

OFFERED BY COUNCILOR ED FLYNN



CITY OF BOSTON

IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND TWENTY SIX

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF AN INITIATIVE TO CREATE A U.S. COMMEMORATIVE STAMP SERIES IN HONOR OF AFRICAN AMERICAN VETERANS

WHEREAS, Over the last several years, Mr. Haywood Fennell, Sr., a former U.S. Veteran and founder of the Tri-Ad Veterans League, has been spearheading this effort to recognize our African American Veterans. The commemorative stamps will be based on original artwork from an art exhibit called, "Triumph, Unsung Heroes," commissioned by Mr. Fennell, Sr., in partnership with the Artists For Humanity after school program; *and*

WHEREAS, Since the founding of our country, African Americans soldiers have played an important role in the defense of our nation. During the American Civil War, President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation allowed for one of the first Black regiments - the Massachusetts 54th Regiment - to be created, and through their successes, inspired the enlistment of over 180,000 Black men into the Union Army; *and*

WHEREAS, In World War II, the Tuskegee Airmen were the first group of African American aviators in the U.S. Air Forces. They not only garnered much success and earned eight Purple Hearts, 14 Bronze Stars, and over 90 Distinguished Flying Crosses, they also encouraged the eventual integration of the U.S. Armed Forces, leading President Truman to sign Executive Order 9981 in 1948 to end segregation and establish equality of treatment and opportunity in the military; *and*

WHEREAS, Time and again, African American soldiers have gallantly placed themselves in danger for the protection of our freedoms despite not being fully free themselves. They have been, and continue to be, an integral part of our military; without their contributions, our forces would not have accomplished many of its missions; **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT**

RESOLVED: That the Boston City Council supports the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee to fully consider this request to honor our African American Veterans through this commemorative stamp series.

Filed on: February 25, 2026