

A RESOLUTION commemorating the 150th anniversary of the Buffalo Soldiers.

WHEREAS, the Buffalo Soldiers were originally members of the 10th Cavalry Regiment of the United States Army. The term, which was bestowed on these courageous men by Native Americans, over time came to be given to all African American regiments formed in 1866; and

WHEREAS, the Buffalo Soldiers were established by the United States Congress as the first all-black regiments in the United States Army; and

WHEREAS, from 1866 to 1890, the Buffalo Soldiers served across the southwestern United States. Thirteen enlisted men in the Buffalo Soldier regiments were awarded the Medal of Honor during the Indian Wars, which culminated in the 1890s. After the resolution of that conflict, the Buffalo Soldiers continued to serve their country, participating in the Spanish-American War and the famous Battle of San Juan Hill in Cuba; and

WHEREAS, after their military service, many enlisted Buffalo Soldiers became the nation's first park rangers. Serving mostly in the Sierra Nevada region of California, the Buffalo Soldiers were instrumental in the shaping of early American state parks; and

WHEREAS, in 2016, veterans groups from all over this great nation will celebrate the 150th anniversary of the Buffalo Soldiers. As this honorable body pauses to reflect on the many accomplishments these brave men made in defense of their country, it is appropriate to acknowledge their uncommon valor, the many sacrifices they made in the name of patriotic duty, and their profound and lasting impact on African American culture and history;

NOW, THEREFORE,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:

➔Section 1. The members of the House of Representatives hereby honor the 150th anniversary of the Buffalo Soldiers.

➔Section 2. When the House of Representatives adjourns this day, it does so in eternal honor and gratitude to the Buffalo Soldiers.

➔Section 3. The Clerk of the House of Representatives is directed to transmit a copy of this Resolution to Representative Reginald Meeks for delivery.