought against the Germans and withdrew to the south as the French army fell back. When fighting ceased, he escaped through Spain to America. Bullard then lived in New York and was able to get his daughters out of occupied France;

**WHEREAS**, Bullard remained in New York the rest of his life. At one point, he was an elevator operator in the Rockefeller Building where the *Today* show was broadcast. An accidental encounter with Dave Garraway resulted in Bullard appearing on the show. Bullard remained in New York until he died on October 12, 1961;

**WHEREAS**, Bullard’s awards included the Croix de Guerre, Medaille Militaire, Medaille de Verdun, Medaille de Somme, the Cross of Lafayette Flying Corps and other medals due to his World War I and World War II service. He lit the Everlasting Flame for the Unknown Soldier at the Arc de Triumph in Paris, France, in 1954 and the French government awarded him the Legion of Honor in 1959. In addition, Bullard is in the Georgia Aviation Hall of Fame;

**WHEREAS**, Eugene Bullard was a remarkable man and this Council supports creation of United States Postal Service postage stamps commemorating him.

**NOW, THEREFORE, THE COUNCIL OF COLUMBUS, GEORGIA HEREBY RESOLVES:**

We hereby support and recommend creation of United States Postal Service postage stamps commemorating Eugene Jacques Bullard.

Let a copy of this resolution be forwarded by the Clerk of Council to the Citizen’s Stamp Advisory Committee.

\_\_\_\_\_

Introduced at a regular meeting of the Council of Columbus, Georgia, held the \_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2021 and adopted at said meeting by the affirmative vote of \_\_\_ members of said Council.

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|-------------------|--------------|
| Councilor Allen   | voting _____ |
| Councilor Barnes  | voting _____ |
| Councilor Crabb   | voting _____ |
| Councilor Davis   | voting _____ |
| Councilor Garrett | voting _____ |
| Councilor House   | voting _____ |
| Councilor Huff    | voting _____ |
| Councilor Thomas  | voting _____ |
| Councilor Tucker  | voting _____ |
| Councilor Woodson | voting _____ |

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Sandra T. Davis**  
Clerk of Council

\_\_\_\_\_  
**B. H. “Skip” Henderson, III**  
Mayor