



HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 24-1011

BY REPRESENTATIVE(S) English and Bacon, Amabile, Armagost, Bird, Bockenfeld, Bottoms, Bradfield, Bradley, Brown, Clifford, Daugherty, DeGraaf, deGruy Kennedy, Duran, Epps, Evans, Frizell, Froelich, Garcia, Hamrick, Hartsook, Hernandez, Jodeh, Joseph, Kipp, Lieder, Lindsay, Lindstedt, Lukens, Lynch, Mabrey, Marshall, Martinez, Marvin, Mauro, McCormick, McLachlan, Ortiz, Parenti, Pugliese, Ricks, Rutinel, Sirota, Snyder, Soper, Story, Taggart, Titone, Valdez, Velasco, Vigil, Weinberg, Weissman, Willford, Wilson, Winter T., Woodrow, Young, McCluskie; also SENATOR(S) Exum and Fields, Baisley, Bridges, Buckner, Coleman, Cutter, Gardner, Ginal, Gonzales, Hansen, Hinrichsen, Jaquez Lewis, Kirkmeyer, Kolker, Liston, Lundeen, Marchman, Michaelson Jenet, Mullica, Pelton B., Pelton R., Priola, Rich, Roberts, Rodriguez, Simpson, Smallwood, Van Winkle, Will, Zenzinger, Fenberg.

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 African-American soldiers 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, Many African-American individuals were confined by the segregation prevalent in our country. African-American men and women chose the path of the military to prove their worth as people and citizens. Service was also a way to recapture some dignity by way of rank and other benefits. African-American individuals commonly shared the same goals of being the best they could to prove their equality and worth in society. African-American service members hoped that service would open the door for other African Americans in the future; 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, seventeen percent of the United States Armed Forces are African American; now, therefore,

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

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

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, Inc.; the Colorado Black Women for Political Action; Commander John Keene, Department of Colorado Veterans of Foreign Wars; American Legion of Colorado; the United Veterans Coalition of Colorado; the Colorado Disabled American Veterans; and the Mountain States Chapter of the Paralyzed Veterans of America; and Colonel James H. Harvey III.

Julie McCluskie
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE
OF REPRESENTATIVES

Steve Fenberg
PRESIDENT OF
THE SENATE

Robin Jones
CHIEF CLERK OF THE HOUSE
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Cindi L. Markwell
SECRETARY OF
THE SENATE

