

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 2017-4615, by Representatives Dent, Graves, Irwin, Koster, Muri, Stonier, Haler, Ryu, Sells, Kraft, Wylie, Blake, Jenkin, Pettigrew, Slatter, Macri, Cody, Kilduff, Stanford, Johnson, Reeves, Chandler, Nealey, Griffey, Kagi, Barkis, Buys, Caldier, Condotta, DeBolt, Dye, Hargrove, Harmsworth, Harris, Hayes, Holy, Klippert, Kretz, Kristiansen, MacEwen, Manweller, McCabe, McCaslin, McDonald, Orcutt, Pike, Rodne, Schmick, Shea, Smith, Maycumber, Stambaugh, Steele, Stokesbary, Taylor, Van Werven, Vick, Volz, J. Walsh, Wilcox, Young, Lovick, Peterson, Hudgins, and Robinson

1       WHEREAS, The 9th and 10th Horse Cavalry Units, commonly known as  
2 the "Buffalo Soldiers," have made key contributions to the history of  
3 the United States by fighting to defend and protect our Nation; and

4       WHEREAS, After the Civil War, the United States faced the need  
5 for a larger "peacetime military" to occupy the south and protect  
6 settlers on the western frontier. In 1866, the United States Congress  
7 passed legislation establishing a peacetime military; and

8       WHEREAS, Before the legislation was passed, a hotly debated issue  
9 concerned the inclusion of African-Americans in the regular Army.  
10 Congress eventually decided to continue placing African-American  
11 recruits in segregated units. A provision of the 1866 legislation  
12 created six regiments of African-American troops, four infantry and  
13 two cavalry; and

14       WHEREAS, Of those six regiments, the 9th and 10th Cavalry  
15 eventually became two of the most highly decorated units in American  
16 military history; and

17       WHEREAS, The nickname "Buffalo Soldier" was bestowed on the  
18 troops by the Native Americans as an attestation to their valor in  
19 battle. The buffalo was a sacred animal to the Native Americans, and  
20 they would not bestow its name on the soldiers unless they were  
21 worthy adversaries, fighting ferociously to the end and living up to  
22 their motto, "Ready and Forward." The proud acceptance of the name

1 "Buffalo Soldier" by the African-American soldiers was a badge of  
2 honor and pride for the troops; and

3 WHEREAS, The Buffalo Soldiers were sent to the great plains along  
4 the Rio Grande, New Mexico, Texas, Arizona, Colorado, and into the  
5 Dakotas. The duties of the 9th and 10th Cavalries included guarding  
6 the mail and escorting stagecoaches, cattle drives, railroad crews,  
7 and surveyors. They played a major part in building the west and  
8 making it safe for the westward expansion; and

9 WHEREAS, The Buffalo Soldiers answered the call to duty in places  
10 as far away as Cuba, Mexico, and the Philippines, and served  
11 alongside Theodore Roosevelt and his legendary Rough Riders. They  
12 showed courage and mettle through two world wars and the Korean war;  
13 and

14 WHEREAS, Units of the Buffalo Soldiers served as rangers in some  
15 of the earliest national parks, including Yosemite National Park and  
16 Sequoia National Park; and

17 WHEREAS, Despite prejudice in and out of the military and being  
18 allocated the worst horses, clothing, and equipment, these  
19 outstanding individuals earned more Congressional Medals of Honor and  
20 had the lowest desertion rate of any unit in the Army; and

21 WHEREAS, 2016 marked the 150th anniversary of the formation of  
22 the Buffalo Soldiers, with honorary units celebrating the  
23 anniversary, including a 10th Cavalry Unit based in Seattle;

24 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives  
25 join the citizens of the State of Washington in honoring the bravery  
26 and dedication of the Buffalo Soldiers throughout United States and  
27 world history.

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29 I hereby certify this to be a true and correct copy of  
30 Resolution 4615 adopted by the House of Representatives

31 February 14, 2017  
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Bernard Dean, Chief Clerk