



HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 18-1005

BY REPRESENTATIVE(S) Jackson and Ransom, Arndt, Becker J., Becker K., Beckman, Benavidez, Bridges, Buck, Buckner, Catlin, Coleman, Covarrubias, Esgar, Everett, Foote, Garnett, Gray, Hamner, Hansen, Herod, Hooton, Humphrey, Kennedy, Kraft-Tharp, Landgraf, Lawrence, Lebsack, Lee, Leonard, Lewis, Liston, Lontine, Lundeen, McKean, McLachlan, Melton, Michaelson Jenet, Neville P., Pabon, Pettersen, Rankin, Reyher, Roberts, Rosenthal, Saine, Salazar, Sandridge, Sias, Singer, Thurlow, Valdez, Van Winkle, Weissman, Willett, Williams D., Wilson, Winter, Wist, Young, Duran;
also SENATOR(S) Williams A. and Crowder, Aguilar, Baumgardner, Cooke, Coram, Court, Donovan, Fenberg, Fields, Garcia, Gardner, Guzman, Holbert, Jahn, Jones, Kagan, Kefalas, Kerr, Lambert, Lundberg, Marble, Martinez Humenik, Merrifield, Moreno, Neville T., Priola, Scott, Smallwood, Sonnenberg, Tate, Todd, Zenzinger, Grantham.

CONCERNING RECOGNITION OF AFRICAN-AMERICAN VETERANS.

WHEREAS, The military history of African Americans spans from the arrival of the first enslaved Africans during the colonial history of the United States to the present day; and

WHEREAS, In every war fought by or within the United States, African Americans have participated, including the Revolutionary War, the War of 1812, the Mexican-American War, the Civil War, the Spanish-American War, the Indian War, the World Wars, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, Desert Storm, and the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq; and

WHEREAS, Nearly 187,000 African-American soldiers served during the Civil War, roughly 350,000 African-American soldiers served during World War I, and another 2.5 million registered to serve during World War II, with many more African Americans serving in the years since World War II; and

WHEREAS, On July 26, 1948, President Harry S. Truman signed Executive Order 9981, integrating the military and mandating equality of treatment and opportunity for African-American soldiers; and

WHEREAS, Desegregation of the military was not complete for several years, and all-African-American units persisted well into the Korean War; and

WHEREAS, The last all-African-American unit was not disbanded until 1954; and

WHEREAS, Until the Korean War, African-American veterans were precluded from direct access to benefits from the Veterans Administration, which included VA housing loans, employment assistance, unemployment benefits, and health care; and

WHEREAS, African Americans continue to serve in the United States military, providing exemplary service, duty, integrity, dedication, and commitment to our great nation; and

WHEREAS, Currently, 12% of the United States Armed Forces are African American; of those, the majority are African-American women; now, therefore,

Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the Seventy-first General Assembly of the State of Colorado, the Senate concurring herein:

That we, the General Assembly, in recognition of the heroic efforts and great sacrifice of African-American veterans, hereby encourage this commemoration throughout the House and Senate.

Be It Further Resolved, That copies of this Joint Resolution be sent to the Congressional Black Caucus; the National Black Caucus of Legislators; the Retired Enlisted Association; the Tuskegee Airmen; the Colorado Black Women for Political Action Committee; the National Association for Black Veterans, Inc.; the State Veterans of Foreign Wars; the State American Legion; the United Veterans Committee of Colorado; the State Disabled American Veterans; and the State Paralyzed Veterans of America.

Crisanta Duran
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE
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