



Saint Louis County

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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Tuskegee airman Joe Gomer to speak to County Board

They were the first African Americans to fly and maintain combat aircraft for the Army. During World War II, the Tuskegee Airmen destroyed more than 260 enemy planes and damaged nearly 150 others while flying missions in North Africa and Italy. Yet, they were kept segregated from their white counterparts during and after the war, and their service was ignored for decades.

Joe Gomer of Duluth proudly served as a fighter pilot with the Tuskegee Airmen, and on Tuesday, May 14, he will share his experiences with St. Louis County Commissioners at the start of their meeting at 9:30 a.m. on the second floor of the St. Louis County Courthouse in Duluth.

Gomer's presentation is part of the Board's year-long initiative to highlight the County's history through its people and places.

"Mr. Gomer is an American hero, and it will be an honor to welcome him to our meeting and listen to his story," said Commissioner Chris Dahlberg who invited Gomer to speak and who, as County Board Chair, started the history initiative.

Speaking of the initiative, Dahlberg said, "I've appreciated all of the speakers we've heard from this year. They've provided good information and insights, whether about the history of a certain part of the County, or that of a certain individual or organization. But there's also been an unexpected benefit to starting the meeting in this way. I think it sets a more positive tone for our Board meetings and helps us work better together. It's a good reminder that we all play a part in history, and to think about how we want our actions to be remembered."

Made up of seven elected commissioners, the St. Louis County Board serves more than 200,000 people living across the County's more than 7,000 square miles.

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