

**Second Regular Session
Seventy-second General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO**

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. R20-1024.01 Faith Marcovecchio x4331

SJR20-008

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Williams A. and Fields, Sonnenberg

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Buckner and Exum,

Senate Committees

House Committees

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 20-008

101 **CONCERNING RECOGNITION OF AFRICAN-AMERICAN VETERANS.**

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

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

10 WHEREAS, Nearly 198,000 African-American soldiers served
11 during the Civil War, roughly 350,000 African-American soldiers served
12 during World War I, and another 1.25 million served during World War

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.
Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing statute.
Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.

1 II, with many more African Americans serving in the years since World
2 War II; and

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

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

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

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

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

18 WHEREAS, Currently, 17 percent of the United States Armed
19 Forces are African American; now, therefore,

20 *Be It Resolved by the Senate of the Seventy-second General*
21 *Assembly of the State of Colorado, the House of Representatives*
22 *concurring herein:*

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

26 *Be It Further Resolved,* That copies of this Joint Resolution be sent
27 to the Congressional Black Caucus; the National Black Caucus of State
28 Legislators; the Retired Enlisted Association; the Tuskegee Airmen; the
29 Colorado Black Women for Political Action; the National Association for
30 Black Veterans, Inc.; the Colorado Veterans of Foreign Wars; the
31 Colorado American Legion; the United Veterans Committee of Colorado;
32 the Colorado Disabled American Veterans; and the Mountain States
33 Chapter of the Paralyzed Veterans of America.