

**First Regular Session  
Seventy-third General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO**

**INTRODUCED**

LLS NO. R21-0952.01 Faith Marcovecchio x4331

**SJR21-008**

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**SENATE SPONSORSHIP**

**Fields and Buckner,**

**HOUSE SPONSORSHIP**

**Herod and Exum,**

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**Senate Committees**

**House Committees**

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**SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 21-008**

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 statute.  
Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.

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, 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-third 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 Senate and House of Representatives.

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.