

SJR26-007

HOUSE FLOOR AMENDMENT

BY REPRESENTATIVE DeGraaf

1 Amend engrossed joint resolution, page 2, after line 10 insert:

2 "WHEREAS, William Cooper Nell, the pioneering African
3 American historian and abolitionist, documented the valor of Black
4 patriots in his 1855 book, *The Colored Patriots of the American*
5 *Revolution*, highlighting their sacrifices to advance the founding
6 principles of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness despite being
7 denied citizenship; and

8 WHEREAS, Crispus Attucks, an escaped enslaved man of African
9 and Native descent, became the first martyr of the American Revolution
10 in the 1770 Boston Massacre, symbolizing early sacrifice for liberty;
11 Peter Salem and Salem Poor excelled at Bunker Hill in 1775, with Salem
12 credited with killing Major Pitcairn and Poor commended for heroism;
13 Prince Estabrook, one of the first Black minutemen, enlisted openly and
14 fought in early engagements; the Rhode Island Regiment repulsed
15 Hessian mercenaries at Red Bank and defended Colonel Greene at Croton
16 River; James Armistead Lafayette, an enslaved spy for the Marquis de
17 Lafayette, provided intelligence crucial to the Yorktown victory in 1781;
18 and figures like Oliver Cromwell (Trenton to Yorktown), Lambo Latham
19 and Jordan Freeman (killed defending Fort Griswold), and Prince
20 Whipple (symbol of the estimated 5,000 to 9,000 Black Patriots, often
21 linked to the foreground figure in Leutze's Washington Crossing the
22 Delaware) fought valiantly at battles like Valley Forge; and

23 WHEREAS, Nat Love and James Beckwourth, renowned African
24 American frontiersmen and cowboys, honed skills in trapping,
25 exploration, and cattle driving across Colorado and the West. While
26 Beckwourth founded posts like El Pueblo and Love roamed trails, they
27 both embodied and shaped the enduring legend of the American frontier
28 through rugged determination, self-reliance, and adventurous
29 independence; and

30 WHEREAS, Harriet Tubman, born enslaved as Araminta Ross
31 around 1822, escaped in 1849 and became the Underground Railroad's
32 "Moses", guiding about 70 people to freedom on 13 trips despite bounties
33 and a head injury; in the Civil War, she served as nurse, cook, scout, and
34 spy, leading the 1863 Combahee River Raid, freeing over 700 enslaved
35 people in the first woman-led U.S. armed expedition; and".

36 Page 4, after line 7 insert:

37 "WHEREAS, the Tuskegee Airmen, like Denver's James
38 Reynolds, flew 1,578 combat missions during World War II with
39 exceptional skill and bravery, destroying 261 enemy aircraft while
40 protecting Allied bombers and earning a reputation as the "Red Tails"
41 who rarely lost an escorted plane to enemy fire. Their performance
42 shattered racial stereotypes, proved the capability and merit of Black
43 service members, and helped pave the way for military desegregation in
44 1948; the USAF Academy Airfield is named Davis Airfield in honor of
45 Gen. Benjamin O. Davis Jr., their pioneering commander and the first
46 American of African descent to become a General in the U.S. Air Force;
47 and".

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