

## Department of Historic Resources

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### STATE HISTORICAL HIGHWAY MARKER "LT. COL. HOWARD BAUGH, TUSKEGEE AIRMAN" TO BE DEDICATED IN PETERSBURG

*—New marker recalls career of Petersburg native Lt. Col. Baugh who received the Distinguish Flying Cross; the French Legion of Honor and Congressional Gold Medal,  
among other honors and awards—*

*—The marker text is reproduced below—*

RICHMOND – A state historical marker issued by the Virginia Department of Historic Resources will be dedicated this month to commemorate the career of Petersburg native Howard Baugh, who graduated from Virginia State University in 1941 and afterwards completed pilot training at Tuskegee Army Air Field, deployed to Italy during World War II, where he flew 135 combat missions, and later earned a Congressional Gold Medal.

The ceremony to dedicate and unveil the marker will be held at 1 p.m., March 17, at Petersburg Art Park at the corner of N. Sycamore and E. Old Streets in downtown Petersburg, across from the marker's location. The public is encouraged to attend and free parking is available near the Petersburg Art Park.

Speakers at the dedication will include Congressman A. Donald McEachin; Delegate Lashrecse Aird; Virginia Department of Veteran Services Commissioner John Newby; Petersburg Mayor Ronald Parham; Petersburg City Manager Aretha Ferrell-Benavides; Howard (Layne) Baugh, president of the Howard Baugh Chapter–Tuskegee Airmen, Inc.; and Dr. Jennifer Loux of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources.

Born in 1920, Baugh served with the 99<sup>th</sup> Fighter Squadron in Sicily during World War II. He was credited with 1.5 aerial victories during his 135 combat missions there.

He later served as Director of Flying Training at Tuskegee.

His career was recognized with awards that include the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Air Medal with 3 Oak Leaf Clusters, the French Legion of Honor, in addition to the Congressional Gold Medal. In 2006 he was inducted into the Virginia Aviation Hall of Fame.

Lt. Col. Baugh died in 2008 and was buried in Arlington National Cemetery with full military honors.

The marker commemorating Lt. Col. Baugh was approved for manufacture and installation in 2017 by the Virginia Board of Historic Resources, which has the authority to designate new historical markers. The manufacturing cost of the sign has been covered by its sponsor the Howard Baugh Chapter–Tuskegee Airmen Inc.

Virginia's historical highway marker program, which began in 1927 with the installation of the first historical markers along U.S. Route 1, is considered the oldest such program in the nation. Currently there are more than 2,500 official state markers, most maintained by the Virginia Department of Transportation, as well as by local partners in jurisdictions outside of VDOT's authority such as Petersburg.

Text of marker:

**Lt. Col. Howard Baugh, Tuskegee Airman**

Howard Baugh (1920-2008) was born and raised in Petersburg. He graduated from what is now Virginia State University in 1941, joined the U.S. Army Air Corps, and completed pilot training at Tuskegee Army Air Field in 1942. Deployed to Sicily with the 99th Fighter Squadron, Baugh flew 135 combat missions during World War II and was credited with 1.5 aerial victories. He later served as Director of Flying Training at Tuskegee. He was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Air Medal with 3 Oak Leaf Clusters, the French Legion of Honor, and the

Congressional Gold Medal. A 2006 Virginia Aviation Hall of Fame inductee, he was buried in Arlington National Cemetery with full military honors.

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