

By: Representative Unger

HOUSE RESOLUTION

TO RECOGNIZE FEBRUARY AS BLACK VETERANS MONTH.

Subtitle

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MONTH.

WHEREAS, dating back to the American Revolution, African Americans have played key roles in the history and success of the United States military; and

WHEREAS, there are more than two million (2,000,000) African American veterans in the United States; and

WHEREAS, America's story is written in the sweat and blood of military heroism, valor, and service; and

WHEREAS, African Americans have stood along their diverse counterparts training and fighting for the principles of justice, freedom, and democracy; and

WHEREAS, the 1st Rhode Island Regiment, the first Continental Army unit largely comprised of Black New Englanders showcased African Americans' skill as soldiers and commitment to their brethren on the battlefield; and

WHEREAS, just over one hundred (100) years ago during World War I, the Harlem Hellfighters battled hostile forces abroad and racism at home, demonstrating a remarkable commitment to this country; and



WHEREAS, Beginning in 1941, the nine hundred twenty-six (926) all-black Tuskegee Airmen carried out hundreds of escort missions during World War II, never losing a single plane to the enemy; and

WHEREAS, African American veterans have used the experience and discipline they acquired in the military to attain prominent positions in the civilian world including David Robinson, James Earl Jones, Arkansas native Sheryl Underwood, and Morgan Freeman; and

WHEREAS, John Hanks Alexander, from Arkansas, was the very first African American in United States history to hold a regular command position as the Troop Commander of B Troop, 9th Cavalry,

NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

THAT the House of Representatives celebrate Black Veterans Month during the month of February, 2023, and recognize the sacrifices and contributions made by African American veterans.