



## SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 20-008

BY SENATOR(S) Williams A. and Fields, Sonnenberg, Bridges, Cooke, Coram, Crowder, Danielson, Donovan, Fenberg, Foote, Garcia, Gardner, Ginal, Gonzales, Hansen, Hisey, Holbert, Lee, Lundeen, Marble, Moreno, Priola, Rankin, Rodriguez, Smallwood, Story, Tate, Todd, Winter, Woodward, Zenzinger;

also REPRESENTATIVE(S) Buckner and Exum, Arndt, Baisley, Becker, Benavidez, Bird, Buck, Buentello, Caraveo, Carver, Catlin, Coleman, Cutter, Duran, Esgar, Froelich, Garnett, Geitner, Gonzales-Gutierrez, Gray, Herod, Holtorf, Humphrey, Jackson, Jaquez Lewis, Kennedy, Kipp, Kraft-Tharp, Landgraf, Larson, Liston, Lontine, McCluskie, McKean, McLachlan, Melton, Michaelson Jenet, Mullica, Neville, Pelton, Ransom, Roberts, Saine, Sandridge, Singer, Sirota, Snyder, Soper, Sullivan, Tipper, Titone, Valdez A., Valdez D., Van Winkle, Weissman, Williams D., Wilson, Woodrow, Young.

### 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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Leroy M. Garcia  
PRESIDENT OF  
THE SENATE

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KC Becker  
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE  
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Cindi L. Markwell  
SECRETARY OF  
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Robin Jones  
CHIEF CLERK OF THE HOUSE  
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