

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

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. R23-0833.01 Faith Marcovecchio x4331

HJR23-1009

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Herod and Joseph,

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Exum and Fields,

House Committees

Senate Committees

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 23-1009

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 African-American soldiers
13 served during World War II, with many more African Americans serving
14 in the years since World War II; and

15 WHEREAS, On July 26, 1948, President Harry S. Truman signed
16 Executive Order 9981, integrating the military and mandating equality of

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.

1 treatment and opportunity for African-American soldiers; and

2 WHEREAS, Desegregation of the military was not complete for
3 several years, and all-African-American units persisted well into the
4 Korean War; and

5 WHEREAS, The last all-African-American unit was not disbanded
6 until 1954; and

7 WHEREAS, Until the Korean War, African-American veterans
8 were precluded from direct access to benefits from the Veterans
9 Administration, which included VA housing loans, employment
10 assistance, unemployment benefits, and health care; and

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

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

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

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

22 *Be It Further Resolved,* That copies of this Joint Resolution be sent
23 to the Congressional Black Caucus; the National Black Caucus of State
24 Legislators; the Retired Enlisted Association; the Tuskegee Airmen; the
25 Colorado Black Women for Political Action; the National Association for
26 Black Veterans, Inc.; the Colorado Veterans of Foreign Wars; the
27 Colorado American Legion; the United Veterans Committee of Colorado;
28 the Colorado Disabled American Veterans; and the Mountain States
29 Chapter of the Paralyzed Veterans of America.