SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 20-008


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

WHEREAS, Nearly 198,000 African-American soldiers served during the Civil War, roughly 350,000 African-American soldiers served during World War I, and another 1.25 million served 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, 17 percent of the United States Armed Forces are African American; now, therefore,

Be It Resolved by the Senate of the Seventy-second General Assembly of the State of Colorado, the House of Representatives 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 State Legislators; the Retired Enlisted Association; the Tuskegee Airmen; the Colorado Black Women for Political Action; the National Association for Black Veterans, Inc.; the Colorado Veterans of Foreign Wars; the Colorado American Legion; the United Veterans Committee of Colorado;
the Colorado Disabled American Veterans; and the Mountain States Chapter of the Paralyzed Veterans of America.

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