

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

REVISED

LLS NO. R20-1024.01 Faith Marcovecchio x4331

SJR20-008

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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.

HOUSE
Final Reading
February 10, 2020

SENATE
Final Reading
February 7, 2020

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.