

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

**ENGROSSED**

LLS NO. R24-1019.01 Faith Marcovecchio x4331

**HJR24-1011**

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**HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 24-1011**

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

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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 African-American soldiers

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

HOUSE  
Final Reading  
February 9, 2024

1 served during World War II, with many more African Americans serving  
2 in the years since World 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, Many African-American individuals were confined  
16 by the segregation prevalent in our country. African-American men and  
17 women chose the path of the military to prove their worth as people and  
18 citizens. Service was also a way to recapture some dignity by way of rank  
19 and other benefits. African-American individuals commonly shared the  
20 same goals of being the best they could to prove their equality and worth  
21 in society. African-American service members hoped that service would  
22 open the door for other African Americans in the future; and

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

26 WHEREAS, Currently, seventeen percent of the United States  
27 Armed Forces are African American; now, therefore,

28 *Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the*  
29 *Seventy-fourth General Assembly of the State of Colorado, the Senate*  
30 *concurring herein:*

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

1            *Be It Further Resolved*, That copies of this Joint Resolution be sent  
2 to the Congressional Black Caucus; the National Black Caucus of State  
3 Legislators; the Retired Enlisted Association; the Tuskegee Airmen, Inc.;  
4 the Colorado Black Women for Political Action; Commander John  
5 Keene, Department of Colorado Veterans of Foreign Wars; American  
6 Legion of Colorado; the United Veterans Coalition of Colorado; the  
7 Colorado Disabled American Veterans; and the Mountain States Chapter  
8 of the Paralyzed Veterans of America; and Colonel James H. Harvey III.