



# Congressman Tim Bishop

*FIRST DISTRICT -- NEW YORK*

## NEWS RELEASE

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### **BISHOP AWARDS LOCAL TUSKEGEE AIRMAN WITH CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL**

*Airman from East Hampton*

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WESTHAMPTON—On Saturday, June 2, Congressman Tim Bishop (NY-1) presented a replica of the Congressional Gold Medal to Lee Hayes, a Tuskegee Airman from East Hampton, during a ceremony at Gabreski Airport.

“I am honored to present this replica of the prestigious Congressional Gold Medal to Lee Hayes today,” said Bishop. “His story of courage in a time of racism and patriotism in a time of war serves as an inspiration to all those who fought to defend our nation and the freedoms we cherish today.”

Before 1940, the military would not allow African-Americans to fly in the then-segregated Armed Forces. However, from 1940 through 1946, about one thousand African-American pilots, including Mr. Hayes, trained at Tuskegee Army Air Field in Alabama. He flew a B-25 bomber.

Earlier this year, the President awarded the Congressional Gold Medal to a delegation of Tuskegee Airmen in Washington, DC, to recognize the achievements of the entire unit. Since Mr. Hayes was unable to attend the ceremony, Congressman Bishop obtained a replica of the medal to present to him during the annual awards ceremony for members of the 106th Air Rescue Wing.

“I want to thank my family for their support through the years,” said Hayes. “And thank you to Congressman Bishop for all your work to make this day possible.”

**PHOTO AVAILABLE:** A high resolution photo is available for downloading and printing at <http://www.flickr.com/photos/7307564@N03/>.

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